

Signed

## BLESSINGTON TOWN TEAM

### Minutes of Meeting

Held At the Office of Wicklow County Council at Blessington, Co. Wicklow  
on Tuesday 9 April 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

#### Present:

John Horan	Blessington Greenway (Chairman)
Michael Sargent	Blessington & District Forum
Michael Doyle	Blessington & District Forum
Liam Fay	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
Janet Hawkins	Business Network
Kilian McGreal	Business Network
Dan Kenny	Business Network
Simon Murphy	Business Network
Peter Eustace	Town Visitor Hubs
Kieran Burke	Principal Blessington Community College
Sgt Shaun Durcan	Blessington Gardaí

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 12 March 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 Public Realm

Jason Mulhall provided the meeting with updates

- The Tidy Towns will be concentrating from now to August on some small public realm actions in conjunction with the Municipal District.
- The question of completing the relief road was discussed as was the possibility of a small roundabout at Maxol.
- Sean Quirke advised that WCC and KCC are presently in discussions regarding completion of the relief road which is being advanced by the Municipal District. The issue of the relief road will again be tabled at the next meeting of the Municipal District scheduled for Monday 15 April. It was agreed that Simon Murphy would outline the concerns of business people of the necessity to expedite matters and a letter to this effect will be forwarded to Garvan Hickey in advance of the meeting of the Municipal District on Monday next.
- Liam Fay advised that efforts are continuing with ESB Networks to have a supply of electricity at the Square in the coming months.

### **Infrastructure:**

- It was noted that the Forum are in contact with Cairn Homes with regard to the erection of Slí na Sláinte signs on the relief road a project of which Cairn Homes are fully supportive. It was noted that the Forum has not yet made contact with either of the developers planning developments in Kilmalum and Naas Road.

### **Business:**

- Dan Kenny advised that the single most important issue on main street is alleviating of traffic by completion of the relief road or a right turn at Maxol.
- It was agreed that Simon Murphy would correspond with Garvan Hickey in advance of the next traders meeting to enquire of any updates on matters of interest to traders.
- It was noted that the Health Check will give a framework for the future involvement of traders.
- It was noted that focusing on the rates valuation issue in advance of the rateable valuations issuing was a bonus for the committee.

### **Tourism:**

- Peter Eustace stated that there was nothing yet to advise in relation to the Towns as Visitor Hub. A template in regard to the strategy of Towns as Visitor Hub is awaited from Bord Failte.
- John Horan advised that Wicklow County Council have established five working groups related to tourism with Peter Eustace a member of the Towns Visitor Hub Group and John himself a member of the accommodation group. The accommodation group are presently drafting a list of what accommodation is available in the County and what is required.
- John Horan also advised that it appears from feedback to Wicklow County Council that positive questions are being asked in relation to the Greenway.
- Sean Quirke pointed out that symbol signage on approach roads is preferable to signage clutter.

### **Culture and Heritage**

- Michael Doyle advised that contact is being made with ESB in relation to renaming Baltyboys Bridge in honour of Dame Ninette de Valois.

### **Healthy Blessington**

- Kilian McGreal advised of his meeting with Aishling Herbert and Denise O'Shea of Wicklow Sports Partnership in regard to funding projects to create awareness and promote healthy initiatives.

### **Town Health Check – Phase 2**

- John Horan tabled the Draft Brief for Town Health Check. The Health Check will be a blueprint for future development of the town. It is intended that the brief when finished will go to contractors to tender for the project.
- Susan Nicholls advised that the process in regard to the receipt of applications should be reviewed while Sean Quirke advised that a marking system and a progress programme should be included in the Brief.
- It was agreed that Garvan Hickey would remind members of the Brief and ask for any further comments this week.

### **West Wicklow Youth Presentation**

- Annette Healy joined the meeting to brief members on a Wicklow Youth Project under the National Detached Programme. Under this programme volunteers meet one evening a week between 8.30 and 11.30 to chat to young people in order to build up a mutual relationship and understanding regarding services and to give advice. It is hoped shortly to have a double decker bus available on the evening in question equipped with laptops, Wi Fi etc of which they can avail.

This service is funded through Kildare Youth Services and runs alongside Wicklow Youth Project based at St Joseph's Hall. The service was established in 2016 and looks after the 12-24 age group and works in conjunction with local services

### **AOB:**

- Janet Hawkins advised that Blessington Bookstore has been included in nominations for best children's bookshop of the year Ireland/UK
- Killian McGreal advised that John O Shea formerly of Goal is available for talks on social entrepreneurship.
- Shaun Durcan confirmed that the CCTV project for Blessington has been approved by the Municipal District and an updated report has now been received from the consultant. It is intended that an advertisement will be published next Wednesday, there will be four weeks for submissions.

Shaun Durcan also advised that a traffic plan will be in place for Kaleidoscope at the end of June and in this connection it was agreed that business people will revert to

Shaun with suggestions, if any, subsequent to the next business meeting in two weeks time.

This concluded the business of the meeting, the next meeting being scheduled for Tuesday 11 June 2019 at 5.00 p.m.

Signed:

  
Chairman

11/6/19