

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**LOUGH CARRA CATCHMENT ASSOCIATION (LCCA)**  
 Tuesday 14 August 2018  
 8.00 To 10.30 pm, Partry Community Centre

Chairperson	Tom Byrne
Vice-Chairperson	Peter Byrne
Secretary	Lynda Huxley
Treasurers	Joe Flannelly and Pat Gibbons
Technical Advisors	Chris Huxley and Cilian Roden

Antony Baynes	Olivia Feeney	Al McDonnell
Verena Berard	Joe Flannelly	Pat McHale
Tom Byrne	Pat Gibbons	Emer Morrin
William Cormacan	Michael Hegarty	Fergal O'Dowd
Philip Doddy	Chris Huxley	Cilian Roden
Ailbhe Douglas	Lynda Huxley	Michael Sweeney
Padraig Farrell	Mick Kane	Benjamin Thebaudeau
<b>APOLOGIES :</b>		
Peter Byrne	Sean Roberts	
Sean Coyne	John Thornton	
Gareth Lloyd	Mick Wade	
Tom Quinn	Deirdre Walsh	
	Martina Walsh	
	Bernadette White	

<b>AGENDA ITEM</b>
<p>The Chair welcomed Michael Hegarty and Benjamin Thebaudeau from the Joyce Country and Western Lakes Geo Enterprise and Philip Doddy who is doing a PhD on 'krustenstein' in marl lakes including Lough Carra.</p> <p>The meeting started with two presentations.</p>
<p><b>Presentation 1 : Michael Hegarty and Benjamin Thebaudeau on the Joyce Country and Western Lakes 'aspiring' GeoPark :</b></p> <p><b>Brief Summary :</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aspiring Geopark which includes Joyce Country and the Western Lakes – including Lough Carra.</li> <li>• Geoparks help promote secure broad-based rural development, education, tourism, crafts.</li> <li>• Fáilte Ireland are interested in having loops off the Wild Atlantic Way.</li> <li>• There are currently 3 Geoparks in Ireland 1) Copper coast 2) Cliffs of Moher 3) Marble Arch Caves. There are none in Connaught.</li> </ul>

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- Geographical Society of Ireland (GSI) have study in 2017
- Now Co. Ltd by Guarantee
- GSI funded Geologist recruited in June 2018 (Benjamin Thebaudeau)
- Feasibility study carried out in August 2018
- Establishing Steering Group
- Seeking funding from Dept. of Rural and Community Affairs
- Want to recruit a manager
- Aiming for Unesco GeoPark status in 2021.
- Benjamin described the rich geology of the GeoPark area which includes Lough Carra
- Benjamin's current job is to create a 'product'
- He has identified 8 'Geosites' in the 'Geopark' area which includes Moore Hall
- Will be setting up an education programme, website and bi-lingual map.

**Questions :**

- **How did they apply for legal status?** Using an accountant, can provide advice to LCCA on the process. They have also applied for charitable status.

**Presentation 2 : Chris Huxley on EU Life Project**

**Brief Summary:**

- Tom Byrne, William Cormacan, Chris and Lynda Huxley, Al McDonnell all went to visit consultant Philip Murphy to get information on the process of the EU Life Project application.
- A Life Project is a multi-million € grant aided project in the area of Environment/Nature/Biodiversity.
- 3 relevant examples in Ireland 1) Burren Life 2) Kerry Life 3) Arran Life which all link farming and the environment
- Main criteria – must support EU policy and directives
- Must have 25% concrete conservation actions
- Usually run for up to 5 years and must demonstrate to be sustainable
- Application process : submit concept note (11 pages) which assessed by EU and if successful have 3 months to submit full application.

**What is needed :**

- a) Pursue Legal status – working group of 3 people
- b) Working Group/committee to work on outline plan for Life Project
- c) Identify and engage suitable consultant
- d) Prepare Concept Note
- e) Agree list of potential partners and get support from relevant agencies
- f) Ensure participation of Stakeholders

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In agreement with a) above, all present at the meeting agreed that Legal Status would be pursued by the following :

- Tom Byrne
- William Cormacan
- Chris Huxley

William said that funding for legal status application could possibly be supported by Leader.

**Action : Tom Byrne, Chris Huxley, William Cormacan**

There was some discussion regarding the involvement of farmers in the Life Project. It was acknowledged by the meeting that farmers will be the main stakeholder. It has been set out from the foundation of the LCCA, that the association will work to establish actions that are beneficial to the lake and to the farming community.

It was highlighted that the Kerry Life Project has been established to benefit the farmer and has been well received by the farming community. The LCCA will be working to have the first Life project of its type in Mayo and it was proposed that as a matter of importance we will get advice from the manager of the Kerry Life Project to find out how they have involved the farming community from application stage.

**Proposed : Verena Berard**

**Seconded : Al McDonnell**

**Action : Lynda Huxley**

The Chair reminded the meeting that this is a new, slow process which will involve PR work and bureaucracy, not a rapid fix. The process will be transparent and not impact negatively on the farming community. We will work to raise awareness amongst the farming community on the objectives of the LCCA.

**1. Minutes of the last meeting**

The Chair read out the minutes of the last meeting held on 16 July 2018.

**Proposed : Al McDonnell**

**Seconded : Tony Baynes**

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**2. Matters Arising**

**a) RBAPS scheme**

Verena Berard has spoken to Dr Dolores Byrne who established the RBAPS scheme with James Moran. Dr Byrne has agreed to come to give a talk to the LCCA, she suggested that James Moran could also be invited.

It was proposed that Verena invite them to come to give a presentation.

