

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 3 July 2018 at 5.00 p.m.

Present:

Cllr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Jason Mulhall	Tidy Towns
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum`
Michael Doyle	Blessington & District Forum
Simon Murphy	Business Network
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
Liam Fay
Kilian McGreal
Dan Kenny
Ronan Flood
Ciaran Burke
Sean Durcan

The meeting was opened by Chairman John Horan.

Minutes

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 29 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.

Jason Mulhall advised that Mr Eoghan Ryan is 70% complete and will present his findings at the next Town Team meeting. Jason Mulhall further confirmed that Mr Eoghan Ryan is happy to help with the brief for the Town Health Check and in the selection of a contractor to carry that work out.

As noted at the 29 May 2018 meeting of the Town Team, available funding from the Town & Village Renewal Scheme was being allocated towards the cost of completing the Town Health Check.

JH
8/8/18

Working Groups

Tidy Towns

- In relation to the Town and Village Scheme for 2017 Jason Mulhall confirmed that two SlinaSlainte routes have now been agreed with the Irish Heart Foundation. Jason also confirmed that bases for the outdoor gym equipment and new seats will be laid next week while planting schemes are continuing as is digitizing of the Blessington website and installation of QR coded signs.
- Jason Mulhall confirmed an application has now been completed for 2018 in respect of Town and Village Renewal and this comprises projects such as a sanctuary garden.
- Sean Quirke advised that it seemed Blessington is not eligible under the new Urban Recreation Scheme recently announced.

Planning and Infrastructure

- Sean Quirke advised that Development Plans across the country at the moment are held up awaiting population projections. Michael Sargent advised that the Forum have agreed to have public meetings in relation to the next Local Area Plan with a view to making submissions to WCC in early September. Sean Quirke confirmed that WCC have the option of extending the present 2013/2019 Plan.

Business

- Simon Murphy advised that there is nothing to report at the moment but that Dan Kenny, Kilian McGreal and Ronan Flood are intending to make contributions to the Town Health Check and the Local Area Plan.
- Christine Flood advised that in Arklow the Business Group has engaged with State agents, IDA and other parties and looked at such items as broadband, property vacancy, shop front painting scheme, retail survey, rates revaluation, online presence and business information evenings.
- Simon Murphy agreed that there are a range of activities to address and in this regard Christine Flood mentioned referring to the destination towns toolkit.

Tourism

- John Horan advised that upgrade of the present Greenway has been discussed with WCC and an application has now been made under the outdoor Infrastructure Scheme for an amount of €25,000 which would be supported 20% by WCC.
- John Horan advised that the National Strategy on Greenways is presently awaited following which a call will be made to councils such as WCC to submit projects that fit the strategy.

Culture and Heritage.

- Michael Doyle advised that the recent Dame Ninette de Valois Festival had been a great success, lots had been learned which will be actioned in the Christmas Lights and St Patricks Day Events..

Healthy Blessington.

- While Kilian McGreal could not be present he had updated the Chairman on various contacts he had made on these matters since the last meeting.

AOB

John Horan suggested the following as dates for forthcoming Town Team meetings

4 September 2018
2 October 2018
6 November 2018
4 December 2018

This concluded the business of the meeting the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 4 September 2018 at 5.00pm.

Signed:
Chairman



4 September 2018