

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Jason Mulhall	Tidy Towns
Liam Fay	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Kilian McGreal	Blessington Business
Dan Kenny	Blessington Business
Ronan Flood	Business Network
Ciaran Burke	Principal Blessington Community College
Declan Geraghty	District Engineer
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Dionne Dixon	District Administrator
Christine Flood	Enterprise and Corporate Services

Apologies:

Cllr. Jim Ruttle
Cllr Edward Timmins
Michael Doyle
Simon Murphy
Shaun Durcan

The meeting was opened by Chairman John Horan.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 1 May 2018 having been already 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.

There was a long discussion during which the following points were noted

- Jason Mulhall advised that the first phase of the Health Check organised by the Forum and Tidy Towns will be available shortly. The services of a local expert in this area, Mr Eoghan Ryan have been provided free of charge which probably equates in kind to €5,000.
- The actual expenditure on the Health Check will be €5,000 payable to Loci who have generated the map data.

- Christine Flood advised members of the experiences of Wicklow and Arklow Town Team noting that the completing of a Public Realm Plan is complex and that completion of the second phase could cost in excess of €10,000. It was noted that under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme the Forum have circa €7,000 remaining after the so called Phase 1 exercise to go towards the second phase.
- Gerry O'Neill enquired if a cheaper option could be availed of, however, it was agreed that it would be best to proceed along present lines at the moment. It was noted that further monies would be required from WCC towards completion and implementation of the second phase.
- It was agreed to identify companies who could carry out the second phase and invite those companies to quote. It was noted that since the expenditure will be less than €25,000 there will be no need to advertise through the EU official journal although the public procurement process applies.
- Members were advised that Eoghan Ryan will present his findings to the Town Team and he will be consulted to see if he is willing has also agreed to lend his expertise to the Public Realm second phase.
- It was agreed to have Eoghan Ryan finalise the first phase document and make a presentation to the Town Team and then invite tenders for the second phase.

Working Groups

Tidy Towns

Jason Mulhall advised that Tidy Towns will take a lot of feedback from the Eoin Ryan presentation.

Planning and Infrastructure

Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised of the necessity to commence work on the 2019 Local Area Plan and in this regard Michael Sargent will arrange work on submissions. Councillor Gerry O'Neill to provide Michael with feedback in relation to a working group already in existence, this would be then included by Michael Sargent.

Business

Dan Kenny/Kilian McGreal and Simon Murphy met on Saturday with Simon Murphy Chair. An Action Plan is being drafted and Simon Murphy will revert back to the Town Team.

Tourism

John Horan advised that announcement of the National Greenway Strategy is awaited following which there will be a call on Local Authorities to submit suitable Greenway projects.

Culture and Heritage.

Members were advised that the arrangements for the Dame Ninette de Valois Festival at the end of June/early July are well in hand.

Healthy Blessington

Kilian McGreal advised that a structure is being put in place on what options exist.

A.O.B.

- It was noted that an amount of €3,000 has been lodged to the Municipal District account.
- The CCTV project is stalled at the moment pending discussions at national level within the Gardai and County Councils relating to GDPR.

This concluded the business of the meeting the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 3 July 2018 at 5.00pm.

Signed: 
Chairman

