

Signed

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington**  
**on Monday 10 November 2014**  
**at 8.00 p.m.**

**Present:** List of members as per attached

**Apologies:** List of apologies as per attached

**In Attendance:** Councillor Gerry O'Neill

### Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 13 October 2014 were proposed by Carmel Cashin, seconded by Noel Nolan and signed by the Chairman.

### Blessington Greenway

Members complimented John Horan on the Map boards which are now positioned at the two trail heads at Avon Ri and Russellstown Bay and also one in the Town Square adjacent to the existing interpretative panel. More than twenty Waymarker signs have also been put in place. John Horan is continuing efforts to secure European funding and it is hoped to have further updates on this at coming Forum meetings.

The Chairman expressed thanks to Siobhán Geoghan from WCP who is departing WCP shortly and who has been a huge support to the Forum in its bringing into usage both the Theatre (Blessington & District Forum Theatre Limited) and the Greenway (Blessington & District Forum Trails Limited).

### Blessington Youth Project.

Fr. Tim advised that the project continues to do well and that up to sixty parents attended the presentation and talk to parents of first and second year pupils in the Community College on 20 October 2014. The next presentation will be on 24 November 2014 to all those involved in clubs such as coaches, club mentors and all related recreational group coaches and mentors.

### Tidy Towns.

Jason Mulhall reported on the following

- The Skatepark should be operational by the end of November
- The playground has been tidied up considerably
- Lighting for Dempsey's Lane is still on the Agenda and in this connection Gerry O'Neill advised that funding is being sought.

Jason Mulhall advised that the Tidy Towns Committee representatives had attended the Environmental Awards in Aughrim and Jason was happy to report that Tidy Towns received awards over the year of almost €900.

There is a Stop Food Waste campaign running at the moment that will continue until the first week of December.

There was a long discussion on the 'butchering' of the trees by contractors on behalf of the ESB. It was agreed to liaise with the ESB and see what can be done in this regard as members were outraged by the total lack of consideration given to the town appearance as the town continues to make huge efforts in the annual Tidy Towns competition and this "butchering" of the trees will cost us hard earned points.

#### Christmas Lights.

The Chairman reported that correspondences are ongoing at the moment to secure the annual insurance cover for putting up the Christmas lights and Christmas tree. Brian Kane stated that he would check with the FAS people if assistance in the putting up of the lights could be obtained from the FAS workers. It was also agreed that Forum members Michael Duggan, Mrs Haughian, Carmel Cashin and David Eger will get together as a sub-committee to check how we might have a switching on of the lights event. The proposed date for switch on of the lights is Saturday 29 November. It was agreed to have a special Forum meeting on Tuesday 25 November 2014 to hear back from the sub-committee.

#### Text Alert.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill spoke in relation to Text Alert and efforts to have this progressed. Text Alert currently works from Ballymore Eustace to Russborough and in the Valleymount Hollywood area and in the Kilbride area up to Tinode on the Dublin Road. The next Text Alert meeting is tomorrow night in the Boxing Club at 8.30. The annual cost per house for joining Text Alert is only €10 and Gerry O'Neill explained how the system works. It is hoped that members can secure co-ordinators in their respective areas to help Text Alert achieve its full potential.

#### Glending.

The Chairman reported having received a summary of works from O'Connell Mahon Architects via Wicklow County Council on Thursday last week. A copy of the three page document was passed to Carmel Cashin and to other Forum members Michael Duggan and Joe Hanly. Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised that the tender money is still available to complete the works although there was very little mention in the summary of works of the main item being sewerage. Carmel Cashin stated that the big problem at the moment is that there is zero communication between Wicklow County Council and the tenants. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with other Forum members to check with residents on the details outlined in the summary of works provided and the status of those works.

#### Forum 2015 – 2018 Nominations

The members present accepted the Chairmans proposal that the next Forum run from 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2018 and that prospective Forum members for that three year

period could attend this and the next meeting. In this regard new Forum members Eamon Kelly and Catriona Cullen were welcomed.


Any other business.



The Chairman explained that Killian McGreal was unavailable tonight to attend as he is speaking (in his capacity of PRO of Blessington and District Forum at a Wicklow County Council Economic Forum in the Council offices in Wicklow Town.

- Members expressed their sympathy to Forum member Noreen Keegan Kavanagh on the death of her mother recently in Ballyhaunis, Co. Mayo.
- Members want to ensure that the sub-committee on lighting of the Christmas tree make sure that the public are advised of the event.
- Difficulties in crossing at Aldi/Maxol for pedestrians was noted for listing with the Council.
- Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised that there are presently 400 on the housing list in the Blessington Lakeside area.
- Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised that a bus stop at the Lambe is receiving consideration at the moment.
- Brian Schweppe asked if the Council could look at the cutting of hedges to ensure better visibility on the exit of the Dowry onto the Sallygap Road.
- Members want to mention to the Council also the emptying of gullies particularly in the winter along the Main Street and particularly those opposite Aldi.

This concluded the business of the meeting

The Forum will reconvene on Monday 10 November 2014

  
Chairman  
8 December 2014  
Date

  
Proposer  
  
Seconder

# Blessington & District Forum

Attendance List 10 November 2014

	Name
1	Brady Tommy
2	Brennan John
3	Cashin Carmel
4	Cashin Nuala
5	Conlon Laurens Ariadne
6	Conlon Pat
7	Curran Michael
8	Noel Murphy
9	Doyle Michael
10	Duggan Michael
11	Egar David
12	Fay Liam
13	Gilheany Fintan
14	Hanlon Frank
15	Hanly Joe
16	Haughian Nuala
17	Kane Brian
18	Keegan Kavanagh Noreen
19	McGreal Killian
20	Moroney Anita
21	Mulhall Jason
22	Murphy Fr. Tim 045 865442
23	Murphy Mary Lorna
24	Nolan Noel
25	Phibbs Patsy
26	Sargent Michael
27	Schweppe Brian

Signature
T Brady
Carmel Cashin
APOLOGIES
Pat Conlon
Michael Curran
Michael Doyle
Michael Duggan
David Egar
APOLOGIES
Frank Gilheany
Joe Hanly
Nuala Haughian
Brian Kane
Noreen Keegan Kavanagh
APOLOGIES
Anita Moroney
Jason Mulhall
Fr Tim
APOLOGIES
Noel Nolan
Patsy Phibbs
Michael Sargent
Brian Schweppe

Gerard O'Leary