



Report: 12th October Blessington Forum Zoom Meeting

The meeting was opened and chaired by Carmel Cashin at 7:30pm.

The September report was proposed by Susan Rossiter and seconded by Marion McNally.

Apologies: Ron Corry, Brian Kane, Eamonn Kelly and Mick Duggan.

BLUC Update

Carmel provided an update to members on the Christmas Event, key dates as follows:

- Tree will be installed on 21 November
- Lights will be installed the week of 21 November to 28 November
- Event itself will happen on 28 November

Members asked to contact Mick Duggan if they are available to help out Tubs & Tidies a local business is creating Good Boxes that are on sale, with 25% of the sale price being donated back to the BLUC event. Members expressed their thanks to Tubs & Tidies.

Community Notice Board

Frank presented to the meeting on an idea for a community notice board. It was agreed that Frank would gather ideas and look at potential costs, and make a further presentation at the November or December meeting.

Blessington Greenway

Caroline Fox from WCC attended the meeting and provided a detailed update on the current status of the Greenway and plans for the coming weeks and months to all members.

- Public engagement planned for end October
- Route Reports from AECOM Consultants
- Trial section will not now be done but go directly to full project based on findings of route walk.
- Environmental Reports – Water, Biodiversity and Ecological.
- Design document will be made available to Forum.
- Licensing Agreements have been reviewed by WCC Law Agent, and now with the ESB
- Work on the Health Centre Building on the Kilbride Road is being scoped
- Updated name for the Greenway will be the Blessington Lakes eGreenway

- Social Media is work in progress in WCC with expectation to go online in November 2020
- Car parks will be developed in parallel to the development of the Greenway
- Construction expected from Feb 2021 onwards, with a realistic opening date in Q1/2023. Resident Engineer and clerk-of-works will be on site.
- The provision of a Changing Places in the Blessington Hub was also discussed.

Members expressed their thanks to Caroline for the detailed update, and she was invited to attend once more in November, or December when she has further information.

Members expressed concerns around current parking situations in Burgage

- It was agreed that it may be worthwhile for local residents and estates to make representations to the Municipal District and outline their concerns, to ensure WCC can consider the impact.

Pool for West Wicklow

Marion provided an update to members on plans for the coming months...

- Free Online Christmas Market promoting local businesses and artists
- Daily Videos on Social Media, along with contact and service details

Fundraising

Catherine Keogh provided the membership with an update on plans for fund raising for the BLUC event.

Social Inclusion Week

Due to the ongoing Covid19 situation, the events planned for social inclusion week in October had to be cancelled. They will be replaced by a series of online events instead. And some flags will be displayed in the town.

Parents Seminar

Due to the ongoing Covid19 situation, the parent seminar that was planned for April was cancelled and will be replaced by a series of online events. This is a project of the Blessington Access Group, which contains Forum members on its committee. Further details will be presented to members once a detailed schedule is finalized.

Burgage Castle Preservation Project

Madge advised that she continues to work with the ESB. Progress is slow but it moving in the correct direction. In the coming months we expect to see works begin.

AOB

- The Blessington Cemetery Committee expressed their thanks to the BDF for their support and advised that costing details are now with WCC and works are pending.
- Frank provided the membership with an update on an idea for a community park, and members were asked to contact Frank via email for further information.
- GDPR requirements were discussed, and completion of release forms remains pending.
- The new buildings in the Main Street were also discussed.

The meeting ended at 9.30pm and our next meeting will take place on November 9th at 7.30pm via zoom.

Attendance: 12th October Blessington Forum Zoom Meeting

Apologies: Ron Corry, Brian Kane, Eamonn Kelly and Mick Duggan.

Present:

