

Wicklow Mountain Views



The Newsletter of Wicklow Uplands Council

Winter 2014



A Letter from the Chair

The Annual General Meeting in June 2014 was, once again, a valuable exchange of views. Deputy Andrew Doyle T.D. provided a well-informed and supportive view on the vegetation management project as it continues through the system. Our hope is that it will be instrumental in achieving a sustainable uplands management structure for farmers. The AGM marked the end of my second year as Chairman, with support from our Vice Chairman Pat Dunne. Pat continues as a most active member although he has relinquished his position as Vice Chairman to focus on new challenges.

CONTINUING PROGRAMMES:

Dog Control and Vegetation Management

At the outset of 2014, the forward programme included the continuing issues of dog control and vegetation management. This year we have made significant efforts to raise awareness in local and national newspapers as well as our social media channels on dog control in Wicklow's Uplands. New signage is now available for private landowners. We are also continuing to work on our vegetation management project with a focus on contributing to the consultation process on the Draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. Through this process we hope to secure a targeted agri-environment scheme as recommended by 'A Study to Identify Best Management of Upland Habitats in Co. Wicklow'.

Village Information Panels and Commitment to Communities

The continuing programme of setting up a network of village and town interpretative panels has progressed. The Newcastle and Baltinglass panels have been installed recently. We shall redouble efforts in the current year to focus on communities as the County Council sets up its new participative structure 'The County Wicklow Public Participation Network'. We are now active members of this Network.

Proposed Walking Trail – Trooperstown to Rathdrum
Relatively new to the agenda of the Uplands Council is the

Wicklow Mountain Views – The Newsletter of Wicklow Uplands Council

Issue Number 23: Winter 2014

Published by: Wicklow Uplands Council Ltd.

Edited by: Dorothy-Ellen White & Cara Heraty

An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



newstalk.
106-108 fm

Different Nation - Different Station

proposal for a new 16km walking route from Trooperstown Wood to Rathdrum. We are highly aware that there is a demand for sustainable outdoor recreation and that it can play an important role in rural economies. The proposed route primarily traverses publicly owned land on existing forest roads and tracks. Parts of it are already popular walking routes. Wicklow Uplands Council is working with communities and landowners to formalise the trail and promote it as a sustainable tourism product for Wicklow. Exploration of additional links to the trail are ongoing.

Pure – Protecting Uplands and Rural Environments

The PURE Project has completed another successful year combatting illegal dumping in Wicklow's Uplands. Ian Davis, Project Manager organised the Pure Mile Competition 2014. This excellent community competition engages and encourages local (voluntary) participation and benefits many small communities throughout Wicklow. Ian is also managing PURE Animation/Pure Wicked, a two week environmental/animation programme for teenagers. Introduction of a Pure Primary School Education Pack is another interesting way for children to learn about their natural environment. Wicklow Uplands Council continues to employ the PURE Project Manager and sits on the Project Management Committee. This year on 16th October Minister of State with responsibility for Rural Economic Development, Ann Phelan T.D., awarded the prizes for the Pure Mile project and spoke positively about this model. The Minister commented on the allocation of €1million in the 2015 budget for the establishment of a Rural Innovation and Development Fund to support innovative and small scale pilot initiatives under the CEDRA report. We shall try to persuade her that the Wicklow Uplands would be an ideal place for a pilot initiative.

Wicklow Uplands Council Three Year Strategic Plan

A new three year strategic plan was completed in 2014 which identifies priority themes and actions for 2014-2016. In line with our emergence from a difficult and uncertain financial environment over the last six years, the plan was prepared and developed in house. It reflects

issues such as rural employment, retention of the rural population and the need to continuously review and improve our communications. Other priority themes include the development of opportunities for sustainable recreation, promotion of the uplands by promoting the towns and villages which act as its 'gateways' and encouragement of best management of our natural heritage, habitats and landscapes. The plan creates a clear road map for the organisation which can only be implemented by consensus. Consensus building relies on recognition of the wide diversity of representation in the Uplands Council. Consensus can be difficult to achieve, yet the Council works conscientiously towards it. Consensus is a worthwhile, if difficult, feature of our decision-making.

Staff

Cara Heraty, our Co-ordinator, took maternity leave in February to look after Ben, who will almost certainly become a member of Wicklow Uplands Council when he comes of age. She is due to return, with mixed emotions no doubt, in mid-November. We shall be glad to have her back. **Dorothy-Ellen White** joined us in February to cover for Cara on her maternity leave. A hard act to follow. Nevertheless she jumped in with enthusiasm and cheerful decisiveness, tackling everything that was going and more. We all enjoyed her friendly presence and would hope to keep her in the family. For the moment, family it is, as

Dorothy is expecting her baby in the next month or so. We all thank her for her effective management of us, our Council and our projects and the friendliness she extended as she worked. We wish her well as a new mum and we hope she will be able to maintain her contact with Wicklow Uplands Council. **Margaret Murphy**, our financial mentor, kept us in business with continuous updating of our accounts. Thank you Margaret for keeping a careful eye on our finances.

Finally I would like to offer sincere thanks to our key sponsors particularly to the Heritage Council and Michael Starrett, who have remained loyal supporters through a challenging period. Businessman Denis O'Brien has again supported the work of the Uplands Council with a generous three-year grant. This has made a real difference to our capacity to deal with everything that comes our way, and helps us to source matched funding for projects supported by grants such as LEADER. We also appreciate the continuing assistance of Wicklow County Council.

2015 will conclude the last year of my three-year chairmanship. I shall remain committed and enthusiastic about the role and future of the Uplands Council, as it renews and redefines itself in changing times.

*Philip Geoghegan, Chairman,
Wicklow Uplands Council*

Great Western Greenway Study Trip



WUC directors explore Great Western Greenway

In September 2014, a group of Directors of Wicklow Uplands Council travelled to Westport to study the Great Western Greenway and the benefits a long distance trail could have on rural communities.

The Great Western Greenway is a 42km trail from Westport to Achill and is the longest off road walking and cycling trail in Ireland. It generally follows the route of the Westport to Achill Railway line which closed in 1937. The Greenway passes through private land and active farmland and its

development was made possible by the agreement of local landowners who gave permissive access to cyclists and walkers to pass through their lands. Fáilte Ireland, The Department of Transport and Mayo County Council provided funding for the trail. Mayo County Council also secured access and helped develop the route.

The trip was a great success and the study group met with representatives from Fáilte Ireland, Leave No Trace Ireland, The Greenway Landowners Association as well as local cycle hire businesses and hotel operators to learn about how the trail developed and how it was impacting on the local economy.

The group cycled from Westport to beyond Newport to experience the Great Western Greenway. The study visit was a great learning experience and it was clearly evident that the impact of the trail on local rural communities was extremely positive and had resulted in increased tourism from both national and international visitors, new rural businesses as well as providing a safe cycling route for local school children and commuters to use. The economic impact has been very positive. The Fitzpatrick's report (2011) commissioned by Fáilte Ireland notes that the Greenway contributed to a 'projected €7.2m in spend in the local economy over a full year in 2011'. In 2011 the Great Western Greenway was also awarded the EDEN European Destination of Excellence Award for Sustainable Tourism. The group agreed that trails such as this can really revitalise local rural communities and it provided insight into how projects like this can be achieved with cooperation between communities and government stakeholders.

Dorothy-Ellen White, Coordinator Wicklow Uplands Council

Rathdangan Village Pantry



The Village Pantry, Rathdangan

Framed by the Wicklow Mountains, the village of Rathdangan in south west Wicklow is a quiet spot, with a population of roughly 400 people widely scattered over the hills and countryside, yet this area, through an active Community Council is finding its own route to rural renewal.

