

Attendance

Jude Brown	Evonne Boland
Ali Sheridan	Bob Quinn
Jennifer Whitty	Cliona Kelliher
Emma Prior	Niamh Young
Liz Cullen	Edel Keane
Ronan o Reilly	Emer Conway
Fionnuala Corcoran	Mary Jennings
Deirdre Lane	Suzanne Murphy
Ann Behan	Sean o Broin
Thelma Stronge	Nathan Jackson

New Introductions

Emma Prior - Sallins Community Council

Nathan Jackson - Derrybeg Farm

Bob Quinn - Naas - LCDC representative (environmental pillar)

1. SPC Update

Ali gave us an update from December's SPC meeting. There have been 2 positive additions to the SPC recently with the appointment of the new chair Cllr Peter Hamilton and the new Climate Action Officer Stephen Deegan. Ali said there is a renewed and exciting energy on the team. There were 2 major presentations at the SPC; Stephen delivered an update on the climate change adaptation strategy progress within KCC (89/120 actions ongoing or completed) and Peter gave an overview of local authorities' history and their trajectory with climate action, the implications of the new climate bill, national carbon budget introduction and that Kildare county council will have to prepare a climate action plan. So there will be lots of projects for us to engage on in all of these exciting initiatives. Peter also presented the SPC workplan to the committee for the first time which was well received. The SPC will now go through it and build in more detail around the actions. I have attached the presentation for your perusal. The next SPC will take place on Feb 10th.

2. Subgroups

Jennifer outlined the plan for the linkage group to sub-divide into focus groups in order to enable a drill down into more detail around both policy and projects. Bob asked what is the thinking behind splitting into sub groups. Ali outlined that we wanted to get focused and ensure we use the skill set of the people in the linkage group in the optimum way. Jude added that the subgroups would have the experts within and these ppl will spread the network to the wider communities and connect them to the funding available. Jennifer has sent out the subgroups with the names that were sent through. Anyone can join any group. Ann asked would water fit into any of the categories. Emer mentioned that water is covered within the environmental SPC but there is no linkage group as yet. Ali mentioned that KCC did not require the Climate Action SPC and the Environmental SPC to merge; that climate action is the strategic umbrella and environment will focus primarily on operations. Jude mentioned that the linkage group can talk to more than one SPC. That the climate action linkage group can talk to the transport and environment

SPCs for example. The group agreed to add a new subgroup to include water related climate action.

The main linkage group will continue to meet 2ce per quarter to link in with Ali and Jude our SPC reps and to update one another on the subgroups progress.

3. County Development Plan

Jennifer outlined that a pre draft county development plan 2023-2029 has just been opened up for public consultation and that it is super that the linkage group is already established and ready to go at the very early pre draft stage. Jennifer went through the issues paper from the KCC website which outlines the process of creating a new county development plan and how climate action is specifically called out as a national policy which the local authority must implement as part of their county development plan. The below is an extract from the issues paper (pdf attached for your information).

The preparation of a County Development Plan is one of the most important functions of a Planning Authority. The review of the Kildare County Development Plan 2017-2023 will take two years to complete and that process begins on 11th January 2021 with the publication of this Issues Paper. The new Kildare County Development Plan 2023-2029 will set out a vision for the future planning and sustainable development of County Kildare to 2029 and beyond. There are 3 stages involved in the preparation of a new County Development Plan. The entire process takes approximately 2 years and it is anticipated that the Plan will be adopted by December 2022, coming into effect in January 2023.

Deirdre asked if the PPN could organise a facilitated session for a submission.

Fionnuala added that the PPN hosted open space strategy workshop was a fantastic format and a great success, if this could be put in place for the county development plan submission. Jennifer agreed to ask the PPN if this could be facilitated.

4. Funding

The group discussed their experienced when applying for funding:

Structure, resources and skills are required and impact on a group's capacity to draw down or access funding and the question is 'how can we quickly access it?'. Smaller voluntary communities simply can't or don't have resources to apply for funding.

Often groups need to pay up front for a project as the funding doesn't come through until later. Fundraising/applying for loans is therefore an extra step for volunteers to have to take on on top of everything else. There is a crisis across the community sector. A lot of funding may be available but a lot of expectation is put on communities. LEADER funding is very time consuming and complex. Ronan mentioned he could help anyone with LEADER applications as he has been through the process successfully. Emer said she could share her local authority environment fund application and Energy Master Plan application with the group. The SEAI grant process is a good model as KCC is the lead applicant and takes the ask off the community.

Could KCC provide the seed capital so that groups do not have to draw down a loan to get a project up and running.

We need to pool resources. Look to community development groups/companies, Allenwood/Ballymore Eustace were mentioned as good examples. Use the structure, governance in place in these types of groups to the benefit of voluntary groups with an idea. There is a need for a centralised owner/expert for funding applications. The LCDC has structure and resource workers. Bob LCDC rep will look at how the LCDC

might be able to help in this space. The linkage group will continue to work on this issue.

5. AOB

Thelma mentioned that the greater Dublin transport strategy public consultation is opened until next Friday 22nd. She will ask the PPN if a facilitated session could be provided for this also.

The meeting concluded at 940pm.