



Report: 14th March 2022 – Blessington Forum – GP Room

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

The report of the February meeting was proposed by Susan Rossiter and seconded by Catherine Keogh.

Apologies: Donal McCormack, Madge Tyrrell, Noreen Keegan-Kavanagh, Natasha Jordan, Charlie Brophy and Andra Coogan-Johnson

Correspondence

1. Statement on Facebook page
2. Submission to An Bord Pleanala.

Blessington Greenway

The members reviewed the meeting notes from February 21st and any confusion points were clarified where needed, no changes were made to the notes, they were deemed accurate.

Members queried if you can see other peoples submissions and who had made submissions, this does not seem to be possible, at this time only the submission from the BDF has been shared with the general public.

A number of points were raised with respect to ABP and their processes in general.

Ninette de Valois Festival

- 27th May in the Tramway Theathre
 - Baltyboys House Visit
 - Talks in the Community
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Blessington Rose Festival & Fund Raising

Please see separate report from fund raising team that was presented to members on the evening of the meeting.

Part8 Housing Application Burgage

The members were presented with an update on the Part8 Housing Application in Burgage, and the concerns that exist from residents in the area into how the application has been handled and the lack of feedback from WCC and support from Councillors.

There is a real concern that the Part8 Application will be confirmed at the next meeting of WCC and none of the concerns voiced by local residents will be addressed.

The primary concerns are around the density and height of housing, and the traffic impact into the future for the Burgage area. It was noted, that traffic analysis was carried out during Covid19 and no consideration was made to the pending development opposite the site in question.

It was not clear what is possible, but in the end the elected members will make the final decision, they will need to determine if they support the Part8 Housing Application as it stands, or whether they reject it and request WCC to consider the concerns of residents and come back with an updated plan. Some of the suggested amendments from the elected reps seemed spurious at best, particularly about adding parking opposite the Burgage cemetery and what that had to do with the Part8 Housing Development.

As a general agreement, it was agreed that BDF would voice their concerns to WCC in a general sense about how public consultation is being carried out in the area in a general sense.

The members of BDF were neither in favour of nor against housing developments, as long as it is carried out in a sustainable manner in a suitable location with required facilities. This statement matches our submission to the CDP.

Safe Talk Training

The Safe Talk initiative training took place on 2nd March and 30 members of the local community were in attendance. The videos will be starting in the coming weeks. The talk was well received and is expected to be beneficial in the local community.

“Hello, How are you?” Campaign

Members were provided with an update from a meeting between Caroline Brogan and Natasha and Sue. A national campaign is being rolled out under this initiative and will also take place in Blessington on the 7th April.

This will comprise of a stand in the town, with some merchandise and conversation cards for the public. There are 5 training sessions available to who wish to participate in the event. The link to register for these sessions will be posted on the BDF facebook page and website.

A.O.B.

- Domestic Violence event is scheduled for 11th April. Members to contact Andra, Sue or Natasha for more information.
- There is no request for BDF support for the St.Patricks Day Festival, this was confirmed in conversation with Francis Crampton.
- The Day Care request for extended opening has been granted and will hopefully come on stream in the coming weeks.
- Darkness into Light will be held on May 7th
- N81 Traffic and Dirt was discussed. It is an issue with trucks not pulling over load covers. The lack of enforcement seems to be the biggest issue. It was noted that WCC will be in contact with specialist Gardai on the issue to determine what course of action can happen, as all efforts so far have proved to have minimal to no impact.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.

Attendance: 14th March 2022

- **Blessington Forum Meeting**
- **GP Room, St.Mary's School**

- Carmel Cashin
 - Jason Mulhall
 - Michael Doyle
 - Liam Fay
 - Frank Hanlon
 - Kilian McGreal
 - Noel Murphy
 - Joe Hanly
 - Michael Sargent
 - Greg Dunne
 - Michael McLoughlin
 - Noel Nolan
 - Michael Duggan
 - Catriona Cullen
 - Susan Rossiter
 - Catherine Manzor
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