

BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM

Minutes of Meeting St Mary's National School, Blessington Monday 6th November 2017 at 8.00 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 9th October 2017 were proposed by Anita Moroney and seconded by Noreen Keegan Kavanagh and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting dealt with the following matters.

Christmas Lights.

The Chairman, Michael Sargent outlined the costs for the Christmas Lights upgrade that is currently underway. The project is a major undertaking for the Forum but the response from the local community and local business has been very positive and the Christmas lights sub-group are confident of having the lights in situ for December 2017.

Michael Duggan thanked everyone for their help with the bucket collection and informed everyone that 50% of the monies owed for the lights had been paid. And that the lights are due in next week. KVM will carry out the installation of the lights & motifs and will have them ready for the switch on date.

Michael Duggan thanked the Credit Union for their sponsorship of the Christmas tree and thanked all who have sponsored lights on trees or motifs on buildings. It was noted there are still a few trees available for sponsorship along the Main st. and requests & letters have gone out to business in the area requesting if businesses might be interested in sponsorship.

Jason Mulhall to make contact with Ventac, Embankment Plastics & Sturdy Products.

Michael Doyle to make contact with Old County Barbers.

Noel Nolan to make contact with Stresslite.

The official turning on of the lights will occur on Saturday 2nd December @ 430pm with a number of activities & entertainment planned from 1pm on the day. Finalised plans will be forwarded to members in advance of the event, and will be posted on social/print media and advertised on posters in the local community.

The Chairman has been in contact with Sergeant Dermot Tracey to advise of plans, and it is agreed to keep him up to date on activities during the coming weeks so that any supports necessary can be provided.

It was reported, there is a request with WCC to potentially facilitate a request from ITV to have a film crew onsite between November 27, 28 and 29 and have the Price brothers attend and switch on the Christmas Lights. Michael Duggan and committee have a plan in place to facilitate this in the vicinity of the Square as not all lights may be in place by then.

The Chairman confirmed the Insurance costs for the Forum activities, including the lights had risen to €1200 for the upcoming year. Suggestions from the floor to contact Europlan for a comparative quote, the fees due in early December so time available to look at alternates and seek clarity from Insurers on the cost breakdown.

The Christmas Lights sub-committee requested that a letter be drafted and forwarded to WCC and other parties (i.e. ESB & Dublin Bus) to advise that the lights will be 220 volts.

Greenway.

Members were briefed on the recent objections to the Greenway extension and an update from John Horan was read to members.

Community Awards.

The Community Awards for 2017 were held in Avon Ri on Friday 3rd November and agreed by members to be a successful evening with a good attendance. Thanks expressed to Pat Winters, Noel Nolan and Jason Mulhall for the Audio Visual presentations. Thanks to the judging committee who had the difficult job of reviewing nominees and congratulations extended to all category winners and those who were nominated.

A number of suggestions on the future of the event were also put forward from the membership, from removing the entertainment from the evening and go solely on an awards presentation night, to consider a more defined entertainment and a small cover charge on entry.

The seating arrangements on the night were deemed a little too formal and a preference was noted for the tables and seating.

A mid November date was suggested for 2018.

CCTV.

Members were briefed on the recent visit by the consultant, John O'Riordan of J & N Security Limited on their meeting with the Gardai, WCC and members of the Forum on 26th October. This is the second visit by John O'Riordan and they are now working on an outline plan for Blessington. It is expected a further update will be available in February with approximate costs for the potential options that could be deployed in Blessington.

It was also confirmed that the County Wicklow Partnership have accepted our Expression of Interest for funding in relation to the lights and members will attend an information meeting on CWP funding on the 21st November in Hollywood Hall.

Dame Ninette de Valois Festival.

Members were updated on the Dame Ninette de Valois festival and advised that County Wicklow Partnership have also accepted our Expression of Interest for funding for this event, again funding is scheduled to be discussed at the Hollywood meeting.

Any other business.

- Jason Mulhall advised members that the previously raised pedestrian safety concerns with the stretch of road between Knockieran Bridge and the Red Lane was forwarded to the District Administrator who has passed them to the Engineer for review and response. Communications with regard to dispersal of information with regard to the ongoing works schedule in Glending estate remain pending.
- Patsy Phibbs provided an update on the Community Care Roadshow held in Avon Ri on October 19th. The event was well attended and included a series of talks from the Gardai, WCC, HSE and the Fire Brigade Service.
- Joe Hanley sought further information on the Town & Village Renewal program but Jason Mulhall advised that no further updates available on the T&VR program at this time, as some clarity was pending from WCC.
- Forum Members were notified that the St. Patricks Festival group were looking for some volunteers to help with a teenage disco in St. Josephs Hall. Members were advised to contact Francis Crampton if available.
- Forum Members were notified that Stephanie the Forum Administrator was settling in the role and working closely with the Theatre at the moment. Other short term activities include the investigation of a website for the Blessington & District Forum. It was suggested that Michael Doyle and Liam Fay meet with Stephanie to outline the requirements, direction and content for a website.
- A brief discussion between members took place on the old photographs that were previously displayed in the Avon Ri.
- Frank Hanley sought clarity on the area proposed for parkland along the inner relief road. On information available the owners are indicated to be Cairn Homes PLC and the requirement to deliver a park land is expected to remain as a key part of any future planning applications on these lands.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Proposed by:

Anita Monney

Seconded by:

Ben Keogh


Chairman:
Michael Sargent