

Signed

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

**Minutes of Meeting
held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington
on Monday 13 April 2015
at 8.00 p.m.**

Present: List of members as per attached

Apologies: List of apologies as per attached

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 March 2015 were read and reviewed.

The minutes were proposed by Pat Conlon, seconded by Michael Duggan and signed by the Chairman. The meeting dealt with the following matters.

Tree Felling

Jason Mulhall reported that the Tree Felling Licence in respect of the trees felled on the Kilbride Road included no remedial action conditions. The Chairman agreed to liaise with John Horan to enquire if the assistance of the ESB could be obtained in completing some remedial works particularly on the access to St. Patrick's Well. In regard to the tree felling application for Dempsey's Lane Jason advised that the Inspector has asked for further information. It was agreed that the Forum should forward a letter to the Department supporting the view of our local Wicklow County Council Engineer and furthermore requesting that should the Licence be granted that remedial action conditions are included in the Tree Felling Licence.

Text Alert

Nuala Cashin confirmed to the meeting that the launch date for Text Alert has been set for Tuesday 19 May 2015 at 8.30 pm in St. Kevin's Hall. The forms for residents to join Text Alert are available at the Parish Office and information can be had immediately on the Text Alert Mobile line 087 465 4998 and also by email to blessingtoncommunitytextalert@gmail.com. The joining fee is €10.

Blessington Greenway

The meeting had to hand an update from John Horan in relation to the query raised at last month's meeting regarding the possible non utilisation of funding by other projects in the country. John Horan advised that he is presently following up the funding allocations under the current round of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Scheme for local authorities - the scheme under which Blessington Greenway was assessed in the top two. John has reminded the Department that obstacles being experienced in other counties do not arise in respect of the Blessington Greenway.

Separately, John Horan reported on having had a meeting with Michael Nicholson who has taken over from Joe Lane in Wicklow County Council. John advised us that Mr. Nicholson has taken a keen interest in the further development of the greater Greenway project around the rest of the lakes area. In particular John reported that Mr. Nicholson has been working on potential funding for the detailed study which will be the next stage in the whole process and which will be required once a funding source is identified for the construction phase. Members were delighted to hear from John Horan that Councillor Jim Ruttle has advised that the Community Cultural Social and Educational Committee of Wicklow County Council will be making the relevant funding available for the study.

John Horan also reported on having had a meeting with ESB and a representative of Native Woodland Trust on how the respective sites directly opposite Russborough can be linked from the end of phase 1 of the Greenway at Russelstown. This matter is receiving consideration.

Members expressed their sincere thanks and appreciation to Joe Lane at Wicklow County Council for his great support of the Blessington Greenway Project. It was agreed to forward a letter of thanks to Joe Lane and wish him well in his new role in the Council.

Members were also pleased to note the appreciation of the ESB personnel for the assistance given by Forum members on the tree planting at the Greenway as part of National Tree Week.

Glending

Noel Murphy reported that the meeting scheduled between Glending residents and Wicklow County Council on Thursday 12 March had not taken place. Following discussions it was agreed that the Forum would make contact with Wicklow County Council and check if a meeting can be arranged similar to the two meetings held in 2014.

Old Library building

The Chairman reported on having reverted to Wicklow County Council in respect of the terms of the lease agreement as between Wicklow County Council and the Forum. The lease suggestions to Wicklow County Council have been compiled following discussions between the Chairman, Liam Fay, Joe Hanly and Jason Mulhall. The Chairman reported that the Licence Agreement as between the Forum and Men Sheds will now be finalised.

Members were advised however that the question of an asbestos assessment is still outstanding. The matter has been raised with Wicklow County Council who are checking the availability of an expert in this regard who might inspect the building and report to both the Council and the Forum as to the status of the asbestos roof.

Wicklow County Council Local Area meeting

It was agreed to endeavour to have a Forum member sit at these monthly meetings and take notes and report to the following Forum meeting. A roster of Brian Kane, Ariadne Laurens Conlon, Eamonn Kelly and Noel Nolan was agreed.

Tidy Towns

Jason Mulhall reported in relation to the following

- It is expected that the dog fouling stencils will be in place within the next two to three weeks.
- Discussions will be continued with the local engineer in regard to the street lights at Downshire Hotel and in particular if their maintenance can be taken on by the Forum.
- A walkway to Glending will be discussed with Councillor Jim Ruttle.
- It was agreed to forward a letter of appreciation and thanks to Catriona at Lakeside Garden Centre in respect of maintenance of the gardens at Main Street and to thank Avon Rí for their previous support.
- National Lottery funding may be available in respect of the outdoor gym equipment.
- Wicklow County Partnership have received their allocation of funding.

Any Other Business.

- Fr. Tim advised that the BYP Project will have a meeting on Wednesday night and that a meeting is scheduled shortly with the new Superintendent.
- Fr. Tim advised that an extension to the Junior School will involve realignment of the right of way to the Kilbride Road and that this is in hand at present as between the Parish and the School and the Church of Ireland.
- Appreciation and well done were expressed to Fr. Tim on the outcome of the Coimin Centre and also to Patsy Phibbs the Forum representative on the Management Committee.
- Brian Kane reported that it is still hoped to have five FAS workers on Tidy Towns work.
- Pat Conlon reported that the Swedish visitors will be having a parade and concert on 16 May.
- Pat Conlon and Forum members expressed their thanks to Gerry Brown at the Senior School for the facilitating of music events.
- The question of parking at the end of Red Lane still needs to be followed up.
- Liam Fay on behalf of the Forum expressed sincere thanks to Pat Conlon and Barry Hamilton for their continued work and dedication to all events at the theatre.
- The Chairman reported that Killian McGreal would be having a sod turning event in respect of the new Primary Health Care Centre on Wednesday at 12.30 pm.

- It was noted that the next Business Network meeting for West Wicklow will be in Baltinglass Golf Club on Wednesday 29 April.

This concluded the business of the meeting

The Forum will reconvene on Monday 11 May 2015



Chairman

11/5/15

Date



Proposer



Seconder

Blessington & District Forum

Attendance List 3/4/2015

	Name
1	Brady Tommy
2	Brennan John
3	Brophy Charlie
4	Cashin Carmel
5	Cashin Nuala
6	Cashin Lauren S Ariadne
7	Conlon Pat
8	Cullen Catriona
9	Curran Michael
10	Doyle Michael
11	Duggan Michael
12	Egar David
13	Eustace Peter
14	Fay Liam
15	Gilheany Fintan
16	Hanlon Frank
17	Hanly Joe
18	Haughian Nuala
19	Kane Brian
20	Keegan Kavanagh Noreen
21	Kelly Eamonn
22	Keogh Aine
23	McGreal Killian
24	Moroney Anita
25	Mulhall Jason
26	Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442
27	Murphy Joe
28	Murphy Noel
29	Murphy Mary Lorna
30	Nolan Noel
31	O'Brien Paul
32	Phibbs Patsy
33	Sargent Michael
34	Schwepe Brian

Signature
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Pat Conlon</i>
<i>Catriona Cullen</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Michael Duggan</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Liam Fay</i>
<i>Frank Hanlon</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Brian Kane</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Eamonn Kelly</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Apologies</i>
<i>Jason Mulhall</i>
<i>Fr. Tim</i>
<i>Joe Murphy</i>
<i>Mary Lorna Murphy</i>
<i>Noel Nolan</i>
<i>Paul O'Brien</i>
<i>Patsy Phibbs</i>
<i>Michael Sargent</i>
<i>Brian Schwepe</i>