

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 20 March 2018 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Vincent Blake	Cathaoirleach, Baltinglass MD
Cllr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
Cllr Jim Ruttle	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway
Michael Doyle	Blessington & District Forum
Liam Fay	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Blessington Business
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Declan Geraghty	District Engineer
Dionne Dixon	District Administrator
Christine Flood	Enterprise and Corporate Services

Apologies: Jason Mulhall Tidy Towns

The meeting was opened by Cathaoirleach of Baltinglass MD Councillor Vincent Blake.

Councillor Blake advised that agreement has been reached for holding of a civic reception at the offices of Wicklow County Council, Wicklow Town on Monday 9 April 2018 at 5.00 p.m. Councillor Blake advised that this reception would honour the achievements of Blessington in the 2017 Enterprise Towns competition and in particular the achievement of being category winner in Leinster. Dionne Dixon confirmed that appropriate signage to appear at each end of the town has been agreed and will be presented on the evening of 9 April 2018.

At this juncture the Cathaoirleach called for nominations for Chairman of the Municipal District Blessington Town Team.

John Horan was proposed by Kilian McGreal and seconded by Councillor Jim Ruttle and with no other nomination John Horan accepted the role as Chairman of the Town Team.

WCC while supporting the Town Team are unable to act as officers on the Town Team and accordingly it was agreed that Michael Sargent would act as Secretary and Jason Mulhall as Vice Chairman.

At this juncture John Horan took the Chair.

Membership/Representation

It was agreed that Blessington Town Team will be representative of two key "Pillars" as follows

<u>Community Pillar</u>		<u>Public Sector Pillar</u>	
Forum	3	Local Councillors	6
Tidy Towns	1	WCC Officials	3
Tourism	1	Garda Siochana	1
Business	4	Education	1
Totals	9		11

In addition to those present it was noted that the following members complete the initial Team:

Councillors: Pat Doran
Edward Timmins
Thomas Cullen

Tidy Towns: Jason Mulhall

Business Network: Ronan Flood

Blessington Business: Dan Kenny

Garda Siochana: Dermot Treacy

Education: Kieran Burke

In addition it was noted that Christine Flood would attend Team meetings in an 'ex-officio' capacity.

Terms of Reference.

Members reviewed the Draft Terms of Reference and the following amendments were agreed.

- In the last paragraph of Background add the following "Building on the Blessington success in being selected as Leinster's most enterprising town 2017 Wicklow County Council and Blessington....."
- At the third paragraph of page 3 under Operating Procedures add the following "Wicklow County Council where feasible. will make its offices and other support services available to assist the work of the Town Team. A member of the CCSD Department and other relevant County Council officials will be available to assist on the Town Team to advise on funding opportunities and to offer their expertise."

Development of a Plan – Possible Project.

It was agreed that a town health check would be the first project to be dealt with and the following points were noted in discussions

- Christine Flood will supply example briefs relating to other towns.
- Other towns have held open meetings to engage ideas.
- Town Team should agree the brief and following the report revisit the prioritising of actions.
- Perhaps a survey should be carried out.
- Do we need a public realm plan such as they have in Birr.
- Can the town achieve smoke free status.
- Can the town be disability friendly.
- Can the town be age friendly particularly where free transport gives the opportunity for people to visit.

Any Other Business:

- It was agreed that the Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.

This concluded the business of the meeting. It was agreed the next meeting would be held at 5.00 p.m. at the offices of Wicklow County Council on 1 May 2018

Signed: _____
Chairman