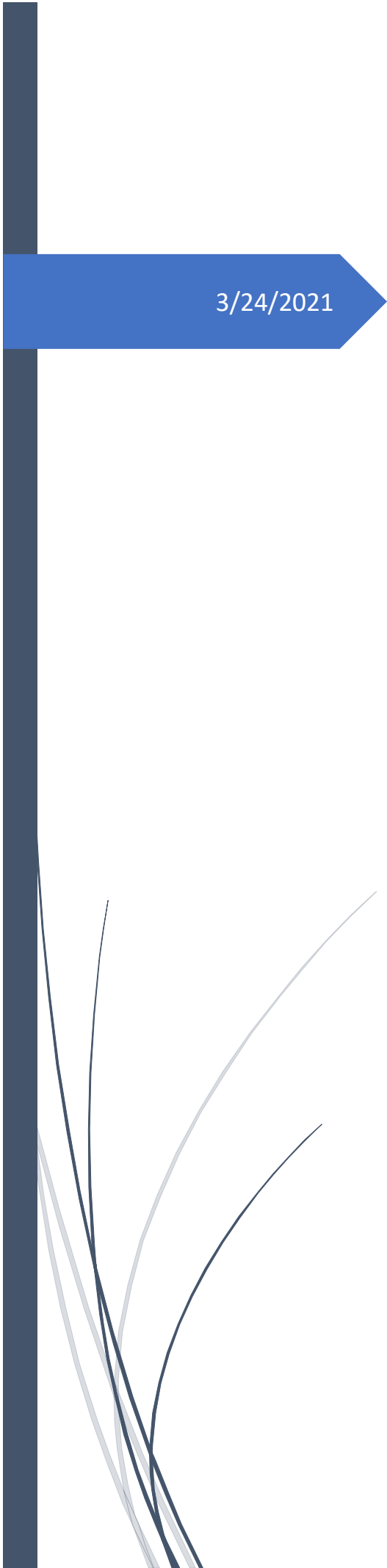




3/24/2021

Climate Conversations Carlow PPN

Report for the National Dialogue on
the Climate Action Plan 2021

*An Roinn Comhshaoil, Aeráide agus Cumarsáide
Department of Environment, Climate and Communications*

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Report on the Climate Conversations – Carlow PPN 24/3/2021 @7pm

Moderator 1 Molly Aylesbury, County Carlow Environmental Network

Moderator 2: Jannette O'Brien, Carlow County Council

Facilitator: Fiona Broadbery, Carlow PPN

Attendees:

An Gairdin Beo; Carlow County Council; Carlow PPN; County Carlow Environmental Network (2); Carlow Art Collection (2); Borris Our Vision; Hacketstown Community Group; La Leche League (2); Myshall Muintir na Tire; The Drummin Bog Project St. Mullins Ltd; Ballinabranna/Milford/Raheendoran Development Group

One-liner from the start of the meeting:

- That we can become more educated on sustainable living.
- That we will be resilient community that engages in equitable climate action.
- Hope for a more radical approach to climate action than has been experienced to date.
- If every baby gets 6 months of breastfeeding, we save up to 150 kg CO2 emissions. Also, to say that breastmilk is the ultimate zero carbon food and if mothers come to a couple of our support meetings, they are usually able to meet their own breastfeeding goals.
- Protect our beautiful landscape and its biodiversity.
- That everyone in the future will understand compound growth before they leave school.
- I hope that county Carlow can sensitively develop more outdoor recreation areas, walks, and Blueway's that have minimal impact on the biodiversity of the county but get more people out, getting fit and enjoying the wonderful countryside in Carlow.
- We can work together in a cohesive and respectful way to find a solution to the ongoing climate emergency.
- Hope is for cleaner, greener society however that can be achieved.
- That sustainable living is the norm and breastfeeding is recognised for its part in this.
- Develop RESPONSIBLE enterprises not just sustainable.
- A hope that everyone in the community would engage with a common effort to practically act towards mitigating climate change. That no one would get 'left behind' and that the community would see and feel the benefit of sustainable living.
- Reduce food waste and compost what we have.
- Concern that at the highest levels in our government there still is a lot of lip service to the targets.
- That my grandchildren can enjoy the same simple pleasures with their grandchildren that I do with them.
- Hope that the new climate bill is implemented properly and supported, and we can at last have proper climate action and reduce Ireland's greenhouse emissions.
- I didn't get the chance in the breakout room to say that breastmilk is the ultimate zero carbon food and if mothers come to a couple of our support meetings, they are usually able to meet their own breastfeeding goals.
- There is coming funding for cycle and walkability to school

