

BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

Minutes of Meeting

Held At the Office of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow
on Tuesday 8 January 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
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
Killian McGreal	Business Network

Apologies:

Shaun Durcan
Simon Murphy
Liam Fay

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 4 December 2018 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.

Town and Village Renewal

Jason Mulhall and Michael Sargent briefed the meeting on discussions held on 12 December 2018 at WCC Municipal Office attended by Richella Woods Age Friendly Programme Co-ordinator WCC, Deirdre Whitfield, Garvan Hickey and Declan Geraghty. The purpose of that meeting was to review the plans for expending monies received under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2018/2019.

The meeting was advised of the following summary in respect of progress to date

1. Branding— John Horan/ WCT to manage in context of the Greenway.
2. Viewing Deck Greenway - the Forum Disability and Aged subcommittee will review in the context of both the existing and the proposed Greenway.

3. Main Street Enhancements – this will cover such as a clean of the monument at the square, items arising from the health check to date. Dan Kenny asked if updated larger big belly bins like those in Greystones might be covered under this heading.
4. Healthy Blessington - this will be managed through Killian McGreal's Town Team Healthy Blessington Work Group
5. Disability/Age Friendly – this funding will be managed to have Blessington merit allocation of relevant quality marks under disability and age friendly criteria.
6. Culture and Heritage– this is to be managed by the Town Team/Forum sub group to cover such as drafting and publication of a programme of events for 2019.
7. Sensory Garden - progress on this project will depend on finding a suitable location.
8. Dog Park – Declan Geraghty has already floated the possibility of unused and unsuitable land at Avon Ri being made available and in this connection Sean Quirke mentioned that we could have a look at Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Rathdrum.

The meeting was also advised that Richella Woods and Garvan Hickey have agreed to join the Disability and Aged Committee which will meet at WCC Municipal Office at 10.30 on 15 January 2019. Garvan Hickey has also agreed to liaise with Margaret Hartnet at WCC regarding upcoming grants which might become available in 2019 and which we could direct towards the completion of the relief road and placing of the cables on Main Street underground.

Tidy Towns Public Realm

Jason Mulhall raised a number of points in discussions

- The Tidy Towns group will be reactivating for 2019 in the next week or so.
- Kieran Burke asked if as part of a midweek project transition year students could do a tidy up and in this connection Kieran will liaise with TT.
- Thanks were expressed to Declan Geraghty's staff for maintaining the street bins over the Christmas period.
- Declan Geraghty advised that during July/August in the course of hedge trimming the litter on the N81 is dealt with from the Dublin to the Carlow border over a period of 6 weeks.
- Phase 2 of our health check is more retail based dealing with
 - pedestrian count survey
 - Town Centre Land new survey
 - Business owners/retailers survey
 - Consumer survey

- Kieran Burke advised that transition year students could assist perhaps with the pedestrian count survey.
- The meeting was advised that this phase 2 health check will define key considerations for the future particularly in the context of future town planning.
- The specification for Phase 2 will now be fine-tuned and it was agreed that the services of experts should be engaged at commencement of the project.
- Susan Nicholls will liaise with Jason in regard to the experiences of other towns in the county.

Infrastructure:

- The meeting agreed that the Forum could independent of the Town Team and Wicklow County Council advise prospective builders of proposed housing developments that there would be an expected local community contribution required outside of any levy's or charges proposed by WCC or KCC.

Business:

- Dan Kenny advised that it had not been possible to have a further meeting with business people before Christmas, however it is expected to have this meeting now towards the end of January.
- There was a brief discussion on parking and the options available but no recommendations or decisions were made, this will be an item discussed in the first instance by the business sub group.

Tourism:

- John Horan advised that the Greenway projects submitted in November will be assessed by Government in quarter one 2019 with a decision on allocations in quarter two.
- Susan Nicholls advised that there is now a WCC Tourism Group with a sub group looking at towns in the county as visitor hubs and in this connection it was agreed to check with Peter Eustace if he might represent the Blessington business people on that sub group.

AOB:

- Kieran Burke advised of an upcoming fundraiser on 23 February 2019 referred to as "The Oskars" which is a major fundraiser for the school and all support is requested.

- Garvan Hickey advised members re GDPR and members all agreed that they had no objections to the emails circulated heretofore.
- In relation to CCTV Jason Mulhall advised that a memorandum on where matters presently stand was circulated to members earlier this afternoon.
- The meeting noted that Susan Nicholls will attend meetings henceforth in lieu of Christine Flood. The Chairman thanked Christine Flood for her considerable contributions to meetings to date.

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

Signed: _____
Chairman