The closure of Rathdangan's shop and post office in the summer of 2007 brought near-silence to the cross-roads in the village, but recent months have seen a reversal. In May 2014, the Village Pantry, a volunteer-run tea-room and shopping service, opened in the local community hall. The Village Pantry has been decorated to provide a homely atmosphere and the cheerful volunteers complement this with a warm welcome to all.

The Village Pantry opens from 9.30am to 12.30pm every day, its early hours determined by the tea-room's second function. In conjunction with Gillespie's SuperValu in Baltinglass the Village Pantry provides an innovative and possibly unique shopping service. Local people phone or text in orders between 5pm and 7pm each evening and collect their shopping in the Village Pantry the following morning. Online orders can also be delivered to the Village Pantry free of charge saving the usual €5-€7 delivery charge. So people have been ordering everything from their daily papers to their weekly shop.

In the tea-room locals and visitors together enjoy generous teas and coffee, with delicious home-baking. The brown bread, cakes, jam and eggs are sourced from local producers meaning that money spent in the Village Pantry stays within the area. The egg supplier is a 14-year old who has had to expand his flock of hens to keep pace with demand. During the month of October we are trying out hot dinners on Monday's, simple meals will be available for eat-in or take-away from 12pm.

Through the tea-room people who have lived for years less than a mile apart have got to meet and know each other. The social connections made and renewed in the Village Pantry are strengthening the sense of community in Rathdangan. That's what it's all about: providing a focal point for the community.

The Village Pantry is just one action within a five-year Community Development Plan completed earlier in 2014. Over the last month the Community Council has hosted many other events including a tractor run, a field day, a fund-raising run for the Irish Kidney Association and the village's first cross-roads dance which attracted a large, good-humoured crowd for a summer evening of traditional music and dancing. There's a monthly social dance in the hall and a quarterly Ramblers evening of stories, music and song. The local drama group is starting rehearsals for its 2015 production. A recently formed teenage group is organising regular discos. In September they organised a very successful Mock Debs, the proceeds of which will go to a Christmas Party for the Senior Citizens.

There's a bit of magic going on beneath the Wicklow Mountains, people are pulling together for their community, and Rathdangan's heart is beating.

The Village Pantry Rathdangan is open 9.30am – 12.30pm every day (During October only – Mondays 10am – 2pm); find us on Facebook or phone 089 4593451.

Mairéad Kennedy

Secretary Rathangan Community Council

Pride of Place Nominees

Wicklow Uplands Council was delighted to be nominated by Wicklow County Council as their nominee for the all-Ireland Pride of Place Competition in the Eco-Community Category this year. In July the judges visited the office in Roundwood for a presentation on the work of Wicklow Uplands Council on our Eco-Community initiatives. This was followed by a walk on an agreed access route in Glenmalur which was led by WUC Vice-Chairman 2013-14, Pat Dunne. The judges were impressed with Wicklow Uplands Council's track record of working on sustainable outdoor recreation projects, the PURE Project to combat illegal dumping and fly-tipping and the Vegetation Management Project. Winners will be announced at a ceremony in Co. Clare in mid-November 2014.



Pride of Place judges visit agreed access route at Glenmalur



Who Cares for the Uplands?



Irish Uplands Forum Conference Speakers including Dorothy-Ellen White Coordinator and Philip Geoghegan, Chairman (front row, far right).

IRISH UPLANDS FORUM CONFERENCE DUNGARVAN, MAY 2014

Over two days in late May one hundred and twenty people attended a Conference in Dungarvan to discuss 'Who Cares for the Uplands'. The conference was organised by the Irish Uplands Forum with sponsorship from the Rural Development Section of the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, the Heritage Council, Forest Service, Fáilte Ireland, Mountaineering Ireland, Waterford Leader Company and the Irish Farmers Association.

Hill-farmers, hill-walkers, tourism and outdoor sports providers, rural partnership and community development activists, naturalists, ecologists, outdoor education interests, local authorities, rural recreational officers, farm and forestry advisors and rural and agricultural policy makers discussed how to support a community based approach to sustainable development in upland areas.