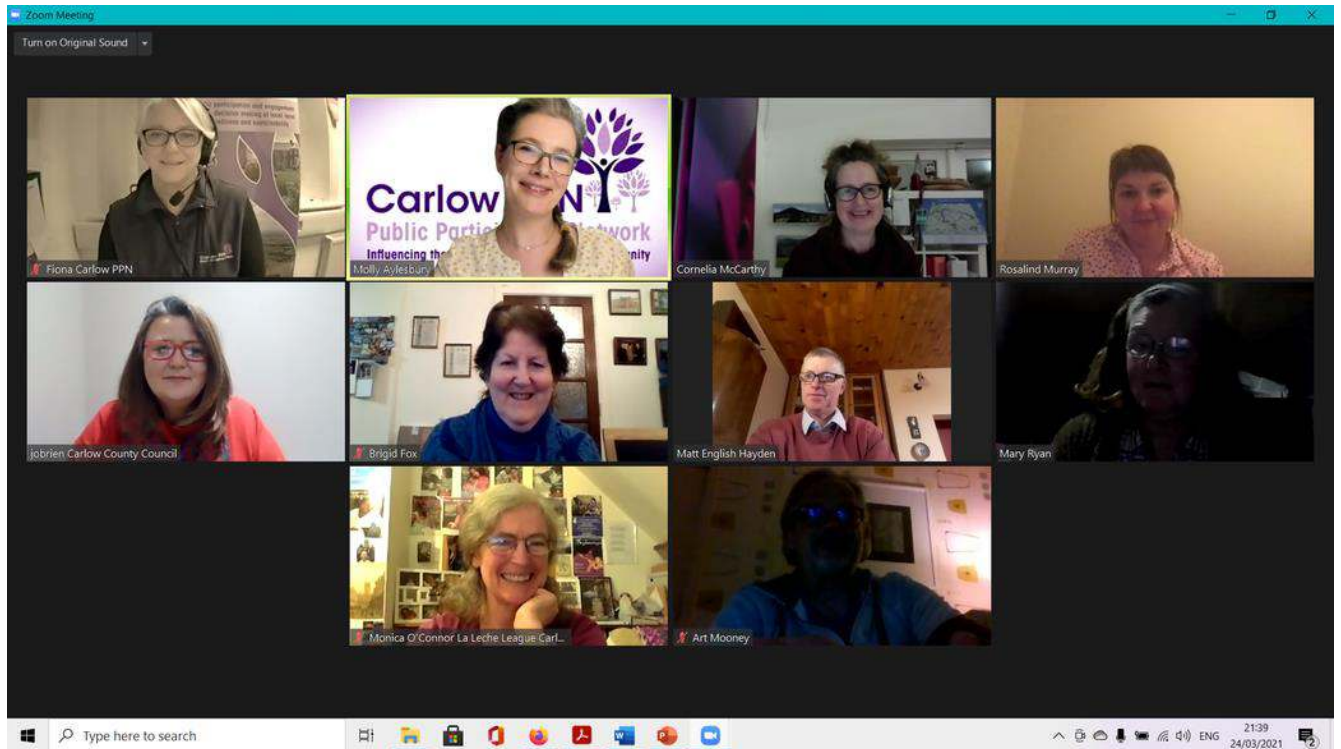
Captured in the Chat:

- Need a way to link people and all the individuals up
- “Borris - Our Vision” project highlighted that they wished to have children able to walk or cycle to school safely. The potential new greenway on the old railway line could open up this new route (old Bagenalstown to Palace East greenway)
- There are groups acting to promote biodiversity in urban areas
- Grow our sacs and stop looking at how we can use it
- How do we get action to accompany the change in public attitude?
- Visible signs are important- Kinsale had gable walls of biodiversity murals with information about flora and fauna
- I think it must start with the Council
- Carlow town biodiversity strategy commissioned by town forum, where is it?
- Biodiversity window boxes for those cocooning
- Carlow Barrow Users Group, Save the Barrow Line, Save the Barrow Track are working to protect the habitat to the River Barrow SAC. We have three SACs and Carlow need to protect, maintain, and grow our habitats and SACS. This is an important part of mitigating climate change
- Protecting and growing our habitats and SACS, practical work to reach our targets re climate change/carbon/temperature, natural engineering approaches to address flooding and water quality, concern about biodiversity loss, loss of habitats and species, space and respect for our rivers, energy use.
- The next term of leader money will be focus on the biodiversity and climate change.
- I am a little disappointed in the success of the Green Schools project - going since 1990 and have those who started out on this programme really learned any lessons?
- Cycle to schools must be in by 12th of April- too short to link in development plan etc
- Funding used for an in-depth Landscape Character Assessment, Historic Character Assessment, and to map potentials for natural management of rivers and SACs with climate change and loss of biodiversity in mind. This could ground education and involved in management and protection projects.
- Reimagining Irish Rivers conference 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GOUlJ_XXWs8
- Reimagining Irish Rivers conference 2: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GC9nwJVQjE>
- Groups should be enabled to develop 3-year plans
- I was asked by a neighbour if the council was employing me to pick up litter?
- I would like to see funding for down to earth projects like more funding put into households for their own refuse bins – a subsidy - maybe it would help to cut down on the amount that has to be spent on the clean ups.
- The Executives, Cllrs of Co Co need to understand the value of this
- Can we tax the polluter? use that to fund our biodiversity projects
- Bring Dr Tara Shine into this conversation - she is great on the ‘one step at a time’ things people can do
- I agree Mary, the large companies who are creating most of the CO2 emissions should be taxed accordingly and put the money into environmental subsidies for the 'smaller' people

