

# **CLARE PPN SPRING PLENARY**

Minutes

Wednesday 27th March 2024

Mná Ag Gáire, Ennis

## **PRESENT**

Monica McKenna, Clare PPN Secretariat  
Tracey Watson, Clare PPN Secretariat  
Damon Matthew Wise Au, Clare PPN Secretariat  
Sarah Clancy, Clare PPN staff  
Sarah Ferrigan, Clare PPN staff  
William Hederman, Clare PPN staff  
Agnes O'Shaughnessy, ClareLocal Development Company  
Andy Lambert, Kilfenora Community Group  
Bernie O'Gorman, Quare Clare  
Csilla Trunzel, Irish Whale & Dolphin Group  
Fiona Hartigan, Family Carers Ireland  
Geraldine Greene, Kilnamona Community Group  
Geraldine Lambert, Shannon Community Partnership  
Hillary Tonge, Woman's Collective Ireland Clare  
John Callinan, Munster Foot Golf  
Kieran Burke, Clare Solidarity Network  
Martin Vernon, several groups incl Fáilte Isteach  
Maurice Harvey, Clare Older People's Council  
Nick Condon, Shannon Community Partnership  
Tristan Casson-Rennie, FASD Ireland

## **WORK REPORT:**

Sarah Ferrigan have an update on the numerous activities of the Clare PPN so far in 2024.

## **LECP PROJECT**

Clare PPN and Reps and member groups took part in consultation and drafting of upcoming Local Economic & Community Plan 2024-2030. Due to be launched shortly. PPN was happy with the Framework Document and that our input is included in the plan, but less impressed with the scope and reach of the Implementation Plan.

## **WORK PLAN 2024**

Clare PPN's Workplan for 2024 was finalised in February and agreed with Clare County Council before submitting it to the Department of Rural & Community Development. It can be viewed at the following link:

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Sarah-Revisions-Draft-CPPN-Work-Plan-2024.pdf>

## **INCOME & EXPENDITURE REPORT 2023**

Clare PPN's Income & Expenditure Report for 2023 was submitted to the Department of Rural & Community Development and all queries answered. It can be viewed at the following link:

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/Copy-of-Clare-PPN-Income-and-Expenditure-Report-2023.pdf>

## **PPN ELECTIONS**

**LCDC:** 4 nominations received for Community & Voluntary Rep seat on LCDC. Election in progress until 1st April.

Still seeking Environmental College candidate for LCDC.

## **JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE**

Kieran Burke will be the new community Rep on the Joint Policing Committee, replacing Madeline McAleer, once he is ratified by Clare County Council. Heartfelt appreciation expressed to Madeline for her years of volunteering in this position.

## **CLARE PPN FUNDING SHORTFALL**

Clare PPN will not have enough funds to operate in 2025. Dept has indicated we are not a funding priority. Because Clare PPN is a CLG with its own premises our running costs are higher than many other PPNs. The direct government funding to operate the PPN has not increased sufficiently to cover our overheads for 2024 and this has been temporarily remedied by cutting staff hours. However this will not suffice for 2025 and we are not aware of any current plan to increase the funding from Government. This means we need to come up with a plan by end of third quarter 2024 or else wind up Clare PPN CLG. We have a plan to lobby the Department, while simultaneously seeking new funding sources and projects for 2025. This might necessitate a change in the remit of the CLG. We will come back to members for input when we have a proposal in this regard.

Views expressed that losing PPN would be a huge blow. Also that the PPN's annual funding of €120,000 should be kept in the community.

## **GUEST SPEAKERS**

We had two very interesting and useful presentations, from:

Barry O'Loughlin, Biodiversity Officer with Clare County Council, gave a presentation on the Clare County Biodiversity Action Plan 2024-2030.

Agnes O'Shaughnessy of Clare Local Development Company gave an overview of LEADER funding in Clare.

ENDS