

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

### **Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 11 November 2013 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 7 October 2013, were circulated, read, proposed by Brian Schweppe, seconded by Fintan Gilheaney and signed by the Chairman. In opening the meeting the chairman advised members of Forum member Frank Hanlon's recent operation at Tallaght Hospital and all members wished Frank a speedy recovery. Good wishes were also extended to Brian Kane and Nuala Cashin while Fintan Gilheaney was welcomed back after his recent illness.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:-

#### 1. The Gathering 2013

The members were pleased with the inaugural The Gathering event which took place on the weekend of 12/13 October. In discussions the following points were noted

- Not enough support locally.
- Advertising needs to be greater.
- Have local stallholders.
- Have a country market type rather than farmers market.
- No real focus so perhaps have maybe a big wheel or it's like next year.
- Maybe focus on having only one day.
- Maybe incorporate a Halloween street festival.

All members again expressed their thanks to the sub-committee for their work which they put into the event that weekend and to the many Forum members who turned up and worked all through Saturday and Sunday.

#### 2. Greenway

The co-ordinator of our Greenway project, John Horan forwarded photographs of the entrance/exit from the Greenway at the N81 at Nolan's Corner. Members were very pleased with the work of Wicklow County Council in this regard and indeed on the path from Nolan's Corner to the lane. John Horan also advised that the terms of reference have now been developed for the infrastructural study for the rest of the Greenway circling the lakes. John Horan also advised that a request has been made to CWP for reallocation of an underspend of €1,500.00 that could be now spent on signage and way marking. The Chairman agreed that John Horan would be invited to attend the next meeting or the January meeting in regard to the opening and naming of the Greenway.

John Horan's advice at the moment is that Minister Varadkar's office stated that the Minister will not be available until the second half of January.

### 3. Glending

The Chairman briefed members on what has transpired since the last Forum meeting on 7 October. It was noted that John Coogan, Gerry O'Neill, Liam Fay, Carmel Cashin and the Chairman had met with the architect and received his report on 10 October. A third joint meeting of Forum and residents has been held and the report of the architect and of the Health and Safety Officer were presented. Following from that meeting it was agreed that the Forum/Glending representatives would meet with the Minister for Housing, Jan O'Sullivan and a request was made in this regard to Billy Timmins to arrange. This meeting had been hoped to be held on 6 November, however, the Minister and advisor stated that they would not be available to meet a delegation and accordingly the trip to Leinster House was abandoned. As an alternative the five Wicklow TD's were invited to Glending to update themselves on the present position.

Today Carmel Cashin, John Coogan and Liam Fay met with Stephen Donnelly at Glending and next Monday it is hoped that Simon Harris, Billy Timmins and Andrew Doyle will attend. A request has also been made for a meeting with Wicklow County Council and in this connection Councillor Ruttle has advised that Michael Nicholson and Breege Kilkenny of Wicklow County Council will meet the Forum/Glending representatives next week in Blessington.

In the light of all the foregoing a long discussion took place and the following points were noted in those discussions

- Two key questions need to be answered, firstly how did Glending come to be built on the site where it presently stands and secondly how is it intended that those in power will rectify the houses that are in such dire need of repair.
- Members believe that present works are simply a 'band aid' solution.
- The time has come for something concrete to be done and homes returned to a habitable state.
- Convince people in power of the inadequacy of present work.
- There is an absolute need for an independent clerk of works on site
- Is good money being thrown after bad.
- Gerry O'Neill advised of a visit last week by Dessie Ellis TD and of Dessie Ellis having raised two questions with the Minister concerning how did Glending happen and how will it be rectified.
- Following the lengthy discussions it was agreed that the architect's report and safety report would be passed by the Chairman to Wicklow County Council immediately and that Wicklow County Council be asked to respond at the meeting when they visit next week.

### 4. Community Awards Night

Members thanked the Parish Office and Father Tim for the inclusion of the Community Awards Nomination Form in the recent Parish Newsletter. Consideration will be given to a change of date from 29 November as there are two other local events clashing with the

Community Awards night if it is held on 29 November. In the absence through work, of the environment sub-committee chairman Jason Mulhall, Michael Duggan took questions in relation to tidy towns. Michael Duggan advised of the absence through illness at present of engineer Declan Geraghty and members expressed their good wishes to Declan Geraghty for his speedy recovery and return to office. In the meantime a stand in engineer is on hand and Michael Duggan will be meeting with him shortly. Additional matters added to the present list were, ramps at Rocky Pool, cleaning all gullies in advance of winter weather around the Main Street and low signage outside of the Church of Ireland.


#### 5. Old Library Building

Lorcan McMahon advised that a draft lease has been received in respect of a five year period at £1,000.00 rent p.a. Lorcan McMahon agreed to liaise with MenSheds in regard to the remedial works which are necessary to the building estimated at present at €10,000.00.

#### A.O.B

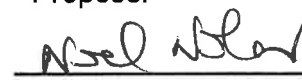
- Gerry O'Neill advised that the bus shelter is presently held up with planning issues with Wicklow County Council.
- Community Alert is working extremely well and in Vallemount John Brennan stated that it is excellent while in Killeel Hugo McGee stated likewise. It was noted that the AGM of Community Alert Vallemount is on 19 November.
- Tommy Brady reported that the work on the Hall in Kilbride has advanced very well and that the extension of the graveyard is complete.
- Ruaidhri O'hAilin advised of a Coder Dojo project now in Blessington where forty kids between the ages of seven and thirteen are learning computer programming.
- Thanks were expressed to Aisling Dermody for her contribution to the Forum. Aisling is standing down as Glending representative and Noel Murphy is replacing Aisling and Noel attended the meeting.
- Concern was expressed at the lack of any footpath or walking area on the road from Knockerin bridge to the Red Lane.

This completed the business of the meeting

  
Chairman

9 December 2013  
Date

  
Proposer

  
Secunder

**Blessington & Distri**

**Attendance List**

Monday 11 November 2013

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