

# **Minutes of the Foreign Residents Group (FRG) Meeting September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2009 at Tourism School, Dalyan**

This was the second meeting of the FRG and members had attended to hear the deliberations of the Steering Group they set up on 19<sup>th</sup> August 2009.

The Steering Group has been asked to formulate proposal and recommendations addressing:

- How the FRG should be structured in order to take full advantage of the opportunity provided by the City Council
- The steps that should be taken to ensure that the processes are as inclusive as possible.

## **ATTENDEES**

In excess of 100 British, Dutch and German Foreign Residents, villa owners and regular visitors to Dalyan were at the meeting. Brendan Mann, a member of the Steering Group, opened the meeting by introducing the members of the Steering Group, members of the City Council and outlining the agenda of the rest of the meeting.

## **CITY COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES**

**Suleyman Ilter**, the general secretary of the City Council introduced himself to the Group and thanked everyone for attending and taking such an interest in this new venture.

**Gulnaz Kirkik**, the elected Head of the City Council, then introduced herself to the Group. She thanked everyone for coming to take part and get involved in the project. She then gave a brief explanation of her expectations for the City Council Groups and emphasized that the Council's main aim was to "to achieve a greener, cleaner, nicer place to live."

**Arif Sari**, elected Mayor of Dalyan and Honorary Chairman of the City Council also addressed the Group. He gave background information on the establishment of the City Council, indicating that it originally began back in 2005. Unfortunately, due to lack of support at that time, it lasted only a very short time and eventually had to be cancelled.

Sayin Arif Sari indicated that it has now been just over 2 months since the City Council has been re-established and the new Working Groups formed. He thanked everybody for coming to the meeting and made clear he very much welcomed the initiative to include Foreign Residents in the Group structure of the Council. Sayin Arif Sari indicated that he felt very strongly that there was no place in Dalyan for a "you and us" situation, we must all come together as a whole community to work together for the greater good and a better future for everyone.

## **STEERING GROUP PRESENTATION**

Jeeda Barford, Cheryl Robinson and Alan Daines presented to the FRG full details of:

- The Agenda 21 process
- The proposed structure for the FRG
- The City Council's expectations of the FRG
- Expected lines of communication and reporting mechanisms for Foreign Residents Group
- The Steering Group's recommendations for managing issues raised within the FRG
- The Steering Groups proposed interim and long term electronic communications strategy

The Steering Group provided a detailed written record of the presentation for everyone who attended the meeting. Electronic versions of the documents were also made available. Anyone who was unable to attend the meeting can obtain a copy of the documents by e-mailing [naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org).

The Group was provided with an opportunity to ask questions on the process before being asked to approve the Steering Group proposals and recommendations for the structure and organization of the Foreign Residents Group. The Steering Groups proposals were accepted unanimously. It was also agreed that, for the future, proposals for a democratic process to elect Foreign Residents to Chairs, Coordinators and deputies should be drafted together with recommendations for periods of appointment/re-appointment.

The Steering Group's proposals included the need for a number of volunteers from amongst the Foreign Residents Group who were prepared to get actively involved in the activities and issues raised by Members. In total nine people came forward at the meeting. In addition two people who are not Residents volunteered their translating skills. This was a fantastic response and a great starting to the process.

At the end of the presentation the FRG members were invited to write down details of any issues of immediate concern and leave them with the Steering Group. Alternatively issues can now be e-mailed to the categorized addresses below:

**Natural Environment and Domestic Animals** [naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org)

**Man-made Environment** [manmadeenv@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:manmadeenv@dalyanfrg.org)

**Human Interest** [humaninterest@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:humaninterest@dalyanfrg.org)

The Steering Group will collate all the issues that are raised ready for the initial Working Party meetings that will be arranged to take place over the next few weeks once volunteers have had a chance to meet with the Steering

Group to implement the recommendations and organize themselves to manage the FRG workload. .

### **TURKISH WORKING GROUPS**

It was very much appreciated that a number of the Chairs from the 7 Turkish Groups made time to attend this meeting. It provided an opportunity for FRG members to see and meet Dalyan residents we would all be working closely with in the future. Those attending were:

Ayşe Nese Demirci	Head of women's assembly
Gulay Colak	Head of disability assembly
Meral Bertan	Head of environment assembly
Ertugrul Ercan	Head of youth assembly
Sinan Yilmazer	Head of tourism work group

### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

During the meeting it became very evident that many people, mainly from the German community, were unable to understand or participate in the meeting due to language barriers. This is an issue we are all very much aware of and, to this end, the Steering Group's recommendations did include steps to tackle this problem throughout the presentation. However, it is acknowledged that perhaps it should have been made clearer the meeting would be conducted in English. The Steering Group have asked for Residents who would be prepared to hold similar meetings to explain the arrangements in Dutch and German to contact them at the e-mail addresses above. The Steering Group will also look into the possibility of translating the supporting papers into these two languages.

