

## **Report: 14<sup>th</sup> December Blessington Forum Zoom Meeting**

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

The October report was proposed by Andra Coogan Johnson and seconded by Madge Tyrrell.

**Apologies:** Charlie Brophy, Michael Doyle, Brian Kane, Eamonn Kelly, Marion McNally, Nuala Haughian, Mick Duggan, Pat Conlon and Karen O'Donoghue.

### **Greenway**

- Liam Fay provided the membership with an update on the most recent meeting with WCC on the Greenway. Further updates will be available in 2021 as the project progresses.

### **BLUC**

- Noel Nolan presented a report on behalf of Mick Duggan on the event in 2020, the report included a summary of the event over the previous 8 years. The membership was advised that Mick was standing down after 8 years. The other members of BLUC (Carmel, Paul, Noel) are also taking a step back for 2021, and a new group will be put in place to run with the event for 2021 onwards.
- Members thanked the BLUC group for their efforts over the last 8 years.
- A very successful round of fund raising happened in 2020 and the membership thanked the community, businesses and local authority for their supports.

### **Christmas Voucher and Toy Appeal**

- Toy Appeal was extremely successful, huge generosity shown from the local community, with toys being sent throughout Blessington, further in to West Wicklow and to the Womans Refuge. The membership thanked the community, local groups for their generous supports in this initiative.

### **Burgage Castle**

- Castle preliminary works have started
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### **Social Inclusion Group**

- The Forum were successful in applications to the CEP Tranche2 Grants
  - Age Friendly Initiatives
  - Woman Shed Setup
- The Blessington Access Group, in partnership with the Blessington & District Forum organised a number of successful online seminars during November for the wider West Wicklow Community.
- The Age Friendly Newsletter has been a huge success, and in December an Age Friendly pack in partnership with WCC was included.
- Plans are in place to launch an Age Friendly Buddy Scheme in 2021

### **Members Draw**

- Congratulations to Ron Corry

### **A.O.B.**

- Power points in the Square - ask the Town Health Check to implement this.
- Cairn Homes Development was discussed and members offered views on the development. It was agreed the onus is on the Blessington & District Forum to push for adherence to the original application, and with comments on the application required by January 14th to WCC, the planning subgroup to follow up on this.
- The Old Rectory development is in progress and the Executive is looking into questions raised by the membership in the November meeting.
- Carmel thanked Frank Hanlon for the work he did on the posters for the Fundraising, Toy Appeal and the BLUC Event, all agreed they were to a professional standard.
- The Chair wished members a Happy Christmas and Best Wishes for the New Year.











The meeting ended at 8.45pm and our next meeting will take place on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm via zoom.

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## Attendance: 14<sup>th</sup> December Blessington Forum Zoom Meeting

**Apologies:** Michael Doyle, Karen O'Donoghue, Charlie Brophy, Marion McNally, Eamonn Kelly, Mick Duggan, Nuala Haughian and Pat Conlon

### Present:

-  Jason Mulhall (Host, me)
  -  Andra Johnston
  -  CC Carmel Cashin
  -  CC Catriona Cullen
  -  NN Noel Nolan
  -  FH Frank Hanlon
  -  LF Liam Fay
  -  MT Madge Tyrrell
  -  CK Catherine Kehoe
  -  N Noreen
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