

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting Held in at St Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 12 June at 7.30 pm

Present: List of members as per the attached
Apologies: List of apologies as per the attached

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meetings held on 10 April 2017 and 8 May 2017 were proposed seconded and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters.

Dame Ninette de Valois.

The meeting agreed to add two non-Forum members to the sub-committee dealing with a proposed festival next year in memory of Dame Ninette de Valois. It was agreed to add Jim Corley and Paul Tyrell to our sub-committee chaired by Michael Doyle with members Nuala Haughian and Frank Hanlon. The sub-committee will be liaising with Interpretative Artists Ireland with regard to a festival of events in June next year.

Blessington Greenway.

Members were briefed on where matters presently stand by way of an update from John Horan. It was noted in relation to Wicklow County Council proposals for the completion of the Greenway that the consultation period as required under Part 8 of the planning regulations concluded on May 22. What happens now is that the Planning Department of Wicklow County Council will present a report to the Council's Director of Services on the outcome of the consultation period, the Director of Services will then bring the matter with recommendations to the July monthly meeting of the elected County Councillors for decision.

At a national level the Department of Transport Tourism and Sport has launched a consultation period on the development of a national strategy for the development of Greenways. This consultation period closes on July 14.

Community Based CCTV.

The Chairman reported on discussions with Sergeant Dermot Treacy at the Garda Station. The Gardai would be delighted to have cameras to assist with traffic and crime detection and in this connection members agreed to authorise the carrying out of a feasibility study on this project. The members were advised that funding is available through the Department of Justice and Equality at a maximum grant of €40,000 and within this limit grants of up to 60% of the total capital costs of the system may be awarded. Members were happy to proceed with the project on the basis that this is Gardai led.

Tidy Towns.

Jason Mulhall reported that Tidy Towns judging nationally started on 10 June 2017 and will continue until 14 July 2017. Jason also reported on the recent community clean up, work on the playground clean up and the recent addition of minions on approach roads. Members were also advised that a waste treasure trail for schools had recently been completed in conjunction with Tidy Towns and that there had been up to 50 entries. John Kelly Motors, Qualitas and McGreals Pharmacy were thanked for their work on maintaining the roundabouts on the relief road and close to Texaco. Jason Mulhall also advised in relation to the Bumble Bee roundabout that it will remain as is in its natural state.

Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Towns Competition.

Jason Mulhall reported that Wicklow County Council have put forward Arklow, Greystones and Blessington as candidates for entry to the Bank of Ireland National Enterprise Towns Competition. This is County Council driven and the successful Wicklow Applicant to the competition will be decided based on the submission by each of the three towns of a 300 word essay setting out details of the town, its attractiveness, partnership, town leadership, business connections etc. Members advised that the Chairman, Secretary and Killian McGreal will be meeting with Susan Nichols at the Council Office tomorrow 13 June 2017 to progress the Blessington Application.

Christmas Lights.

Michael Duggan outlined plans in regard to Christmas lights and motifs for this year's switch on. Michael Duggan circulated a plan of where trees will be covered and where motifs will appear, where no trees are available. It is hoped that the Credit Union will come on board as regards the Christmas tree outside the Credit Union and it was noted that a fully lit Christmas tree similar to that at Brittas last year would cost circa €5,000. It is hoped that businesses like Dunnes Stores will assist also in lighting some of the trees.

Michael Duggan advised that an application has been made to Reservoir Cogs for support from their local fundraising activities. It was agreed to have the annual estates collection on Saturday 21 October 2017 noting that there is a bag pack scheduled for weekend of 23-24 June and a church gate collection on the weekend of 1-2 July 2017.

Poulaphouca Band Festival.

The Chairman reported on discussions with Frances Crampton and advised members that Forum members would be required for stewarding on Saturday 15 July 2017 at the event. The stewarding will be from 1.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. and it was noted that members would be asked to provide perhaps cover for three hour periods during that afternoon. More experienced paid stewards will steward the event from 8.00 p.m. to 1.00 a.m.

West Wicklow Youth Project.

Miss Tina Harper spoke in relation to this project which started in November 2016. The project covers West Wicklow and caters for those with emotional and other problems in the 10 to 24 year age group. This project operates from St Joseph's Hall on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays. The project is supported by the Department of Children and actioned through ETB and Kidare Youth Services.

The launch of the West Wicklow Youth Project will be on 23 June 2017 in Dunlavin and it is hoped in the coming weeks to also release results of public research. The project is planning eight summer camps and presently has available two youth workers and the services of a counsellor.

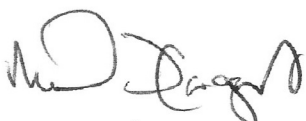
Forum Renewal.

Michael Doyle spoke in relation to a need to set up the various groups and focus on various areas. It was agreed that Michael Doyle in consultation with Killian McGreal, Liam Fay, Michael Sargent and Jason Mulhall will be endeavouring to put this structure together over the summer period.

Any Other Business.

- Michael Duggan and Noel Nolan reported on having met with Gerry O'Neill in relation to a possible half way to St Patrick's Day parade on 17 September. Members were advised that this event will not take place in 2017 but rather in 2018 when more forward planning can be done.
- It was agreed to hold the Annual Community Awards at Avon Ri on Friday 3 November 2017.
- Jason Mulhall advised that Tidy Towns are presently running a photographic competition and the various photos taken will be displayed at various events in the coming months.
- Noel Murphy enquired regarding the currachs. Michael Doyle agreed to follow up where they presently are and where they can be stored.
- Noreen Keegan Kavanagh reminded members of the planting of a Tree of Hope at the GAA grounds on Saturday 17 June.
- It was agreed that Joe Hanley, Liam Fay and Noel Murphy would monitor planning applications over the coming months to ensure that members were aware of any upcoming notices.
- Jason Mulhall advised that awareness of grants is a key point at the moment and efforts have been made to monitor anything that is available and pass on the information to voluntary organisations that might benefit.
- Concern was expressed with the state of the area beside the school connecting Main Street to the Kilbride Road and we need to bring this matter and other matters such as the availability of land at Avon Ri to the attention of the Council.

This concluded the business of the meeting.



Chairman 11/9/17

Proposed: Michael Duggan

Seconded: Charlie Brophy