



B3 Conservation Management Minutes of Meeting

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| Project | Geopark B3 Conservation Management | |
| Date | 9/5/2014 | |
| Location | Templegate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare | |

| Attendance | Person | Organisation | Abbr. |
|------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------|
| Yes | Carol Gleeson | Geopark/Clare County Council | CG |
| Yes | Gabriel Cooney | UCD | GC |
| Yes | Christine Grant | National Monuments Service | CHG |
| Yes | Katherine Webster | Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience | KW |
| Yes | Richard Morrison | Burrenbeo Trust | RM |
| Yes | Eamon Doyle | Burren Geopark Geologist | ED |
| Yes | Joanne Gaffrey | UCD | JG |
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| 1.0 | <p>Introduction CG introduces revised B3 proposal in light of recent developments within the project and CHG suggests a focus on a maximum of 3 to 5 actions for this year</p> | |
| 2.0 | <p>Continued Professional Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG highlights the issue surrounding this being the least favoured module in the programme - GC suggests that UCD will deliver CPD as integral part of other modules, e.g. structured field trips. - A suggested name change for the module such as 'Developing Partnerships Model' - Current structure of steering group meetings is not working as too big, a need to break down into smaller sub-groups and use steering group as a forum to report progress but not a decision making meeting. - GC webinars, if well the presenter is well informed, continues to be of value, as are field trips if structured properly (see above) <p>ACTIONS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Combine B2 and B3 with smaller working group meetings and field trip with a de-briefing session afterwards - Steering Group meeting less frequently to allow the working groups to meet more often and make progress. | |
| | <p>B2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - CG explains the information and guidelines received regarding surveying and observing visitors | |

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| | <p>ACTION: BEN and Faitle Ireland surveys to be carried out this summer and to ensure guidelines are followed to create statistically sound dataset</p> | |
| | <p>B3 Training the Trainers ACTION: Overall agreement that this belongs within the B1 framework. Begin tender process for training that will happen in the Burren and consider the link to CPD.</p> <p>-</p> | |
| | <p>Universal Access Programme</p> <p>- CG Brothers of Charity currently carrying out FETAC structured work at 6 locations assessing accessibility for both physically and intellectually disabled.</p> | |
| | <p>Community Knowledge Initiatives</p> <p>- CG Focus on Community Knowledge Approach rather than strict module led programme. Develop templates and processes that can be transferred across the board.</p> <p>- RM use Conservation Volunteers Group as an available resource</p> <p>- Look at Tidy Town Habitat Mapping and how it is carried out; is it a template that can be adapted?</p> <p>ACTION: Link Community Knowledge and Conservation Management; note also the Conservation Management level that is present in both B2 and B3 and use this as a means to tie it together.</p> | |
| | <p>Communicating LIFE</p> <p>- CG states that the coach drivers are the primary people involved here. Suggestion by Brendan Dunford to utilise farm structures as information points with the added purpose of incorporating farms and local into the project. This could communicate the conservation message in a less blunt form.</p> <p>- KW and RM add the benefits from such scheme would keep costs low is at a personal level</p> <p>- KW discusses the role of the CofM and the success of previous exhibition/information stands at the centre. The coach drivers have the time to spare and engage at that level.</p> <p>ACTION: Following KW ideas, a trade/information stand for the transfer of information both to and from coach drivers be set up at CofM centre as a 1 or 2 day trial between 12-3pm. Advertise about a week in advance as these are returning drivers on a regular basis. CG, ED and Laura may run this.</p> <p>Surveys at Visitors centres:</p> <p>- CHG raises the issue surround the potential in identifying the capacity of centres and what problems exist in an attempt to manage successfully</p> <p>- GC requests an objective assessment. CG suggests Xena Hctor but there is the likelihood that a tendering process will be required.</p> <p>- GC need to identify the consistency and validity of the conservation</p> | |

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| | <p>message being portrayed as a tool for devising good practice.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - KW highlights that this would be a beneficial process as it will no doubt produce recommendations for all centres and they should be largely welcomed in the Burren. <p>Signage:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GSI happy to allocate some money towards upgrading signs etc. - GC raises the notion of too much signage. Is there a need to access what is out there and attempt to rationalise signage in some way. Communication between agencies needed on this aspect. <p>ACTION:</p> <p>Carry out a sign observation survey, probably at the same time as the site surveys in B2. Discuss signage with relevant authorities. Propose the farm signage option.</p> | |
| | <p>Guiding and Visitor Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The 'Leave no Trace' element is already part of B1 so any other aspects can be added to it and retained in B1 | |
| | <p>Conservation Management Skills</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - GC circulates draft forms for recording visitor information and site survey. An integration of B2 and B3 is needed here. There is also a need to look beyond the 7 demo sites to see what the visitor patterns are and the impacts. The results of these surveys should feed into existing databases, e.g. RMP/NMS for the site surveys. The recording system needs to be robust enough so that it can be carried out with consistency and with a relatively low level of expertise. The only problem when the scope extends beyond the 7 demo sites is the issue of landowners. There is a need to decide on the level of conservation management to be delivered within this module; if it is more community based then the outcomes needed to be communicated at that level. - Detailed condition surveys need to be carried out at the sites. - CHG there are benefits in identifying previously unrecorded sites for landowners and mapping can be of use to all involved. Some of the survey is beyond the remit of this module so there is a need to highlight the problems and act on those - Conservation Management, Adopt a Monument and Community Knowledge all go hand in hand. - People, signage and the collection of data to be carried out immediately at the 7 demo sites (i.e. summer 2014). Training and information pack to be devised and proofing of draft recording. Urgent need to access visitor impacts - Broader site recording which will involve a training day to be carried out at a later date to include survey at Slieve Carron and adopt a monument will be addressed later in the summer. <p>ACTION:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up target training day and draft document setting out what exactly is needed so that volunteers can be briefed on the requirements. - Meeting with Ballyvaughan Tidy Towns to discuss habitat mapping | |

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| | <p>and share ideas (meeting to take place Friday 23rd May)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A focused workshop should be set up with Clare Pilgrim Way to deal with major issues surrounding conservation and sustainability | |
| | <p>Meeting Concludes 1.30pm</p> <p>Follow up Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ballyvaughan Tidy Towns on Fri. 23rd May. - B2 meeting 14th May | |