

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 13 February 2012 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: List of attendees as per attached

Apologies: List of apologies as per attached

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 January 2012 were proposed by Brian Schweppe and seconded by Pat Conlan. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

The meeting dealt with the following issues -

1. Lake Walk

The Chairman and Killian McGreal updated members on progress being made by John Horan on the Lake Walk Blessington to Russborough. It was explained that the date of 1 March 2012 is crucial in that any vegetation that needs to be cleared from particular areas will have to be done so, as 1 March 2012 is the commencement of the bird nesting season. It is hoped that, under the social farming perspective of WRP, persons will be available to assist in clearing vegetation should this be required, and of course be sanctioned by ESB. All in all it was pointed out that all interested parties in this project are still very keen and interested and this applies particularly to Wicklow County Council and ESB, who are continuing to be enthusiastic about the project.

2. Meeting with Aldi

Pat Pidgeon advised that a meeting with Aldi would now be arranged and Pat will be accompanied by Gilmer Hamilton and Pat Conlan.

3. Crooksling Hospital

The meeting noted the apologies of Gerry O'Neill, who was attending a meeting in relation to Crooksling Hospital at the Plaza Hotel tonight. The meeting was advised of the positive turnabout by the HSE in relation to Day Care and Respite, which appear to be functioning again at Crooksling Hospital. Members noted this welcome development for elderly in the area who avail of the services of Crooksling Day Care and Respite. The meeting agreed that the Chairman would represent Blessington & District Forum as Trustee should a member of the Forum be required in that capacity.

4. Christmas Lights

The meeting was circulated with a record of income and expenditure relating to the Christmas Lights 2011. The schedule noted the gradual fall in contributions from businesses over the years 2008 to 2011. The Forum had been fortunate in that costs had been reduced to match income. It was agreed that a list of those businesses who contributed would be read into the minutes of the next meeting.

5. Theatre

Theatre Chairman, Pat Winters, advised that there continues to be no news from the Department in relation to the recent grant application which includes the erection of a sign. Pat Winters also asked if new members would like to attend the monthly meeting of the Theatre, which is at 8pm in the Theatre on the third Wednesday of each month. It was pointed out that the next performance is that of the Lambert Puppet Theatre on 4 March, which will then be followed by Sinead O'Brien and BYMDS. By way of involvement of additional members, it was suggested that the Theatre liaise with the Adult Education Centre in relation to perhaps a theatre course. Pat Winters advised that the committee are always endeavouring to facilitate new interest, particularly if young people can be engaged.

6. Letter re Road Safety to Council

A reply dated 17 January 2012 from NRA in relation to the Forum's letter on road safety was circulated and read to the meeting. The NRA correspondence offered nothing and it is left to the Forum to now take the matters up with Wicklow County Council. In relation to the activity on the Naas Road, which appears to be going on forever, David Egar agreed to liaise with Councillor Ruttle and find out what is happening.

7. Rescue Boat

Mr. Conleth Loonan joined the meeting to speak on the Rescue Boat and the upcoming AGM of the Rescue Boat Committee due to be held in St. Kevin's Hall on 21 February. This is a lake rescue service and the Committee are constantly seeking new members. The Committee has received considerable help from ESB, but fundraising is always on the agenda. A new slipway has been put in at the bridge and the Committee are now seeking recognition by the Coastguard. It is a shore and land-based rescue service and provides assistance on the lake to, for instance, the annual regatta. All members are fully trained and upgrading of staff training is constant. Members appreciate the commitment of the Rescue Boat Committee and in particular that the service is Blessington based.

8. Environment Sub-committee

Jason Mulhall reported on discussions of the Environment Sub-Committee, comprising Jason, Noreen Keegan Kavanagh, Brian Kane, Michael Duggan and Anita Moroney. The Committee met on 25 January and have to date cleaned St. Patrick's Well and also liaised

with the Community College in relation to St. Patrick's Well and Dempsey's Lane. The Sub-Committee is aware that community involvement is absolutely vital and a plan is presently being formulated. There is a pressing need to clarify the position regarding insurance and for a meeting with the Director of Services, Wicklow County Council. It was agreed that David Egar will endeavour to facilitate a meeting with the Director of Services which would clarify the position vis-a-vis the Council and the Forum in relation to Tidy Towns. Brian Kane reported that a CE application has been made by the local FÁS office in the hope that community workers could be obtained for the town, similar to Aughrim. The Sub-Committee acknowledged the huge job of work that is required. The question arose in relation to dereliction notices on two houses on the Main Street.