The members of the Foreign Residents Group would like to thank Members of the City Council's Disability Working Group who kindly provided drinks and cakes for the meeting. The proceeds from this will go to ??????????

The Group would also like to thank Sevikolgu Supermarket who it is understood very kindly helped the Disability Group by donating the bottles of water for the meeting. This was a kind and generous gesture very much in keeping with the principles of Agenda 21.

Finally, the Steering Group would like to thank Sayin Ahmet Altan for all his hard work and support. His tireless help, his translations and interpreting made this meeting possible.

## Dalyan Kent Konseyi (Dalyan City Council)

### FOREIGN RESIDENTS' GROUP

Minutes of the third open meeting of the Foreign Residents Group held in the DKK Meeting Room in Dalyan at 2.30pm on Saturday, 17<sup>th</sup> October 2009.

Present: Suleyman Ilter, DKK General Secretary  
25 members of the FRG  
10 new members  
Huseyin Aynici, Turkish/English translator

Apologies for Absence: Berna Babaoglu, DKK Designated Head of the FRG

#### 1. WELCOME

Cheryl Robinson, Acting Deputy Chair of the FRG, opened the meeting and welcomed those present. The purpose of the meeting was to update everyone on what had happened since the first meeting of the Group held on 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2009.

#### 2. ACTIVITIES OF THE FRG SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2009

Jeeda Barford, Acting Chair of the FRG, outlined the activities of the FRG over the previous six weeks.

##### 2.1 Establishment of FRG

At the meeting on 2<sup>nd</sup> September the FRG had been formally inaugurated. Volunteers who wished to join had been recruited.

At the FRG Volunteers' meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> September, the three Working Groups had been established and their co-ordinators and deputies were elected:

<i>WORKING GROUP</i>	<i>CO-ORDINATOR</i>
Human Interest	Pauline Newton
Man-made Environment	Alan Daines
Natural Environment	Sue Taylor

Issues raised were allocated to each Group for consideration.

Maria Conker and Gillian Proehl had joined the Steering Group to help with translations into German and Dutch and to help with recruitment of residents with these nationalities.

##### 2.2 Steering Group Activities

###### 2.2.1 COMMUNICATION

Alan Daines and Karl Pilcher had set up a general email address and email addresses for the three Working Groups, which were as follows:

[info@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:info@dalyanfrg.org)  
[humaninterest@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:humaninterest@dalyanfrg.org)  
[manmadeenv@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:manmadeenv@dalyanfrg.org)  
[naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org](mailto:naturalenv@dalyanfrg.org)

They were also in the process of designing an FRG website which could serve as a model for the whole DKK.

A temporary notice board had been erected near the PTT (Post Office) for residents without Internet access; a series of permanent notice boards for the DKK Working Groups may be located in the new tourist office building next year. The DKK Meeting Room was a central resource for all the Groups. Two FRG newsletters had been produced and translated; a third was in the pipeline.

## **2.2.2 TRANSLATION AND RECRUITMENT**

Maria Conker (Steering Group member) reported that she and Gillian had been translating the Working Groups' documents into Dutch and German. They were also actively encouraging the non-British foreign residents to take part in this initiative. As well as the notice board and the web site, recruitment was taking place in restaurants, cafes and bars. It was important to recruit people who were committed to helping and not only from among the foreign residents. However important it may be to recruit more foreign residents, the DKK would lose its credibility if the participation of Turkish residents did not become more proportional. The suggestion was made that a meeting with the Muhtars would be beneficial, once the tourism season was over.

### **2.3 DKK Meeting 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009**

Since their formation, the three Working Groups had worked on the preparation of their projects, developed from the issues raised by residents, for submission to the DKK meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2009.

Permission to proceed had been given by the DKK to the three projects submitted by the Human Interest Working Group as these related to the non-Turkish community. The Head of the Tourism Group, Sinan Yilmazlar, had congratulated the FRG on these projects and suggested that the two Groups should work together.

The National Environment Working Group's one major proposal "2010 – Dalyan's Year of the Environment" involved Municipality and whole community co-operation and would therefore need to also be presented to the Belediye for their approval. Atilla Gultekin, the Head of the Dalyan Boat Co-operative, had been very supportive and was keen to be involved in this project.

The Man-made Environment Working Group's proposal regarding the Dalyan Animal Shelter & Rescue Centre was not discussed at the meeting due to lack of time. An extraordinary meeting may be called to discuss this single proposal.

## **3. PRESENTATIONS BY WORKING GROUP CO-ORDINATORS**

### **3.1 Man-Made Environment**

Alan Daines reported that this Group, in conjunction with the Turkish Environment Group, had been researching the issue of street dogs. They had last visited the dog shelter the previous week and Alan gave details of the recent improvements he had seen. This was a long-term project, which would develop over the next two to three years. The Group would seek the support of animal welfare groups in Turkey and hoped to take advantage of an RSPCA veterinary education programme to offer assistance to local vets. There was much work to be carried out to further improve conditions in the short term: leaking roof, fencing, gates etc. The Group needed to recruit more members.

