



## **Report: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 – Blessington Forum**

The meeting was opened and chaired by Carmel Cashin at 7:30pm.  
The September notes were proposed by Susan Rossiter and seconded by Nuala Haughian.

**Apologies:** See attached sheet.

### **New Members**

Ehmer O’Laoighaire and Emer Cuddihy were welcomed as new members.

### **Congratulations**

The membership congratulated Blessington Tidy Towns on winning a bronze medal in the National Tidy Towns competition for 2023.

### **Correspondence**

Town Centres First - this was discussed, members were briefed on background, and what was happening at the moment. Members were encouraged to use the online consultation portal and to feed in to the planning. Concerns were raised about the process.

Skills Strategy – BDF has been asked to input into the skills strategy process, and outline what we feel is and is not available locally in Blessington and in the wider district.

## **Subgroup Updates:**

### **Tidy Towns**

Blessington had a great result in this year tidy towns competition, the group & local community were recognised with the awarding of a bronze medal. The Edible Blessington project spearheaded by Blessington Allotments, supported by BTT, and others was a National Award Winner in the Schools Category. Overall a very successful year for Blessington! Members were reminded that volunteers still meet every Sunday at 9am.

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### **Planning**

The Lidl and Cairn Homes applications were discussed. Further information was presented to the members via email.

### **Finance**

The Treasurer presented a snapshot of accounts as of 9<sup>th</sup> October to the membership.

### **Blessington Lights Up Committee**

The group made a presentation on plans for Blessington. They covered the potential options, the application for grants, the capital costs for the project and potential timelines (4 years). The recurring costs (of today and into the future) were also discussed, and the group were to seek an agreement in principle for WCC to support these costs in the coming years. The secretary mentioned that funding streams through Leader might not permit a multiyear project, and that this should be confirmed before finalising a plan.

The Santa Truck will be in Blessington on November 26<sup>th</sup>, and a callout for volunteers would be made in the coming weeks. The logistics of the visit were still being finalised at time of meeting.

The Towns Christmas Tree was also discussed.

### **Under AOB the following matters were discussed:**

- Culture Night in the Mens Shed
- Twining remains active, and outreach btw groups is being coordinated.
- An updated on the History Society Shan-Arc presentation during September was presented to the membership.
- Anti Social behaviour in and around the town centre was discussed, and updates provided by members.

### **The meeting closed at 9.15**

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