

Report: 13th December 2021 – Blessington Forum Zoom Meeting

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

The report of the November meeting was proposed by Madge Tyrell and seconded by Paul Tyrell.

Apologies: Dónal McCormack, Anita Moroney, Susan Rossiter, Noel Murphy, Mick McLoughlin, Michael Sargent, Peter Eustace, Natasha Jordan, Eamonn Kelly and Mick Duggan

Correspondence

- Town Centre First Funding.
- WCC Recycling Banks.

Planning & Environment

- The Tidy Towns group provided an update to the members and the group were congratulated on their 17 point increase in the competition and Regional Award.
- Members were provided with details on the Burgage Part 8 Planning Application and the member provided their thoughts on the same.

Safe Talk Training

- Members advised to access via Jeff O'Toole, and that training would take place during January 2022. Further information is available from Jeff directly.

Women's Shed

- Members were advised that the group goes from strength to strength but are still searching for a premise. Upcoming activities include the Gym partnership with AIF, and the Menopause Cafe continues in Brew21. The group were also successful in a grant application for funding towards IT Equipment.
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SOCIAL INCLUSION

- The Toy Appeal support was down on the previous year, but requests were up, the organizers did their utmost to facilitate as many families as possible, and were commended for their work on this project.
- Concerns were raised about the message on the ASD Units in the Community College, and that it may be confusing, it was suggested that the Forum to write to the BOM of the Community College to outline these concerns and request clearer messaging from all involved.

BLUC

- The event was held virtually due to the high numbers of Covid19 in the local community, and was streamed via the face book page and musician Bobbi Arlo switched on the lights.
- The group suggest replacing Santa Grotto with something lighter and easier to assemble.
- The 2022 date is November 26th
- The GoFundMe raised over €500 towards the event, and a grant of €850 was received from WCC towards the costs of the lights, and local businesses contributed €2400.
- A raffle for all who contributed to the GoFundMe has been organised with the draw to be held Christmas Week. Winners to be notified directly.
- Costs to be considered in January for 2022 and a plan for fundraising to be implemented.
- Thanks were expressed to the BLUC committee and Forum members for this supports and to Credit Union for the tree sponsorship and facilitating power for the lights and event.

TOWN TEAM

- The membership was provided with an update from the November Town Team Meeting.
 - o Greenway – Parking – Bridges – Application timeline – Information Release
 - o RRDF Funding– Clarity was provided on what was included
 - o Housing / Population Growth – The case for community facilities to be developed in parallel were once again stressed to the elected members and WCC Officials.
 - o CCTV – Expected in early 2022, the BDF and BTT was again requested that WCC ensure public are made aware, and that they consider the aesthetics of the poles to be added.
 - o Town Square – Emphasis on the need for the EVs to be activated, the lighting needs to be completed and the allocation of the parking spaces for the Age Friendly and Disabled Spaces to all be completed, they all planned but no clear timelines yet. The need for a power outlet was also discussed.
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Castel Maggiore – Twinning Request

- The action group to present to BMD at the December Meeting.

The meeting ended at 9.00pm, and members were extended best wishes for the holidays and advised that our next meeting will take place on January 10th at 7.30pm via ZOOM.