On the first day a presentation on the history and priorities of WUC was given by Dorothy-Ellen White, Wicklow Uplands Council Co-ordinator and Philip Geoghegan, Wicklow Uplands Council Chairman. Pat Dunne representing the Hill Farming Committee of the IFA spoke about hill sheep farming from a national perspective. Wicklow Uplands Council was represented by other supporters including Colin Murphy, former Wicklow Uplands Council Coordinator, who assisted the Irish Uplands Forum with the conference organisation.

The other formal talks on day one reported how upland communities in various areas had come together to improve their own situation and that of their communities. Professor Frank Rennie from Scotland described how a group of tenant farmers in the Hebrides had purchased their land and were now using the resultant income to improve habitats for biodiversity, community facilities and tourism. Carmel Fox, the Chief Executive of Ballyhoura Leader Company and Ballyhoura

Fáilte explained that tourism development in this rural area was always scrutinised to examine its impact on the community. David Scallan PRO of the National Association of Gun Clubs gave an account of a Red Grouse management project in Leitrim which involves farmers, the local gun club and the National Parks and Wildlife Service. The Irish Uplands Forum presentation from Mary Tubridy, based on a community based consultative exercise carried by IUF in 2009, covered some of the opportunities and challenges associated with the community based approach. The workshop sessions provided an opportunity for everyone's voice to be heard. The trip to the Comeraghs was a reminder of real and local development challenges and opportunities as conference attendees met local farmers and community activists in the area around Mahon Bridge.

More results from the Conference will be available through the Conference Proceedings which will be produced before the end of the year.

On the final day agreement was reached to draft 'The Dungarvan Declaration' the implementation of which is now being pursued by the Irish Uplands Forum.

The Dungarvan Declaration

Maintained by generations of hill farmers, Ireland's uplands provide a range of vital benefits to society including hill farming, water supplies, recreation and biodiversity. There are many threats to their ecological, social and economic viability and responses need an integrated approach. Who Cares for the Uplands conference therefore calls on government to support a programme for the sustainable management of Ireland's uplands by locally based, partnership groups.



Crossbridge PURE mile

The PURE Mile, an environmental competition which aims to foster a greater appreciation and awareness of the country roadscapes of Wicklow by acknowledging local community efforts, had its awards night on the 16th October 2014 at The Brooklodge Hotel, Aughrim.

The PURE project is a partnership project and the first of its kind in Ireland which incorporates statutory and non-statutory organisations, including; Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, Coillte, National Parks & Wildlife Service, and Wicklow Uplands Council. Funded by the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government PURE was established to combat illegal dumping/fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin Uplands. The project was officially launched in September 2006 and to date has received over 7,200 reports of illegal dumping, collected waste from over 7,000 individual sites and removed over 2,370 tonnes of rubbish from the landscape. Wicklow Uplands Council plays an important role the project by representing the interests of private landowners and administering the project account. Wicklow Uplands Council also employs the Project Manager Ian Davis.

The PURE Mile Competition was initiated by the PURE Project and encourages communities in Wicklow to keep a mile stretch of road (approx. 1.6 km) and the immediate environment litter free. For the past nine months groups, communities and people living on the miles have been extremely busy cleaning up their areas, taking part in regular litter picks and clean-ups and researching the heritage of their areas. 2014 was the fifth year of the competition and to date 68 communities and groups have taken part. 24 communities competed this year and each one received a PURE Mile Certificate and a native holly and oak tree at the awards ceremony. This year's awards were the biggest yet with over 200 people attending on the night. There were 11 awards with cash prizes totalling €4,500 which were presented by T.D., Minister of State with responsibility for Rural Economic Development, Ann Phelan.

