

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

### Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 9 March 2015 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 9 February 2015 were read and reviewed.

The minutes were proposed by Carmel Cashin, seconded by Nuala Cashin and signed by the Chairman. The meeting dealt with the following matters.

#### Tidy Towns

Jason Mulhall reported that the raffle and quiz night had gone very well and the Tidy Towns Bank Account should benefit to the extent of approximately €2,500. Thanks were expressed to Noel Nolan for the use of the PA system on Friday night at the quiz and also to the members of Tidy Towns who sold raffle lines house to house and those Forum members who completed and returned raffle cards. Thanks in particular were expressed to the Credit Union who helped greatly by selling fifteen cards.

The Draw prize winners were as follows

First prize TV	Martin Kavanagh, Milltown Gate
Golf Fourball	Mary O'Donoghue, Red Hill
Meal for 2	Martin McHugh, Westpark
SuperValu Hamper	Teresa Halpin, Hollywood

#### Tree Felling

Jason Mulhall advised of an application for the proposed felling of trees at Dempsey's Lane on the Beechdale Estate side. The application is with the Department of Agriculture and an Inspector will in due course make a decision. It was noted that the local Engineer is making a submission. The Chairman reported having discussed this application and the previous application with Andrew Doyle TD. On the first application there is concern that the area around St. Patrick's Well continues to be a mess with no obvious signs yet of remedial works being carried out to restore the area to its previous condition. On the second application, members are interested to learn the background to the proposed felling in order that the community can be advised in advance of any activity taking place.

### Main Street

Members were very pleased with the six new bins which have been placed on the Main Street and thanks and appreciation were addressed to the local Engineer and his staff at Wicklow County Council.

Brian Kane advised that agreement has been reached with the local Wicklow County Council Office to have a pilot scheme of 3/4 stencils on the pavement to help in the prevention of dog fouling. Brian also advised members that Wicklow County Council have a contract with Airtricity to very shortly place lighting at Dempsey's Lane. Brian also advised that discussions are continuing with the Council in an effort to have the pump at the Monument reactivated.

The Chairman reported that himself and Michael Duggan will meet in the coming weeks with Dan Kenny to discuss the continuing upgrading of our annual Christmas Lights.

### ESB Tree Planting Event

The Chairman thanked in particular Eamonn Kelly and Michael Duggan for their considerable assistance on Sunday 1 March at the ESB Tree Planting event. The ESB had asked could the Forum supply Stewards for the event and in addition to Eamonn and Michael thanks were expressed to Michael Doyle, Pat Conlon, Joe Hanly, Noel Nolan and Patsy Phibbs for having helped on the day. The ESB were pleased with the event and with the assistance provided by the Forum members.

### Old Library Building

The Chairman reported further on discussion which are ongoing with Wicklow County Council for the granting of a lease by the Council in respect of the Old Library building. The Chairman reported that the Council's preferred option is to have a lease with the Forum and for the Forum in turn to have a Licence Agreement with MenSheds and any other local community users. In this connection members accepted the recommendation of the Chairman to incorporate a company called Blessington & District Forum Old Library Limited. The Chairman advised that there would be seven directors comprising Michael Sargent and David Egar from Forum, also from Forum and representing Tidy Towns Michael Duggan and Jason Mulhall and from MenSheds Liam Fay with two representatives from Wicklow County Council.

The details of the proposed lease were left to be worked out between Wicklow County Council and Liam Fay, Michael Sargent and Joe Hanly from the Forum/MenSheds. The Chairman stated that it may be necessary to reconvene a special meeting of Forum members prior to 31 March to brief members in advance of final submissions to Wicklow County Council due before 31 March. It is hoped that the members of Wicklow County Council will agree a lease to the Forum at 13 April and that by 30 April MenSheds could be in situ. Joe Hanly raised the question of an asbestos assessment. This request will be conveyed to Wicklow County Council as members regard it as a very important issue in terms of the signing of a lease by the Forum company.

### West Wicklow Business Network

Killian McGreal advised that almost sixty people attended the last meeting and that it would be hoped to have a West Wicklow Chamber of Commerce in place by the end of the year. The next meeting of the West Wicklow Business Network is scheduled for Tulfarris on 25 March.

### Greenway

There are no further updates at the moment in regard to the extension of the route. Members did note that in some projects granted funding that according to the Sunday Independent of 22 February 2015 there are planning difficulties. Members wondered that if these difficulties lead to the non-utilisation of the funding then perhaps it could be available to our extension of the Greenway.

### Local Area Plan Committee/Events Committee

Peter Eustace reported that both Committees had met simultaneously recently and had crossover discussions. Peter Eustace advised that in the case of the street planning a list of items for discussion has been compiled and that initial discussions with the Council are proposed. This sub-committee comprises Peter Eustace, Catriona Cullen, Ariadne Laurens Conlon, Mrs Haughian and Charlie Brophy. The Events Committee will continue under Peter Eustace, Frank Hanlon, Nuala Cashin and Nuala Haughian. Initial discussions have been held and it has been agreed that should the Hillbilly Run continue this year that any fund raising in Blessington will be completed locally and retained in the town. There will be further news on this at the next Forum meeting.

### Text Alert

Nuala Cashin advised of the recent progress on Text Alert in the area from Russborough to Hempstown and that contacts have been established with Muintir na Tire. A meeting is now scheduled with the Superintendent in Baltinglass Tony O'Donnell and a launch date should be announced shortly.

### Blessington Lakeside Community 1916 Celebration

Forum member Michael Doyle introduced Paul Tyrell and Eoghan O'Neill Secretary and Chairman respectively of Blessington Lakeside Community 1916 Celebration. This celebration is intended to be non-political and non-militaristic and should last for a week over the period 19 to 28 March 2016. The celebration will be community orientated and inclusive culminating in a parade. It is hoped to mark the occasion with a permanent commemoration and a public meeting will be held on 26 March to appraise the public of what is planned. The attached Blessington Lakeside Community 1916 Celebration pamphlet was handed out to all members and it was agreed that the celebration plan is worthy of support and was received with enthusiasm.

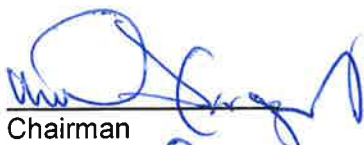
### Any Other Business.



- Pat Conlon advised that there would be a Ceoltas concert in the Tramway Theatre this Saturday evening at 6.30 with tickets at two for €15 and Pat is hoping for plenty of support locally.
- The continuing difficulty at the Skate Park in terms of usage by various types of bikes is to be mentioned to Councillor Ruttle.

- Killian McGreal advised that building of the new Primary Care Centre should start shortly.
- Carmel Cashin advised that herself and Noel Murphy would be meeting with Joe Lane this Thursday in relation to Glending Estate and proposed works there. This meeting has been arranged by Councillor Gerry O'Neill. Carmel Cashin advised that the remedial works contract has been granted to the previous builder Arkanvale and the proposal is to deal with the drainage in the first instance and vacant houses. Carmel Cashin and Noel Murphy were concerned however, that there is no mention in the contract work of the sewerage works required. Carmel Cashin advised that the meeting with Joe Lane will be to hopefully establish better lines of indication with the Council.
- Noreen Keegan Kavanagh advised that Blessington Abbey residents are continuing to follow up the lighting of the steps at Blessington Abbey.
- Members noted that the Blessington Youth Project continues and that there should be an update for the next meeting.
- Members were advised that Channel 191 which shows Wicklow County matters should include shortly a talk with John Horan of the Greenway.
- The Chairman noted having circulated details of innovation grants which have now been announced to both MenSheds and Tidy Towns.
- A letter from Maria O'Hara Hon. Secretary Kilbride and Lakeside Music Committee was read to the meeting advising of a hope to set up a bagpipe school in the town. Pat Conlon is liaising on behalf of the Forum with Maria

This concluded the business of the meeting

The Forum will reconvene on Monday 9 February 2015

  
 Chairman  
 13 April 2015  
 Date

  
 Proposer  
  
 Seconder

# Blessington & District Forum

Attendance List 9 March 2015

	Name	Signature
1	Brady Tommy	Apologies
2	Brennan John	John Brennan
3	Brophy Charlie	Apologies
4	Cashin Carmel	Carmel Cashin
5	Cashin Nuala	N. Cashin
6	Conlon Laurens Ariadne	
7	Conlon Pat	Pat Conlon
8	Cullen Catriona	Catriona Cullen
9	Curran Michael	
10	Doyle Michael	Michael Doyle
11	Duggan Michael	Michael Duggan
12	Egar David	
13	Eustace Peter	Apologies
14	Fay Liam	Liam Fay
15	Gilheany Fintan	Fintan Gilheany
16	Hanlon Frank	Frank Hanlon
17	Hanly Joe	Joe Hanly
18	Haughian Nuala	Nuala Haughian
19	Kane Brian	Brian Kane
20	Keegan Kavanagh Noreen	Noreen Keegan Kavanagh
21	Kelly Eamonn	Eamonn Kelly
22	Keogh Aine	
23	McGreal Killian	Apologies
24	Moroney Anita	Anita Moroney
25	Mulhall Jason	Jason Mulhall
26	Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442	Apologies
27	Murphy Joe	
28	Murphy Noel	Noel Murphy
29	Murphy Mary Lorna	
30	Nolan Noel	Apologies Noel Nolan
31	O'Brien Paul	
32	Phibbs Patsy	
33	Sargent Michael	Apologies Michael Sargent
34	Schweppe Brian	Apologies