

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

This template aims to support CWPPN representatives who sit on local social partnership structures in County Wicklow in providing a report to the wider membership. Please complete the template and return to countywicklowppn@gmail.com **within one week after each meeting**. Please keep responses to 1 page if at all possible.

Name of Committee: Community, Cultural, & Social Development Strategic Policy Committee

Name of Representative(s): John Mullen, Ann Halpin, and Gertie Salley

Date of Meeting Attended: 6th February 2017

Most important actions or issues to emerge from a County Wicklow PPN perspective:

A detailed Age Action Strategy was presented to the meeting prior to adoption by the wider Council. The Strategy is made up of 9 key themes and identifies lead and partner agencies to support action implementation. There is only a week left for public comments on the plan which is available on the Wicklow County Council Website. Feedback should be sent to rwood@wicklowcoco.ie

A library report highlighted that the opening times of Blessington and Arklow libraries has been restored. The county library service has acquired an original document "Articles of Agreement" for the provision of public gas lighting in Wicklow Town. It is proposed to have it on display in Wicklow once preservation and security issues have been addressed.

There has been a further review of the Community awards scheme. This year's fund will be €200,000, 60% of which will be in small grants of up to €2,000 and the remaining 40% in larger awards of €10,000. Those groups who have been awarded funding before but who have failed to report to Wicklow County Council on how their award was spent will not be considered for future funding. Advertising of the awards will be made shortly.

The Katie Taylor Bursary has received little applications due to confusion on the purpose of the award. It is to be re-titled and is a third level grant aimed at students who wish to continue their studies while participating in any sport. The application date will be changed to attract more student interest.

Pride of Place 2017 - The Council are going to analyze the themes for this year's competition and work closely with the nominated groups earlier in order to improve the Community's chances of progressing in the competition.

A Tourism Projects fund of €10,000 per municipal district will also now be managed by this SPC. It is hoped that a single large project per municipal district will receive this funding rather than small ineffectual grants.

The Town and Village renewal scheme has been retained and increased. The SPC will advertise earlier to Communities about the grants available and the areas covered.

Play and Recreation facilities - Kilcoole, Baltinglass and Arklow refurbishment are all in progress.

REDZ - Arklow Pottery Museum site has been identified and is being made ready for the development.

9. A new Disability Officer has been recruited by Wicklow County Council. Ms Laura English hopes to work with communities throughout Wicklow to raise awareness about disability issues. We wish her well.