

Climate Action Linkage Group Online Meeting 12th May 2020

Agenda prepared by Judith:

- 7.30 introduction to philosophy behind having Kildare climate change adaptation strategy as the source of our working document and idea of survey to prioritise our goals
- 7.40 Evonne runs through infrastructure and built environment and land use and development goals and actions of Kildare climate change adaptation strategy
- 7.50 Clíona runs through drainage and flood management goals and actions
- 8.00 Deirdre runs through natural resources and cultural Infrastructure goals and actions
- 8.10 Jude runs through community health and wellbeing and transition to a low carbon society goals and actions
- 8.20 discussion and close

In Attendance:

Cliona Kelliher	Ann Behan
Judith Browne	Fionnuala Corcoran
Evonne Boland	Niamh Fitzgibbon
Deirdre Lane	Emer Conway
Gerry Dornan	

Thanks to Bernard (KPPN) for facilitating and organising the Zoom meeting.

(Note – meeting followed agenda in the main, so for detailed info on the particular topics mentioned, please see Google Docs Spreadsheet - https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1JaEpe-HAA_NYnQ9-elhx7mwNJTjtqUrsNtCihfkfYFA/edit?usp=sharing)

Judith began with an introduction as to why we decided to use the Kildare County Council Adaptation Plan as a basis for our Linkage Group work plan. The general consensus was that it made sense to follow up on actions that are already planned, or in motion, so that we can achieve some concrete results ourselves. And roughly using the categories defined within the plan helps to narrow down quite a huge area and give specific focus.

Evonne introduced herself and the role of the Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC.

How can we plan our towns? What are the incentives? Ideas around mobility – looking at sustainable mobility including cycle paths, public transport links, etc.

Quality of housing and how retrofitting is required.

The hubs which were planned – clean tech hub needs greater definition – is it actually a green energy hub?

Housing and how we have a culture of one off housing.

Business aspect – how we can help business to implement climate friendly policy. Audit energy efficiency and work with SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities.

Lack of land for community growing – this is something worth pursuing.

Ideas like car sharing/bike sharing should be looked at also.

I (Cliona) spoke about water in general

Topics in this category include rain water harvesting, identifying and designating natural flood plains, collection of water to aid watering of sports pitches, etc. Sustainable Urban Drainage systems which aid in flood risk reduction and create less water runoff. Can these be included as a planning requirement?

Natural water retention to reduce flood risk. There is also crossover (as with many topics) into other areas such as river management and natural amenity care. Council works with OPW and Lawpro on this - <http://watersandcommunities.ie/>

Deirdre shared a document with the group which was a submission by the PPN on the Climate Adaptation Plan. She also spoke about her work with various groups and topics and issues that have been covered in previous years.

Natural resources topic cover things like biodiversity, planting trees, reduced spraying of glyphosate etc. (council currently has a program of reduced spraying underway).

Natural resources would also cover greenways/blueways and natural amenities and tourism.

Jude spoke about Community Health and Wellbeing and Transition to Low carbon society.

This covers quite a large area and includes raising awareness of climate change via the PPN. Sustainable mobility and rollout of Electric Vehicle Charging Points. Issues like banning balloons/sky lanterns also come into this category.

Final discussion and close:

Question from Ann re budgets. Also how do we measure Council progress with targets?

Jude has not yet got the work plan for the Climate Action SPC but it was suggested that request for a Climate Action Progress report should be included on the agenda. Gerry Dornan suggested asking for the Council monthly reports and referenced Kpi's (key performance indicators). Further discussion ensued re best format of reporting and ascertaining goal progress. Jude will discuss this with the SPC Chair, Councillor Vincent Martin. Deirdre suggesting tying goals into Sustainable Development Goals. The overall feeling was that reports should show real tangible progress and goals.

Has a Climate Action Officer been appointed yet? I suggested that for the future, this person (and climate action team) would be the obvious port of call for enquiries etc.

Evonne mentioned that she only received SPC agenda 3 or 4 days in advance which is unacceptable in terms of being able to read up and take action on items.

Jude said that a more detailed report is what is needed.

Emer was wondering what the difference between the Climate Action SPC and the Environment and Water SPC is? She has posed the question but it is unclear at the moment. However, work that the Climate Action Linkage Group do could potentially feed into the Environment & Water SPC also.

(Is the Environment & Water SPC more operational than strategic? E.C.)

We finished with Gerry and Deirdre discussing the cycle campaign #changeourstreets and the open letter to Kildare County Council, and asking for people to sign and share.

Date for next meeting is Tuesday 9th June.