

Signed

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

### Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 13 October 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 15 September 2014 were proposed by Brian Schweppe, seconded by Killian McGreal and signed by the Chairman.

#### Blessington Greenway

The Chairman updated members on signage which will be erected shortly on the Greenway. More than 20 Waymarker signs and three Map Boards have now been finalised and these will be delivered on Thursday and Paul Ashmore has kindly agreed to arrange to have them erected on the Greenway. The Map Boards will be positioned at the two 'trail-heads' at Avon Rí and Russelstown Bay and also one in the Town Square adjacent to the existing interpretative panel.

The design and content of the Map Boards and signs have been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the National Trails Office. As soon as the signs and Map Boards are in place a request will be made to the National Trails Office to carry out their final inspection and a request made to them to formally 'approve' the Greenway.

Both Avon Rí and Russborough have agreed to fund the greater part of the cost of the Waymarker signs and Map Boards.

It was noted that the Greenway had received a lot of exposure at the recent Ploughing Championships through the CWP stand which featured the new facilities which they have supported including the Greenway.

Discussions are continuing with interested parties exploring the funding sources for the extension of the Greenway by another 50 plus kilometres around the lakes.

The Forum complimented John Horan on his continuing efforts and achievements on the Greenway Project. As a matter of interest it was agreed to have John Horan check if the TUS workers could on one of the days make an unofficial estimate of the numbers using the Greenway.

### Community Mobilisation

Michael Doyle reported on progress to date mentioning the launch on 24 September and subsequent steering group meetings. Michael Doyle advised that on 20 October there will be a presentation and talk to parents of first and second year pupils in the Community College and to this presentation will be invited parents of similar aged children not attending the Community College but other schools.

Michael Doyle advised that on 24 November there will be a presentation and talk involving club coaches, club mentors and all related recreational group coaches and mentors.

It was acknowledged that the community mobilisation has got off to a great start with very positive meetings. The particular aim of the community mobilisation is to project a positive lifestyle. It was noted that other ongoing facets of the community mobilisation involve building bridges with Youthreach, opening of a youth information centre (Carmel Cashin outlined plans) and meetings between the steering group, particularly the Chairman Kevin Houlihan and local Gardai.

### Forum 2014 – 2017 Nominations.

It was agreed to circulate as many organisations as possible in Blessington and District with a view to requesting nominations from those organisations to the Forum. There may also be the possibility of a Transition Year student joining the Forum while it was agreed to also place a notice in the Parish Newsletter.

### Community Awards Night

Members were delighted with the turnout at the Awards Night on Thursday 9 October 2014 at Avon Rí. Members congratulated all award winners

Community person of the year	Deirdre Keogh
Young person of the year	Leia Judge
Sports person of the year	Padraig Reilly
Group of the year	First Responders
Top housing estate	Ashton/Blessington Abbey jointly
Most improved estate	Mountain View
Best retail shop front	The Bookstore
Best pub restaurant shop front	Hennesseys
Tidy Towns volunteer of the year	Anita Moroney/Eamonn Kelly

Suggestions for next year were

- Revert again to using boxes for nominations to be placed in all shops
- Include an out of town award to encourage premises in Manor Kilbride, Lacken, Ballyknockan and Valleymount.
- Set up a working party in the months ahead to consider if a balance requires to be brought to the nomination process by allowing marks to be awarded by a judging panel in addition to the community votes.

## Tidy Towns

Jason Mulhall, Chairman of our Environmental Group reported that this was a quiet time for Tidy Towns where the committee reflects on the year past and makes plans for 2015. In planning for next year the Tidy Towns Group will endeavour to list six issues that could be addressed in 2015 and other points raised in discussion were as follows

- The Skate Park should be finished in November
- A contract to tidy up the playground is ongoing.
- Funding is awaited for lighting at Dempseys Lane.
- Proceed with enquiries with the receiver for the provision of some seating on the relief road.
- Dog fouling continues to be an issue and in this regard Jason Mulhall advised that Tidy Towns are hoping shortly to have stencils imprinted on the footpath from Naas Road around to Aldi. Depending how this project goes it might be extended to housing estates and Main Street.

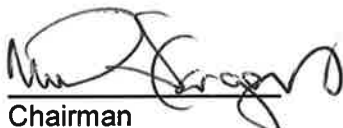
## Other Business

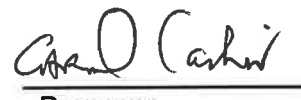
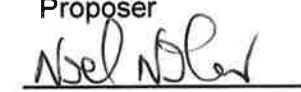
- Carmel Cashin advised that there has been no further communication with Wicklow County Council on rectification works. It appears that one house where the roof was repaired and signed off in June last week gave further trouble and Wicklow County Council had to deal with the repair as an emergency. The Chairman advised that the Forum expects to hear from Breege Kilkenny in the next week or two regarding where matters stand.
- Killian McGreal advised that he is presently involved in arrangements for a business network for West Wicklow which would be a precursor possibly to a Chamber of Commerce in Blessington.
- Killian McGreal also advised that there is a local safety initiative coming up in the weeks ahead.
- The Forum agreed to nominate Patsy Phibbs as the Forum member to represent the Forum on the management committee of the new Coimín Centre.
- Thanks were expressed to Gerry O'Neill for his work while a member of the Forum in securing the bus shelter.
- Members were asked to bear in mind that volunteers were required for the theatre where Liam Fay, with assistance from Pat Conlon and Barry Hamilton are working hard at maintaining support for various shows. Pat Conlon reported that the recent concert in aid of Baltinglass Day Care Centre and Blessington Day Care netted €4,000.
- Pat Conlon expressed his thanks to Gerry Browne for his help in again looking after a meeting room facility for Comhaltas.

- Nuala Cashin advised that the next community text alert meeting will be in the Boxing Club.
- One of the items noted by Jason Mulhall for discussion with the Council is the extension of a footpath from Red Lane to Knockerin Bridge.
- Congratulations were extended to Fr. Tim on his recent Wicklow Community award.
- Sympathies were extended to former Forum member Kathleen Cox on the recent passing of her son Ricky.
- Pat Conlon reminded members that the County Fleadh will be held in <sup>Blessington</sup> Wicklow in 2016.
- It was agreed in the new year to arrange to have the six Councillors attend a Forum meeting for a general discussion on issues relating to Blessington and District.

This concluded the business of the meeting

The Forum will reconvene on Monday 10 November 2014

  
 Chairman  
 10/11/14  
 Date

  
 Proposer  
  
 Seconder

# Bingston & District Forum

Attendance List 13 October 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	Boyle 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	Schwepe Brian

Signature
Tom Brady
Apologies
Carmel Cashin
N. Cashin
Apologies
Pat Conlon
Michael Curran
Noel Murphy
com Michael Doyle
Apologies
David Egar
Liam Fay
Apologies
Apologies
Joe Hanly
Nuala Haughian
APOLOGIES
Noreen Keegan Kavanagh
mad. com Anita Moroney
Jason Mulhall
Fr. Tim
Apologies
Mary Lorna Murphy
Noel Nolan
Patsy Phibbs
Michael Sargent
Brian Schwepe