

Blessington and District Forum
Minutes of Meeting
held at St Mary's National School, Blessington
Monday 14th November 2011 at 8.00pm

Present: List of names herewith

Apologies: David Irwin, Glen Fitzpatrick, Frank Hanlon, Deirdre Ward, Gerry O'Neill, Hugo Magee, Killian McGreal.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 10th October 2011 were proposed by Brian Schweppe and seconded by Peter Nolan. The Chairman welcomed all members to the meeting.

The meeting dealt with the following issues -

1. Public Meeting in Avon Rí - re Lake Walk

A public meeting was held in the Avon Rí on Tuesday 8th November regarding the walk around Blessington Lake. John Horan facilitated the meeting and explained what would be involved. A number of questions were asked regarding the walk, the list below is a summary of these -

- Wheelchair accessibility - Roisín McNabb asked if the walk was wheelchair friendly?
- Name of the walk – funding for the walk is for Burgage to Russeltown. It was suggested that it be called Blessington to Russborough as this might attract more people. It was also suggested that it start in the town so that the town would benefit more.
- Funding - questions were asked re funding for the walk. Michael Sergent said it would cost €200,000 and that €150,000 of this would be CWP. It is anticipated that the remaining amount will be community and Wicklow Co. Council. Mrs. Haughian suggested asking the Avon Rí and Russborough to contribute towards the walk as they will benefit the most.
- Layout of the walk - questions were asked re the layout of the walk. John Brennan asked were there any circular walks? It was also suggested that people be able to join the walk at different points.
- Parking - David Egar asked was there a plan for parking? This was also mentioned by other forum members.

2. Meeting with ALDI

Pat Pidgeon contacted ALDI re a meeting. This was secured and he will meet them before the next Forum meeting.

3. Social Media

Joe Hanly asked re the position of P.R.O. Glen Fitzpatrick is going to take care of the face book page and Killian McGreal will supervise as PRO.

4. Winter Weather Meeting

Wicklow Co. Council contacted the Forum re a meeting regarding the snow. This meeting will be held on Tuesday 15th November at 10.30am. Gilmer Hamilton said he would attend. A number of issues were raised which he should ask about -

- Sandbags for Glending - Aisling Dermody asked about this and was there a contact number for out of hours?
- Catherine Kehoe asked was there a plan to clear the New Town Centre if the snow occurred again?
- Peter Nolan asked was it ok for shop owners to clean outside their own premises? Pat Pidgeon said that this was ok.

5. Volunteer Group Meeting

This was held in St Kevins Hall on 15th October, organized by Wicklow Volunteer Centre. It was noted that the turnout was low as it was organised very late. The Forum had participated with thanks to Gilmer Hamilton, Lorcan McMahon, Tommy Brady, Pat McGrath and Pat Conlon.

6. Strategic Groups

Liam Fay presented a paper with the names of members in the different groups. A number of tasks were assigned as follows:

- Old Library - Services
- Dempseys Lane - Town Development
- Christmas Lights - Services/ Development
- Tidy Towns - Environment

It was also suggested that the groups be opened up to the general public so that there would be enough people to do the jobs. Each group is to meet before the next meeting and set up their committees and plans.

7. A.O.B.

- Anti-social behavior - John Coogan asked was anything going to be done about the antisocial behaviour in the town. He mentioned that a house in Main Street had been targeted. Mrs Haughian suggested that the local community guard, Mick O'Rourke, be invited to the next meeting.
- Crooksling Hospital – Ruth asked the Forum if they could oppose the closure of Crooksling Hospital. It was suggested that the Forum write to the HSE and the Minister for Health.
- Oak Drive - it was mentioned that Oak Drive has no road markings and that this is very dangerous. It was suggested that the Forum write to the Council about this.
- Lights at back of theatre - Mick Curran asked were there lights to be installed at the back of the theatre? This is to be investigated.
- Pedestrian crossing at Texaco - John Brennan suggested that pedestrian lights be put in at Texaco. This is to be followed up.
- Handel's Messiah - this was a great success and thanks to all who organised it.
- Sympathies - a minute's silence was held for the death of Ciaran Jones in the recent floods and also Louise Fleming.

The meeting concluded and the next meeting will be held on Monday, 12th December 2011.