

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting

held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington

on Monday, 12 September 2011

at 8.00 p.m.

Present: Tommy Brady, John Brennan, Nuala Cashin, Ariadne Laurenns-Conlan, Pat Conlan, John Coogan, Michael Curran, Michael Doyle, Michael Duggan, Liam Fay, Glenn Fitzpatrick, Ruth Fitzsimons, Gilmer Hamilton, Frank Hanlon, David Irwin, Brian Kane, Bernie Kavanagh, Noreen Keegan Kavanagh, Catherine Kehoe, Hugo Magee, Pat Mahon, Tom McGillicuddy, Patricia McGrath, Killian McGreal, Lorcan McMahan, Anita Moroney, Fr. Tim Murphy, Lorna Mary Murphy, Noel Nolan, Peter Nolan, Gerry O'Neill, Pat Pidgeon, Anthony Quinn, Sally Ann Ryall, Michael Sargent, Brian Schweppe, Deirdre Ward, Pat Winters.

Apologies: Seamus Balfe, Catherine Behan, Brian Daly, David Egar, Jim Fitzsimons, Fintan Gilheaney, Joe Hanley, Cathal Hardiman, Nuala Haughian, Aidan Magurie, Roisín McNabb, Jason Mulhall, Ruairi O hAilín, Patsy Phibbs, Lindsay Sullivan.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting, held on 11 July 2011, were proposed by Michael Curran, seconded by Brian Schweppe and signed by the Chairman. The Chairman welcomed all members, particularly those new members joining the Forum for the next three year term.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:

1. Nominations

Gilmer Hamilton, seconded by Gerry O'Neill, proposed that Michael Sargent continue as Chairman, while Liam Fay was unanimously supported in his role as Treasurer. Nominations for the roles of Secretary, Vice Chairperson and PRO will be taken at the next meeting.

2. Presentation

John Horan made a presentation to members on the proposed walk to be created with the assistance of WRP, Wicklow County Council and Fáilte Ireland, initially between Avon Rí and Russborough. John Horan explained the background to this particular walk and

how it had come about and the costings involved. John answered questions in relation to water levels, wheelchair accessibility, the width of the walk, possible fencing, commercial developments, local employment and the possibility of liaising with Dublin City Council. Frank Hanlon raised the question of an area development company being set up, while Gerry O'Neill reiterated his views again on Dublin City Council.

3. Way forward for Forum

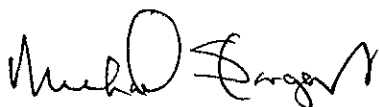
There was a long discussion on the possible way forward and as to how the Forum could operate in groups. Liam Fay acknowledged that the committee mentioned at the July meeting had not met, but agreed that they would meet to consider proposals for the next Forum meeting. That sub-committee comprises Pat Winters, Liam Fay, Patsy Phibbs, Joe Hanly, Killian McGreal and Nuala Cashin. Pat Winters outlined ideas on what might be contained within each group, while Fiona Mulvaney had compiled a sheet of issues arising from the Community Survey. The sub-committee will now review what structure might be put in place for the Forum to operate going forward and this will be put to the next Forum meeting on 10 October.

Other ideas to consider were put forward by Ariadne Laurenns-Conlon (Open Country Market), Glenn Fitzpatrick (Social Media) and Brian Schweppe (Shopping local). Liam Fay, who will convene the sub-committee, stated that the Forum should be organised on a project basis.

4. A.O.B.

- Gerry O'Neill advised that it would be useful to have a representative from Glending on the Forum. The Chairman advised that there may be additional vacancies and these vacancies will be advised to Gerry O'Neill at the next meeting.
- Glenn Fitzpatrick agreed to give a presentation at the next meeting on the benefit of social media.
- Fr. Tim advised that there would be a public meeting on Monday, 19 September, in regard to developments at the Parish Centre, particularly a centre for the elderly.
- Liam Fay stated that, in relation to the possible Awards of the Year in Blessington, Denis Twomey would be nominated by the Forum in recognition of the powerful work which he does to keep Blessington tidy.

This concluded the business of the meeting



Chairman

10 October 2011

Proposed: Nuala Cashin

Seconded: Brian Schweppe