

Progress Report

April 17th, 2013

ITEM	PROGRESS
EGN/GGN Activities	<p>Completed Annual Report, Activity Report, contribution to 2013 Geoparks magazine, developing programme for Geopark Week (Burren Rocks), submitting abstracts for conference in September and attended Committee meeting in March.</p> <p>BCom Geopark will be hosting and EGN sub-committee on Tourism development and packaging later this year.</p> <p>Proposal by BCom for EGN to adopt Sustainable Tourism Indicators for all member Geoparks. Will be discussed at Conference in September.</p>
Strategic Development Planning	<p>CLDC have co-funded a mentoring programme to develop a Strategic Development Plan for the Geopark. Work ongoing on this, first phase was to develop a Geopark booklet outlining the benefits of Geopark Status to local communities, which will be available at Geopark event on 27th of April and will be distributed widely in the Burren.</p> <p>The University of Michigan, Ross Business School MBA programme, are undertaking a study of sustainable tourism markets and products on behalf of the Geopark. This service is provided free. The results of the study will be incorporated into our overall strategic marketing plan and will be utilised in Action B1 Tourism Enterprises of the LIFE project</p>
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Developed a new logo, web site, booklet, face book page, transport and tourism app. ✓ Supporting Burren Explorer (formally Burren Passport), Burren Spring Gathering, Burren in Bloom festival, Burren Slow Food festival, Burren Food Trail ✓ Developing Burren Rocks Festival ✓ Agreed with Burren Ecotourism, in a Memorandum of Understanding, that the network will work with the Geopark to promote the Geopark as a sustainable tourism destination, and will use the Geopark logo on all Network promotional material. ✓ Reprinting <i>Stone Water Ice</i> and publishing <i>Birds of Fanore</i> ✓ Re-branding the 9 Information Points ✓ Developing 11 Geopark Trails and Geosites, with information panels and leaflets
Education and Research Programme	See attached report by Eamon Doyle.
Signage Plan & Blackhead Pull in Areas	<p>Awaiting details of the Wild Atlantic Way from Failte Ireland, into which the Burren Signage Plan will be incorporated and funded. Due to be finalise in Autumn this year.</p> <p>The Blackhead pull in areas proposal has not been approved by CCC on foot of the NPWS recommendation that development not go ahead until there is a clear ruling on a specific case in Galway.</p> <p>Steve Lahiffe is considering re submitting an amended proposal to CCC much reducing the number of parking bays to areas where there is no impact on the limestone pavement.</p>
Burren Charter	<p>The Geopark is investigating how LIFE funding can be utilised in the development of a heritage training programme, under Action B3 as recommended by the Charter.</p> <p>The Geopark will also support the Burren Food Fayre and other items during the Burren Winterage Festival.</p>