

Signet

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington

on Monday, 9 May 2011

at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Peter Nolan, Aidan Maguire, Ruairí O hAilín, Gerry Gilvary, John Coogan, Liam Fay, Pat Winters, Frank Hanlon, Fintan Gilheany, Joe Hanley, Michael Sargent, Seamus Balfe, Gilmer Hamilton, Tom McGillicuddy, Patsy Phibbs.

Apologies: Michael Curran, Brian Daly, Pat Pidgeon, Michael Doyle, John Brennan, Róisín McNabb, Pat Conlan, David Egar, Gerry O'Neill, Nuala Haughian, Brian Schweppe.

Minutes

The meeting dealt with the following matters:

1. Old Library Building

A letter has been drafted to Wicklow County Council advising that the Forum is proposing to carry out a feasibility study on the possible uses which can be made of the old library building under the auspices of the Forum. Wicklow County Council have also been asked if Blessington & District Forum could arrange for a voluntary clean-up of the outside of the building including repair of fascia and gutters and hosing down of the outside walls.

It is clear at this stage that the building will not be used as a day care centre. It is acknowledged that there are plans to be announced shortly for a day care centre with the extension to the Church.

It was noted that the Prison Service sometimes assists in the renovation of buildings and this is an avenue that will be explored.

2. Litter

It was agreed that contact be made with Naas Urban Council in regard to how they deal with litter and particularly dog fouling.

3. Road surface Main Street

There was no further update on this matter.

4. Turning Point

The Forum has still to have contact with FÁS and with the Department of Social Protection on this item.

5. Theatre

There were no matters to report in relation to the Tramway Theatre at this point.

6. Hillbilly Run

Ben Dalton, Noel Foster and James McDonald attended the Forum meeting as representatives of the Hillbilly Run organisation. The Forum was advised that the tractor run will be on 26 June 2011 and will start from Lacken at 12.45pm and travel via Valleymount to arrive in Blessington at 2pm. The parade from the Community College on the Main Street will commence as soon as representatives have been notified that the tractor run is approaching the N81/Valleymount junction. James McDonald will again arrange for barriers to be delivered and members of the Forum will staff the barriers from 6.30am to midday. The Forum will also liaise with Blessington GAA and Blessington Soccer in regard to having stewards available on the day.

It was explained that funds this year will go to the Children's Hospital, the roof repair of Valleymount Church and local schools. The Treasurer for the event is Pauline Foster.

Cards for the raffle were left with Forum members to assist in fundraising between now and 26 June.

7. Bus service

Gerry Gilvary reported that Dublin Bus have decided to make no amendments to the 65 Route. The route will still serve Blessington and outlying districts Ballyknockan and Ballymore Eustace. Dublin Bus has put in proper bus stops and frequency will be unchanged.

8. Forum elections

It was agreed that the week of 19 June 2011 to 26 June 2011 would be nominations week. There are vacancies to be filled in all ten wards and notices will issue in the Parish Newsletter over the coming weeks advising of the upcoming nomination week and also in the Valleymount/Lacken newsletter. It was agreed also to advise

residents' associations and on Monday 27th June, open the nomination boxes and hopefully have a new Forum ready for Monday 11 July.

Pat Winters stated that in the new Forum, there should be ruthlessness in relation to non-attenders and that a new structure is needed and accountability. There would also need to be a decision on the scope of subjects to be covered.

A.O.B.

- There has been no communication yet with Wicklow County Council in relation to the trees.
- Ruairí O hAilín will arrange a separate Forum website and the Chairman will liaise with Fiona in relation to some further items which can be included on the Forum part of the Parish website.
- Members were pleased with the letter from Wicklow County Council in relation to extending the new water scheme to Hempstown.
- John Coogan was highly critical of Wicklow County Council in relation to the non-lighting of Dempsey's Lane. This area has become a focus for anti-social behaviour which spreads into the Beechdale Estate.
- There was no update on the Aldi application.
- The Chairman is to liaise with Topaz in regard to the maintaining of those areas in front of the Topaz garage.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Proposer : Pat Winters

Secunder : M. J. Sweeney

M. J. Sweeney
Chairman

13/6/11