

## MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

### Minutes of Meeting

Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow  
On Tuesday 1 May 2018 at 5.00 p.m.

#### Present:

Cllr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
Cllr Jim Ruttle	Baltinglass MD
Cllr Edward Timmins	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Jason Mulhall	Tidy Towns
Michael Doyle	Blessington & District Forum
Liam Fay	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Blessington Business
Dan Kenny	Blessington Business
Ciaran Burke	Principal Blessington Community College
Shaun Durcan	Sergeant Blessington Garda
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Dionne Dixon	District Administrator
Christine Flood	Enterprise and Corporate Services

<b>Apologies:</b>	Declan Geraghty	District Engineer
	Ronan Flood	Business Network

The meeting was opened by Chairman John Horan.

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 20 March 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.

#### Blessington Town Team.

The Chairman welcomed the attendees and in particular Cllr Edward Timmins, Mr Kieran Burke Principal Blessington Community College and Mr Shaun Durcan Sergeant at Blessington Gardai to their first Town Team meeting.

#### Town Health Check.

Christine Flood distributed to members the preliminary findings and recommendations of the Wicklow Town Health Check and the Arklow Town Health Check together with a copy of the briefing document which had issued in respect of the Wicklow Town Health Check.

Members agreed that these documents could provide a basis for a brief for a Blessington Town Health Check.

The following points were noted in subsequent discussions

- It requires inputs from various parties.
- Will insure buy in from all interested parties.
- Heavy retail bias and establishes views and behaviours.
- Transition Year students could support the project.
- Local Authority Retail Support driving Town Health Check.
- Develop a public realm plan.

Vice Chairman Jason Mulhall advised members that on foot of funds available through the Town and Village Renewal Scheme instructions had issued to local consultant Mr Eoghan Ryan to provide Blessington & District Forum with a Health Check focused on criteria as outlined by the T&VR Committee. Eoghan Ryan has engaged on behalf of the Forum a firm called Loci to help on mapping.

Sean Quirke suggested that a design brief be compiled for a Town Health Check bearing in mind what has been done already, what can be done by TY students and what is left to be done.

The Chairman agreed to document a draft brief and circulate same to members for discussion at the next meeting.

#### Working Group.

The Chairman advised having had discussions with the Chairman of the Wicklow Town Town Team where working groups have been established.

The Chairman advised that we are fortunate to already have a number of working groups in place.

- Tidy Towns Public Realm - Jason Mulhall
- Planning and infrastructure, Blessington & District Forum - Michael Sargent.
- Business - Simon Murphy (or other nominee to be decided).
- Tourism/Greenway - John Horan

The Chairman proposed that Forum Vice Chairman Michael Doyle lead a Culture and Heritage working group and local business representative Kilian McGreal would lead a Healthy Blessington working group.

It was agreed that Terms of Reference would be documented in respect of each of the foregoing.

#### Any Other Business.

- Councillor Gerry O'Neill advised that submissions on the next Town Plan should be made to WCC straight away.
- Councillor O'Neill added that the Doran's Pit area should be regarded as being available for development and that a new Garda Station should also be on the agenda.

- Christine Flood advised that Blessington could endeavour to also become age friendly. Christine Flood advised that this would involve committing to one or two actions such as ensuring 'age friendly' businesses, have a tourism option and document an 'age friendly' strategy for the town.
- Councillor Gerry O'Neill raised the matter of Burgage Castle. It was requested that Blessington & District Forum might consider taking on the challenge of progressing this matter and discuss at the next Forum meeting in May.
- Local business representative Dan Kenny expressed concern at the recent level of unsocial behaviour. Sergeant Shaun Durcan while acknowledging Blessington is a gateway for travelling criminals advised that there are no major incidents outstanding at the moment and that Blessington is a relatively safe town.

The Chairman suggested that a Health Check, while checking people's views and attitudes, would establish additional information in this regard.

- Educational representative Mr Kieran Burke advised details in regard to the new school comprising an extra 5,800 square metres. School numbers at present are 453.

This concluded the business of the meeting with the next meeting scheduled for Tuesday 29 May 2018 at 5.00pm.

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



