County Wicklow Public Participation Network

Representative Reporting Template

PPN Rep Name	Emma Smith
Committee Name	CABEEMRA
Date of Meeting	23 OCT 2026

Other Reps who feed into this report (if applicable)
Justin Ivory

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** **Cllr Lorda Scott** **Justin Ivory PPN ENV Rep East Wicklow** **IN ATTENDANCE: Jim Callary Climate Officer, Hannah O Kelly Biodiversity Officer**

Agenda Item	Notes	PPN REPs/Members comments	Action required.
To approve the Library Plan 2026-2031	**Presentation by county librarian Margaret Birchill. Amendments agreed to include extra wording on feasibility study for additional library facilities in Greystones, Delgany and Kilcoole areas.**	**After representation by Peir Leonard, Danny Alvery.**	**MB**
To discuss Wicklow Co Co Tree Management Policy	**Hannah O'Kelly gave an overview of the previous tree plan. An action under Biodiversity Action Plan is to review policy for trees, HOK added.** **HOK said the current tree plan is 'aspirational'.** **Level of resourcing an issue. Capacity has been supplemented but still 'a long way to go' to implement fully.** **The plan brings together operational and arborial sides of Wicklow Co Co and is fully dependent on resources, budget and personnel.**		**Looking at council land for suitable sites for tree planting.** **Mapping/ Inventory of trees – this has not been down. Needs personnel to implement. But rather more ecological expertise is required to assess what's there. HOK wants maps for public engagement.** **JI suggested better public communication about**

	The plan outlines the ecological role of trees and hedgerows (overlaps here with BAP) **The plan looks at community engagement (overlaps with other areas/BAP also)** **Over last year or so – with BAP funding has been offered externally via Tidy Towns, Tree Grants, Leaf Grant.** **Clermont woodland restoration project on going.** **Support to Native Woodland Trust – 3k trees planted in Bray and survey in Arklow.** **There is an appetite with the public for planting trees.** **Looking at awareness campaign to plant native species (away from Cherry Laurel)** **TPOS are in place but there is no real legal standing here – however they are symbolic redline within a community (DA)** **Discusssion on planning. HOK has zero influence there she says. Planning pretty strong up to planning to implement but enforcement an issue.**		**trees.** **JI suggest using mapping to pursue more resources.** **Hedgerow policy should be a part of tree policy.** **A lot of work to get all council up to standard – mechanism to meet with distracts needed.** **LS discussed training for districts. Disappointed not implemented. JI also disappointed.** **Ash Dieback – DA said there is large scale removal even before dieback. Public need advice about this.** **DA suggested a *PRO* Tree Policy- ES agreed with this, to kick back against the negativity. This needs to be incorporated into district plans. ES suggested using the arts etc for more positivity and increased community awareness.** **Tree policy review needed. A Parks Officer is to be appointed and this will be done when officer in place.** **Tree Policy has now been added to the agenda for**

			CABEEMRA going forward.