

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting
Held at the Offices of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 4 September 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`
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Business Network
Ciaran Burke	Community College
Sgt Sean Durcan	Gardai
DS Dermot Treacey	Gardai
Declan Geraghty	District Engineer
Dionne Dixon	District Administrator

Apologies:

Liam Fay
Dan Kenny
Sean Quirke
Christine Flood

The meeting was opened by Chairman John Horan.

Simon Murphy requested that an amendment be made to the draft minutes of 3 July 2018 at the first paragraph of the working groups – business. It was agreed to restate the first paragraph to read “Simon Murphy advised that the business group are intending to seek suggestions from the business community at large vis a vis the Town Health Check and Local Area Plan.”

Following agreement of the foregoing the minutes of the previous meeting held on 3 July 2018 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 Eoghan Ryan will present his findings to the next Town Team meeting on 2 October 2018 noting that Phase II of the Health Check will be arranged through the Town Team.

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund.

- Dionne Dixon advised that 13 submissions had been made across the district in respect of this fund. These submissions had been reduced to two for a decision of

support from WCC and in this regard WCC have decided to put forward Baltinglass Town Square/Courthouse and Public Realm as against completion of the inner relief road in Blessington.

Working Groups.

Tidy Towns

- Jason Mulhall advised that there was nothing at the moment to report under Tidy Towns other than to note that all actions under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme for 2017 are almost complete.

Planning and Infrastructure.

- Michael Sargent reported that circa 50 people had attended a public meeting on Monday 3 September in the Coimín Centre for a first review of the Local Area Plan. John Horan plus Forum members had reviewed the 2013-2019 Plan and explained the content to the meeting. Discussions then centred on suggested improvements/amendments.
- Councillor Gerry O'Neill stated that a Local Area Plan for Blessington is needed now and that a new Plan should not be delayed. Councillor O'Neill advised that the Town Team should make contact with Ms Sorcha Walsh at WCC Forward Planning Department and following consultations with Ms Walsh make contact with WCC counterparts in Kildare County Council.
- Councillor O'Neill also advised of objections lodged by Cairn Homes and BME Salmon and Trout Angling Association to the plans for the upgrade of the sewerage works and as a consequence it is unlikely that housing developments can now be advanced for at least a year.
- John Horan raised the possibility of part of the N81 development say Crosschapel to Hollywood being a possibility rather than the full N81 Project which is off the agenda until 2027. In this context Kilian McGreal raised the question as to whether or not the town is yet big enough for a bypass. It was agreed that the business representatives would take this on board for review.
- Declan Geraghty advised that the principal focus at present should be on completion of the inner relief road which is entirely feasible with only five hundred meters at either end remaining to be done.

Business

- Simon Murphy advised of having been engaged with businesses on the merits of the Town Team and the commercial group impact.
- It was agreed that the Forum would convene a meeting of business people where ideas and suggestions could be exchanged.

Tourism

- John Horan advised that the National Strategy on Greenways has now been published and WCC are working on a submission. WCC have set up a small team to complete the application.
- The meeting was advised by John Horan that objections to the Greenway have been resolved.

Culture and Heritage.

- Nothing to report.

Healthy Blessington.

- Nothing to report.

CCTV

- Detective Sergeant Dermot Treacy advised an update on where matters stand on the Blessington CCTV application.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy advised that back in April 2017 the idea of a community based CCTV system was floated with the Forum, WCC and the Gardai and on 13 June 2017 a work group was set up. The Forum employed consultants and a feasibility study has been completed relating to the assessment of needs and locations.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy advised that on 20 March 2018 WCC advised that housing of the equipment would be possible and it is now confirmed that the Garda mast is approved.
- Detective Sergeant Treacy has visited Arklow where the local Municipal District is the lead body.
- The next date for presentation and approval of a scheme for Blessington is in November and this is the target date for the project to be shovel ready.
- Dionne Dixon advised that there is a meeting on 12 September to resolve national issues.
- It was agreed that the Gardai and Forum would meet with the WCC IT and data specialist Liam Fitzpatrick in the coming weeks and that in the meantime the respective parties will work through a list of tasks which has been drafted by Detective Sergeant Treacy.

AOB.

- Ciaran Burke advised that a sports grant of €105,000 has been received towards an all weather pitch at the Community College, however, disappointing news received recently is that the tender for the work is now priced at €240,000.

This concluded the business of the meeting the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 2 October 2018 at 5.00pm.

Signed:


Chairman