

Report: 10th May 2022 – Blessington Forum – GP Room

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

The report of the April meeting was proposed by Kilian McGreal and seconded by Madge Tyrell.

Apologies: Andra Coogon Johnson, Michael Sargent, Donal McCormaic and Joe Hanly

Correspondence

1. Living Well Programme (Michael Sargent)
2. Road Traffic, Quarries and Enforcement Update (Joe Hanly)
3. Letter of Support for Fiachra Garvey Festival
4. Cairn Homes Submission

Town Team

The chairperson provided a report on the most recent town team meeting, as part of the meeting there was a general review of town teams, and their place in communities, the feedback from Blessington would be part of a larger review in County Wicklow. Other topics included:

- Anti Social Behaviour in Blessington and the need for improved Gardai
- N81
- Presentation to Eric Blachford
- Tidy Towns and Public Realm needs of Blessington

Tidy Towns

- Submission to be completed by May 20th
 - Judging starts June 1st and runs to July 31st
 - Encouraging businesses to get involved and play their part in an improved Blessington
 - Lots happening at the moment, check social media for specifics, and always looking for people to get involved on a regular or adhoc basis based on availability.
 - Skate Park completed using T&VR Shop Fronts Scheme & Funding from the Municipal District, thanks to Jason, Carmel, Liam Cullen who made this project possible, the youth elements of the community also participated.
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Cairn Homes

Meeting scheduled with Cairn PLC to discuss their plans for Blessington. The slow progress of the BIRR is seen as a major blockage to development and the Community Park progressing.

Planning SubGroup

As agreed in April, work is in progress for a more active membership of this group. Concerns from members on the lack of detailed information flow on planning in the Blessington area. Forum confirmed the planning sub group has participated in planning submissions and online consultations on the following: County Development Plan, Kelland Homes, Windllynn, Roadstone, St. Josephs Road, Cairn and the Greenway are just some examples of active engagement. The possible setup of an external planning group was also mentioned. The Forum sub group on planning as we move forward will be made up of Jason, Liam, Catherine, Sue, Frank and possibly Ruairi O'Brien

Ninette de Valois Festival

- 27th May in the Tramway Theathre, multiple acts, and tickets on sale in Hennessys Off License and the Office Shop. Members asked to attend and support the event.
- Baltyboys House Visit on May 7th was well attended and deemed a success (€440 raised). Thanks expressed to MS, BH and PH for their help in organising the event,
- Art Grant of €1500 for the festival, and SuperValu sponsorship of refreshments.
- Credit Union sponsorship of €175 for NdeV Festival.
- Condolences were offered to Sinead O'Brien on the recent death of her father.

Rose of Tralee

- Full update provided in separate report from the organizing committee.
 - Successful event with lots of positive feedback, like all events lessons learnt to allow for improvement on the next event.
 - Caoimhe Flynn was selected as the Blessington Rose 2022.
 - Wicklow event held in Arklow Bay Hotel on June 5th
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A.O.B

- Community College Bursary – sponsored by McGreals Group
- Letter to be sent to ESB on Burgage Castle works as no updates have been provided and work has been stalled for some time now.
- West Wicklow Mental Health Group is in the process of being setup. A number of awareness campaigns have been or will be launched in the near future. Such as Safe Talk, How are You etc.. Hubs for Mental Health Ireland activities, Community Directory of Services, and West Wicklow Corridor Supports will be available.
- Manor Kilbride field day will be held during July. And work is in progress to develop football pitches, playground, walking track and other facilities.
- Membership drivers for the Forum were discussed.
- Noel suggested assigning items / actions a maximum duration so that success and failures could be easily quantified.
- Members were briefed on the Smart Villages initiative and Blessington potential involvement. Initially the Tidy Towns will take the lead, but it will be required to include a broad community involvement to be successful.

The meeting ended at 9.15pm.
