

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE CORK LESBIAN AND GAY COMMUNITY PROJECT. 25-APRIL-1984

PRESENT: Steve, Kieran, Joe, Brian, Arthur, Laurie, Donal, Ken, Richard, Tommy, Seamus, Dave.

Agenda

Reports back from the three sub-groups and general discussion.

1. The youth group

The youth group had made five recommendations, as in handout. There was a short discussion about the age limit, but Brian felt it would be best to keep the group for under 21's. The meeting agreed with this and also with the recommendation that the group find somewhere outside of No. 4 to meet, so as not to discourage people from coming along. The other recommendations were accepted and Brian was to contact the Lesbian Collective about their possible involvement. Kieran reminded the meeting that everybody should support the youth group in terms of telling people about it and also by offering practical support whenever it may want something i.e. videos, etc. The youth group is meeting next on Friday 4th May at 6.00 in the Quay Co-op.

2. The information/counselling/befriending group.

a] information: the recommendation for better co-operation between the I.G.R.M. and the Co-Op was accepted.

In discussing the phone service, the people from this group put forward the idea that a purely information line should be provided, thus separating it from the counselling service. Steve felt that this was impractical, as there was nothing going on to inform people about and also the present phone service does this service already. Other people said that they would be interested in the information aspect of the phone service, but had no wish to become involved in the counselling side of things. The discussion became very confused, as it remained unfocussed, but eventually it was agreed that the people interested in operating the information service get together and start to work on gathering information, and also how the service would operate.

b] counselling: there were three recommendations from the group on this aspect.

Again, the discussion was unfocussed, flitting between information and counselling. Some people felt that the present service need only be expanded in terms of operation i.e. hours and personnel: others said that it should be re-defined and organised on a more clear cut basis and deal with counselling calls only. This discussion went on for some time. Arthur pointed out that while the recommendations made sense in a certain light, in the context of the people present, it would be unrealistic to accept and implement the recommendations, as they would be a drain on our resources. He said it would be better to use our energies on other area that might produce more immediate results.

The meeting instructed the information/counselling/befriending group to obtain information on similar counselling groups and their operation and to present the data to the General Meeting, so that it can decide on the type of service we want and need.

c] befriending: the group had made a recommendation for a mid-week befriending group to start meeting. This was agreed in principle by the meeting and the venue for it was discussed. Few people said that No. 4 was suitable and it was suggested that somewhere else be found. The idea of renting rooms was discussed, and also what type of facilities should be available. Because the weather had been hot and everyone was slightly brown, the idea of outdoor activities came up, as people said that few people are interested in staying in during the summer. A bus-trip was suggested as a good way to get things going.

Following on from this, the idea of a social for lesbians and gays came up and the meeting again agreed that this was needed. The choice of venue was discussed and also the type of social. There was no definite decision taken on this - just lots of ideas. The information/counselling/befriending group meet again on Monday 30th April at 8.00 at No. 4: The social organising group are meeting on Monday 30th April at 6.00 in the Quay Co-Op.

3. The building group.

The group had come up with proposal for the type of accommodation that we would need and these were accepted, even though, when we get a building, it may not be possible to house them all. Arthur stressed that people should keep their eyes peeled for like buildings and to contact him if they hear of anything suitable. Arthur felt that the need for our own building should be dealt with as a 'campaign' type issue; this would mean lobbying people to act as sponsors and supporters and then approaching the Corporation for a building. The meeting agreed with this as a positive way of ensuring good publicity for the Project.

The group had also made recommendations re: structure to tide us over until the building is obtained and these were agreed.

The building group is next meeting on Friday May 4th at 8.00 in the Quay Co-Op.

4. Any other business:

- a] The meeting formally adopted the title 'The Cork Lesbian And Gay Community Project.
- b] The meeting agreed that, where possible, the sub-groups should co-ordinate their meetings in order to avoid people spending each night of the week at a different meeting.
- c] The meeting agreed that a General Meeting be held on a fortnightly basis in order to discuss progress. It was pointed out that not every meeting would concern itself with every area: some weeks there might be a lot of activity on in one area and very little in all the others.

The next General Meeting is on Wednesday 9th May at 8.00 in No. 4 McCurtin Street.