



LIFE11 ENV/IE/922

Minutes of Meeting

Project	Geopark LIFE Partners Meetings	
Date	18/9/2013	
Location	Clare County Council Offices, New Road, Ennis, Co. Clare	

Attendance	Person	Organisation	Abbr.
Yes	Ruairi Deane	Failte Ireland	RD
Apologies	Sarah Gatley	Geological Survey of Ireland	SG
Yes	Michael Fitzsimons	Failte Ireland	MF
Yes	Carleton Jones	NUIG	CJ
Apologies	Gabriel Cooney	UCD	GC
Yes	Beatrice Kelly	Heritage Council	BK
Apologies	Margaret Keane	National Monuments Service	MK
Yes	Christine Grant	National Monuments Service	CHG
Yes	Hugh Carey	National Monuments Service	HC
Apologies	Paul McMahon	Office of Public Works	PMcM
Apologies	Ken Curley	Office of Public Works	KC
Yes	Enda Mooney	National Parks & Wildlife Service	EM
Apologies	Emma Glanville	National Parks & Wildlife Service	EG
Yes (Part)	Congella McGuire	Clare County Council	CMcG
Apologies	Shane Casey	Clare County Council	SC
Yes	Mary Burke	Clare County Council	MB
Yes	Tracey Duffy	Clare County Council	TD
Yes	Joan Tarmey	Clare County Council	JT
Apologies	Sean Lenihan	Clare County Council	SL
Yes	Tina O'Dwyer	Consultant to Geopark	TO'D
Yes	Brian Callinan	Consultant	BC
Yes	Carol Gleeson	Burren Geopark/Clare County Council	CG
Yes	Eamon Doyle	Burren Geopark	ED
Yes	Richard Morrison	Burrenbeo Trust	RM
Yes	Siobain O'Brien	Burren Geopark	SOB
Yes	Pat O'Connor	Ex-Geological Survey of Ireland	POC
Yes	Katherine Webster	Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience	KW
No	Christy Sinclair	Burren Ecotourism Network	CS
No	Michael McGrath	Farmer Representative	MMcG

Yes	Monica Meehan	Clare County Council	MM
Yes	Helen Quinn	Clare County Council	HQ
Yes	Caroline Balfe	Clare County Council	CB
Yes (Part)	Ger Dollard	Clare County Council	GD
Yes (Part)	Greg Davidson	Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience	GRD
1.0	Welcome and introductions Second combined meeting of GeoparkLIFE Steering Group. Review of minutes of April 17 meeting – proposed by MM and seconded by RM.		
2.0	<p>General Progress Report on Geopark Activities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG circulated one-page Progress Report on Geopark Activities. (attached) - <u>EGN/GGN Activities:</u> Query on whether there was progress on formal UNESCO designation. CG outlined the political background to this and the hesitation on behalf of UNESCO. Slow progress but going in the right direction - <u>Strategic Development Planning:</u> KW gave update on B.E.N. perspective on Memorandum of Understanding. - <u>Education & Research Programme:</u> ED circulated an update and presented to team. Particular discussion around the Burren Geology School at Caherconnell and the Burren Archive. It was agreed that the archive will be a very comprehensive, accessible and welcome resource. BK: Heritage Council eager to co-operate and promote it. Query on the archive – how will people know it's there. MB: suggested adding County Council links to the archive. Clare County Library will also link to it. - <u>Trail & Geosites Development:</u> Discussion on launch of Heritage Trails – CG wondering what group thought about ideas for launch. RD suggested launching as a suite in order to maximise publicity. Tentatively looking at Spring depending on the planning process for remaining trails to be completed. Proposal to complete work already done on a definitive process/advice/guidelines on trail development. BK and CG informed the meeting that a lot of work has been done on this and highlighted some work done with CMcG and Emer McCarthy (RRO) <p>MB: highlighted good practice process relating to Article 6 Screening Document for trail development and other aspects of the LIFE programme. Transparency, due process and funding criteria require these. Need to be readily accessible according to requirements of AA. Group agreed with benefits of compiling these from the outset in a standardised, accessible way. MB has already done work on a presentation method for this and will liaise with ED to progress this. It was also agreed that this approach should be transferred throughout the project (EM) and that this in itself could</p>		