- ▶ The Best PURE Mile and a cheque for €1,000 was awarded to the Macreddin PURE Mile for all of their achievements, work and effort on their mile stretch of road.
- ▶ Glenasmole PURE Mile received the Best New Entry Award and a cheque for €750.

- ▶ The Best Past Winners Award and a cheque for €750 was presented to The Old Road Pure Mile and rural road which includes Mulliacuffe, Ballynultagh and Stranakelly.

Other winners on the night received a cheque of €250 and an award certificate.

- ▶ In acknowledgment for all of their efforts in keeping Glenealy litter free, the Glenealy Pure Mile received the Best Litter Free Mile Award.
- ▶ The award for Best Community Effort went to the Roundwood Pure Mile for all of their community spirit and work throughout the year.
- ▶ Best Education was awarded to the Brittas Bay National School and Dunganstown Pure Mile.
- ▶ The Best Natural Heritage Award went to Killinure Pure Mile for both their researching and listing of the numerous wild flowers on their mile and also providing a great insight into past place names of their area.
- ▶ Castletimon Pure Mile was awarded with Best Built Heritage for both their research into the many cultural features along the pure mile and the leaflet and map that accompanied this information.
- ▶ Arklow Duck Pond PURE Mile received a Highly Commended Award for the Best Natural Heritage Award with Ballycoog PURE Mile also receiving Highly Commended Award for Best Community Effort. Crossbridge PURE Mile also received a Highly Commended Award for Best Past Winners.

The awards night also featured the first ever public screening of the PURE Mile Short Film. This 16 minute film documents all of the 24 PURE Miles, the improvements that each group make to their area, and of course, the aesthetic beauty of county Wicklow. The short film was received enthusiastically and is available to view on the PURE website.

The night was also the official launch of the 2015 PURE Mile Competition, and again PURE are inviting all groups and communities living in rural areas of county Wicklow and South Dublin to take part in the 2015 Pure Mile Competition. Anyone interested in participating can request an application form and information pack by emailing info@pureproject.ie or it can be downloaded from www.pureproject.ie. Deadline for applications is on or before 22nd December 2014.

>> TO REPORT DUMPERS AND DUMPING LO-CALL <<

1850 365 121

Further information on the project and PURE Mile 2012 is available at: www.pureproject.ie

Dog Control Campaign



Dog control signage near Glenmacnass Waterfall

Continuing efforts to raise awareness about dog control in the uplands continued this year.

Dog control has become a major issue for Wicklow's upland sheep farmers due to the increased recreational use of the hills. Dog owners are encouraged to leave their dogs at home when accessing private land. Uncontrolled dogs are a serious threat to the livelihood of upland farmers. Dogs loose on the hills may cause anxiety to sheep causing

them to be displaced. Other threats include early abortion of lambs and worst of all, dogs directly attacking sheep causing severe injury or death. This is a major problem for sheep farmers and is also a serious animal welfare issue. The problem is not limited to walker's dogs as damage is often caused by local dogs which stray from neighbouring properties.

Wicklow has been at the forefront of opening up private land for recreational use since the establishment of the Wicklow Way in 1980. In general, private landowners welcome responsible recreational use of the hills and

central to this is responsible dog ownership. Wicklow Uplands Council has been working with the stakeholders to address this problem. It aims to raise awareness, encourage reporting of incidents to Wicklow County Council and to work towards practical solutions.

Wicklow Uplands Council had a number of articles published in local and national print media in 2014. As a result Leave No Trace Ireland held their AGM in Wicklow with a theme of 'Dogs in the Outdoors'. Leave No Trace Ireland launched a short video which explained some of the current challenges of dogs in the outdoors which was followed by an interesting panel of speakers including 'A Farmer's Perspective' by Thomas Healy, Director Wicklow Uplands Council 2013-14.

In September, Wicklow Uplands Council with the support of the IFA and Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association ordered new dog control signs that advise people to respect the uplands, grazing animals, wildlife and other people.

