

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 9 July 2012 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 11 June 2012 were proposed by Brian Schweppe, seconded by Gerry O'Neill and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

The meeting followed a prepared agenda and dealt with the following:-

1. Matters arising

In response to Gerry O'Neill, the Chairman advised that time constraints had meant that it had not been possible to arrange a meeting at Glending or a Beechdale, but that both of these meetings are scheduled to be held shortly.

2. Lake Walk

John Horan attended the meeting to advise in relation to the walk from Blessington to Russborough. John Horan reported that the licence has now been signed with the ESB, allowing the use of the Trail land for 25 years. John Horan also advised the meeting that the ESB have made a grant to the Trails Company of €15,000, with the only specification that, when mentioning Blessington Greenway, recognition be given to the support of the ESB. John Horan pointed out that this is a €250,000 project and that the huge support of Wicklow County Council has to be acknowledged. The Council has agreed to donate chippings delivered to the Trail and this is in addition to the €5,000 amount already contributed and the planning exemption granted by the Council. The Council is also completing that part of the Trail on the N81 at Nolan's Corner, where a barrier will be erected. The Forum members were very appreciative of the support of Wicklow County Council for this Trail, together with that of the ESB.

John Horan explained that eight tenders had been received and that the Company is close to making a decision on the tender to be accepted. Once the tender has been accepted, then the approval of ESB and County Wicklow Partnership will be obtained.

John Horan stated that the timetable of commencing work on 30 July 2012 is still on schedule for a completion date of Friday 7 September. The meeting thanked Shane O'Neill, Architect,

for his considerable contributions to this Trail and Shane O'Neill confirmed that there would be no extras on the job, this is a fixed price lump sum contract.

Members again thanked John Horan for his considerable efforts in bringing this project to fruition and this will hopefully seen in the first week of September.

3. Men's Sheds

Ron Corry attended the meeting and gave a very detailed outline of the background to and work of Irish Men's Sheds. Ron Corry has commenced the forming of a Men's Shed in Blessington and outlined his actions in this regard. Members raised questions in regard to funding, accommodation, skills and visibility and matters were left on the basis that the word would be spread of the efforts of Ron Corry to have this Men's Shed Association in Blessington up and running as soon as possible. Ron Corry is intending to give this his best shot and is very appreciative of the support received to date. Members wished him well.

4. Environment Sub-committee

Michael Duggan advised of the forthcoming major works to be carried out at St. Patrick's Well and that the assistance of Wicklow County Council has been obtained, with a grant of €2,000. Michael Duggan and Noreen Keegan Kavanagh were deputising in the unavoidable absence of the Chairman of the Environmental sub-committee, Jason Mulhall.

In relation to St. Patrick's Well, David Egar agreed that he would speak to the adjoining landowner at St. Patrick's Well in regard to the dangerous condition of the wall in the area opposite St. Patrick's Well. This matter was raised at the last meeting and it was agreed to leave it to David to raise the matter. It was agreed that in David Egar's discussions, he would mention that the Forum will be mentioning the matter to Wicklow County Council in advance of the renovation work commencing at the well.

Noreen Keegan Kavanagh advised that work is progressing in regard to the plan outlined at the previous meeting and an appeal was made for further members to assist on the Thursday evening tidy-up. People might also volunteer for the Sunday morning tidy-up.

5. Glending

Aisling Dermody advised in relation to the County Council works relating to flooding at Glending Estate. David Egar also visited Glending last Friday, but no-one is yet able to advise as to whether or not the work carried out by the Council will be successful or not. David Egar, Gerry O'Neill and Michael Sargent are due to meet again with Aisling Dermody and Carmel Cashin at Glending.

6. Theatre

Pat Winters advised that work is progressing on phase 3 at the Theatre, which is a €50,000 project. A front of house lighting bar is presently being installed and the sign on the Theatre has been erected. Pat Winters and Liam Fay outlined details of discussions with the school and difficulties which have been experienced relating to lighting the sign. The Chairman advised that a discussion of the items in question has taken place and that hopefully there will

be good will on the part of all parties which will allow the next school Board of Management meeting to be of assistance in the phase 3 work.

Members expressed their appreciation to Pat Winters for work at the Theatre, in particular the recent Christy Moore performance.

7. Culture and Heritage Sub-group

Seamus Balfe advised that, in the absence of the Culture & Heritage sub-group Chairman for the next month or so, himself and Aidan Cruce would be making a presentation at the next Forum meeting in regard to heritage points around the town.

8. Services Sub-committee

Lorcan McMahon advised that he has responded to Wicklow County Council's queries on the old library. Wicklow County Council has made a request for a list of local groups who have expressed a definite interest in the use of the building and it was agreed that Lorcan can now add Men's Sheds to that list.

9. A.O.B.

- The Chairman read to the meeting the letter which has issued to the receiver of the lands comprising the undeveloped area of the O'Leary development.
- Michael Doyle advised members that the Tractor Run had been cancelled as a mark of respect to James Nolan R.I.P. and that it has been re-scheduled for 9 September.
- Liam Fay and Pat Winters had a directional sign at the meeting and were able to show members the type of sign which will now appear round the town indicating directions to the Theatre.
- Gerry O'Neill advised that the draft Development Plan is currently being completed by Wicklow County Council and that members might want to make submissions. Of particular interest will be the 32 acres at the south end of the town bought by Wicklow County Council and which members will be hoping can have some leisure facilities provided, particularly for the Scouts and Soccer Club.

It was noted by members that the next meeting would be held on 10 September 2012.

The meeting concluded with a reflection led by Fr. Tim Murphy remembering especially the tragic passing of James Nolan while supporting the Irish soccer team in Poland and the recent passing of Vincent Bohan, Tony Doyle and Allie Flanagan.