

County Wicklow PPN

Minutes of Secretariat meeting held 24th July 2018 in Brigewater Centre, Arklow

Meeting with Brian Carty and Kay O' Connor Re CWP SICAP

Welcome and Introductions took place.

Brian introduced Kay as the new SICAP coordinator for Co Wicklow Partnership.

Kay introduced herself and the work that had led to her current position.

Discussions took place in relation to CWP working in collaboration with Co Wicklow PPN in to the future. The development of the Co Wicklow PPN social inclusion college was cited as a particular project that could be worked on together.

Brian and Kay were thanked, and it was agreed that Kay would meet with Grainne, Helen and Aoibhin in Wicklow Travellers Group towards the end of August.

Attendees: Helen Lawless, Gertie Salley, Mai Quaid, Niamh Wogan (Chair) Liam O' Loughlin, Aoibhin McClure and Helen Howes,

1. Apologies: John Mullen, Alice O'Donnel, Ann Halpin and Grainne Quinn

2. Minutes & Matters Arising

Minutes of the 15th June 2018 were approved on Mai's proposal and seconded by Gertie

- The date recorded for Let's Talk About the Sustainable Development Goals was incorrect, written as October instead of June. **Helen to amend the minutes accordingly**
- There has been no formal response to a letter written to the GAA asking to present the PPN at a future county meeting. Liam thought that an invitation to attend the August meeting might issue soon. **Liam to follow this up**
- There has been no response to the letter sent to Minister Ring in relation to the increasing governance burden on community groups
- Helen has still to circulate the Reps Charter to the various committees that include PPN Representatives
- A brief update was provided on the meeting with Minister Kyne. Helen L highlighted the importance of writing to the Minister to thank him for his visit. This has been done.
- A discussion took place in relation to the PPNs relationship with elected members of Wicklow County Council. Suggestions were put forward for meeting them in 2019. Helen suggested that meetings should take place in the Municipal Districts early next year at which time the Visions for Community Wellbeing could be launched. **This was agreed.**

3. Correspondence

- An invitation was received to make a submission to the Draft Code of Conduct for Persons Carrying on Lobbying Activities. Discussions took place in relation to the draft document **Helen to write a brief submission welcoming and acknowledging the relevance of the document, as well as highlighting the importance of raising awareness of the final policy and ensuring that it is implemented.**

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- Helen reported that there have been requests to share/circulate the Funding Handbook from non- members and a discussion took place in relation to accessing copywrite. **It was agreed that the Funding Handbook be circulated and shared with member groups only. Helen to look into copyright.**

4.Finance

A monthly financial report was circulated and the following was noted:

- The year to date expenditure is €41,713.22

The financial report was approved on Gertie's proposal and seconded by Niamh

5. Workplan 2018

Membership

47 new groups registered this year. Total membership 224.

Helen reported that the total membership number could be incorrect due to some groups not being in operation now. A re-registration process using Salesforce as a tool has been piloted and we hope to use this in Wicklow towards the end of the summer. As personal engagement is usually more successful than Email alone it was suggested that once re-registration has commenced and a time for response is exceeded, groups would be telephoned to request them to update their details and confirm their wish to re-register.

Secretariat members to help with any necessary telephone calls.

Wellbeing Workshops

- Bray Workshops, particularly the one in Little Bray, went very well. Information from the workshops has been collated and groups have now been invited to participate in the Bray MD online consultations **2 responses as at 2.7.18**. The online survey will run until the end of August after which the information will be added to the existing document from which the vision statements will be drafted
- We are in the process of booking the Wicklow and Arklow consultations. They will take place as follows: **18 Sept. An Tairseach, Wicklow Town 7pm, 19 Sept. Annamoe Community Centre 7pm, 17 Oct. Rathdrum RDA Hall 7pm, 18 Oct. Bridgewater Centre 7pm**
- A discussion took place in relation to the Greystones workshops **It was agreed that there should be 2 workshops 1 in Greystones and 1 in Newcastle – Helen & Grainne to organise dates and venues for October.**

Training Fair

Information for the Training Fair has been circulated and registration for workshops is steady. The importance of booking seats for workshops was highlighted.

A request from ASL Safety to exhibit at the Training Fair was received. After due consideration it was agreed that the training fair was for the benefit of community groups and to inform them of the supports provided by non profit organisations, statutory agencies and social enterprise. It was considered that it was not a platform for commercial enterprise. While it was acknowledged that ASL Safety has trained community groups the company was considered to be a commercial enterprise and therefore should not exhibit at the training fair. Concerns were also voiced that if one commercial enterprise was permitted to exhibit it would set a precedent for other enterprises.

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A query was raised in relation to representation from Wicklow County Council at the fair. Helen reported that Deirdre Burns from the Heritage Office was attending. Concerns were raised that Wicklow County Council has a broad spectrum of supports for community groups and all of this should be available for groups to interact with on the day. **Helen to contact WCC to ensure that all the supports offered to groups by the local authority are showcased at the Training Fair.**

National Advisory Group

Helen reported from the meeting earlier in the month highlighting in particular the plans to develop the National Conference in October. Places have been set aside for 4 Secretariat Members and 2 Staff members as well as various representatives from the local authority for each PPN. **Helen and Grainne to attend. Aoibhin as a representative of the hosting organisation to attend. Helen to send information to all Secretariat members inviting expressions of interest to attend. Interested parties will have their names put in to a hat and a draw will take place. Helen to send the information to WCC.**

PPN Representatives

Induction supports are being put in place for Dermot Kenny to take up the position of PPN Rep to the Local Sports Partnership

Interest has been shown in the CWP seat, FLAG and the Wicklow JPC seat

Discussion took place regarding FLAG. It was thought that the seat should be saved to see if the coastal community network meetings resulted in a Rep coming forward to FLAG. If this does not happen Helen to follow up.

Aoibhin raised the issue of high occurrence of discrimination against Travellers and suggested that a Traveller Representative might be able to address this issue through the JPC. Following discussion it was agreed to lobby the JPC for a Traveller specific seat on the committee. **Helen to contact Lorraine Gallagher to explore this issue.**

8. Any Other Business

The IEN report on increasing environmental college engagement with PPNs was circulated. Wicklow was highlighted in the report as having the largest increase of environmental members. It was pointed out that not all of them registered as full members. A discussion took place in relation to the development of environmental networks.

It was pointed out that member applications had originally come to the Secretariat for approval. Helen reported that as the numbers increased the only ones brought to the attention of the Secretariat were those registrations that were unclear. **Helen to check the Constitution to ascertain if the checking and approval of membership is a Secretariat function**

Gertie highlighted that opening of the Dementia garden in Arklow on 10th August
Mai offered condolences on the death of Helen's mother.
Mai offered condolences to Helen on the recent death of her mother. sympathised.