

Signed

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting Held in at St Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 12 March 2018 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 meeting held on 12 February 2018 having been previously distributed were reviewed and then proposed by Carmel Cashin, seconded by Pat Conlon and signed by the Chairman.

Welcome to new members.

The Chairman extended a warm welcome on behalf of members of the Forum to new members Andra Coogan Johnston, Eileen Shirran and Mick McLoughlin.

CCTV Update.

The Chairman advised that Design Proposals have now been received from J& N Security Consultants Limited and are due for discussion with Wicklow County Council, the Gardaí and the Forum representatives at a meeting in Wicklow County Council on Tuesday next 20 March 2018. It was agreed that the Secretary would circulate a copy of the Design Proposals to all members for their review and members were asked if they have any comments to let the Secretary have those comments before the meeting with the Council and the consultants on Tuesday 20 March.

St. Patricks Day Parade arrangements.

The St Patricks Day Parade commences at 12.00 noon with the music fest at the Square commencing at 11.00 a.m. The Chairman advised that the co-ordinators of the parade Frances Crampton and Maria McGlynn will be looking after stewarding of the Square whilst Forum members are required for stewarding of the parade.

In this connection the following Forum members are available to assist

Charlie Brophy
Catriona Cullen
Pat Conlon
Michael McLoughlin
Eileen Shirran
Eamon Kelly
Nuala Haughian
Michael Doyle
Michael Sargent
Alan Sherratt

Both Liam Fay and Noel Murphy are available to assist with the putting up of the barriers.

The Chairman advised that a meeting of the St Patricks Day Sub Committee would take place during the week.. In this connection members asked if the insurance position relating to the parade could be checked vis a vis the Forum insurance and if letters of indemnity are required from activities such as bouncy castles etc.

N81 Road Upgrade.

The Chairman advised having been in discussions with John Brady TD who has advised as follows

"I have had a meeting with Minister Ross and voiced my concerns and the people of West Wicklow. I asked him to meet again along with yourselves and the Blessington Forum as we discussed and he has agreed to do this. I am currently working with his office to try and get a suitable date and I will get back to you as soon as I have the dates etc. Hopefully they will be suitable to yourselves."

Members were happy to hear of a possible meeting with Minister Ross, however, Carmel Cashin suggested that the Forum should be proactive in this matter. In this connection it was agreed that contact be made with community groups in Hollywood, Dunlavin, Baltinglass, Brittas and Ballymore Eustace with a view to all coming together on 9 April 2018 for discussions on this matter.

Charlie Brophy advised that contact should also be made with Transport Infrastructure Ireland in relation to the road planning and also with RSA for the provision of accident figures on the N81.

Other matters.

- Members were reminded that the closing date for Community Awards through Wicklow County Council is 29 March 2018 and our local housing estates in particular could avail of the opportunity to apply under the grants up to €2,000.
- Nothing further to report at the moment on planning issues.
- In regard to the Town Team the Secretary advised that putting of the Town Team in place is still at the early stages and the Secretary gave details of the possible members at the moment both on the community side and on the Council side. Members are pleased that this means of communication with the Council should enhance the advancing of various projects.
- Nothing further to advise to members in relation to the Greenway development.
- The Chairman advised that the grant application in respect of the forthcoming Dame Ninette de Valois festival has been lodged with CWP. This application is for the purchase of barriers, purchase of flags and reusable signs.
- The review of our Community Awards system is ongoing and members can expect some feedback at the Forum meetings of May/June.

- Joe Hanley attended the Hillbilly Tractor Run meeting recently in Valkeymount and has reported that last year's committee are not willing to take on the organising of the event and the main purpose of the meeting was to offer the event and/or the weekend to any other group that would take it on. At the moment in Valkeymount the School Committee in cooperation with the Church Committee have gone away to consider the matter.
- New Forum member Andra Coogan Johnston advised of her special interest in disability and will be following up the presentation made at the last meeting by Laura English Disability Officer at Wicklow County Council and it is hoped over the coming months that some moves can be made towards making Blessington disability friendly.
- Pat Conlon advised of changes in the Rural Transport service weekly to Newbridge and thanked Dermot Allen for his services over the years.
- Carmel Cashin reported on a recent PPN meeting in Hollywood and the advantages of the highlighting by PPN of services in the area.
- Members asked if the status of the BYP Project could be ascertained.
- Frank Hanlon asked if WCC could be requested to check on their having available for severe snow conditions a snow blower for the town.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the next meeting being fixed for Monday 9 April 2018.

Signed:


Chairman



