

Report: 11th September 2023 – Blessington Forum

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

Apologies: Donal McCormack

Apologies: See attached sheet.

Correspondence

Community Awards - €500

Community Enhancement Programme - €2500

Trails Ireland – letter outlining the work of the scheme workers on the greenway

Cairn Homes Phase2 Planning Application - www.blessingtondemesnelrd.com

Blessington / Wicklow Greenways website - <https://wicklowgreenways.ie>

September

Subgroup Updates:

Protocol

The chair of the subgroup gave presentation on the revised protocol, a discussion on changes to be adopted was had by the forum members that were present and a new revised Protocol was to be sent to all members for review within the agreed period. Comments would be noted and then an EGM would be called to ratify the new Protocol, subject to all being in agreement.

Tidy Towns

Judging has completed, and groups await a date for their results. All information in relation to the Blessington Tidy Towns is on the social media sites.

Twinning

The group gave a synopsis of the recent very successful visit of delegates from Castel Maggiore. The group were thanked for providing transport for our visitors during their stay. It is suggested that a letter of thanks should go to the tourist office for their presentation and help. It is hoped that the official signing of the twinning between the two towns will happen in 2024.

Planning

Cairn Homes are proceeding with phase one of the development, which includes a section of the town park. They have submitted a second planning application for further housing, and the second section of the town park. Details are available online www.blessingtondemesnelrd.com and this information was emailed to the members at the end of the meeting. Members were invited to review and consider submissions. It was noted that it might be a good idea to ask Cairn homes for a story board to be completed on any artefacts that may be found during the building, and maybe a storyboard on the history of the site.

The Town Centre First plan for Blessington is underway, with Blessington being designated a pathway town, this is an important activity, and there will be consultants appointed by WCC to conduct a review, this will involve Community outreach. The plan should ensure Blessington and WCC are in a position to react to the next tranche of RRDF funding stream.

Under AOB the following matters were discussed:

- Ecumenical Service on Sunday 24th September
- Outreach to Volunteer Ireland (Wicklow branch) for membership recruitment
- History Society – notice of the Shan-Arc presentation on Thursday 21st September
- St. Patricks Day Committee – the first disc will take place on Friday 28th
- The B&DF would like express our thanks Michael Keogh for opening and closing the school for our meetings for the last number of years. It was agreed that a small presentation would be made to Michael in recognition of this in the next weeks.

The meeting closed at 9.15