9. Services Sub-Committee

Pat McGrath, in the absence of Chairman Lorcan McMahon, reported on the services sub-group activity. The principal focus of this group is the old library and a meeting within Lorraine Gallagher of Wicklow County Council is awaited. Lorraine Gallagher has advised that, on her next visit to the area, a meeting with the services group will be arranged. Frank Hanlon agreed to forward to the group photographs which had been previously taken of the old library.

10. Culture and Heritage Sub-Group

Hugo Magee, on behalf of the Culture and Heritage sub-group, advised of the recent meeting involving this group. This group has presented a paper which will now be circulated to members in advance of the next meeting. One of the imminent jobs here is for a panel of guides to be recruited and trained to conduct tours around the town.

11. Development Sub-Group

This sub-group has yet to be constituted.

12. A.O.B.

- It was suggested that the Forum have one big day for fundraising, be it a flag day, bag packing or whatever, but generate all funds in one weekend.
- Killian McGreal and Glenn Fitzpatrick will report at the next meeting on methodology for promotion of the Forum.
- Joe Hanly advised of the recent accidents at Brittas and the need for post-accident road clearing. This point was noted for addressing with the new Superintendent.
- The Forum is to follow up progress on the Hempstown Water Scheme.
- The Forum is to follow up progress on the Old Court Water Scheme.
- Roisín McNabb raised the question of the permanent bridge at Lacken and this will be queried with Counsellor Ruttle.
- The extension to the Manor Kilbride graveyard requires follow up with Wicklow County Council.
- There is a Community Alert meeting in Valleymount on 21 February.

- Lights are still necessary at Crosschapel and this is to be followed up with Councillor Ruttle.
- The Council are to be queried on where Blessington stands as regards a Local Area Plan.
- The Blessington Community Directory is being update and members took the following sections to update:

Education, training & mediation	Mrs. Haughian
Schools, pre-schools, Montessori, young people and adult education	Pat McGrath, Deirdre Ward
Leisure activities	Noel Nolan
Medical services	Killian McGreal
Community & general groups	Liam Fay
Useful services	Patsy Phibbs
Music, dance & art	Pat Winters
Sport	Noreen Keegan Kavanagh, Michael Sargent
History, heritage & environment	Hugo Magee
Health & care groups	Mrs. Haughian

- The planned meeting with the Gardaí has been deferred to 14 May 2012, when a new Superintendent will have taken over from Superintendant Eamon Keogh.

This concluded the business of the meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday 12 March 2012.

Pat McGrath

Michael Sargent

Ruttle

12 Mar 2012

Attendance Forum 13 Feb 2012

- 1 Pat Quirk 33
- 2 Kevin McWahl 34
- 3 Patricia McScaH. 35
- 4 Dorene Wood 36
- 5 Pat Conlon 37
- 6 Gilmer Hamilton 38
- 7 Tom Mcgillpully 39
- 8 Schwinn 40
- 9 Hugo Magee 41
- 10 Brian Kene 42
- 11 Noreen Kegan Kavanagh 43
- 12 Tara Mithall
- 13 Anita Moroney
- 14 Larned Cas...
- 15 7-7
- 16 Tom Brady
- 17 Peter O'Callan
- 18 David Taylor
- 19 Michael Gurrigan
- 20 Warrington
- 21 Pat Fidy
- 22 Michael O'Connell
- 23 Catherine Kehoe
- 24 Kilian McCreel
- 25 Joe Haly
- 26 Pat Winter
- 27 Brian D...
- 28 Mr Hoop
- 29 Fintin Gilheany
- 30 Noel Nolan
- 31 Seamus Balfie
- 32 Frank Hamb

34 Conleth Connors Blessington Rescue Unit (quest)

35 Ingrida Hagan

36 Michael O'Keefe

Apologies	
Michael Duggan	1
James O'Neil	2
Bríd Lawrence Conlon	3
Korcan M. Mahon	4
Ruth Fitzsimons	5
Nuala Cuskeri	6
Ruairi O'Leary	7
David Ruwin	8
Maryhanna Murphy	9
Deshy Dermody	10
Elyse Fitzpatrick	11
Catherine	12
John Brennan	13
Sally Ann Ryall	14