



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

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

Condolences were offered by all to Jason Mulhall on the sad passing of his father.

The Forum also welcomed our new member John Moriarty who will represent the Brittas area.

Apologies: tbc'd

Correspondence

Notification received regarding sports and recreation survey being completed by WCC

Emails also received in relation to Issues regarding the boardwalk on the greenway

The chair updated members on the following:

AGM

It was agreed not to hold the AGM in November as this meeting would be required for BLUC and the AGM could be held in Jan/Feb 2023

RRDF Funding

"Blueprint for Blessington" - Blessington was awarded just over €1m funding under the Rural Regeneration Development Fund (RRDF). This will be used for a major regeneration of Blessington Town Centre and related projects. It will be utilised for the regeneration of Blessington Town Centre, the development of plans for public realm works, the redevelopment of a derelict property to create an eHub and a Visitor Centre for the forthcoming Blessington Lakes eGreenway. This strategic funding along with the planned completion of the Blessington Inner Relief Road and the funding for the Blessington Lakes eGreenway will help achieve Wicklow County Council's long-term vision for Blessington and enhance Blessington as a place to visit. Combined with the proposals for developing a master plan for Blessington, this project will add to the quality of life of the entire community by optimising digital connectivity, supporting employment and skills and enhancing the public realm in line with the objectives that underpin "Our Rural Future" Ireland's Rural Development policy.

Wicklow County Council is currently developing a suite of tender documents to allow for the appointment of technical consultants to the Blessington Town Centre refurbishment project. It is envisaged that the technical consultants to this project will be appointed within the next two months. Enquiries have been made in relation to acquiring an appropriate property for an eHub in Blessington and it is hoped that this matter will progress in the coming months.

In relation to the Town Centre First master plan, Wicklow County Council has been advised by the Department that this will be an initial duty for the soon to be appointed Town Regeneration Officer.

EV Charging Point

All the work has been carried out by the ESB to get power to the charging points, they are just waiting on them to switch power on within a few days

Power to 4Stone Tree

Liam Cullen District Administrator will contact **** * from Airtricity about arranging power. When he spoke to him last year about getting power to the four stone tree, he seemed to think we could get this done but in the end it was decided not to light up that tree so he never got back to him.

CCTV

- Contract signed with the CCTV Contractor - Educom Ltd - on Tuesday 20th Sept. 2022.
 - Work to install CCTV poles, mini pillars and power supplies is almost completed. Five new connections remain for the ESB to finalise and we're working with them to get this work scheduled asap.
 - Structural survey of the Garda mast has been completed and the mast has been approved for the installation of the necessary CCTV transmission equipment.
 - The CCTV and Transmission equipment has been ordered by the CCTV Contractor.
 - Installation of the CCTV system has been provisionally scheduled to commence during the week of October 3rd, 2022, subject to the equipment being delivered to the Contractor before that date.
 - The Joint Data Controller Agreement for the system is being signed by WCC and AGS this week and all other procedural and Data Protection matters have been finalised.
 - In conclusion, all that remains now is for the CCTV system to be installed and commissioned and I would estimate that this work should be concluded by the end of October subject to the ESB connections being completed within the next 3 weeks.
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Hidden Disability Parking

Pat Byrne was dealing directly with the contractor on the matter of the logos on the ground and signage for the parking bays.

Signage

We have requested additional signage on Main Street to highlight the car parking options for people in Blessington to relieve some pressure off Main Street especially with Christmas coming, the District Engineer to get back to us.

Subgroup Updates:

Burgage Castle

The subgroup updated that progress is finally being made and a discussion took place around the possibility of holding an Exhibition for culture night next year with Burgage Castle photos and artefacts

BLUC

The event is planned for November 26th and volunteers will be required. The Santa Truck is coming so we will need crowd control measures. Event starts after 1pm. Market starts at 2 and the Santa Truck will arrive after 6pm- there will be **NO** Santa visits as it would take too much time and you couldn't predict the numbers who will attend. All proceeds going to Laura Lynn. It was also advised that if we had lots of vendors the area beside the credit union could be used as it had been cleared out, subject to access being requested and granted.

Community & Social Inclusion

Womens shed activities ranging from Car Maintenance with J Kelly motors to the use of the pop-up pool. It was also acknowledged the great work of the CPFWW committee on securing the pool. Irish Heart Foundation came to Blessington and was hosted by the Womens based in Partnership with McGreals Primary care. A very successful event with immediate referrals made to Local GP's for Women

Community & Youth Centre

Progress is delayed and out of our hands at present, but full commitment remains further updates hoped shortly as services have agreed to operate in the centres and CE staff have been secured thanks to Martin.

Under AOB the following matters were discussed:

Tramway Theatre

New Committee members/ Directors are required, and a meeting needs to take place. Some of the equipment etc may require replacement, concerns raised that there is no heating. Executive to Liaise with Pat around organising a meeting

Information Fairs

It was asked if Blessington could host an information day like those being held in Kildare on various topics such as addiction/ Education etc

Awards Night

It was asked if the awards night would make a return and agreed by all it is a great night and hopefully can return June 23

Actions:

Bridges

BDF to contact Caroline Fox WCC regarding the report on the structural examinations of the bridges

The meeting closed at 8.50
