

## **BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM**

### **Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 14 May 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 16 April 2012 were proposed by Tommy Brady, seconded by Mrs. Nuala Haughian and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

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

#### 1. Lake Walk

The attached media release prepared today on behalf of the Forum Trails company by John Horan was circulated. In summary, John Horan has confirmed that Wicklow County Council have issued an Exempted Development Declaration. At this juncture a licence is under review with ESB while the application for funding through WRP has been submitted. John Horan advised that a wide range of stakeholders, including Wicklow County Council, County Wicklow Partnership, ESB, Fáilte Ireland and Wicklow Tourism, have been supportive of the project. Wicklow County Council and local Councillor Jim Ruttle have been very active in supporting the venture, while Fáilte Ireland has also added its support. Particular thanks are due also to Forum members Seamus Balfe, Joe Hanly and Killian McGreal.

The next update will be at the June meeting, when it is expected that John Horan will be able to report on the tender process. Gerry O'Neill asked if John Horan could advise at that meeting if any support has been received from Dublin City Council.

#### 2. Theatre

The Chairman of the Theatre Company, Pat Winters, reported that the group is persisting with the third application to CWP in respect of the front-of-house lighting bar and outside signage. Pat Winters is continuing to be optimistic as regards the success of the application. Pat Winters also reported on the upcoming calendar of events, which includes the Cue Theatre production of "Stones in his pockets" on Saturday 26 May 2012 and an evening of Mediumship on Saturday 16 June 2012. Pat Winters also advised that the Star Camp project would be back in the theatre on 25 July to 29 July and that the Theatre is providing the opportunity for the newly formed Comhaltas group to get started.

### 3. Environmental Sub-Committee

Jason Mulhall reported on progress to date and noted the following points:

- The Sunday morning litter-pick is working well and the following pairings were noted as being on the roster at present:
  - Aisling Dermody / Carmel Cashin
  - Anita Moroney / Ariadne Laurens-Conlon
  - Nuala Haughian / Nuala Cashin
  - Hugo Magee / Pat Conlon
  - Ruairí O hAilpín / Stephen Bray
  - Michael Sargent / Noel Nolan
  - Lorcan McMahon / Simon Taylor
  - Noreen Keegan Kavanagh / Barbara McCarthy
- Jason Mulhall expressed thanks to David Egar for having arranged the recent meeting with the local County Council, which Jason said went very well.
- An entry to the National Tidy Towns competition will be completed.
- From Thursday next week there will be a clean-up each evening at 7pm and members were invited to participate.
- The group is targeting small sponsorship.
- A photo-call has been completed.
- It was confirmed that SuperValu are national sponsors and are supportive of the local efforts.
- The group is considering having a review completed in say September of town's efforts in Tidy Towns.
- Thanks again expressed to Wicklow County Council rep., Denis Toomey, for his great work in the Main Street.
- The CE workers are working well on the approach roads.

### 4. Services Sub-Committee

Lorcan McMahon reported on letters issued to Wicklow County Council in respect of the old library building in relation to insurance and remedial works required to the property. The reply of Wicklow County Council is now awaited before any other further actions. It was suggested that a register be made of possible tradesmen who could volunteer services.

### 5. Culture & Heritage Sub-Group

Thanks were expressed to Seamus Balfe for having initiated and recently carried out the planting of four trees at the Community College. This was a Forum event attended by several members and the ceremony was completed by Councillor Jim Ruttle.

Pat Conlon reported on the Swedish group concert at the Theatre on Sunday night, which had gone very well.

### 6. Glending

Aisling Dermody outlined the very serious problems which are being experienced at Glending estate at the moment. David Egar explained that work with the contractor has now

been completed and that Wicklow County Council own work has now to be done. Aisling Dermody pleaded on behalf of the people in Glending in regard to the urgency of remedial works and the horrendous state of the estate at the moment. All members contributed to discussion and noted that photos should be taken and that each member should visit the estate and make themselves familiar with the conditions. It was suggested that we endeavour to have an audit of the works done so that the Forum is familiar with what has been done and what is required. It was agreed that the Chairman, David Egar and Gerry O'Neill would endeavour to meet as soon as possible with Michael Nicholson and establish what can be done to alleviate the problem for the residents in Glending. The problem is twofold, flooding and housing.

7. A.O.B.

- Members were circulated with an invitation to the inaugural meeting of Blessington & District Suicide Prevention Network scheduled for Wednesday 26 May at 8pm at the Boxing Club.
- Aisling Dermody advised of the slippery condition in wet weather of the pavement around Dunnes Stores and it was agreed to mention this to the management company.
- Fr. Tim reminded members of the "Gathering" event next year and the Forum will consider at its next meeting a "Welcome Home Week" next year.
- Noreen Keegan Kavanagh thanked everybody in relation to the Pieta House run which was a great success.
- It was noted that Wicklow County Council are considering lights at Dempsey's Lane.
- It was agreed with Gilmer Hamilton that Ruth Fitzsimons would represent the Forum at meetings with Aldi in the absence of Pat Pidgeon.
- Gerry O'Neill advised, in relation to Crooksling, that the work of the Action Committee continues and that there was a recent meeting with Michael Knowles of the HSE.
- Roisín McNabb asked if enquiries could be made in relation to the state of the bridge at Ballinastockan.
- The Chairman reported that David Egar and Killian McGreal have agreed to join the Development Sub-group where secretary Sally Ann Ryall will be Chairperson. This group will now follow up on such items as the lights at Crosschapel, Blessington Local Area Plan, the Manor Kilbride graveyard extension and the Hempstown Water Scheme.

It was noted by members that the next meeting would be held on 11 June 2012.

This concluded the business of the meeting.