

## **BLESSINGTON AND DISTRICT FORUM**

### **Minutes of Meeting Held in St Mary's National School, Blessington on Monday 8 October 2018**

**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 September 2018 having been circulated by email were reviewed and proposed by Anita Moroney seconded by Noel Nolan and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting followed a prepared agenda and dealt with the following matters.

#### **GDPR Requirements**

- Several members contributed to discussions as to Forum obligations under GDPR. It was noted that the information held in respect of members comprises name, email address and mobile number. In this regard it was agreed to text members individually and obtain consent.

#### **CCTV Update.**

- Members were advised that the Town Team meeting held on 2 October 2018 discussed in detail the proposed community based CCTV system. Members were advised that actions required of An Garda Siochana, Wicklow County Council and the Forum are progressing, however, the CCTV projects are on hold nationally at the moment while an issue is resolved relating to Local Authorities around the country not being happy to be the Data Controller and particularly with the legal implications involved. Resolving of concerns is presently with entities at national level with Local Authorities such as WCC awaiting the outcome.

#### **Greenway Update.**

- Jason Mulhall advised that a meeting had been held at Tulfarris this afternoon attended by Minister Simon Harris and representatives of Wicklow County Council, Failte Ireland, Irish Water, ESB, Wicklow Sports Partnership, Tulfarris, Avon Ri and also in attendance were John Horan, Kilian McGreal and the Chairman. Members were advised that Wicklow County Council have a team dedicated to completion of the Greenway application for submission by 30 November 2018 and that John Horan is a member of that committee. Members were also advised that WCC will only be submitting one project on this round of applications, that being in respect of the Blessington Greenway.

### **Tidy Towns.**

- Jason Mulhall advised of the excellent results achieved this year with a score of 289 which was 13 points higher than last year. Jason Mulhall advised that in the years ahead it is hoped to challenge for at least a bronze medal, and to achieve this several more improvements will be required at Main Street and the Health Check will assist in identifying a way forward.
- Michael Duggan on behalf of the Forum complimented Jason Mulhall & Tidy Towns Committee Members and all involved in Tidy Towns on the continued success and progress in the competition.
- Members were advised that the Tidy Towns volunteer and awards evening will be on 24 October 2018 in the Coimin Centre at 8.00 p.m.

### **Forum Secretary.**

- Liam Fay advised that late last year FAS had made available a CE person for assisting with administrative functions for the Forum and Theatre and possibly in time Tidy Towns.
- Liam Fay advised that he had mentored activity which comprised establishing a Forum website and its ongoing maintenance. The website work continued early into this year and in April 2018 the CE person began maternity leave.
- Liam Fay confirmed that the CE person is not returning following maternity leave.
- It was agreed to liaise with Brian Kane regarding the possibility of another uptake.

### **Christmas Lights and Christmas Santa Event.**

- Michael Duggan confirmed that the annual Christmas Santa event will be on Saturday 15 December.
- Members of the Christmas Santa event committee were agreed as Michael Duggan, Carmel Cashin, Noel Nolan, Nuala Haughian, David Egar and non Forum Paul Cullen.
- Members expressed disappointment at the failure to have WCC arrange a power source for lighting of the Fourstone Tree and the tree adjacent thereto. It was agreed that the Chairman would liaise with ESB and see if the problem could be rectified.
- The annual bucket collection was agreed for Saturday 20 October 2018 from 12.00 noon. It was agreed that no flyer is necessary this year. Members to collect in each estate were agreed and collection buckets will be distributed in advance of 20 October. It was noted that advance notice of the collection will appear in the newsletter.



### **Burgage Castle.**

- The meeting confirmed that Madge Tyrrell would lead a subcommittee with members Paul Tyrrell, Jim Corley, Jason Mulhall and others from the community.
- Noel Murphy suggested that the committee should check on how similar works were carried out at Three Castles.
- Jason Mulhall advised of a previous attempt by the Tidy Towns Group to have improvement works carried out at Burgage Castle. This project was pulled as other external parties made their own attempts via social and print media campaigns and this was not in sync with the Tidy Towns approach. The efforts of these other parties had come to nothing. It was then requested at the Town Team meeting of May 2018 if the Forum would take on this project.

### **Town Team.**

- Members were advised that the last meeting of the Town Team was held on 2 October 2018 with the principal business relating to discussion of the community CCTV project.
- Members were advised that a question of providing allotments was discussed noting that the project is community driven.
- Members were advised that the Town Team is convening a meeting of business people to be held on Monday 12 November 2018 at 6.30 p.m. with Declan Lavelle from the valuation office speaking on the updating of rateable valuations not updated since 1988.

### **Town and Village Renewal Scheme.**

- In relation to the Sli na Slainte route Charlie Brophy advised that the brochure is presently being finalised and that in advance of putting up some signage some permissions are required which are presently being worked on.
- Jason Mulhall advised of the Forum having been granted an allocation of €80,000 under the 2018/2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme further to an application submitted some months back. It is not known yet which elements of the proposal submitted have been grant aided and which ones not.

### **AOB**

- Joe Hanly stated that he needed to correct the record in relation to Bus Connect stating that travelling from Blessington to Tallaght will just mean one connection before travelling onwards to the City.

- A letter from Seamus Balfe regarding the possibility of an Aircoach type pick up in Blessington was discussed and it was agreed to consult with the operators involved as to the possibility of this connection.
- Members were advised that there is a call from County Wicklow Partnership for Festivals and Events Applications 2019 and grant amounts will range between €5,000 minimum and €30,000 maximum. It was agreed to submit an Expression of Interest in respect of 100 chairs together with a mobile stage/lighting gantry.
- Members expressed continuing annoyance with overloaded trucks losing parts of their loads on the roundabouts on the relief road, it was explained that this is a Garda enforcement problem and can be raised when the District Superintendent visits the Forum over the coming months.
- It was agreed to suggest to include a note in the Parish Newsletter Editor mentioning the necessity for homeowners to know their Eircode as this greatly assists emergency response people when called.
- Jason Mulhall advised of the attendance by himself, Eileen Shirran, Declan Rowe, Laura Smith, Joe Haney and the Chairman at an SEAI event held in Kildare County Council last week. Members were advised that this project is at the early stages of review and that focus over the coming months will be on the sourcing of a feasibility grant of €15,000 to facilitate an energy audit in the area. Any members of the Forum wishing to join the sub-committee are welcome and all members will be notified of the next sub-committee meeting.
- Michael Duggan proposed that as a matter of urgency a finance committee be set up and it was agreed that this would comprise Michael McLoughlin, Liam Fay and David Egar. Members noted the continuing difficulty in raising funds and agreed that in the case of the Forum, funds will only be raised for specific projects on a needs basis.
- Members were advised that the Forum will in due course convene another public meeting re the Local Area Plan and report in summary on views noted at the public meeting of September 2018. It was noted that WCC have made no decision yet on a review of the 2013-2019 Plan pending publication of national projected population demographics.
- It was agreed going forward to convene meetings for 8.00 p.m. and only at 7.30 p.m. where a visitor is attending. It was also agreed to consider to have the next meeting in the Coimin Centre on 12 November 2018 as the Business Meeting will be held on the same evening @ 6.30pm in the Coimin Centre.

This concluded the business of the meeting.

Signed:   
Chairman

Proposed by: Anita Moravey  
Seconded by: Charlie Kearns