

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	14/11/25	

Other Attendees at Meeting	<p>Cllr. Erika Doyle (Cathaoirleach) Cllr. Lourda Scott Cllr. Peir Leonard Cllr. Danny Alvey Cllr. Dermot O'Brien Cllr. Jason Mulhall Emma Smith (PPN Representative, West Wicklow, Env Seat) Anthony Ardee Business Rep Austin Barnes IN ATTENDANCE: Theresa O'Brien (Director of Services, CERA) Hannah O'Kelly, Biodiveristy Officer WCC Aisling Hubbard WCC</p>
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Agenda Item	Notes	Outcome /Decision	Action required.
Presentation on FISH BARRIERS	<p>TOB gave an informative presentation on fish barrier removal and why its so important. Pilot project on Ballinglen bridge on the Derrywater River, part of Avoca system. Area above Ballinglen was completely blocked, by 1m high concrete barrier, to migrating fish. These fish include salmon, sea trout and eels. Although the river has high water status, it lost this status due to the hydromorphology (physical aspects of the river). A new infrastructure of ramps, pons and rocks for habitat were installed. 41km of spawning habitat has now been opened up. A recent survey has shown salmon have migrated beyond Ballinglen. Project cost 125k plus WCC staffing costs.</p>	<p>In the future it is hoped that the river will be reclassified as high status.</p> <p>Sea trout not yet visible – probably due to another barrier in Aughrim.</p> <p>We were shown a map of the river systems of Wicklow. There is a lot more work to be done to remove barriers to fish migration through out the county.</p>	<p>DOB suggested WCC consider a booklet for schools about the project, perhaps in a story telling way for younger kids.</p> <p>PL suggested WCC need to engage with media to show the value in the project and to inform the public.</p> <p>HOK said it was a good news story and incredible value for money.</p> <p>ED said it would be good to see progress into the smaller river systems.</p>

<p>Presentation about the development of a LOCAL SPORTS PLAN for Wicklow</p>	<p>Aisling Hubbard gave presentation about the intended development of a Local Sports Plan for Wicklow. It will shortly go to tender for a consultant led report/plan. Only 43% of adults are active. The target is 50%. Lack of facilities is a barrier, or those that are there are bursting at the seams. These issues come up in the local area plans consultations. WCC is mostly reactive and needs more strategic planning to ensure adequate infrastructure and progress. Mapping is currently underway of current facilities.</p>	<p>The plan needs to be in place so WCC can access funding from the Department.</p> <p>Mapping is ongoing. Public Consultation will also take place.</p> <p>A five year plan with KPIs will be developed. This will be a live document and reassessed over the plan lifetime.</p> <p>A key area that will be looked at is the sharing of facilities through the county. EG schools sports grounds/halls to be shared with other groups.</p> <p>ES asked about timescale for the plan. Tender out at the moment, will be appointed in New Year, with end of next summer for plan launch.</p>	<p>DOB said that sharing infrastructure is key but will require a change in culture.</p> <p>ES, this representative, welcomed the development of the plan but stressed that she hoped West Wicklow will not be overlooked. In the Baltinglass MD there are no public swimming pools. She mentioned that a recent pop-up pool in Blessington attracted over 600 children a week for lessons, also held aqua aerobic and life saving classes. It was also mentioned that there was no sports hall in the MD not connected to a school. Baltinglass Basketball Club have done a feasibility study on a sports hall for the town.</p> <p>ED mentioned the important of space for girls ‘Make space for girls’ campaign in the UK.</p> <p>AA mentioned that sports businesses need to be engaged and put into the plan and the economic impact of the plan to be included.</p> <p>AB mentioned that areas for</p>
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			unstructured play/hangouts were important eg space for kids and teens.
Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan update	<p>The plan is reaching the final stage. It has taken 18 months of work. The final plan is being designed and will go to the full Council in December for final approval.</p> <p>The SPC congratulated HOK on the work she has carried on in the development of the plan.</p> <p>ES thanked HOK for a very comprehensive plan and for the collaborative nature of the work carried out in its development.</p>	<p>In consideration of how the plan will cross over into different areas of WCC work, a full time Planning Ecologist is needed for Wicklow.</p> <p>HOK said one area that will be improved going forward is the communication of the plan and its objectives.</p>	ES proposed the plan for approval, and this was passed by the SPC.

Questions & Feedback needed from PPN member groups	
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Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting November 14 th Council Chambers.
Signature of PPN Rep	Emma Smith