

Progress Report

November 25th, 2013

ITEM	PROGRESS
EGN/GGN Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Article accepted for EGN Magazine 11 'Growing Education Partnerships in the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark' ➤ EGN Week report of activities for 2013 submitted.
Strategic Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ AGM of BEN resulted in agreement to endorse Memorandum of Understanding re Partnership, training, marketing, product development and funding. ➤ Participated in public consultation meetings and submissions to Dept of Transport, Tourism & Sport of Tourism Policy; promoting the adoption of a Sustainable Tourism Policy
Education and Research Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Lisdoonvarna Secondary School:</u> One geology project accepted for BT Young Scientist of the year competition 2014 is being supported by the Burren and Cliffs of Moher Geopark. Two students are currently collecting and examining sand from a number of beaches along the Clare Coast. December will see the launch of a new Transition Year project aimed at highlighting awareness of water resources, littering and pollution in the Burren. Aimed at both Secondary and National School students the project will use Sonja O' Brien's new fully illustrated book on littering, the storyline of which is based on animals and people in the Burren, as one part of the education resources for the project. ➤ <u>Geo-Gathering fieldtrip:</u> As part of The Gathering celebrations a group of professional and student geologists took part in a Geo-Gathering fieldtrip in collaboration with Dr. John Murray of NUIG. Organised by the Institute of Geologists of Ireland, The Irish Mining and Quarrying Society, The Irish association of Economic Geology and The Geological survey of Ireland it was a thought-provoking and informative field trip which highlighted the contribution to education the Burren region still provides for even the seasoned geology community. ➤ <u>Burren Rocks 2014:</u> The Burren Rocks Festival will take a new form in 2014. We are working with Doolin Cave, The Burren Outdoor Education Centre and others to bring a Geology Fair to the Burren in June 2014. The Geology Fair will highlight geological and groundwater awareness and the education potential of the Burren from an Earth Science perspective. ➤ <u>Earth and Ocean Sciences Department NUIG fieldtrip:</u> Third year students from the Earth and Ocean Sciences department of NUIG had a day fieldtrip to study the geology of the Burren region. The Burren and Cliffs of Moher geologist was co-leader of the fieldtrip.
Trail and geosites development	<u>Heritage Walking Trails:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ All signage and map guides for 6 Heritage Trails have been delivered. Trails expected to be in place before end December. Work is progressing on 5 other trails.
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Login area is live. The focus of the login is for the training programme. Users can login and register for relevant dates. A resource area for training documents is in place ➤ Google analytics; September 885 visits, October 1,527 visits (Geopark Conference drove a lot of traffic to the website) ➤ Adapting the interface of the Geopark APP is in progress ➤ Planning a redesign and re branding of the Burren Information Points

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <u>Carsten Krieger Geopark Photo Book</u> Carsten Krieger is about to launch an online Fundit campaign to raise matching funds for Geopark Burren book to be published by Collins Press ➤ Supporting Burren Spring Gathering, Burren in Bloom festival, Burren Slow Food festival, Burren Tolkein Society, Burren Food Trail and the Burren Winterage Festival
Transtourism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Final reports to be submitted by January 31st 2014 ➤ Final claim submitted on 15th November ➤ Funding provided for a review of Public Transport, an App, responsive design of the web site, information leaflets, a trial for the Ballyvaughan Bay Hop in collaboration with a local group from Ballyvaughan and an analysis of coach tourism in the Burren; the environmental and economic impacts.
Signage Plan & Blackhead	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Awaiting confirmation on funding for signage from FI ➤ NPWS recommends application to An Bord Pleanála for permission for reduced pull in areas.