



NAAS



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Township charity sets up volunteer group in Kildare

By AOIFE BARRY

THE inaugural meeting of the Kildare Volunteer Club, which is run by the Niall Mellon Township Trust as part of its charity work, was held recently in Lawlors Hotel, Naas.

Niall Mellon, founder of the Niall Mellon Township Trust, said: "The charity gets a huge amount of support from the people of Kildare and we are delighted to have our inaugural meeting of the Kildare Volunteer Club."

The club is for those who would like to help the charity in their work, both at home and elsewhere. Explained Niall: "We need volunteers to help us at home as well as abroad. Our amazing building blitz volunteers have achieved so much over the past

seven years. However, there are many other ways that people can help us, even if they cannot travel. We want to grow the charity and the Volunteer Club is a very exciting development for us as we need people's help to achieve our goal of building 25,000 houses in total for the poor families in the townships by 2010."

The Volunteer Club was launched in November 2008, with Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu becoming the first official member. The purpose of the Volunteer Club is to encourage volunteers, their family and friends to help the charity in its efforts to provide quality social housing to impoverished people living in the townships and also give them a network to keep in touch with each other.

At the end of March, 18 volunteers from Kildare will join in the efforts to build 75 houses during the charity's one-week building blitz in Paarl in Cape Town.

John Moore was elected chairperson of the Kildare Volunteer Club and the committee will be formed over the next couple of weeks.

Membership is free and people can join online by downloading an application form from the Niall Mellon Township Trust website at <http://www.irishtownship.com/htm/Volunteers.htm> or by contacting Jimmy, Charlie or Emer at the office on 01 4948200.

Niall Mellon Township Trust was founded in 2002 and is active in 23 townships. It has built 11,000 houses since its inception.