

Blessington Municipal District
Meeting to discuss establishment Blessington Town Team
30th January 2018

Present:

Cllr Vincent Blake	Cathaoirleach, Baltinglass MD
Cllr Gerry O'Neill	Baltinglass MD
John Horan	Blessington Greenway
Jason Mulhall	Blessington and District Forum and Tidy Towns
Michael Doyle	Blessington and District Forum
Michael Sargent	Blessington and District Forum
Dan Kenny	Business Network
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Sean Quirke	District Manager
Declan Geraghty	District Engineer
Dionne Dixon	District Administrator
Christine Flood	Enterprise and Corporate Services

Apologies Cllr Jim Ruttle and Mr Kilian McGreal

The meeting was Chaired by Cllr Blake

Christine was asked to outline the purpose of a Town Team. She made it clear at the outset that she was here to discuss the possibility of establishing such a team, but that it was up to the various stakeholders to decide whether such a team was desirable.

The Town Team is representative of multiple groups and stake holders but which demonstrates a unity of purpose .

She explained that it was the Framework for Town Centre Renewal proposed the following;

1. A Health Check to identify Challenges and opportunities
2. Establishment of a Town Team
3. Development of a Town Plan

The Town Plan would set out objectives, priorities, KPIs and funding sources

Possible Funding sources include: Wicklow County Council, Town and Village Renewal Programmes, REDZ, Department of Justice etc

The Town Team could have an objective of be making the town business friendly/ attracting employment into the area.

Points Raised

It was noted that with the development of the sewerage scheme for Blessington that the population was likely to rise

Blessington is the focal point for a lot of activity

Would the Town Team would replace the Forum - the Town Team would complement rather than compete with the Forum. The Forum is a great jumping off point

There are many opportunities to make improvements solar powered compacting bins, a push cart for the tidy towns

The Blessington and District Forum has been allocated funding from the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for a wide range of projects such as the provision of adult exercise equipment

The capacity of Blessington MD to service the Town Team is a concern

Input from the Planning Section into the Town Team would be desirable

It was generally agreed that a town team be established

The proposal to set up a town team to be discussed at the next meeting of Blessington MD on 26th February.

Date of Next Meeting ~~27th February at 5 p.m~~ 6th March at 5 p.m* if the committee agrees.

Agenda

Terms of Reference

Membership /Representation

Election of Chairperson

Development of a Plan - Possible Projects (focus on early wins)

AOB