### 3.2 Human Interest

Pauline Newton reported that the Group had six enthusiastic volunteers and would welcome newcomers to help with the information gathering. Meetings were held every two/three weeks and there had been three meetings to date, the minutes of which would be available on the FRG website when it was up and running. She gave a brief outline of the three projects the Group was currently researching:

- *Burglaries: Awareness, Protection and Support* – A project to work with the co-operation of the Jandarma and Municipality to increase security; provide information on protection from burglary; and offer a support service to foreign residents or visitors who had been burgled. The Co-ordinator asked that any ex-policemen/women and residents with Neighbourhood Watch experience should consider joining the Group or attending a meeting to help with this project. She reported that a questionnaire was already in circulation to gather information on burglary statistics, a copy of which could be obtained via the Group's email address.
- *Emergency Medical Facilities in Dalyan and Iztuzu Beach* – A project to provide up to date information on medical emergency facilities in Dalyan and on the beach. The Co-ordinator reported that at the moment volunteers from this Group were actively visiting local hospitals, clinics etc to gather information as to what emergency facilities etc are already available to residents. A report was expected to be available for their next Group meeting.
- *Living in Dalyan Information Desk* – This was a project to gather accurate, consistent and up to date information on many aspects of living in Dalyan and to make this information available to residents by including an Information Desk on the FRG website. It was reported that the Group was looking into Municipality charges (ie property tax); electricity bills; wills for foreigners living in Turkey; and driving licenses. It was stressed that this would be an on-going information gathering exercise.

She encouraged those present to email any new issues to the Human Interest email address

### 3.3 Natural Environment

Sue Taylor reported that the Group had worked on one major proposal within which were a number of projects: they had a vision of "greening" Dalyan and making it a place where all would want to live. The projects included: clean up days; a special 'Green Issue' of the Dalyan Times; a recycling programme; cleaning of the ariks; bin collections; and donations for new large trees in the main square. The Group was awaiting notification of acceptance for the tree-planting project from the Belediye. When ratified, the Belediye would be happy to provide labour and machinery. Liaison with the other (Turkish) Working Groups would be necessary. The proposal was to be considered by the Belediye following its submission to the DKK.

## 4. PRESENTATION BY SULEYMAN ILTER, GENERAL SECRETARY OF THE DKK

Suleyman Bey reported that the Kent Konseyi was a new concept – not just for Dalyan but also for all of Turkey. There was no precedent in Dalyan so we would need to exercise patience while a structure for effecting change was established. He was working with members of the FRG and heads of the other Turkish Groups to create a protocol for the DKK.

The minutes of the DKK meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> October have not been issued. However the DKK's decisions would be published on the Belediye's official web site which would be up and running in a month's time. Of the proposals presented to the DKK, the Belediye had already discussed two: the ariks and the sick tree in the Mosque Tea Garden.

He encouraged everyone to continue with their projects, as they were all considered worthy.

## 5. QUESTIONS/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The question of fundraising for the animals, schools etc. was discussed. The Acting Chair confirmed that this was not part of the FRG's remit at present. Anyone wishing to make donations should contact the relevant Association (Dernek). It was also suggested that those who felt strongly about the issue of Dalyan's dogs should join the Man-made Environment Group.

David Hough, from the Natural Environment Group, asked for clarification from Suleyman Bey as to whether the Group could proceed with the title for their project "2010 – Dalyan's Year of the Environment". Suleyman Bey suggested that the exact wording should wait until the Board of the Belediye had made a decision next month.

Sue Taylor, the Co-ordinator of the Natural Environment Group, asked for clarification of the timing of the DKK's proposals being presented to the Belediye. The Acting Chair proposed that she and Suleyman Bey should discuss this matter further and suggested that he could e-mail her the relevant decisions.

Sue Boxer, a researcher with the Human Interest Working Group, raised the question of the availability of a street map of Dalyan. Her research regarding emergency medical facilities had uncovered the need for doctors and ambulance drivers to have a copy. Suleyman Bey confirmed that there was a large street map in the Belediye Offices and he would look into the matter.

## 6. CLOSURE

Jeeda Barford, Acting Chair, closed the meeting by thanking members and non-members for attending. She reiterated the need for patience whilst the DKK protocols were put into place. Work on projects should continue, especially those that required no further decision from the Belediye Board. She commended the members of the FRG on their hard work and excellent proposals and projects presented to the Dalyan Kent Konseyi. She encouraged the recruitment of new members to the FRG.

(In addition, the FRG would like to thank Huseyin Aynici for translating during this meeting.)