

Blessington and District Forum
Minutes of Meeting
held at St Mary's National School, Blessington
Monday 9th January 2012

Present: List of attendees as per attached

Apologies: Sally Ann Ryall, Brian Daly, Carmel Cashin, Roisin McNabb, Pat Pidgeon, Anthony Quinn

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 12 December 2011, were proposed by Brian Schweppe and seconded by Pat Conlon. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

The meeting dealt with the following issues -

1. Lake Walk

The meeting was advised that expenses of €4,700 have been reimbursed from Wicklow County Partnership. A consultant has been appointed to look into the area of bird sanctuaries and the environment. The Forum will have another update from John Horan shortly.

2. Meeting with ALDI

Pat Pidgeon has secured a meeting with ALDI. The following questions need to be asked at the meeting: 1. the ramp going down to ALDI is too narrow, is there an alternative to this? 2. Christmas Lights - it was suggested that the Forum ask ALDI if they will erect Christmas Lights next year. 3. Signposts on triangle - these are facing in the wrong direction, could they be moved around?

3. Winter Weather Meeting

Gilmer Hamilton stated that the sandbags are now in place around the town. Gilmer also repeated that he has phone numbers for the supply of sandbags for estates that need them.

4. Anti-Social Behaviour

A letter is to be sent to Community Garda Michael O'Rourke inviting him to the next meeting.

5. Crooksling Hospital

A letter issued to Dr. James Reilly the Minister of Health on 19th December requesting a meeting re Crooksling Hospital. Gerry O'Neill advised that the committee is still awaiting the analysis of Crooksling and that the Minister will pay a

visit shortly. Gerry also reported that there was a good response to the march and over 200 people turned out. It was suggested that the Forum contact our local TDs to arrange a meeting. The following members said that they would attend such a meeting: Gerry O'Neill, Michael Sargent, Glenn Fitzpatrick, Noel Nolan, Brian Schweppe and Catherine Kehoe.

6. Christmas Lights

The Christmas Lights for 2012 were a great success. They have been taken down and stored away till next year. The Chairman will give a report on the monies collected at the next meeting. The Chairman advised that there was a reasonable response from the businesses in the town.

7. Theatre

Pat Winters advised that the grant for the sign has been put on hold for the moment and there is no further news from WRP. Pat Winters advised that Brendan Grace was almost sold out. The pantomime Snow White will be held mid January.

8. Letter re Road Safety to Council

A letter of acknowledgement was received from the NRA in response to our letter regarding Road Safety in Blessington following the recent accidents in the area. This letter was posted to the NRA and the RSA. Gerry O'Neill stated that the issue of road safety was mentioned by Jim Ruttle in the latest Council meeting. Councillor John Brady also asked if the Forum would write a letter to the Council re road safety at the Lamb. It was also mentioned that the Forum should contact Mr. Langan re the roadworks at Deerpark. It was suggested that this be made safe for health and safety reasons.

It was also suggested to send a letter to the local schools to look at the safe cross code again. However Pat McGrath mentioned that the RSA already visited the schools in November and this had been looked after.

9. Strategic Groups

Environment - this group met last week. Jason Mulhall gave a report on some of the ideas the group has. The following items were mentioned:

- St. Patrick's Well area.
- Brian Kane is to meet with the Community School and talk to transition year students.
- Litter Rota - it was suggested that a litter rota be drawn up for the weekends when there is no council worker available.
- It was suggested that the group contact local businesses and ask them to clean outside their own premises and perhaps to adopt an area over the weekends.
- Gerry O'Neill also suggested writing to the Council re new bins.
- Liam Fay suggested that the people of the town need to get involved and also the Council.

- It was also suggested that the group come up with a comprehensive plan for the next 3 years and present it to the Forum at the next meeting.

Services - the following people will make up this group:

Pat McGrath, Deirdre Ward, Nuala Haughian and Lorcan McMahon.

10. A.O.B.

- Library - Catherine Kehoe rang the head of Wicklow Library Services. It was suggested that a letter should follow.
- Fr. Tim suggested issuing a response to the survey to show that the Forum has taken on board what the people of Blessington have said.
- Fr. Tim also suggested that people be co-opted on to strategic groups to make them more effective.
- Joe Hanly asked a question re the replacement of Garda cars.
- There was also a question raised re septic tanks.
- Gerry O'Neill stated that the boxing club received a grant of €25,000 and that work would be commencing on the hall shortly.
- Michael Curran asked if the road sign at ALDI could be turned to face the right way.

The meeting concluded. The next meeting will be held on Monday 13 February.

Brian Scheppe

Pat Curran

Minister

13 February 2012

Attendance Sheet

9 Jan 2012

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|---------------------------|----|-----------------|
| 1 Catherine Kehoe | 30 | Pat Gashin |
| 2 Joan Coogan | 31 | Paiding Dermody |
| 3 Joe Hanly | 32 | Father V. Hanly |
| 4 Glenn Fitzpatrick | 33 | Pat Ribbles |
| 5 Cheryl O'Leary | 34 | Lucretia O'Hara |
| 6 Maura Fitzgerald | 35 | Jan Mcgilly |
| 7 Maura Hanly | 36 | Pat Winters |
| 8 Frank Hanly | 37 | Deir Hanly |
| 9 David Zee | | |
| 10 Mick O'Sullivan | | |
| 11 Peter O'Leary | | |
| 12 John Brennan | | |
| 13 Mary K. Hanly | | |
| 14 Brian Scherrie | | |
| 15 Gilman Hamilton | | |
| 16 Anadine Laurens-Corlon | | |
| 17 Anita McConery | | |
| 18 Jason Winkler | | |
| 19 Michael Wigg | | |
| 20 Lorcan Winkler | | |
| 21 Patricia McGeath | | |
| 22 Noreen Keegan Kavanagh | | |
| 23 Hugo Magee | | |
| 24 Brian Kane | | |
| 25 Jim Murphy | | |
| 26 Pat Conlan | | |
| 27 Tom Brady | | |
| 28 Noel Kelly | | |
| 29 Deirdre Ward | | |