

## BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

### Minutes of Meeting

Held At the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow  
on Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

#### Present:

John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Councillor Gerry O'Neill	Municipal District
Councillor Patsy Glennon	Municipal District
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Doyle	Blessington & District Forum
Liam Fay	Blessington & District Forum
Jason Mulhall	Blessington Tidy Towns
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Susan Nicholls	Enterprise and Corporate Services
Declan Geraghty	Area Engineer
Garvan Hickey	District Administrator
Janet Hawkins	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Business Network
Dan Kenny	Business Network
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Peter Eustace	Town Visitor Hubs
Sgt Shaun Durcan	Blessington Gardaí
Insp. Seamus Rothwell	Baltinglass District Gardaí

#### Apologies:

Edward Timmins Municipal District  
Kieran Burke Principal Blessington Community College

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 9 April 2019 having been previously circulated were approved by the members and signed by the Chairman.

The meeting congratulated Councillor Gerry O'Neill on becoming Chairman of the Municipal District and congratulations also to Patsy Glennon on becoming Vice Chairman of the District.

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

#### Tidy Towns Public Realm

Jason Mulhall provided the meeting with updates

- The Tidy Towns judging will be from now to 4 August 2019 and everybody is encouraged to play a part.
- The stone wall at Naas Road has been parked for the moment as it is outside the Tidy Towns budget.
- It is expected that the road sweeper will be available for two days starting this week.

- The Monument has been cleaned as has the seating area and the stones at Fourstone Tree.
- The ESB have provided a quote for supplying power to the Square at €2,700 however, it is estimated that it will cost up to €20,000 to take power to the Monument and other areas of the Square. Dan Kenny suggested that application be made to Ulster Bank to provide sponsorship for this project. Declan Geraghty confirmed that it would not be possible to link the works at the Square to the public lighting. It was noted that discretionary funding might be available to assist the project from Councillors.
- Declan Geraghty confirmed that it would be the intention of WCC to empty bins on Main Street at weekends.
- It was accepted that an application for the new type bus shelters would be made through the Forum and in the meantime Declan Geraghty and members will check on suitable locations.

#### **Planning and Infrastructure**

- There were no matters to be reported here.

#### **Business**

- Simon Murphy advised that following meetings of business people the business members have a mandate to work on Phase 2 of the Health Check.
- Business members will work with Garvan Hickey in relation to a possible Customs Workshop relating to local businesses impacted by Brexit and that this is scheduled for September.

#### **Tourism**

- Jason Mulhall confirmed that the Tourist Office has reopened and is now under the auspices of Blessington & District Forum.
- Peter Eustace advised that under Wicklow Tourism Strategy guidelines now available in respect of Towns and Visitor Hubs an assessment will be carried out during July/August and Peter Eustace will update members at the next meeting.
- John Horan advised that news on the Greenway is still awaited.

#### **Culture and Heritage.**

- Michael Doyle confirmed that the Dame Ninette de Valois annual event will go ahead on 6/7/8 September.

- Renaming of the bridge at Baltyboys will be one of the events scheduled during the Festival.

### **Healthy Blessington**

- It was noted that an Age Friendly report has been completed and that at the moment an access disability audit is being arranged and that this will contribute towards Phase 2 of the Health Check.
- It is intended to follow up on "JAM Card Friendly Town" whereby persons with a disability carry a card.
- It was noted that the intended Sensory Garden to be located opposite the WCC office is delayed at the moment pending a review by National Monuments of a mound in that area.

### **Town Health Check Phase 2**

- The Chairman confirmed that papers should be available shortly as regards a tender.

### **Co-ordination of Weekend Events**

- Inspector Seamus Rothwell and Sergeant Shaun Durcan briefed members on difficulties Gardaí are experiencing with the sheer volume of fundraising events which are taking place at weekends.

It was explained to members that fundraising ventures and other entities see Blessington as a destination but the consequence is that many local residents are being inconvenienced by the sheer volume of events taking place at weekends.

- Garvan Hickey explained that this matter has also been subject to discussion as part of the outdoor recreation strategy.
- Simon Murphy stated that it is incumbent on the Town Team to look at the matters being raised by Gardaí and to help alleviate the problems they are encountering.
- Matters were left on the basis that members will consider how this Garda worry could be alleviated e.g. by introducing a calendar of events, etc.

### **AOB**

- Garvan Hickey confirmed that the CCTV application is presently with the Garda Commissioner.
- Gerry O'Neill raised the concerns of local residents regarding access etc. during the Kaleidoscope Festival at the end of the month and in this connection Inspector Rothwell stated that it has been impressed on the promoters that they must liaise with local residents.

- Sean Quirke confirmed that the Local Area Plan will not be a priority at the moment as the County Development Plan must be completed first and this will be commenced this year.
- Dan Kenny raised again the question of the Big Belly Bin and in this connection Declan Geraghty advised that it is his understanding that the town is too small for such a bin and that it is not suitable and that in any event it would mean the arranging of WCC resources which are not available at the moment.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the next meeting being scheduled for

Signed:

  
Chairman