

## BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Signed

### Minutes of Meeting held at St. Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday, 9 September 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 9 June 2013, were circulated, read, proposed by Nuala Cashin, seconded by Seamus Balfe and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters:-

#### 1. Blessington Greenway

The meeting had to hand an update from the Forum's co-ordinator of this project, John Horan. John Horan advised as follows

Good news this morning on the Greenway front. The County Council crews have arrived on site and work has commenced on constructing the new footpath on the N81 section. This will be finished quickly and will complete the Phase 1 link between Blessington and Russborough.

In anticipation of this and following my meeting with them recently, Failte Ireland has submitted a request to Minister Varadkar's office for him to perform the official opening of this Phase - and hopefully the launch of further phases to complete the 30 miles around the lakes. It is hoped that the major funding required for this project will come via his department.

In the course of the past month I met with Failte Ireland Tourism Development and Finance Officials to discuss this and also the funding of the project. Their opening position as with all Government Departments at present is that they do not have any funding. However the meeting progressed to the point where they asked me to consider undertaking an infrastructural study to identify the precise routing for the rest of the trail, how much of it will be on the lakeshore, how much "boardwalk", how much footpath and so on. This will then become the core of an application to them for funding. I am in discussion with Failte Ireland themselves, with Wicklow County Council and County Wicklow Partnership on funding for this initial study. Another source of assistance on this smaller scale study is the National Trails Office - where will be ultimately be seeking to have our Greenway listed on their National Trails Register.

With Paul Ashmore and our Architect Shane O'Neill we have walked Phase 1 of the Greenway with representatives from the ESB and identified some small works required by them. A few items which required to be done by using a small machine were done over the past weekend before access is blocked off from the N81 side by the footpath work. The balance will be done hopefully before the official opening.

Once we hear more on a firm date from the Minister's office we will let you know, as clearly all of the Forum Members will be invited to participate at the official opening.

## 2. Launch of Town Trail Guide

Members were circulated with the Forum guide to items of interest in and around Main Street. It was noted that Aidan Cruse has conducted a walk where all the participants were enthused at having the information guide. It is hoped in the future that guided walks will be available at specific times on specific days and will include visits in and around St. Mary's Church of Ireland.

## 3. The Gathering 2013

The Gathering committee comprising Deirdre Ward, Nuala Cashin, Nuala Haughian, Roisin McNab and Pat Conlon reported on the progress relating to The Gathering 2013 event scheduled for the weekend 12/13 October. The sub-committee should be in a position shortly to have posters prepared giving details of the events proposed. A fuller and more detailed programme will be available on the website and on an information sheet. As assistance will be required of the Forum and other members it was agreed to bring forward the next Forum meeting from the second Monday of the month to the first Monday and accordingly meet at 8pm on 7 October 2013.

## 4. Glending

The chairman reported on the progress which has been made over the last two months. There have been two meetings of the Forum with residents of Glending both held at St. Joseph's Hall co-ordinated by Glending Forum representatives Carmel Cashin and Aisling Dermody and Forum members Michael Sargent and Joe Hanly. Architects visits have also been arranged and Forum member John Coogan has been available to assist the Glending representatives. Carmel Cashin linked with the Architect. A draft Architect's report was passed to the Glending Forum representatives Carmel Cashin and Aisling Dermody and to Joe Hanly for their review.

A Health and Safety report is now planned to be prepared and in this connection John Coogan again agreed to liaise with the Health and Safety expert John Walsh and Carmel Cashin in order to facilitate preparation of this report over the next couple of weeks. In the meantime it is planned to meet with the Architect in relation to his draft report on Tuesday 17 October.

## 5. Hempstown Water Scheme

The Chairman reported that connection is now available for all residents from Holy Valley out to Hempstown and that it is up to each household to connect from the mains along the N81 into ones house. Tommy Brady advised in relation to Old Court that discussions are still continuing in relation to a number of residents who have not yet been connected.

