



Gladstone Street
Clonmel
Fr Michael Burke House



PLACE2BEE Youth Café First Newsletter

INVITATION TO VOLUNTEERS EVENING AT YOUTH CAFÉ THURSDAY 23rd JUNE 2011...

In order to explain the background to the youth cafe we should first tell you something about the Charity and the Building.

The charity is **PLACE4U** Ltd, a company limited by guarantee, and a registered charity, which has been given possession of the convent at Gladstone Street Clonmel (see map), for a period of 100 years on behalf of the people in the South Tipperary and the Clonmel area.

The building has a capacity of 7000 ft.² and is presently being renovated. The charity intends to make the building accessible to as many voluntary entities as possible, on a very low cost multi user basis. Its objectives are wide ranging, including support of youth activities, and activities and opportunities for the elderly within our community.

We have been asked to say more about the charity at the forthcoming meeting in the café, and we will be delighted to do so.

The **Youth Café** has already been developed and named by a young person **Eve Kerton** in an online competition recently, hence the name **Place2bee**. **Eve** will be presented with her prize by sponsors **Binchy Solicitors** at the forthcoming presentation. The café has state-of-the-art IT connectivity, and is ready for installation of computer/Internet equipment, and other resources as the youth may see fit. The Board took possession of the café within the past few weeks, and unfortunately this coincided with the school year end, which is something we discuss a little further down, when referring to the parent councils.

The ultimate decoration and presentation of the café is a matter for the young people

themselves, as an expression of their unique identity, and wishes for the café appearance.

The cafe may be able to host/facilitate approximately 40 young people at any one time, and if we only take the five schools within walking distance, it may play host to facilities for a few thousand young people, who are presently on the streets outside of school hours.

Youth participation:

There has already been a series of engagements with young people, representatives from the schools, who have visited other youth cafés, expressed a wish to have their own, and have been on the airwaves with **TIPP FM**, to express their wish to have such a facility as soon as possible.

As the project develops, the young people will have their own board and election mechanisms to develop the café and its activities.

Ages: in broad terms the age categories will be approximately between 14 years and 17 ½ years, but that age profile may change, as the use profile is developed.

They are now waiting for us to deliver.

Money of course has been the big issue. We simply cannot get any to run the café at this time, but the board of **PLACE2BEE** Ltd is determined to open the café as soon as possible, with your help. *We simply are not going to get any significant financial support hence this approach to all of you parents.*

The Board comprises people from all sectors of youth services, including Foroige, WRYS,



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HSE, the Garda junior liaison officer, and several others from the principal charity involved. It has been deliberately brought together in that way, to bring in as much resources, support and expertise as we can, in the current difficult economic climate. The Board is of course open to more participants, and welcomes people who can volunteer for active duties.

The Foroige Offer: the board has received an offer from one of the voluntary entities, to assist in a number of important aspects to open the Café. They will assist to train and induct volunteers, & obtain their Garda clearance; and then later to open the Café with all appropriate Policies and Regulatory compliance in place, which will be fully familiar to Parent Council's from their involvement with the various schools.

Foroige will then assist **PLACE2BEE** to open and run the café within specific hours depending upon what volunteer resources may come from the present initiative, and what it is feasible for the **PLACE2BEE** Board to do in light of the volunteer support available.

Foroige will assist by making a key presentation at the **at the Café Invitation Meeting mentioned below.**

Opening hours : the best case scenario, with maximum volunteer resources, would be to be open for about 24 hours per week. The exact hours will be determined from engagement with the young members, and the various volunteer services. The **PLACE2BEE** Board however wants to guarantee to the young people, that whatever hours it opens for, it can assure the café will remain open for at least that minimum number of hours per week. So that if

we can only open for example, for six hours per week (because of the number of volunteers), then so be it, but the Board will be setting out to guarantee whatever hours it opens for. **So you see we depend on you....**

Engagements with the parent councils to date:

So far we have met with the parent councils of Loreto, Presentation and High School, and by the time you read this, we will also have met with the Council's of Colaiste Gaelscoil and VEC. We would first like to sincerely thank the Councils for meeting and coming back urgently, in some cases having closed their year-end. The meetings were highly constructive, and well attended, with lots of interest and questions. If there is any Council that we don't get to meet before the forthcoming **Invitation Meeting** then please don't worry as we will make sure, all your questions are answered at that meeting.

