County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

PPN Rep Name	Emma Smith
Committee Name	CABEEMRA
Date of Meeting	04 Sept 2026

Other Reps who feed into this report (if applicable)

Other Attendees at Meeting	**Cllr. Erika Doyle (Cathaoirleach)** **Cllr. Peir Leonard** **Cllr. Danny Alvey** **Cllr. Dermot O'Brien** **Emma Smith (PPN Representative, West Wicklow, Env Seat)** **Anthony Ardee Business Rep** **Austin Barnes** **IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Callary Biodiversity Officer,**

Agenda Item	Notes	PPN REPs/Members comments	Action required.
To receive a presentation on the development of the Arts Plan 2026-2030	**After public consultation there are three key areas in this plan: Funding, Training and Infrastructure.** **Infrastructure is seen as key and the plan is to be smart and collaborate with other areas e.g. community halls/spaces etc to ensure interdisciplinary use of spaces.**	**ES encouraged cross collaboration with environmental groups and issues.** **She welcomed the emphasis on geographic spread to include west Wicklow.** **ES asked for the climate action goals to be incorporated throughout the plan** **ES welcomed the inclusion of the Irish language in the plan .** **ES welcomed that a new team member is to be recruited to work on the Baltinglass Creative Places initiative.**	**Plan to be submitted to council for approval**
To receive an update	**There are 112 action points for**	**ES asked has the**	**Ongoing**

and seek approval on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) Implementation report	**the CAP. This is a statutory report of progress to date.** **Some of the highlights are:** - **Council has achieved 40.2% reduction in CO2 emissions within its own locations. (50% is target by 2030)** - **Refarm initiative has proven very successful (ponds in 12 farms) This will be rolled out to another 12 farms. Big demand and interest.** - **Spongeworks on Aughrim river to reduced flooding downstream**	**council progressed community emergency response to increase community resilience? Jim Callary acknowledged that more work need to be done here. They are looking at emergency communications systems. But more work required overall. ES emphasised that we shouldn't be waiting until an emergency situation but to be working with communities now. She asked for it to be put on the agenda in relation to the CAP actions. JC said they will be looking at it.** **Peir Leonerd asked for climate action to more on the agenda within the Municipal Districts. She sees some hesitancy with the MDs to engage with the issues. JC said they would look to get more district involvement in the Green Team initiatives.** **Danny Alvey recommended that WCC publicize the success of the Refarm project as its been hugely successful.** **Justin Lawlor asked about public lighting and if it was environmentally sensitive. JC said that they are creating a dark sky reserve within Wicklow based on the**	

		towns of Laragh, Roundwood, Aughrim, Donard. A consultant review of public lighting in these areas was positive in terms of light levels being within the 2700 levels (good for biodiversity). ES asked if this would be extended to private property as her experience is that the public are unaware of the high levels of external lighting being bad for the environment. JC said that pubic education is part of the remit of the dark sky reserve project. **Austin Baines asked about green ways and mapping cycle routes. JC said greenways are viewed as more of a tourism issue and not active travel but that in relation to mapping they would look at this.** **Drains maintenance across all MDs is important and PL asked for more ground staff for this.**	
To receive an update on WCCs submission to the Draft National Ports Policy 2026	**Wicklow Co Co made a submission to the Department of Transport to ask that Wicklow Port be included within the National Ports strategy. WCC took over control of Wicklow port in 2013 and at the time it was thought it could be self funding. But this has proven not to be the case. Investment is needed for upkeep and development. Also, Wicklow Port**		

	has potential to be key for the windfarm developments off the coast (need for pontoons, facilities for crew transfer vessels). 20 gigabit is planned for offshore by 2040.		
To agree a process for review of the WCC Tree Management Policy	**After requests for a meeting to discuss the Tree Management Policy, an online meeting is to be called for end September.**		

Questions & Feedback needed from PPN member groups	

Date of Next Meeting	Next meeting 4th December
Signature of PPN Rep	Emma Smith