

BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held At the Office of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 12 February 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Gerry O' Neill	Baltinglass MD
Cllr Jim Ruttle	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Doyle	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
Dan Kenny	Business Network
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Janet Hawkins	Business Network

Apologies:

Kilian McGreal
Liam Fay
Ciaran Burke
Shaun Durcan

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

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

Tidy Towns and Public Realm.

Jason Mulhall updated the meeting as follows.

- At the recent environmental County Awards Blessington picked up several awards in respect of Main Street, Ashton and Avon Ri and thanks were expressed to Declan Geraghty and his staff.
- The draft version of Phase 1 of the town Health Check is now to hand and will be copied and circulated.
- Sean Quirke suggested that the Phase 1 draft be reviewed to identify short/medium and long term objectives with a view to attracting necessary funding.

- It was agreed on the proposal of Jason Mulhall that Richella Woods WCC will carry out an Age Friendly project in Blessington under the WCC Age Friendly Business Recognition Programme. Richella will interact with businesses and then have a public meeting.
- It is planned by the Age and Disability Forum Sub Group to have an audit carried out regarding accessibility.
- Tidy Towns will be having a seminar day with invited speakers at Avon Ri on Saturday 23 March 2019.
- It was noted that the full scope of Phase 2 of the Health Check has yet to be finalised.

Infrastructure.

- Members noted that it is expected that a decision on the appeal vis a vis Irish Water should come through in the coming weeks.

Business.

- Simon Murphy advised that the Business Group met on 30 January 2019.
- It was agreed that the Business Group would be a vehicle to feed into the Town Team and Health Check phase 2 and a further meeting involving all business people will be held on 20 January 2019 at 6.00 p.m. at the Comin Centre.

Tourism.

- John Horan briefed the committee on the WCC Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan.
- Members were advised that Wicklow County Tourism is merging into WCC and will be relocating to another office and staffs are becoming part of WCC.
- As part of the Tourism Strategy and Marketing Plan implementation work groups have been set up and Peter Eustace from the business group has agreed to be part of the group looking at towns as visitor hubs.
- The relocation of the Tourist Office was discussed and members noted that offers of new accommodation have been received.
- Jason Mulhall confirmed that going forward the Forum on Monday 11 February 2019 agreed to act as sponsor to the persons working at the Tourist Office.
- Gerry O'Neill advised regarding a meeting held on Monday 11 February 2019 in support of the other tenants vacating the enterprise units at the Credit Union. Members agreed that the Town Team supports the finding of a suitable solution.
- John Horan advised of a meeting recently with Michael Martin updating on the Greenway.

Culture and Heritage.

- Michael Doyle passed to member's copies of the recently drafted Blessington Cultural and Heritage 2019 calendar advising that this would be launched officially on this Thursday 14 February 2019 at 5.00 p.m. in the Library, with thanks to Wicklow County Council and the Town and Village Renewal Scheme.

Healthy Blessington.

- John Horan advised that Kilian McGreal intends to convene shortly a meeting of the Healthy Blessington work group.
- John Horan advised that he has been liaising with the Forum subcommittee on Age and Disability in regard to a disabled viewing deck at the Greenway and that at this point in time a QS and architect have been briefed to prepare specifications.

Ethics – Local Government Act 2001.

- Garvan Hickey briefed the meeting on the Ethics – Local Government Act 2001 as it applies to non elected members of committees, while the non- elected members are not required to fill out an ethics declaration form they are bound by the Act and our code of conduct for Councillors. If they or a connected person have a pecuniary or other beneficial interest to any matter proposed or otherwise arises at a meeting of the committee or other body either as a result of any of its functions or as regards the performance of any of its functions, they must disclose the nature of their interest and withdraw fully from the meeting for as long as this matter is being discussed or considered. The minutes of the meeting must refer to the disclosure(s) made and withdrawal(s) from the meeting and a copy of the minutes must be given to me for inclusion on the Ethics Register.
- It was agreed that disclosures in future would be announced at the start of each meeting.

AOB.

- Jason Mulhall advised of the Forum last night proposing that the CCTV project be handed over to the Town Team believing that this would be a better fit for the CCTV project and also give the Town Team an early success. In this connection Sean Quirke agreed to check with Arklow MD as to how their Town Team had led the CCTV application in Arklow. Jason Mulhall advised that it is planned to present to the Department of Justice in March and that at this stage Garvan Hickey is attending to four queries left outstanding.
- Gerry O'Neill offered his congratulations and those of members to Tidy Towns and Declan Geraghty and his staff on the recent environmental award wins.
- It was agreed to accept an offer of a page on Wicklow.ie.

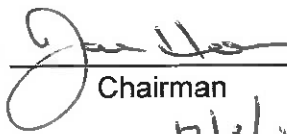
Presentation by Brian McDermott re Kaleidoscope Festival.

Brian McDermott of The Avon spoke in relation to a planned family event called Kaleidoscope to take place at Russborough House on the weekend of 28/29/30 June 2019.

- This is an event along the lines of Electric Picnic focused, however, to families.
- Entertainment will not only include music but also arts, crafts, literature and will make use of all facilities at Russborough such as the maze, gardens, walks etc.
- This is designed to be a camping weekend with tickets starting at €359 for a family of two adults and two children.
- The project attendance is 3000 families (10,000 to 15,000 people) although the market will dictate interest.
- Day tickets will be available following release and take up of the weekend tickets.
- The event will be publicly announced in early March.
- Being a family event Russborough has fully embraced the project.
- There will be a traffic plan agreed with the Gardai.
- Arrangements will be made to ensure Main Street and surrounding areas are kept litter free.

This concluded the business of the meeting, and the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 12 March 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

Signed: _____


Chairman
12/3/19.