**Timing for the talk is covered under point 3 below.**

**Proposed : Olivia Feeney**  
**Seconded : Padraig Farrell**

**Action : Verena Berard**

**b) Awareness raising in Schools**

Mark Boyden of the 'Streamscapes' education programme ([www.streamscapes.ie](http://www.streamscapes.ie)) and Maura Lyons, Programme Manager of 'Leave No Trace' ([www.leavenotranceireland.org](http://www.leavenotranceireland.org)) have, in principal, agreed to draw up the Terms of Reference for a Leader Application on behalf of LCCA. However, Mick is waiting from them to hold a meeting to decide on procedure. Mick Kane suggested that Mark Boyden be invited to the October meeting to give a talk on the 'Streamscapes' educational programme. The Chair added that raising awareness is an important objective of LCCA.

**Proposed : Olivia Feeney**  
**Seconded : Emer Morrin**

**Action : Mick Kane**

**c) Waterford Dairy Farm Project – The Anne River Project**

William Cormacan put Rory Harrington in direct contact with Lynda Huxley. Rory said he would prefer to give a presentation to the group before hosting a visit to the project because this would make for a more fruitful visit.

**Timing for the talk is covered under point 3 below.**

**Action : Lynda Huxley, Fergal O'Dowd**

**d) Funding and Bank Account**

€475.25 paid out for public liability insurance.

**Total in the account to date : €1,834.75**

The secretary has applied for Water Communities grant of €1,500.00

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**e) Visit to Biocore**

Olivia Feeney is organising the visit to the BioCore Biogas plant in Ballaghaderreen. The date set for the visit is 11 am on 6 September. Directions to the plant will be circulated to those attending. BioCore requires a list of names prior to the visit.

Names of those taking in part in the visit are :

- Tony Baynes
- Tom Byrne
- Chris and Lynda Huxley
- Cormac McConigley
- Pat McHale
- Noreen Shryane

**Action : Olivia Feeney and Lynda Huxley**

**f) The BRIDE Project in Cork**

Fergal O'Dowd advised the meeting that the BRIDE project 'Farming with Nature' (Biodiversity Regeneration in a Dairying Environment) was made up of intensive dairy farmers in east Cork and was a farmer led initiative by dairy farmer Donal Sheehan and tillage farmer Paul Moore along with ecologist Tony Nagle. The demand from farmers to join the scheme has outstripped capacity as has been the experience with the Kerry Life programme and the Arran Life programme, all projects working on positive biodiversity actions.

It was agreed that it would be very beneficial to get a farmer to speak to an open meeting. It was proposed that Fergal contact Donal Sheehan to invite him.

**Timing for the talk is covered under point 3 below.**

Proposed : Verena Berard  
Seconded : Michael Sweeney

**Action : Fergal O'Dowd**

**g) Heritage Week Events**

There are four events being held around Lough Carra for Heritage Week. Two events organised by the LCCA hosted by Cilian Roden, Chris Huxley, Fiona White and a further two by Anne-Julie Lafaye of University College Cork. Details :

- 23 August 8pm at Carnacon Community Centre 'Burriscarra Medieval Landscape'
- 24 August 2pm at Burriscarra Friary 'Burriscarra Friary and Church'
- 25 August 2.30pm at Doon Peninsula 'Doon Peninsula Aquatic Ecology and Nature Trail'
- 26 August 2.30pm at Moore Hall 'Built and Natural Heritage'

**Action : Lynda Huxley**

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<b>3.</b>	<b>Public Talks</b>
	<p>The Chair informed the meeting of the suggestion that proposed talks relating to agri-biodiversity projects be given during one event to be held in collaboration with the GMIT campus in Castlebar. This would be a public event.</p> <p>There was general agreement that this should be pursued.</p> <p>It was highlighted that farmers would have to be invited to this event and a way be sought to inform them of the event.</p> <p>Fergal O’Dowd will approach the campus management with the proposal.</p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Action : Fergal O’Dowd</b></p> <p>List of proposed talks :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Integrated Wetlands by Rory Harrington (contact person L. Huxley)</li> <li>• RBAPS scheme Dr Dolores Byrne and James Moran (contact person V. Berard)</li> <li>• Native Woodland Schemes (contact person M. Kane)</li> <li>• BRIDE Project (contact person F. O’Dowd)</li> </ul>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Making contact with farming groups</b>
	<p>Olivia Feeney suggested that local farmers and farming groups should be approached to inform them about the aims and objectives of the LCCA.</p> <p><b>Proposed : Olivia Feeney</b>  <b>Seconded : Verena Berard</b></p> <p>The following put their names forward to work together approach farming groups on behalf of the LCCA :</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Olivia Feeney</li> <li>2) Joe Flannelly</li> <li>3) Pat Gibbons</li> <li>4) Verena Berard</li> </ol>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Any Other Business</b>
	<p><b>a) Meeting dates and venues</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Thursday 13 SEPTEMBER 2018 at 8pm in Partry Community Centre</b>  <b>PLEASE NOTE THAT THE MEETING HAS BEEN MOVED FROM TUESDAY TO THURSDAY FOR SEPTEMBER</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 9 OCTOBER 2018 at 8pm in Corleys, Ballintubber</b></p>

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	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tuesday 20 NOVEMBER 2018 at 8pm in the Village Inn, Partry</b></p> <p>b) <b>Insurance</b> Insurance is now in place which will cover meetings and public events.</p> <p>Post meeting note : corrections to July meeting minutes : 2. d) should read 'Mick Kane' not 'Mike'. 3. second para should read 'Bernie O'Flaherty' not 'Frances'.</p>
	<p><b>The Chair asked the meeting for approval of all that had been decided at this meeting. There was full approval.</b></p>
<b>7. NEXT MEETING</b>	
	<p><b>The Next Meeting will be held in Partry Community Centre</b></p> <p><b><u>THURSDAY 13 September 2018 starting at 8pm sharp.</u></b></p>