

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

### **Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 9 June 2014 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 12 May 2014 were proposed by Noel Nolan seconded by Brian Schweppe and signed by the Chairman.

#### Opening Matters

The Chairman welcomed the very large turnout of members to the last meeting of the 2011/2014 Forum. Over the summer break initial work will be carried out to establish the next 48 member Forum for the period 2014/2017.

In opening the meeting the Chairman welcomed the attendance of Gerry O'Neill now elected as a member of Wicklow County Council. Members expressed their delight at Gerry O'Neill having made it to the Council after many years of effort over 29 years.

In reply Gerry O'Neill stated that he would endeavour to attend as many Forum meetings as possible in the coming years and advised members that he has been elected to the Board of the Uplands Council and the Dublin and Mid Leinster Health Board.

Members agreed that Gerry O'Neill is very welcome at the monthly Forum meetings and will attend in his capacity as Councillor rather than that of member. Members also agreed that other elected Council members should be advised that they can also attend if they so wish and have the time to do so.

A card of congratulations signed by all members was presented by the Chairman to Gerry O'Neill.

#### Tidy Towns

Jason Mulhall advised that we are now in the middle of the judging period which extends over the period 1 June to the 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> week of July. Jason explained that whilst the Tidy Towns Committee and helpers have worked hard on keeping the street and environs tidy, there are aspects that the Forum will need to attend to on a bigger scale. Jason Mulhall advised that such items as replacing the old engineers office, the town park, skate park area, bins for the

Main Street, tree pruning and the businesses 'upping their game' are items that the wider Forum will need to attend to in the coming years.

It was agreed that invitations would be sought to the next West/South meeting of Councillors due to be held in Blessington at 10.30am this Thursday. Killian McGreal and Jason Mulhall will represent the Forum.

Jason Mulhall also advised that a biodiversity/habitat report is now available and will shortly be linked on the parish website for people to view.

Brian Kane advised that the community has five FAS workers at present on Tidy Towns work.

### Community Awards Night

Members were advised that the Community Awards Night encompassing awards to individuals and Tidy Town awards is scheduled for Avon Ri on 10 October 2014. The Chairman and Jason Mulhall will attend to the details over the summer and again it is hoped that a ballot paper will be included in the Parish Newsletter in say the month of September.

The Forum agreed the judging panel for the Community Awards will comprise David Egar, Nuala Cashin, Noel Nolan and non Forum member Seamus Breen.

### Community Mobilisation

Following on from the last Forum meeting and the talk given to members by Eddie Darcy, Michael Doyle updated members on the most recent meeting of interested members with Eddie Darcy. Points made were as follows

- A strategic group will drive the mobilisation forward
- A cultural change is needed in our society
- Commercial interests to be approached and asked to pledge support
- Sports organisations to be asked to pledge support
- Buy in will be needed by the entire community
- Liaising with Gardai will be required
- Develop other aspects well, for instance DeCaf is only opened once a week.
- Eddie Darcy will be employed by the Parish for one year to spearhead this mobilisation
- The effort will help children in sixth class, first and second year to hopefully postpone when they will start, if they do start, alcohol consumption.
- The mobilisation begins with parents and ends with parents.

Michael Doyle stated that we must all bear in mind that 'it takes a village to rear a child' and also that 'in the shadow of each other we live' and for these reasons alone we should all pull together to make sure this initiative works.

A meeting will be held in July to which interested members will be invited and from there the strategic panel will be put together.


### Other Business

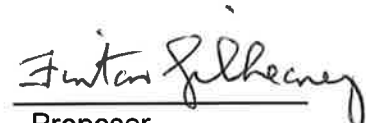

- Gerry O'Neill advised that the bus shelter is going ahead and should be in place shortly.

- The Chairman to review with John Horan signs for the Greenway where there is hope that Avon Ri and Russborough will both get involved.
- Pat Conlon on behalf of the Forum thanked Gerry Brown for the school being available to facilitate Ceoltas.
- Carmel Cashin and Noel Nolan advised that there is no real movement on matters at Glending. It was agreed that Joe Hanly, Liam Fay and the Chairman will need to become involved again to see how matters can be advanced.

This concluded the business of the meeting

The Forum will reconvene on Monday 15 September 2014

  
Chairman  
15 Sept 2014  
Date

  
Proposer  
  
Seconder

Name	
1 Balfe Seamus	
2 Brady Tommy	
3 Brennan John	
4 Cashin Carmel	
5 Cashin Nuala	
6 Conlon Pat	
7 Coogan John	
8 Curran Michael	
9 Daly Brian	
10 NOEL MURPHY	
11 Doyle Michael	
12 Duggan Michael	
13 Oar David	
14 Fay Liam	
15 Gilheany Fintan	
16 Hamilton Gilmer	
17 Hanlon Frank	
18 Hanly Joe	
19 Haughian Nuala	
20 Kane Brian	
21 Keegan Kavanagh Noreen	
22 Magee Hugo	
23 McGillicuddy Tom	
24 McGrath Patricia	
25 McGreat Killian	
26 McMahan Lorcan	
27 McNabb Roisin	
28 Moroney Anita	
29 Mulhall Jason	
30 Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442	
31 Murphy Mary Lorna	
32 Nolan Noel	
33 O hAilín Ruaidhrí	
34 O'Neill Gerry	
35 Phibbs Patsy	
36 Pidgeon Pat	0
37 Ryall Sally Ann	0
38 Sargent Michael	0
39 Schweppe Brian	0
40 Ward Deirdre	0

Signature
Seamus Balfe
Tommy Brady
John Brennan
Carmel C
Nuala Cashin
Pat Conlon
APOLOGIES
Michael Curran
Apologies
NOEL MURPHY
Michael Doyle
Michael Duggan
David Oar
Liam Fay
Fintan Gilheany
Apolojes
Joe Hanly
Nuala Haughian
Brian Kane
Noreen Keegan Kavanagh
Apolojes
Tom McGillicuddy
Patricia McGrath
Apolojes
Apolojes
Anita Moroney
Jason Mulhall
Fr. Tim Murphy
Mary Lorna Murphy
Noel Nolan
Apolojes
Gerry O'Neill
Patsy Phibbs
Apolojes
Pat Pidgeon
Apolojes
Michael Sargent
Brian Schweppe
Deirdre Ward