If you witness an incident of sheep worrying or damage to livestock please report it immediately to: Wicklow County Council Ph: 0404 20236 or Email: env@wicklowcoco.ie.

If you see a stray dog in the hills please report it immediately to the ISPCA Dog Warden Service Ph: 0404 44873.

Rathdrum to Trooperstown Walking Trail Proposal



Bluebell Woodland, Claravale



The growth in outdoor recreation in Wicklow has shown that there is a demand for more walking and cycling trails. There is an opportunity to develop a 16km walking trail from Rathdrum to Trooperstown Wood with further potential to extend it towards Kilmacanogue in future. The advantage of the proposed trail is that the majority of it is on existing forest roads, tracks and quiet country roads. This trail follows part of the Avonmore River and is already a popular walking route with locals in many places. The proposal would formalise the trail, invest in some trail infrastructure and promote it as a sustainable tourism product for County Wicklow. Highlights would include beautiful views of the Avonmore River, views towards the mountains and local built heritage including Clara Vale Church and bridge.

Wicklow Uplands Council is working closely with the local communities of Laragh, Clara Vale and Rathdrum, Coillte, National Parks and Wildlife Service and County Wicklow Partnership to progress this proposal. This initiative fulfils some of the priority aims in the Wicklow Uplands Council Strategic Plan 2014-2016 to develop opportunities for sustainable recreation, encourage best management of our natural heritage, encourage rural employment and promote the Wicklow uplands. The trail would be an exciting opportunity to increase the variety of walking trails in Co. Wicklow and to help satisfy the growth in demand for sustainable recreation in Wicklow and also for domestic and international visitors.

Wicklow Uplands Council Strategic Plan 2014-2016

This year Wicklow Uplands Council consulted with its members and stakeholders and prepared a new Strategic Plan for a three year period. Following Stakeholder Consultation Meetings and the submission of proposals, a new plan was prepared on the basis of strategic priorities identified by members. The new Strategic Plan was facilitated in house and built on the previous process of the 2011-2013 plan which was undertaken by Kathy Walsh Associates. The priority themes for 2014-2016 are:

- ▶ Encourage rural employment
- ▶ Support the retention of the rural population
- ▶ Improve communications to raise awareness of WUC and its work
- ▶ Promotion of the uplands by promoting the towns and villages which act as 'gateways'
- ▶ Continue to develop opportunities for sustainable recreation
- ▶ Encourage best management of our natural heritage, habitats and landscapes

The Strategic Plan is available to download on www.wicklowuplands.ie

Irish Red Grouse Association Hold Moorland Management Demonstration Day

The Irish Red Grouse Association (IRGA) hosted a very successful Moorland Management Day for Farming and Wildlife on Keadeen Mountain, Co Wicklow in September 2014. There was a large attendance by various interest groups. The location was the site of the award winning Grouse Conservation Project, lead by Fr Seamus O'Neill, Kiltegan Missionary Society with the assistance of the local sheep farmers.

The Irish Red Grouse has been with us since the last Ice Age and is an iconic bird species which is totally dependant on a healthy heather habitat for its survival. As the maintenance of heather at various growth stages is mutually beneficial to sheep farming and grouse propagation, this open day demonstrated the benefit of landowners and conservationists working together. The rotational cutting or burning of heather over a 10-15 year cycle will give optimum returns for sheep grazing and grouse propagation. On the day there was a demonstration of the 'Quad X Power Shredder' as an option for cutting heather. A number of fire breaks were also cut out on the site in preparation for prescribed burning next January or February. Meanwhile we expect a positive reply to a submission we made to the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to extend burning dates to March. Since the grouse project was established on this moor the numbers of red grouse and other moorland breeding birds have grown substantially aided by a sustained predator control programme.

The Irish Red Grouse Association, which is a registered charity, is actively involved in over 40 conservation projects throughout the country. This is the latest in a series of Moorland Demonstrations by the IRGA and the next one is planned for Galway.

