

Signed

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 13 May 2013 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 8 April 2013, were circulated, read, proposed by Carmel Cashin, seconded by Nuala Cashin and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:-

1. Blessington Greenway

The advices of John Horan were read to the meeting as follows:

"The Greenway linking the town with Russborough has been completed and is being used extensively. It is beginning to appear on websites for walkers and so on. It is the subject of much favourable comment from those who have experienced it.

This is all happening despite the fact that we are quite deliberately not "broadcasting" it's existence, because the County Council has not built the linking footpath along the N81 yet. I have been reassured repeatedly that it is coming but to date it has not started. This is surprising because the Council has been very supportive of the project all along. I will continue to keep up the pressure on the Council in this regard.

We have two TUS workers on the Greenway on a daily basis on "caretaking and maintenance" duties. We will have to provide them with some basic equipment such as brushes, litter pickers, black sacks etc and Avon Ri has agreed to provide storage for these.

We are expecting to receive the third tranche of our grant from CWP this week and this, together with the facilities which you and Kilian have arranged at the Bank, should enable us to make the final payment (less the 5% retention) to the contractors. We will also pay the professional fees due to the QS, Architect and so on. We will then submit our fourth - and almost final - grant claim. The final one will arise on the release of the retention element.

When the Council start work on the path we should immediately move ahead on an "official" opening which in turn will be the basis for the move to get further phases of the large scale round the reservoir Greenway moving."

Members were advised of a recent review on a website Mountain Views Walk, which gives a very favourable review of the trail. Many members have walked the trail so far and are very pleased with it. Members did ask, however, that the question of a barrier at the exit onto the N81 at Nolan's Corner be taken up with Wicklow County Council.

2. Blessington & District Forum logo

Liam Fay presented to the Forum a choice of three logos following a competition amongst pupils at Blessington Community College. Members voted on the three options as per the attached and voted over 50% in favour of design 2. Liam Fay will now liaise with Mr. Alan Kinsella, Principal at Blessington Community College and agree a presentation night.

3. Blessington Community College

The Chairman advised of the impending departure of Principal Alan Kinsella to take up another appointment in the West of Ireland. Members were full of praise for the manner in which Alan Kinsella has lifted the profile of the school, with enrolments doubling during his four year tenure at Blessington Community College. Members were unanimous in expressing best wishes to Alan Kinsella in his future career and agreed to convey those sentiments also to Wicklow VEC.

4. Cookehill Lands

The Chairman reported on his having met, together with Vice-Chairman Pat Pidgeon, with representatives of the receivers, HT Meagher O'Reilly. The receivers' objective is to dispose of the lands in due course and in the meantime to rent the lands and earn income. There are no contributions to the local area and no access. Members were advised that the Chairman has asked representatives of the receiver to visit for a walkabout in the coming weeks. The purpose of this walkabout would be to review grass verges, build up of litter, check on broken fencing and possible access to area around pond. It will also be an opportunity to discuss control of ragwort/thistle blossoms which are required to be attended to under the Noxious Weeds Act. It was agreed that members of Tidy Towns would accompany the Chairman when this meeting is notified.

5. Tidy Towns

Chairman of the Tidy Towns sub-group Jason Mulhall briefed the meeting on ongoing matters:

- A tree survey has been completed, which has noted the condition of all trees in the town, noting their condition from fair to whether or not re-shaping is necessary. This report has been passed to Wicklow County Council.
- Schools liaison is ongoing and members were advised that both the Senior and Junior Schools have green flags. The Community College is engaged on a cleanup from the school to the N81 junction on Tuesday 14 May.
- There is a slogan competition ongoing with St. Mary's Senior School.
- It is hoped to have the surface to St. Patrick's Well upgraded.
- The Tidy Estates competition entries are now due.
- The Tidy Towns judging will be in the period June/July and it is hoped to achieve at least 235 points.

6. Theatre

The Chairman of the Theatre Company, Pat Winters, reported that the Events Committee are now attending to securing engagements for the Theatre. The next events are Star Camps in July.

7. Blessington Community Project 2013

Patsy Phibbs, Chairman of this sub-committee, reported that a letter together with application form has now been submitted for funding to WCP. The letter, signed by Patsy Phibbs and the

Chairman, was read to members. Patsy Phibbs noted with appreciation the very helpful contribution made to date by Councillor Jim Ruttle.

8. Glending

Carmel Cashin and Aisling Dermody reported on ongoing renovation work at Glending. Three families have now been moved to other houses in order to have their accommodation completely renovated. Carmel and Aisling wondered if transferring people to houses which had not been occupied for a number of years was really the best solution and that perhaps for the two/three months' renovation work, persons, particularly elderly, should be housed in better accommodation, say at Avon Rí. Efforts to have Jan O'Sullivan visit are still being pursued, while Fr. Tim Murphy suggested that Glending residents meet for an evening with the Forum Executive and chat about the problems in advance of any visit by the Housing Minister.

9. The Gathering 2013


Nuala Cashin reported on a meeting last Friday with Gráinne McLoughlin from WCC in relation to festival funding. Our sub-committee of Nuala, Deirdre Ward, Roisín McNabb, Nuala Haughian and Pat Conlon, is presently researching what events can take place during a Harvest Festival scheduled for 12/13 October.

