

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Clr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
Clr James Ruttle	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Liam Fay	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Business Network
Dan Kenny	Business Network
Ciaran Burke	Community College
DS Dermot Treacey	Gardai
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Christine Flood	Enterprise and Corporate Services

Apologies:

Jason Mulhall
Detective Sergeant Shaun Durcan
Declan Geraghty
Dionne Dixon
Michael Doyle

The meeting was opened by Chairman John Horan.

The Chairman advised that District Administrator Dionne Dixon is ill at the moment and unable to attend. The meeting expressed unanimous best wishes to Dionne for a speedy return to good health.

Councillor Gerry O'Neill reminded members that at the last meeting he had requested that a note be made in regard to the attendance of all Councillors from the Municipal District. It was agreed to note and include as part of these minutes.

- The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 September 2018 having been previously circulated were approved by the meeting and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting followed a prepared agenda and dealt with the following matters.

Town Health Check.

- The Chairman advised that this item is being deferred to the meeting of 6 November 2018 as Jason Mulhall is away at the moment and it also allows further time for Eoghan Ryan to conclude on the report.

Community based CCTV system

- Detective Sergeant Dermot Treacy reminded members of where matters presently stand and reviewed some of the items mentioned at the last meeting.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy advised that a meeting with consultants had taken place in February 2018 where it was advised that there would be cameras around the town with the signal bouncing off the Garda mast to recording units at WCC Municipal Office and in this connection approval for use of the mast has been received.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy advised that under legislation the Gardai cannot be the Data Controller.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy has visited Arklow to have a look at what they are planning. The Arklow project was led by the Municipal District and has gone to tender.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy has compiled lists of actions required by WCC, the Gardai and the Forum and these are presently underway.
- It was noted that approval of the JPC is required and in this connection Councillor Ruttle undertook to look after this matter.
- Sean Quirke advised that the question of the WCC being the Data Controller is a national issue and that there are interactions at the moment at national level. The issue to be resolved is re the Local Authorities around the country not being happy to be the Data Controller particularly with the legal implications involved. The resolving of concerns is presently with entities at national level with Local Authorities such as WCC awaiting the outcome.
- Michael Sargent advised that presently the project is to be funded 60% by Department of Justice up to a maximum amount of €40,000 with an Expression of Interest with WCP to be followed up as soon as the Department of Justice approval is received. Sean Quirke advised that an explanation of finances and any shortfall thereon should be addressed to the Town Team for consideration.

Working Groups.

Tidy Towns.

- Members were delighted with the excellent result in this years Tidy Towns competition with a 13 point increase achieved and moving the points total now to 289.
- An update on TidyTowns results and what has been achieved prepared by Jason Mulhall was tabled and is attached herewith.
- Blessington Tidy Towns and Forum are currently working on set up of an SEC here in Blessington and a paper on this prepared by Jason Mulhall was tabled and is attached herewith..

Planning and Infrastructure.

- The Chairman reported on having discussions with Ms Sorcha Walsh at WCC Forward Planning Department noting that the County Manager Frank Curran is continuing to liaise with Kildare County Council.
- Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised that he had made submissions to the Boundary Commission in regard to particular parts of the town situated in Kildare but that this submission has not been successful.
- Sean Quirke advised that no decision has yet been made on a Local Area Plan for Blessington as WCC are awaiting Government directives on population statistics.
- Councillor O'Neill advised that Irish Water have been given the go ahead for an upgrade to the sewerage plant but it will probably be appealed to the Board for final ratification.

Business

- Simon Murphy advised agreement with the Chairman for the Town Team to convene a meeting of business people with the Town Team sub group augmenting the evening with a speaker.
- The meeting will update business people on the Town Team and the Health Check and the speaker will be a representative from the Valuation Office who will update on The Reval 2019 Strategy which is updating ratings, not updated since 1988.
- The speaker will be Mr Declan Lavelle from the Valuation Office and the meeting will be on Monday 12 November 2018 at 6.30 p.m. in the Coimin Centre.
- Simon Murphy also advised that due to personal reasons Ronan Flood will be standing down as the fourth WBN representative on the Town Team.

Tourism

- John Horan confirmed that Wicklow County Council have a team dedicated to the completion of the Greenway application to be made in November and that the Chairman is part of that committee.
- The Chairman confirmed that WCC would only be submitting one project on this round.
- Kilian McGreal is assisting with support letters from relevant parties for the Greenway project.

Culture and Heritage

- It was noted that the Forum have agreed to focus on remedial action at Burgage Castle and contact has now been made with the ESB and grant applications to support remedial work will be commenced.

Healthy Blessington.

- There was nothing to report under this heading.

AOB.

- Members complimented Ciaran Burke Principal at Blessington Community College on recent Leaving Cert results and in particular on the increasing enrolment numbers, which now stand at 479 for 2018/2019.
- The Chairman thanked Christine Flood for being in attendance at the meeting particular in light of the recent death of her brother and all members sympathised.

This concluded the business of the meeting the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 6 November 2018 at 5.00pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman