

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington

on Monday, 14 February 2011

at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Members as per attached list.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 10 January 2011, were read, approved on the proposal of Michael Curran, seconded by Peter Nolan and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:

1. Correspondence

The Chairman reported having received a telephone call from Lorraine Gallagher of Wicklow County Council in regard to the old library building. Ms. Gallagher is available to show the old library building to members of the Forum. It was agreed that the Chairman will arrange a meeting with Ms. Gallagher on a morning next week.

Secretary Ann Horan read to the meeting the communication to Councillor Ruttle following our last meeting on 10 January 2011. The response of Councillor Ruttle was read to the meeting. Councillor Ruttle responded in relation to litter, Dempsey's Lane, relief road, litter signs, damaged roads, Kilmalum Road, Lamb junction, Lisheen Road and Local Area Office.

2. Litter

Members were pleased that present arrangements for cleaning of the street are working extremely well and it was agreed that a letter should issue to Wicklow County Council, Declan Geraghty and Councillor Ruttle to compliment employee Denis Toomey on how good a job is being done at present. Members were reminded that there is no availability of staff on Saturday or Sunday and that the availability of Denis Toomey is only Monday to Friday.

The Secretary confirmed that discussions with Councillor Ruttle have indicated that it is still the intention to have the Main Street major tarmac job done in March.

3. Christmas lights

Members were advised that a full report on the outcome of the funds received for Christmas lights will be available at the next meeting.

4. Theatre

Pat Winters was unavailable to attend the meeting and there were no updates on present theatre matters. The question of signs being erected to indicate the location of the theatre was referred to the theatre company Board of Directors.

Mr. Alan Kinsella, principal of Blessington Community College, and Ms. Tina Kelly from the Parents' Association joined the meeting.

Tina Kelly advised of the concerns of parents in regard to the dangerous situation arising for pedestrians at the junction of the Naas Road and Kilmalum Road. Secretary Ann Horan advised the meeting and asked Tina Kelly to convey to the Parents' Association that discussions are in hand with Councillor Ruttle, who has only today advised that "there has been resistance from some landowners and negotiations have not been successful. We are now considering the CPO mechanism to gain the land needed for this footpath".

Principal Alan Kinsella advised of a consultation process now in progress to ascertain if the school should have a change of name. Many members favoured retention of the name "Blessington" and others favoured maintaining "College". Alan Kinsella advised that the college is not rushing into any change, but is checking on what people think. The principal also advised that the school has recently had a whole school report and will be completing a mail drop to advise of how successful this had been. Five inspectors had visited for a week and made recommendations. Principal Alan Kinsella also advised that enrolments for 2011 at the moment are at 68, which is probably the maximum that the school can take, which is a great increase on the previous year's 36.

Members congratulated the principal on the great strides that had been made and wished continued success.

Ann Hanlon attended the meeting also to bring to the attention of members the change in opening hours at the Library, which is impacting on the Citizens' Information Service. The Citizens' Information Service will now operate from 1.30pm to 4.30pm on a Tuesday and 10am to 1pm on a Wednesday, whereas previously the hours were 10.30am to 1.30pm on a Tuesday and 10.30am to 1.30pm on a Wednesday.

It was agreed that the Forum would enter correspondence with Wicklow Library Service to check on the position. It was agreed also to send a letter to a Margaret Flynn as the Forum voted a note of thanks to Margaret for her many years of service at the Library.

Tourism

There was a report from John Horan on tourism matters, particularly in regard to developments regarding the proposed multi-purpose walking and cycling trail circling the reservoir. Members noted that, overall, the project is still moving forward.

A.O.B.

John Coogan and several other members requested the Secretary to check with Wicklow County Council on some complaints presently being received regarding water quality on the new scheme.

This concluded the business of the meeting.