10. A.O.B.

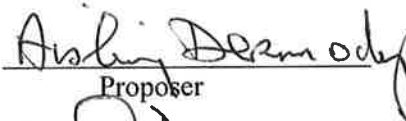
- The Chairman reported on discussions with Community Garda Michael O'Rourke in relation to the blocking of the roadway on the way to the Senior School. This will be monitored over the coming weeks by Michael O'Rourke and members were reminded that any matters they consider which are causing any possible hazard to traffic or pedestrians should be reported at the Garda Station.
- It was agreed to advise Kildare County Council of the requirement to have signs in place near Glending re deer.
- On the proposal of Liam Fay and seconded by Kilian McGreal members were unanimous in proposing Carmel Cashin to represent the Forum as the West Wicklow representative on the South Eastern Drug Task Force.
- Ruairí O hAilín advised members that in mid-July there will be a traditional music summer school at the Education Centre.
- Carmel Cashin advised of the dangers on the back road to Kilbride and Jason Mulhall took note to mention to Declan Geraghty.
- Frank Hanlon thanked members for their kind expressions of sympathy on the recent death of his mother.
- Fintan Gilheaney advised of the extension of the town water supply to Hempstown and that this should be completed over the next two to three months.
- Brian Schweppe again raised the question of the currachs and this is left to Forum member Michael Doyle to again take up on his return following exams.
- It was agreed to have on the agenda for the next meeting the question of recent acts of vandalism, particularly at the graveyard and on the Kilmalum Road and as to whether or not additional resources can be provided at D-Caff.

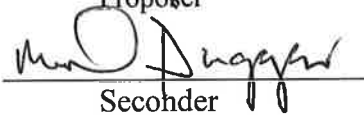
- Brian Kane advised that he is continuing to follow up with Billy Timmins the roundabout at Deerpark, which has not yet been taken in charge by Wicklow County Council.
- Members were reminded that we need to be giving consideration at the next meeting to the Blessington & District Awards Night.
- Seamus Balfe advised that the Heritage Sub-group is in the process of finalising the Town Trail and should be finalised for the next meeting.
- Kilian McGreal advised of his proposal to have a primary care centre on a site near the Wicklow County Council offices on the Relief Road, news which members greeted enthusiastically.
- Updates are still awaited on:
 - Dublin Bus/bus shelter
 - Yellow box at exit at Maxol
 - WCC re Scurlock's Graveyard
 - WCC re water quality
 - Members to fill places on St. Patrick's Day sub-committee
 - Members to fill positions on Literary Rambling/Walking Festival May 2014

This completed the business of the meeting.


Chairman

10 May 2013
Date


Proposer


Seconder

Blessington & District Forum

Attendance List 13 May 2013

| Name | Phone | Email | Signature |
|---------------------------|-------|-------|---------------------------|
| Balfe Seamus | | | Seamus Balfe |
| Brady Tommy | | | Apology |
| Brennan John | | | |
| Cashin Carmel | | | Carmel Cashin |
| Cashin Nuala | | | N. Cashin |
| Conlon Pat | | | Pat Conlon |
| Coogan John | | | John Coogan |
| Curran Michael | | | Apology |
| Daly Brian | | | Apology |
| Dermody Aisling | | | Aisling Dermody |
| Doyle Michael | | | Apology |
| Duggan Michael | | | Michael Duggan |
| Egar David | | | David Egar |
| Fay Liam | | | Liam Fay |
| Fitzsimons Ruth | | | |
| Gilheany Fintan | | | Fintan Gilheany |
| Hamilton Gilmer | | | |
| Hanlon Frank | | | Frank Hanlon |
| Hanly Joe | | | Joe Hanly |
| Haughian Nuala | | | N. Haughian |
| Kane Brian | | | Brian Kane |
| Kavanagh Bernie 865025 | | | |
| Keegan Kavanagh Noreen | | | Noreen Keegan Kavanagh |
| Laurenns Conlon Ariadne | | | |
| Magee Hugo | | | Hugo Magee |
| McGillycuddy Tom | | | |
| McGrath Patricia | | | Apology |
| McGreal Killian | | | |
| McMahon Lorcan | | | Apology |
| McNabb Roisin | | | |
| Moroney Anita | | | Anita Moroney |
| Mulhall Jason | | | Jason Mulhall jsm@car.com |
| Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442 | | | Fr. Tim Murphy |
| Murphy Mary Lorna | | | Mary Lorna Murphy |
| Nolan Noel | | | Noel Nolan |
| O hAilín Ruaidhri | | | Ruaidhri O hAilín |
| O'Neill Gerry | | | Apology |
| Phibbs Patsy | | | Pat Phibbs |
| Pidgeon Pat | | | |
| Ryall Sally Ann | | | Apology |
| Sargent Michael | | | Michael Sargent |
| Schweppe Brian | | | Brian Schweppe |
| Ward Deirdre | | | Deirdre Ward |
| Winters Pat | | | Pat Winters |