



NORTHERN IRELAND SAFETY GROUP

Secretary: Ernie Spence
13 De Courcy Avenue
Carrickfergus
BT38 7LJ

**Meeting held on Monday 21st January 2008
at the King's Hall Conference Centre, Balmoral**

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Chairman: Nicky Bell

Present: As listed in the attendance book.

Apols:	Bob McHenry	Lagan Services
	Gary Ritchie	Seagate Technology
	Seona Carroll	UUJ
	Chris McCullough	Ryobi
	Caroline George	Bluechip Technologies
	Des Campbell	NI Forest Service
	Sharon Hutton	Northern Bank
	Wilson Lambe	President
	Heather McKinstry	Committee Member
	Nicola Ward	Committee Member
	David Cooke	Committee Member
	Wilson Lambe	President
	Tom Stephenson	Committee Member
	Hilary Cahoon	DHSSPS
	Bill McAllister	Safety Advice Centre
	Helen Leitch	CCMS

1. Chairman's welcome

The incoming Chairman thanked Jim Leitch for his dedication and hard work over the last 2 years. She was delighted to hear that he will continue to support the group.

She also paid tribute to Liam Kelly. He has been a group member for many years occupying the Chair in 2004. His presence will be missed from the committee but she understood his reasons for standing down.

At this point in the meeting Hugo McClenaghan stood up and addressed the meeting. He proposed that Liam be made an honorary member for his work for the group and this was seconded by Jim Leitch. Liam gratefully accepted the gesture and indicated that he still hoped to attend committee meetings.

As it was her first meeting the Chair asked for ideas from the floor for topics to be presented at group meetings. She also indicated that there was the opportunity to sponsor meetings if members wished to avail of this opportunity.

2. Minutes and matters arising

There were no matters arising from the previous minutes and these were proposed by Ken Blair and seconded by Owen Edwards.

3. Up and coming events

There were two dates for diaries. March 7th sees the Annual Safety Quiz and 10th March is a REACH seminar.

4. Presentation

The Chairman introduced Jim Pow.

Jim began by outlining the background to Clanmil Housing Association and how they view the subject in relation to both men and women as opposed to the traditional view of the woman having to take time off when any children were sick. He asked how many fathers in the room had taken time off when a child was ill and only a few raised their hands. Jim then went on to say that work life balance is about having a measure of control over when, where and how they work, leading them to enjoy an optimal quality of life.

He outlined the reasons business should take it seriously and the drivers behind why Clanmil took it seriously. He outlined the process Clanmil undertook and then unveiled the package they offer honing in on certain benefits such as a day off for your birthday and buying and selling holiday time.

Each of the parts of the package are underlined by Clanmil policies and Jim went on to discuss Health and Wellbeing 2007 and the types of things Clanmil were doing to ensure this message was getting to all staff.

Jim then went on to outline the real benefits for Clanmil and how by implementing this process it was a win-win for both employer and employee. He finished his presentation by talking about an employee who asked if she could work 2.5 days per week rather than five mornings a week and the positive outcomes that Clanmil had once they agreed to this for her.

Following the presentation there were questions from the floor and the session was finished by the audience responding in the usual manner.

The Chair announced those that were elected to serve on the committee and then closed the meeting.

* A pdf copy of the presentation can be obtained by emailing the Secretary - info@nisg.org.uk