

## **BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM**

### **Minutes of Meeting**

**Held At the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow  
on Monday 26 August 2019 at 5.00 p.m.**

#### **Present:**

John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Councillor Gerry O'Neill	Municipal District
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Susan Nicholls	Enterprise and Corporate Services
Garvan Hickey	District Administrator
Janet Hawkins	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Business Network

#### **Apologies:**

Councillor Edward Timmins Municipal District  
Councillor Patsy Glennon Municipal District  
Liam Fay Blessington & District Forum  
Kieran Burke Principal Blessington Community College  
Jason Mulhall Blessington Tidy Towns  
Declan Geraghty Area Engineer  
Dan Kenny Business Network  
Simon Murphy Business Network

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 11 June 2019 having been previously circulated were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting extended its sympathies to Dan Kenny on the recent passing of his mother.

Kilian McGreal added that an element of the Pharma Care business in Blessington would be linked to Healthy Blessington, however, members agreed there was no conflict of interest as regards the Town Team project.

John Horan extended thanks and congratulations to Wicklow County Council on delivering the funding for the Greenway Project and also thanked all those involved in the Pride of Place event particularly Ruth Shine for the ballet performance on the day.

The meeting followed a prepared agenda and proceeded to deal with the following matters.

#### **Tidy Towns and Public Realm**

In the absence of Jason Mulhall Michael Sargent provided the following updates.

- Liam Fay is continuing discussions with the ESB for supply of power at the Square. It is likely that the ESB will provide the power supply now free of charge thus giving a saving to be used on other elements of the project.
- Kilian McGreal advised that a site for the Sensory Garden can be provided beside the Pharma Care building and in this regard a licence agreement will be drawn up

with the Forum. A design fee of €1702.50 has been agreed with Cool Gardens Design.

- John Horan briefed the meeting on the availability of an area for a dog park at The Avon and the budget here of €10,000 will be used for fencing, a gate and benches to sit. It is intended the Forum will have a licence agreement with The Avon.
- Members were advised that a quote including VAT for a Disability and Age Friendly audit of €18,000 has been agreed and the successful applicant was Universal Access. It is hoped to meet Universal Access on 2 September 2019 and review the audit. It is planned to use the remaining budget of €2,000 on items such as the supply of reading glasses to various businesses in the town to facilitate customers.
- It was noted that while the QS and Architect fees on the viewing deck are to hand it has not yet been possible to agree a structure for the budget of €14,000 including VAT.

### **Planning and Infrastructure**

- The planning application in respect of the Downshire Hotel involving a 100 bed nursing home, café, staff quarters, public toilets and 30 independent living units was noted.
- It was agreed to set up a planning sub-committee of the Forum comprising three Councillors and three Town Team members with Michael Sargent to represent the Town Team and Gerry O'Neill to represent the Councillors and other members to be proposed later.
- It was agreed that the Housing Department of WCC would be made aware of the disability independent living requirements in the area.
- John Horan advised that there a prospectus is being developed for potential investors wishing to construct hotels in the county.

### **Business**

- Garvan Hickey advised members of a Brexit seminar to be held at The Avon on 11 September 2019. This event is being circulated on social media and Janet Hawkins agreed to bring it to the attention of WWBN and local businesses.
- It was noted from Gardai that the Kaleidoscope three day festival had proceeded without any policing problems.

### **Tourism**

- John Horan acknowledged the crucial role of WCC in the announcement of the Greenway funding.

## **Culture**

- MS advised that the Forum is planning to have a Dame Ninette de Valois free event on the occasion of Culture Night.

## **Healthy Blessington**

- Kilian McGreal advised that there would be a meeting in two weeks time involving Wicklow Sports Partnership and Wicklow Outdoor Recreation and that in the meantime rollout of the Jam Cards project would be progressing.

## **Health Check Phase 2**

- John Horan advised that the Phase 2 Health Check had been advertised and that three companies had responded.
- It was agreed that Susan Nicholls, John Horan, Garvan Hickey, Jason Mulhall and Eoin who completed Phase 1 will adjudicate on the three quotations using the scoring system from the Bray check.
- It was noted that the Forum will be committing €7,000 to the project in anticipation that Wicklow County Council will have matching funds.

## **Any Other Business.**

- John Horan tabled a letter received by Liam Fay from South Dublin CC, St Tiernans CC Irish Road Club Lucan and Blanchardstown Wheelers detailing how races are organised with as little inconvenience to locals as possible. Members noted that this was a model of something good while Garvan Hickey advised that Michael Nicholson at WCC and Brian Fennell at Wicklow Outdoor Recreation are liaising with the Gardai on this particular matter.
- Sean Quirke advised that a new SPC relating to climate change and bio diversity will be created shortly.
- It was noted that the local swimming pool group will want to make a presentation at the next Town Team meeting, it was noted that members of that group will now have representatives on the new Forum for the next three year term.
- Garvan Hickey passed around details of Community Environment Action Fund 2019.
- Garvan Hickey advised that allocations to the Municipal Districts in respect of bus shelters (our allocation €10,000) are being reviewed centrally to secure the most economic tender.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 8 October 2019 and it was noted that at that meeting Chief Executive Wicklow County Council Frank Curran will be in attendance

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman