**Representative Report**

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| **Key Issues Discussed** | - Presentation from Fergus Sharkey, SEAI, on grants and supports available to SME’s to improve sustainability  - Presentation from Maeve Boylan, Biodiversity Officer, KCC on drivers of Biodiversity loss and the implications. KCC are preparing a county Biodiverstiy Action Plan which will be open for public consultation in 2024.  PPN Rep drew Maeve’s attention to concerns raised by various PPN organisations in relation to volunteer fatigue and onerous expectations put on volunteer groups to apply for funding and complete projects, which perhaps should be completed directly by local authorities.  PPN asked if KCC were taking any steps to mitigate against the use of imported Whitethorn in hedgerow planting given the current shortage nationally. Maeve, said, that while there were no concrete plans yet, it would be her hope to promote the establishment of local nurseries within the county.  - Paula O’Rourke gave a presentation on the Climate Action Plan (CAP) for Kildare.  Through her presentation and by answering PPN rep’s questions after the meeting, Paula provided some insight in relation to queries raised during the Climate Action Linkage Group.   1. Ongoing monitoring/reporting: KCC are exploring establishing a rolling ‘Carbon Calculator’ to track ongoing results. Other options will be explored during the Hackathon event planned for February 2024 2. Maynooth DZ: Positive learning from projects in Maynooth will be fast tracked to certain designated areas from 2030. KCC are also exploring means of rolling out successful projects during the current life cycle of the CAP. 3. Regular reports on progress will be brought to the Climate Action SPC |
| **Key Decisions Made** | * The meeting voted to send the CAP to the Corporate Policy Group (CPG) * If the CPG accept the CAP, it will be sent to the full council for ratification on 18th December 2023 |
| **Action(s) required from Kildare PPN for next meeting** | **none** |
| **Date of next meeting** |  |

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| **PPN Representative** | Nathan Flaherty | **Date:** | 06/12/23 |
| **Committee** | Climate Action SPC |  |  |