

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 11 June 2012 at 8.00 p.m.

Present: List of attendees as per attached

Apologies: List of apologies as per attached

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 14 May 2012 were proposed by Brian Schweppe, seconded by Pat Tutty 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. Lake Walk

John Horan attended the meeting and passed to members a Key Activities Timeline May – September 2012 in respect of the Blessington Greenway (proposed walk from town to Russborough). John Horan explained the principal events to date such as the receiving of planning exemption, submission of the CWP grant application, agreeing licence with ESB, receiving CWP Board grant approval, meetings with architect and QS and preparing for tendering. John also advised of a meeting on Friday, 8 June, with representatives of Fáilte Ireland to discuss “Pride of Place” tourism towns programme being promoted by Fáilte Ireland. The meeting was also advised of the receipt today at a presentation at the offices of Wicklow County Council of €5,000, being a merit award to the Trails company for its work in progressing the new trail to Russborough. The meeting was advised also of the important dates now to come, including finalising of the feasibility study grant claim, the closing of tenders on 3 July and the briefing of the Forum on 9 July. Work on the construction on the trail is expected to commence on Monday 30 July and be complete by Friday 7 September. The suggestion of Fr. Tim Murphy was accepted in regard to having a look at locations around the lake at the moment, when water levels are high, while John Horan, in reply to a question from Gerry O'Neill, advised that it would be intended to involve Dublin City Council in the next, larger project of extending the trail around the lake. Finally John Horan advised that a Tús Programme would be involved in maintaining the trail and John Horan also agreed that some drawings in relation to the tender would be passed to the Parish Office for the blessington.info site.

2. Theatre

Pat Winters was able to advise the meeting that CWP have awarded the third phase grant to the Theatre in the sum of €31,500. This grant will facilitate directional signs and signs at the

Theatre. Pat Winters will be checking on whether directional signs will go on existing County Council direction poles or on existing ESB pylons. Members were reminded of the upcoming events at the Theatre, particularly the event next Saturday night, where medium Margaret Hurdman will be the attraction, while Pat Winters was able to advise that Christy Moore will be in the theatre on Saturday, 30 June 2012.

3. Tidy Towns

The Chairman of the Environmental Sub-Committee, Jason Mulhall, advised as follows in relation to Tidy Towns:

- A 3-year plan is being formulated and an estates competition is being organised.
- Wicklow County Council have granted a Community Award of €800.
- There is a church gate collection this weekend.
- Letters have issued to businesses.
- Volunteers are still asked to attend at the monument on Thursday nights at 7.45pm to assist with clean-up.
- There are three people presently on the CE scheme.
- Thanks were passed to GAA Groundsman, Mick Curran, and the GAA in general for facilitating the cutting of grass on the relief road.
- It was agreed that MS would contact the receiver, Niall Coveney, in regard to the Heritage Park and other aspects of the development. It was agreed also that MS would mention to the receiver the pavement repairs needed on the relief road.

4. Glending

Members were passed a copy of the letter issued by the Forum to Councillor Jim Ruttle following a meeting with Forum representative Carmel Cashin at Glending. The reply of Councillor Ruttle was circulated also. There was no consensus on the way forward following the reply from Councillor Ruttle and it was agreed accordingly that David Egar, Gerry O'Neill and Michael Sargent would get together with the residents and decide what way to advance matters following the reply on flooding from Councillor Ruttle.

5. Services Sub-committee

Pat McGrath, deputising for Services Sub-committee Chairman Lorcan McMahon, advised that discussions are continuing with Wicklow County Council in regard to the old library building and there is nothing further to report at the moment.

6. Culture and Heritage Sub-group

Culture and Heritage Sub-group Chairman Hugo Magee advised the meeting of recent discussions within this group and the visit of the group to Lacken Hill on 26 May. The committee also met on 5 May.

7. A.O.B.

- The Forum Beechdale representatives on the committee, John Coogan and Michael Doyle, both raised the dangers with the area bordering Dempsey's Lane and Beechdale. The work carried out has made the situation more difficult and flooding is a real problem. The representatives advised that there is a particular danger for children and the fear of a landslide in the event of bad weather. It was agreed that David Egar, Gerry O'Neill and Michael Sargent would meet with the Beechdale representatives and again take the matter up then with Councillor Ruttle.
- The Chairman advised of meeting recently with Ron Curry who is promoting the idea of a Men's Sheds in Blessington. Brian Schweppe advised that there is a meeting of men on Friday nights at 8pm in the office over the bookstore. It was agreed to invite Ron Curry to the next meeting and promote the idea of Men's Sheds.
- Michael Doyle reminded members of the Tractor Run on 24 June and it was agreed that the Chairman would complete a roster for the morning of the run and other members were asked to volunteer to Michael for other stewarding duties. Michael Doyle advised that he will also need the assistance of the GAA and soccer club on the day.
- The Chairman advised of discussions with Councillor Ruttle on Manor Kilbride graveyard, Hempstown Water Scheme and the flooding at Crosscool Harbour. The Chairman has been advised that progress has been made on the Manor Kilbride graveyard extension, while the contract was signed today for rectification of the flooding at Crosscool Harbour. Councillor Ruttle has also advised that he expects the water scheme to have been extended and completed to Hempstown before the end of the year. The Chairman was asked to ask Councillor Ruttle in regard to extending the water also to Oldcourt.
- Seamus Balfe advised of the non-existence of signs at the bottom of the junction between Oldcourt and the road to Ballyward.
- Seamus Balfe also advised of the dangerous condition of the wall on the area opposite St. Patrick's Well. It was agreed that the Forum would write to the owners and advise of this.
- The meeting agreed unanimously that Michael Sargent will continue to represent Blessington & District Forum on the Board of Wicklow County Tourism.

It was noted by members that the next meeting would be held on 9 July 2012.

This concluded the business of the meeting.