

## New plans at Tramore Tourism and Chamber



A well-attended Tramore Tourism and Chamber held their general meeting recently and elected a number of officers at the Majestic Hotel in Tramore.

There was widespread support for the new organisation, which will mean more grant monies and supports can be secured for Tramore Tourism.

There was a message of support from city and county manager Michael Walsh for the new entity.

He noted that the Tramore Railway Station had now been taken over by the Waterford Council.

Mary Daniels was elected Chairman, Fergus Freyne of AIB will be treasurer, directors and committee members will be Derek O Sullivan, Paddy O Neill, Debbie Dooly, Frank King, Paddy O Neill and Alex Bolster. Frank King, who chaired the meeting said that they had put in new budgets that were fully costed and they looked forward to the community with optimism.

Events and plans for the coming year were outlined such as the Prom Fest, where there are ambitious plans. The St. Patricks Day parade had proved successful in the town.

Keith Daniels referred to an ambitious programme for Prom Fest, where additional funding for promotion has been received from the council. Last year visitor numbers reached 30,000 and this year the aim is to attract 70,000 visitors. An Air Show is planned with 6 planes confirmed.

Sean Corcoran, artist and events man, will be assisting in the event from an arts view. The Prom will be partly closed off during the Prom Fest in early July.

Other events planned are a scooter event, bass fishing, fireworks at end of August, the highly successful Christmas Carnival, also a new event at Halloween.

Keith mentioned that they plan a Halloween event with scarecrows outside businesses and other special attractions.

Tramore Tourism got great support from volunteers and were praised by the attendance at the meeting.

Catherine Keighery backed up the call that Frank King made about supporting one another in business. Frank said that people and traders should pull together more and build up the town's business and even pay a little extra if needed.

Nicky Donnelly CEO of Waterford Chamber of Commerce spoke of the association with the newly established Tramore Tourism Chamber and how he noted that they were working well with the council and how there was a new collaborative role between the new merged council and business groups. Tramore has a good working model now which will develop prosperity between Tramore and Waterford and that the future is positive.

Mary Daniels, as Chairman stated that the new structure would build a framework for the future.

Their plans for the railway building were ambitious and had been submitted to council. The event plan was also ambitious, but added that they had been to Westport and saw how well they were doing. In Westport they work together and do much cross selling.

The new national tourism marketing slogan for Waterford is "Waterford Where Ireland begins" and as Mary put it Tramore is where the fun starts!

The Wild Atlantic Way has been successful let us hope this is too.