

## **Clare PPN Plenary Meeting - Minutes**

Wednesday, 15th November, 2023

Online

### **PRESENT**

Adrian Donnelly

Caitriona Power

Damon Matthew Wise Au

Dermot Hayes

Elaine Dalton

Karen Christine Wise

Mary Coffey

Mary O'Donoghue

Mairead O'Higgins Finnegan

Maurice Harvey

Monica McKenna

Noel Kearney

Padraic Hayes

Peggy Ryan

Rosie Rutherford

Sarah Clancy

Sarah Ferrigan

Theresa O'Donohoe

Thomas Holmes

William Hederman

### **INTRODUCTION TO CLARE PPN**

Sarah Clancy gave an overview of the mission, structure and workings of Clare PPN.

## **WORK REPORT**

Sarah Ferrigan gave a presentation on the extensive and varied work undertaken and events organised by Clare PPN so far in 2023; our current membership numbers; and news of elections.

## **FINANCES**

Clare PPN's audited accounts for 2022 are at this link:  
<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Clare-Public-Participation-Network-Accounts-31st-December-2022.pdf>

## **ANDREW ST LEDGER RIP**

Several people paid tribute to Andrew St Ledger who died suddenly in October. His death was a huge shock and a great loss. He was a great voice for trees, nature and the environment. Andrew had just taken on the position as Clare PPN's representative on the new Biodiversity and Heritage Forum and he previously represented Clare PPN on the Physical Development SPC. We are grateful for his expertise and for having known someone with such a profound dedication to trees and our environment.

## **PPN FUNDING**

The PPNs nationally have operated on more or less the same funding since they were set up nearly nine years ago, despite inflation and greatly increased costs over that period. Many representations have been made to the Department of Rural & Community Development about this. Budget

limitations are now restricting Clare PPN's ability to carry out its functions. About €35,000 more is needed. We are waiting to hear about a possible modest funding increase.

Several people paid tribute to the great work done by Clare PPN on a small budget, and the important function it serves.

Suggestion that we ask member groups to write letters to the Department, describing how important Clare PPN is to them. Agreed to wait to see what funding increase materialises before doing this.

## **SUGGESTIONS FOR WORK PLAN & PRIORITIES**

### **• Housing:**

Several people spoke about the crisis in housing in Clare (including for people with disabilities). Agreed that housing should be a key social inclusion issue for Clare PPN to focus on in 2024.

### **• Transport:**

Conduct an audit on transport availability for people with disabilities.

### **• Training:**

- Grants: Hold workshops for member groups on applying for grants/how communities can mobilise resources to support themselves.

- We have an offer from a trainer to give training on economic issues/ economic literacy. Subject to funding situation.

*Members should also feel free to email or to phone us with any suggestions they may have. In mid-December we will be finalising Clare PPN's Work Plan for 2024.*

## **MOTIONS**

Emma Karran of Loop Head Together and Futureproof Clare proposed two motions:

- That Clare PPN write to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Environment and Climate Action, to ask them to take on board the findings of the Citizens' Assembly on Biodiversity Loss.

- **Agreed**

- That Clare PPN should ask Clare Co Councillors to pass a Council motion that Clare Co Council adopt a policy of Boycott, Divestment & Sanctions (BDS) in relation to Israel.

- **Agreed**, after much discussion, to write to all Councillors to say that a majority of members at our Plenary wished to ask them to consider passing this Council motion.

ENDS