



**B2 WORKING GROUP
MEETING
MINUTES**

7-9-16

DATE AND VENUE

The GeoparkLIFE B2 Working Group Meeting was held in the Templegate Hotel, Ennis on Wednesday September 7, 2016 from 10am to 1pm.

ATTENDANCE

In attendance: Enda Mooney (EM), Christine Grant (CGr), Ken Curley (KW), Emma Glanville (EG), Eamon Doyle (ED), Carol Gleeson (CG) and Zena Hoctor (ZH).

Apologies: Beatrice Kelly (BK), Joanne Gaffrey (JG), Gabriel Cooney (GC), Sharon Parr (SP), Dick Croinin (DC)

ITEMS AND DISCUSSION

Item	Discussion	Action	Responsibility
Item 1: Agreement of minutes	Minutes of last meeting held 4-5-16 were agreed.		
Item 2: Progress update on demonstration site	<p><u>Slieve Carran:</u> No progress on interdepartmental talks with regard to the future management of MacDuagh's oratory site.</p> <p>Removal and monitoring of votive offerings continuing by Burren National Park general operatives (GOs).</p> <p>Tony Kirby's report is now available on the website.</p> <p>A Showcase event for the 'Geopark Heritage Course' projects completed by members of BEN is being planned for Oct 19th. It is hoped to include an awareness session around LNT and to highlight the Slieve Carran votive offerings. The Burren Leave No Trace brochure is currently being developed and hopefully will be ready to be launched at the event. EG will highlight information on guidelines and licences required when bringing visitors out onto the Burren landscape.</p> <p><u>Burren National Park</u> An automated Traffic count was completed at five points around Gortlecka throughout the month of August paid for by GeoparkLIFE and NPWS. A parking survey was undertaken at Gortlecka on eight days and at the Crag Road on four days throughout the month by the BNP staff using a template designed by GeoparkLIFE. The purpose is to provide traffic and parking data which will feed into the proposed 'Traffic Management plan for the BNP' which is</p>	<p>Organisation of conservation awareness day</p> <p>Provision of traffic information to NPWS for Traffic Management Plan</p>	<p>GeoparkLIFE staff and Various partners</p> <p>ZH</p>

	<p>being commissioned by NPWS.</p> <p><u>Blackhead</u> <u>Lay-bys:</u> The Blackhead lay-bys report has been completed. From the 14 initial proposed lay-bys, 3 could possibly be developed. Of these, two would require AA due to habitats. If all were approved, it would result in 7-10 car parking spaces. The report is currently with CCC for decision on whether to proceed.</p> <p><u>Monuments:</u> Tender circulated for conservation project at Murrooghkilly cairn to three archaeologists. Aegis Archaeology was the successful bid. They are currently proceeding with phase 1 - to provide detailed scaled plans, drawings and photos for what is the current condition of the cairn and make recommendations for conservation work involving a volunteer training programme. In conjunction with the B2 group it will then be determined what conservation work is viable and where stone may be sourced if required. It was suggested that the conservation issues that are arising from this project and the other sites we have been dealing with could form the basis of a public workshop in the future addressing all the conservation issues with regard to leave no trace in the Burren.</p> <p><u>Fanore</u> The Fanore Dunes Management Plan has been finalised and will be uploaded to the website shortly. Discussion took place as to how the fencing might be removed without damaging the habitat. A future workplan will now be prepared with the engineering section of the County Council based on the recommendations of this report.</p> <p><u>An Rath/Cahermore</u> All drawings are complete and have been sent to landowner. The landowner's agent is currently looking for further information which is related to development issues and not planning. Discussion is ongoing for the landowner to agree that the project can go ahead for Part 8 Planning Permission.</p> <p><u>Poulnabrone</u> Integrated management at this site is still an issue. Discussions are continuing between Clare County Council and OPW.</p> <p><u>Carran Church</u> Tender has been prepared for conservation engineers report for the NW corner of Carran Church and is currently with the procurement section of Clare County Council. Once approved it will be circulated to suitable applicants.</p>	<p>Liaison with Aegis archaeology</p> <p>Development of workplan with CCC</p> <p>Liaison with landowner's agent</p> <p>Circulation of RFT and assessment of applicants</p>	<p>ZH & CGr</p> <p>ZH & CG</p> <p>CG</p> <p>DC</p>
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Item 3: Signage	<p><u>Signage</u> It is proposed that an integrated signage system should be developed for each of the demonstration sites. This system would be a lectern style panel at each site incorporating the site management agencies corporate image plus the GeoparkLIFE logo and agreed interpretive text and images. All the panels would have the same basic layout providing a unified image brand. ED presented a draft example for what an integrated site signage panel might look like. Discussion followed with regard to who would be responsible for the final decisions from an agency viewpoint and how this might work in conjunction with existing signs. It is envisaged that such a system would reduce signage, remove out of date signage, update information and provide a more unified approach. It was agreed that a number of sample signs would be developed for the demonstration sites with the first to be developed for Fanore.</p>	Unified site signage panels to be developed	ED &ZH
Item 4: Development of the Heritage Monitoring APP	<p><u>Monitoring APP</u> MAC Ltd Limerick are developing a monitoring app for the demonstration sites as part of their SDI4apps project using GeoparkLIFE as a pilot. ZH demonstrated the app as it exists to date. It has three sections which provide a holistic approach to site monitoring– Visitor Observation, Site condition and Trail monitoring. Each section uses templates which have been developed throughout the B2 programme. The app is currently under construction and will be further developed over the next six months. Ground testing to date has been carried out on smartphones but as the app is further developed tablets will be required. ZH has been working with Eoin Hogan (Rural Recreation Officer) and EG on the trail section. A tracking map will be developed for this section and will allow the existing system being used on the BNP trails to be refined and data presented digitally. At the moment MAC Ltd are hosting the data on their cloud system. Further decisions that need to be made are who will host the data into the future, who will be the users/managers and who will be the control. This app will be one of our end of project toolkits.</p>	Continued development of app	ZH, EG and Eoin Hogan
Item 4: Demonstration of Heritage Map Viewer	<p><u>Heritage Map Viewer</u> Pat Reid of the Heritage Council presented a demonstration of the Burren Viewer section of the Heritage Map Viewer and how it has developed to date.</p>		
Next meeting: December 7, 2016			