Under new EU supported Area of Natural Constraints (ANC), scheme management of vegetation on the moorland must be included in a Sustainable Management Plan and the IRGA welcome every opportunity to demonstrate the various means of achieving this.

James Fitzharris, Irish Red Grouse Association



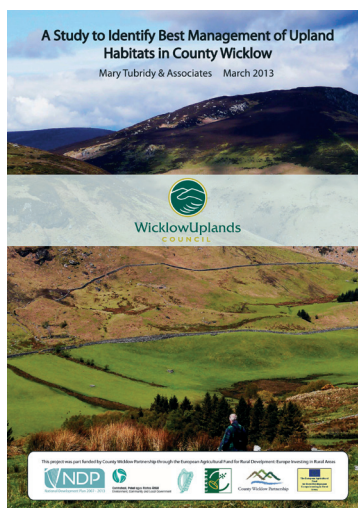
Heather Cutting Demonstration, Keadeen Mountain

Best Management of Uplands Habitats through Farming

Following on from 'A Study to Identify Best Management of Uplands Habitats in Co. Wicklow', a study funded by LEADER and supported by County Wicklow Partnership, Wicklow Uplands Council has been submitting consultation responses to the Draft Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 with the hope of securing a pilot Targeted Output Scheme in the Wicklow uplands.

The report contains a detailed study for a Sustainable Uplands Agri Environment Scheme. This consultation process is ongoing and we look forward to seeing the results.

The 'Study to Identify Best Management of Uplands Habitats in County Wicklow' is available to download at www.wicklowuplands.ie



Social Media Update

This year Wicklow Uplands Council joined Twitter to improve our online communications and raise awareness of our work.

We now have over 450 followers reading our daily tweets! Follow us @WicklowUplands for daily news, information and conversations about the Wicklow uplands and sustainable development.

We are also on Facebook so don't forget to like our page: www.facebook.com/wicklowuplandscouncil



REGISTERED DIRECTORS 2014/15

NOMINEES OF THE FARMERS & PROPERTY OWNERS PANEL



Declan O'Neill



Pat Dunne



Joe Morrissey



Sean Malone



Stephen Arthur
(Vice-Chairman)



Tom Byrne
(Hon. Treasurer)



Donal Anderson

NOMINEES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL & RECREATIONAL PANEL



John Flynn
Secretary



Carmel Kealy



David Rooney



Jim Sheehan

NOMINEES OF THE COMMUNITY PANEL



Garvan Hickey



Margaret Healy



John Mullen



Finian McEvoy

REGISTERED DIRECTORS 2014/15



Philip Geoghegan
(Chairman)



Pat Mellon



John Mallick



Dairine Nuttall
(Secretary)



John Medlycott



Claire
Chambers



Pearse Foley



Jim
Fitzsimons



Nomination
Pending

ECONOMIC & TOURISM PANEL



Geoff Seymour



Sean Byrne
Hon. Treasurer



Eugene Stephens

STAFF



Cara Heraty
Co-ordinator



Margaret Murphy
Administration Officer

WICKLOW UPLANDS COUNCIL

Wicklow Uplands Council is an independent, voluntary organisation with charitable status. The Council provides a forum where interested non-statutory organisations and individuals can have their say in the decision making process affecting the sustainable development of the local environment in the spirit of Local Agenda 21. The Council was formally established in January 1997 and has since endeavoured to implement its core mission:

MISSION STATEMENT

'To promote the sustainable use and enjoyment of the Wicklow Uplands in partnership with the people who live, work and recreate there'.

WICKLOW UPLANDS COUNCIL SEEKS TO

- Build consensus and trust
- Foster a partnership approach to sustainable development
- Manage/transform conflict
- Protect and enhance the uplands environment
- Undertake initiatives with support from the local people
- Engage in initiatives that make economic sense

Opinions and views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of Wicklow Uplands Council Ltd.

Wicklow Uplands Council focuses on issues affecting the Wicklow Uplands

