

Report: 13th March 2023 – Blessington Forum – GP Room

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

The November notes were proposed by Andra Coogon Johnson and seconded by Pat Conlon.

Apologies: Carmel Cashin, Kilian McGreal, Michael Sargent.

Correspondence

Members advised the AGM was being planned for February.

Details would be issued in early January.

Greenway

Members were advised that the Greenway was planned to be re-opened in the coming days, the necessary works had now been or worse close to being completed by a WCC appointed contractor.

Subgroup Updates:

Burgage Castle

No further progress but ESB are following up with Madge.

Community & Social Inclusion

Members were advised of details relating to a number of persons who were seeking refuge in Ireland under International Protection Laws, and that they were currently being accommodated in Kippure and Kilbride Army Camp. A detailed discussion then took place, and members were advised of issues being faced. A number of Forum members were working hard to get much needed supplies to the people being accommodated, specific details available from Andra. There was a consensus that the Forum would support the needs of the people seeking International Protection as much as possible, and a number of suggestions were put forward, including the consideration of accommodation in the community.

Members were advised that that the Toy Appeal was down on the previous year, and equally the number of requests made were down as well. Thanks to the team involved in this effort.

BLUC

Event was held on 26th November; estimated that 1500+ attended the event. Music, song, dance and the Santa Truck were provided to the community free of charge. Organisers were congratulated on their efforts in producing a high quality event, Thanks to Pat Conlon for running with the market in what proved to be difficult circumstances due to weather conditions. Catherine presented an in depth report, thanking all involved and mentioned the highlights. Members discussed ideas and suggestions for 2023.

- Barriers may be too light weight in windy conditions.
- Concerns on Christmas tree and installation [safety]
- Floodlights for market area
- Hi Vis Vests
- Stage Issues – visibility, crowd tight etc...
- Use as PR Event for the Forum
- Hawkers onsite
- Multiple areas to crowd control
- Collection – no money for Forum, but worthy cause in Laura Lynn Foundation
- Crowd Safety
- Lights were still be put in place during the day of the event
- Several trees were not lighting, Brew21, Bealins, Blessington Barbers, the committee agreed to follow up with the contractor.

Members advised of the private truck visit for a family in the community, and the circumstances around it.

MS was thanked for sponsoring breakfast for those involved with putting up the lights and the trees.

Christmas tree to be removed on Saturday 7th or Saturday 14th. Liam Fay would coordinate with volunteers.

WCC sponsored Shop Front Competition was ongoing. Judging expected next weekend, and results to be publicized once a decision was reached.

Under AOB the following matters were discussed:

Theatre

Jason Mulhall and Michael Doyle working closely with the Tramway Theatre Committee.

CCTV

Members were advised that the WCC appointed contractors were close to completing the installation of the CCTV Scheme. More info to follow.

Community Pool

Pool is open once more after some repairs, and will remain until 20th December. An average of 600 people per week has been using the pool.

Executive Meetings

A request was made by Susan for notes from executive meetings to be published to all members. A back and forth discussion took place, and it was suggested that this should be put to the agenda for a meeting in the future. Susan raised concerns that information was made available [leaked] to others before the membership with respect to the 'possible' Community Centre and Charity Partner for the St. Patricks Day Parade. These concerns were strongly refuted by the Secretary and Vice Chair, and Treasurer.

The meeting closed at 9.10

Attendance:

1. Michael Doyle
2. Jason Mulhall
3. Liam Fay
4. Pat Conlon
5. Charlie Brophy
6. Andra Johnston
7. Madge Tyrrell
8. Joe Hanly
9. Paul Tyrrell
10. Frank Hanlon
11. Susan Rossiter
12. Catherine Keogh
13. Peter Eustace
14. Nuala Haughian
15. Noel Nolan
16. John Moriarty [Brittas]