

County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

PPN Rep Name	Emma Smith	Other Reps who feed into this report (if applicable)
Committee Name	CABEEMRA	
Date of Meeting	26/09/25	

Other Attendees at Meeting	<p>Cllr. Erika Doyle (Cathaoirleach)</p> <p>Cllr. Lourda Scott</p> <p>Cllr. Peir Leonard</p> <p>Cllr. Danny Alvey</p> <p>Cllr. Dermot O’Brien</p> <p>Cllr. Jason Mulhall</p> <p>Emma Smith (PPN Representative, West Wicklow, Env Seat)</p> <p>IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa O’Brien (Director of Services, CERA)</p>
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Agenda Item	Notes	Outcome /Decision	Action required.
Libraries Presentation – Margaret Brichall County Librarian	<p>Always looking for new members</p> <p>Over 600k visits in 2024</p> <p>70k audiobooks</p> <p>185 e-press</p> <p>32k e-books</p> <p>61 staff but staffing always an issue</p> <p>In Blessington Library a second floor has been leased, and the library is set to expand into this (no date).</p> <p>Baltinglass library is due a revamp (no date)</p> <p>Reduced hours in Blessington (hope to resolve by January) and Tinahely (hope to resolve by Xmas) due to staff issues.</p>	<p>This rep asked that the native seed initiative be brought to all libraries and not just east Wicklow.</p> <p>This rep commended the ‘story trail’ initiative as it gets adults and children out in nature.</p>	
Casual Trading Byelaws	<p>A presentation about casual trading. There are 16 pitches around Wicklow but 6 have never been taken up.</p> <p>This byelaw doesn’t consider trading on private property – this is more of a planning enforcement issue.</p> <p>Most enquiries are for coffee vans, and then next saunas (but most</p>	<p>Applicants must have as a minimum public liability insurance and if serving food, a certificate of regulation from HSE.</p> <p>A question was asked about littering in the vicinity of a pitch. This is not currently included but will be looked at in</p>	

	applications not in designated areas)!	the byelaws review.	
Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Plan	<p>There was a wide public consultation for this plan with 144 attending to public events – one in east and one in west Wicklow. Also online there was 1221 responses. There were also written submissions from a number of relevant bodies.</p> <p>Protection of natural environment was a top priority for respondents. Also safe off road cycling (not MTB or road) came up. Also responsible use of the outdoors. The issues of toilets was raised.</p> <p>Wicklow is unusual in that the plan does not involve expansion as a goal but diversification of use of existing amenities with a focus on protection of the environment.</p> <p>A maintenance worker is now employed for trail maintenance.</p> <p>Awareness building for alternatives to Glendalough as a destination</p> <p>The plan seeks to have good examples of accessibility in woodland, upland and coastal</p> <p>Very good feedback on a play trail in Vartry. May be replicated elsewhere.</p>	Plan approved and is now going to Council for approval.	Council Approval
Biodiversity Action Plan Update	<p>Public consultation ends 14 August.</p> <p>Biodiversity working group met 8 Sept.</p>	<p>Chief Executive report is underway.</p> <p>Environmental assessment screening is underway</p>	<p>Adoption by SPC Nov 2025</p> <p>Adoption by Council Dec 2025</p> <p>Target is to launch plan by end 2025.</p>

Questions & Feedback needed from PPN

member groups	
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Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting November 14 th Council Chambers.
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Signature of PPN Rep	
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