

Kildare PPN 1st Climate Action Linkage Group Meeting (via Zoom)

April 14th, 2020

In attendance:

Cliona Kelliher	Liz Cullen
Judith Brown	Bernard Higgins
Fionnuala Corcoran	Deirdre Lane
Evonne Boland	Niamh Young
Suzanne Murphy	Ann Behan

Jude began by running through the Climate Action SPC which she attended in March.

There was a presentation from the CARO office (Climate Action Regional Office) at the SPC, outlining the role of the CARO. There are 4 Climate Action Regional Offices, with the Eastern & Midlands CARO being based in Kildare County Council. The role of the CAROs is to work with County Councils on strategy and education in relation to climate change. There is a budget of €10 million over 5 years. Training can be provided to SPC reps also and it is planned to increase the Sustainable Energy Communities and bring the number up to 1500 by 2050.

The Climate Action rep will bring the issues raised by linkage group to the SPC. Jude mentioned that Jamie had said at previous workshop that we shouldn't tie linkage group meetings with SPC meetings necessarily, as they should have their own schedule anyway.

Bernard enquired about the youth representative on the SPC and explained that he had been in touch with Comhairle na nÓg and they had selected a candidate. However, there seemed to be an issue as it was suggested that the youth rep would replace one of the other reps. Bernard met with Suzanne Doyle and it was agreed that some acceptance would be given to youth rep but the situation isn't satisfactory and Evonne said that we need to pursue this and generally ensure that previously agreed arrangements are upheld.

Some discussion was held about other people to invite to C.A. linkage group – Deirdre mentioned that there is a previous list which might be helpful. Ann mentioned Emer Conway as a potential member and Ali Sheridan was also suggested.

The workplan for the Climate Action SPC was mentioned and Bernard said that he would follow up on this. He also suggested that Jude could advise other SPCs as there will be crossover of issues and policies.

Jude then explained the role of facilitator which is a position for 3 years and is the key contact for the linkage group and the person who will help drive the goals of the group. Evonne suggested that perhaps we could just work with a rotating Chair for the moment, as we are just getting started. There was general agreement for this idea. Evonne also pointed out that the Environmental reps are a great source of knowledge and expertise and with the backing of the linkage group, could achieve great things.

Training of PPN reps is important – Jude was to have training but unfortunately Covid 19 has put a halt to much planned activity.

There was then some general discussion on the aims of the Linkage Group and what we should try to achieve. Evonne suggested that we perhaps start with actions and plans the Council have already committed to implementing. This was generally agreed as being a good idea and it was suggested that we read the plan and also the Dublin City Council Plan as I had mentioned that the DCC plan has perhaps clearer defined goals and measurable targets.

The meeting ended on this note and it was decided to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday 12th May. Overall the consensus was that it was a successful first meeting and hugely positive that so many people want to be involved

Reading Links:

<http://kildare.ie/countycouncil/ClimateAction/KildareClimateChangeAdaptationStrategy2019-2024/index.html?page=1>

<https://www.lasntg.ie/system/files/Joe%20Boland%20-%20Role%20of%20the%20Climate%20Action%20Regional%20Offices.pdf>

<https://www.dublincity.ie/sites/default/files/content/WaterWasteEnvironment/Waste/Documents/2019%20DCC%20Climate%20Change%20Action%20Plan.pdf>

<https://www.lgma.ie/en/publications/local-authority-sector-reports/a-profile-of-local-government-climate-actions-in-ireland.pdf>