Best wishes were extended to Forum member Fintan Gilheany from Hempstown who took ill at the weekend and is presently recuperating.

## 6. Tidy Town

The Chairman of the sub-committee Jason Mulhall advised that the National Tidy Towns results were announced this afternoon and we scored 227 points being an increase of 4.15% on our score last year. The full report received from Tidy Towns Committee National Organisation was read to the meeting. Members were taken aback by the level of detail and by the inspections that take place not only up Main

Street but of all areas surrounding including adjacent roads and all housing estates. It was agreed to request the Parish Office to allow the two page report to be circulated to all residents with the Parish newsletter.


In other matters Jason Mulhall advised that contact is now being re-established with the Council in regard to updates on several matters which are ongoing. There was also an entry in the Pure Mile competition in respect of an area from Main Street to the junction of the Kilbride Road and Red Lane. Jason Mulhall also advised that there are now five persons on the CE Scheme and members thanked Brian Kane for his continuing to liaise in regard to the work programmes.

7. A.O.B.

- The Chairman is to liaise with Avon Ri in regard to arrangements for our annual awards night. It was agreed that a sub-committee comprising Nuala Cashin, Nuala Haughian, Frank Hanly and Jason Mulhall and the Chairman would co-ordinate events.
- Patsy Phibbs advised that a further letter would be required with regard to the Wicklow Rural Partnership possible funding assistance in regard to the new parish centre.
- Possible funding will be followed up which might be available under local agenda 21.
- Pat McGrath/Deirdre Ward reported that correspondence had only recently been received in respect of the Old Library from Wicklow County Council and that this matter is now progressing again and it was agreed to liaise with Mensheds in regard to possible assistance in renovating.
- Pasty Phibbs further reported that the hall in Manor Kilbride is progressing very well and that the local fundraising has worked very well.
- Mrs Haughian advised members that the extension to Kilbride graveyard is also progressing and looking very well at the moment.
- There are other items still outstanding from the minutes of 9 June 2013 which will be followed up in the coming weeks.

This completed the business of the meeting

  
Chairman

  
Proposer

  
Date

  
Seconder

Attendance List

	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	
0	Dermody Aisling	
1	Doyle Michael	
2	Duggan Michael	
3	Egar David	
4	Fay Liam	
5	Gilheany Fintan	
6	Hamilton Gilmer	
7	Hanlon Frank	
8	Hanly Joe	
9	Haughian Nuala	
0	Kane Brian	
1	Keegan Kavanagh Noreen	
2	Magee Hugo	
3	McGillycuddy Tom	0
4	McGrath Patricia	0
5	McGreal Killian	0
6	McMahon Lorcan	0
7	McNabb Roisin	0
8	Moroney Anita	0
9	Mulhall Jason	0
0	Murphy Fr. Tim	0
1	Murphy Mary Lorna	0
2	Nolan Noel	0
3	O hAilín Ruaidhrí	0
4	O'Neill Gerry	0
5	Phibbs Patsy	0
6	Pidgeon Pat	0
7	Ryall Sally Ann	0
8	Sargent Michael	0
9	Schweppe Brian	0
0	Ward Deirdre	0

Signature

Seamus Balfe.  
 Tommy Brady  
 John Brennan  
 Carmel Cashin  
 Nuala Cashin  
 Pat Conlon  
 John Coogan  
 Michael Curran  
 Aisling Dermody  
 Michael Doyle  
 Michael Duggan  
 David Egar  
 Liam Fay  
 Fintan Gilheany  
 Apologies  
 Gilmer Hamilton  
 Frank Hanlon  
 Joe Hanly  
 Nuala Haughian  
 Brian Kane  
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 Patricia McGrath  
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 Jason Mulhall  
 Tim Murphy  
 Lorna Murphy  
 Noel Nolan  
 Ruaidhrí O hAilín  
 Gerry O'Neill  
 Patsy Phibbs  
 Pat Pidgeon  
 Sally Ann Ryall  
 Michael Sargent  
 Brian Schweppe  
 Deirdre Ward