**Representative Report**

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| **Key Issues Discussed** | **Presentation by Dr Ursula King entitled: ‘Our Climate Goals and Conserving, Protecting and Restoring Kildare’s Biodiversity:*** **Only 15% of Kildare’s SACs (Special Areas of Conservation) and SPAs (Special Protection Areas) in favourable condition**
* **No management plan in place (required by EU law)**
* **Degradation of water bodies leading to irreversible loss of biodiversity**
* **NHAs (Natural Heritage Area) being developed as tourist destinations having a negative impact on biodiversity**
* **Need for an integrated approach to Climate Change and Biodiversity loss**
* **So called ‘nature-based solutions’ and ‘green infrastructure’ can be harmful to biodiversity**
* **Dangers of invasive species and imported pathogens**
* **Importance of only using native plants of Irish provenance, preferably grown from local seed**

**Update from Paula O’Rourke on Climate Action Plan (CAP) and Maynooth Decarbonising Zone (DZ):*** **LACAP (Local Authority CAP) to go to public consultation on 21st September for 6 weeks**
* **Plan to be through SPC, CPG and adopted by Full Council in December for publication in January ‘24**
* **‘Hackathon’ event re: Maynooth DZ being held from 20-22 October to be attended by KCC staff and invitees**
* **CAP to be monitored and reported on annually, at least**

**AOB: Cllr Ciara Galvin asked if a motion could be put to Council relating to unfolding situation at Castletown House. Namely, access has been cut to access road from M4 and carpark and OPW’s plan to build a new carpark.****AOB: Cllr Bill Clear asked if request could be put to CPG to include support of utilising the Health Economic Assessment Tool (HEAT) to the workplan of the SPC. The SPC previously had a presentation on relation to the HEAT.** |
| **Key Decisions Made** | **Re: Motion relating to Castletown House; it was clarified that the SPC cannot submit a motion to Council. It was decided that Cllr Galvin would submit a motion in her name, noting that the issue was discussed at SPC.****Re: HEAT; it was agreed that the CPG would be asked to add support for HEAT to workplan****Fergus Sharkey, head of Business Supports and Transport, SEAI will present at the next SPC meeting in December** |
| **Action(s) required from Kildare PPN for next meeting** | **No direct actions required, but member groups should be notified when public consultation opens for LACAP, and, if possible, linkage groups should be facilitated prior to next SPC meeting in December, when the LACAP will be put forward for recommendation to the CPG.** |
| **Date of next meeting** | **6th December** |

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| **PPN Representative** | Nathan Flaherty | **Date:** | 13/09/23 |
| **Committee** | Climate Action SPC |  |  |