Volunteers: This meeting is firstly about volunteers (mostly for the café), people who might wish to work with the young people in developing the café and in giving a few hours per week. Anyone interested in volunteering is most welcome to come to the forthcoming **Invitation Meeting** and we assure that any one expressing an interest that they won't find themselves in a situation with very heavy obligations. Our wish and intention is to develop a reasonably big volunteer team, to enable the café to be open for a reasonable number of hours per week, but with volunteers not to be unduly put in upon.

We are firstly interested in volunteers to help with the café. But we need much more help than that. If others are interested in the rest of the **PLACE4U** project, we need all the help we can get. For example, we have a website



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WWW.PLACE4U.ie donated by Binchy Solicitors. But we need an IT administrator to keep it going and develop it, reporting on the project, and obviously we would like to develop social networking, amongst other things to generate maximum support, and also financial supports for the café and the project overall.

Garda clearance and opening:

As everyone will be aware, volunteers have to obtain Garda clearance. This is time-consuming, taking up to 16 weeks, and we can only do our best. We will be doing everything we can and hopefully this may lead us to getting a number of volunteers their necessary clearance to open in the early autumn.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if we could open for the new school year? Green shoots!

Invitation

We now invite you the reader of this Newsletter to:

The Volunteers Information Meeting

**At: the Youth Café, on Morton St Clonmel
[See Map at end]**

On: Thursday 23rd June 2011 at 8pm .

It will be your chance to see the youth café itself, and discuss the project with like-minded people. You don't have to be the parent of a teenager! You do not have to be a parent, you don't have to be a Parent Council member, of course you don't have to have training at this stage, because you will receive the necessary induction and training, and guidance as you progress.

Please join us in this exciting new project for Clonmel and the surrounding area. Don't leave it to

somebody else. Put your hand up and come along.

You will hear more about this in the local papers, and on TIPP FM who have been wonderful supporters.

*It will greatly help us if you would e-mail us at info@place4u.ie , or alternatively you can email:
Fred at: fbinchy@binchylaw.ie
Or Maureen at
maureenoreilly@gmail.com*

*Or if you want you can text reply * only to (* please do not telephone)
086 - 2550845,
Or: 087 - 140 2050*

(With your full name please) if you intend to come along, because we want keep a track of numbers.

With best wishes, and we hope to see you there.

***On behalf of the Board of Directors
and all concerned.***



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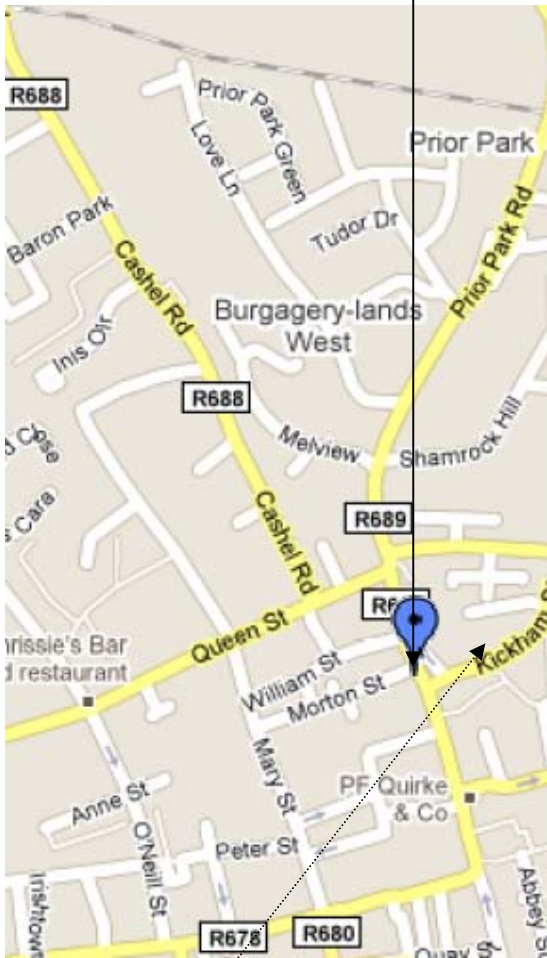


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MAP OF YOUTH CAFÉ LOCATION:

Café is at top turn left at top of Gladstone Street, on to Morton Street, and it will be sign posted for you there.



CAR PARKING JUST ACROSS THE WAY AT SUPERQUINN CAR PARK

Information about **PLACE2BEE** Ltd:

Directors:

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Maureen O'Reilly
Michael Campbell
Mary Campbell
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Tadg Browne
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