	<p>be a key outcome of the project i.e. a transferable template (BK).</p> <p><u>Communications:</u></p> <p>Website: SOB updated the group on website developments (design, archive, intranet). Following discussion, following agreements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Project should adopt a policy of openness and publish minutes and proceedings on the website. - Highlight copyright laws and associated restrictions. - Seek advice to ensure data protection and data management regulations are not infringed. <p>- Visitor Leaflet: Should be either DL or A4 size. MF will check if this can be linked to the regional pocket guide. CG and MF to liaise on design and publication.</p> <p>Birds of Fanore: Now sold out and very well received. BK suggested working with commercial printers for a reprint, to benefit from distribution, marketing and editing. Discussions around idea of a box set and common design across different publications. CG to follow up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Transtourism:</u> CG: Programme will be finalised this year. All reporting to be completed in Dec, with all costs to be paid by Oct 31st. CG recommends commissioning analysis on coach tourism in the Burren to conclude the project. KW will participate. Communication and animation of results n.b. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Signage Plan:</u> RD: if funding allows, the whole Burren will be done as part of the Wild Atlantic Way project. Nothing confirmed at this point. EM highlighted complaints received regarding the lack of signage for the Burren National Park and indicated that NPWS may have to proceed unilaterally if Failte Ireland do not take the initiative on this. 	
3.0	<p>LIFE Conference 17-18 October</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A Draft of the conference programme was presented. Final programme to be circulated shortly after the meeting. All partners asked to publicise this and circulate it within their own organisations. Important to ensure local people know they are welcome to attend. <p>Tourism Policy Review</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Geopark and B.E.N. will be making submissions to the Tourism Policy Review currently underway. 	
4.0	<p>Administrative Matters</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GRD presented updated timesheets - CG highlighted importance of this system working – payment depends on it. No release of funds unless recorded contributions in kind is complete. - PO'C reminded to include travel time, meeting preparation time and meeting follow-up time. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG reported that the Inception Report was delivered to the LIFE Team in Brussels on 28th of June. 	
	GEOPARKLIFE Programme	
1.0	<p>Action B1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TO'D presented the Geopark Code of Practice and the Training Programme Schedule for November 2013 through to March 2014 (attached) - TO'D also outlined the current applicants, noting that the programme is seeking to increase the quota of accommodation providers. - TO'D also presented the programme on product and experience development: Food Trail & Activity Trail plus.. - the Surveys conducted for the GeoparkLIFE/ETIS measurements and linkages with FI survey programme. <p>Steering Committee recommended that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We record the reasons a small number of previous BEN members have left the network - We record the economic impacts of training and sustainable practice through savings and revenue, in energy ratings and in environmental savings. Programme should facilitate templating sustainable planning with businesses. - Look at Origin Green developed by Bord Bia. 	
2.0	<p>Action B2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG presented Site Selection Proposal (attached) which is based on previous tourism reports summarised in <i>Tourism in the Burren; Summary of Literature and Policy Documents</i> by Joe Saunders (attached) and on the work of Burren Connect (2007 -2012) - The proposal outlined how experience and research to date have identified 3 zones of influence attracting 3 types of visitor and recommends using this characteristic as the guiding principle behind the selection of suitable demonstration sites. The zones were identified with accompanying site profiles. Criteria for the selection of sites was proposed, based on previous discussions with the committee. An outline work programme for each zone was also presented. - The committee agreed with the proposal and proceeded to utilise the agreed criteria to shortlist a number of demonstration sites, in order of preference, for each zone. These are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Zone 1: 1. Blackhead/Fanore, 2. Flaggy Shore, 3. Ballyreen Commonage. - Zone 2: 1. Poul nabrone, 2. Carran Church, 3. An Rath/Cahermore - Zone 3: As all proposed sites are under NPWS management, we will investigate the possibility of an integrated approach to all 3 	

	<p>locations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It was also proposed to transfer some of the locations into B3 as case studies in community and landowner engagement in conservation and access management. It was agreed that Sheshymore Pavement should retain its status as a research site with access limited to research groups, agreed in advance with the landowner. Public liability insurance for this activity would be provided by the Geopark. - It was agreed to liaise with the FI Wild Atlantic Way (WWW) programme in relation to Zone 1 and to ensure that both LIFE and WWW projects work together. 	
3.0	<p>Action B3</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of this action was not discussed at the meeting as the lead partner (UCD) was unable to attend. However, please note that there have been exploratory meetings with Leave No Trace, Burrenbeo Trust, Fetac, GMIT and Burren Outdoor Education Centre on this, and we have also had preliminary discussion with NUIG and OPW on potential training programmes. 	
	<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - BC clarified that if a 3rd party wants to contribute funding to the project, the process is that they give that to one of the partners who then manage the funds. - Next Meeting Monday 25th November in Ennis. 10am – 1.30pm followed by lunch. 	