- The use of Pesticides is a major issue, both by private houses as well as industry and government agencies.
- Looking at funding something The Bride Project that supports farmers to develop habitats on their lands, and support and lobbying at a national level to get them to do this.
- Why are them Pesticides not banned and that roundup
- Is there Agenda 21 funding available this year Jannette?
- Looking at funding something The Bride Project that supports farmers to develop habitats on their lands, and support and lobbying at a national level to get them PAID for this work.
- PPN did funding workshops and are looking to collate all the funding opportunities
- The heart of the community grant is out now
- Some of the PPNs have created a calendar showing what funding is coming month by month
- Funding for survival is critical at the minute as groups can't shake buckets at the minute.
- When is the revolution going to start to cut through the bureaucracy in local authorities, it has to start from within
- PPN has a funding button which links to all the active applications
- Thanks for giving us the chance to represent babies and families tonight. IBFAN (international Baby Food Action Network) says that infant feeding WAS NOT MENTIONED IN THE PARIS CLIMATE agreement which is a huge omission. Seeing that lack of breastfeeding causes the deaths of 595,000 + annually and the deaths of 98,000+ mothers annually, from cancers and type 2 diabetes.
- We said Ros, applying for funding feels like your just keeping a system in a job.
- There has to be some feedback about funding streams may be regimenting our solutions
- Molly, I'll put that point in the survey and my thoughts on policy.
- Survey link: <https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/0cee0dee/>
- Policy needs to be weighted in terms of local versus multinational with local rates
- Hope my last point was clear, the infant deaths are estimated at 595,000+ and maternal deaths: 98,000+ annually from lack of breastfeeding
- Policy and development plans need to prioritise protection and natural management of our habitats and acknowledge. Council plans and development should not add burden.
- Adopt the new National Wind Strategy Guidelines
- Let's see renewable energy, community-led development where the community both share the burden and the benefits
- Protect the county from large infrastructural developments that take all the benefits from the community and leave the community with all the burden.



Screenshot of the Climate Conversation:



Breakout Rooms

Molly Aylesbury (Moderator)

Breakout Room 1 – Current Actions and Ambitions

- Wind and solar power- at an individual level- reduction of 50% on bills
- Heat pumps but available free and powered by renewable energies
- Future farmers are caretaking the mountain- ensuring clean water
 - How are we taking care of our hydrology?
- Empowered and educated farmers are critical to protecting our biodiversity
- Is renewable energy at a cost-
 - Off shore renewable energy
- Sustainable energies communities- 10 groups are happening around the county
- Farmers market- local food reduces food miles
- Drummin Bog Project- the last bog in this area- education, tourism, environmental value
- Save the Barrow Way:
 - sustainable development
 - we have to change our perspective to not what nature can do for us but what we can do
- Stop Cutting Down Trees
- Art as a conversation starter
- Keeping people connected
 - community gardens where people can come together
 - education around the food chain where do carrots come from
- Climate change has a social element- we are not alone in this and we have social contract, environmentalism is the norm
- Education as well as taking action- Carlow college acting from course content to ground maintenance empowering the individual
- Outreach – education schemes but not waiting to take action
- Carlow could be a carbon sink but we need to think wider than our community
- It is a matter of life and death and it is always the same people who are left behind
- Where are we willing to compromise – so many options so we need to preserve
- How do we mitigate these things- nature finds a way- Chernobyl?
- Rewilding under windfarms
- Nationwide Dunsaney Castle rewilding
- Putting on extra layers, cycling to school normalising things

Breakout Room 2 – Enabling Community Action (Funding)

- Try for all the grants - hard work for volunteers.
 - Time consuming
- Leader is very difficult- paperwork
 - Keep it simple silly
- Town and village funding with support from enterprise much easier
- Groups need more help on how to make applications
- No group should have to hire someone to fill out forms
- If you want people to make applications, it needs to be simplified
- What is the success rate? Are groups being disheartened to apply
- Concern: that areas where people can't afford to mitigate will be left behind and then expect them to be able to fill out forms- people struggling to keep heads above water drowned in paperwork

- You can't plan because there is not enough notice. If you knew in advance (a year) what was coming up, who and what it is for you can actually have effective action rather than scrambling
- That leader funding should prioritise environmental
- Funding education programmes- organic, zero waste, green clean, shop local
- Practical funding for capital work- tress, bike infrastructure
- More funding for water conservation
- Landscape character assessment should be funded
- Natural river solutions- thinking about how we can protect our environment for future
- La leche- completely independent and can't get funding – same problem
- Fund more things like the rediscovery centre-
- Part of the funding should be used to support voluntary groups

Breakout Room 3 – Informing National Policy

- Marco and Micro – when we take the global perspective the facts become distorted
- Local expertise needs to be introduced
- But if we leave it to each LA it gets bogged down in water pump politics
- Prioritise change and there are vested interests
- These are long term plan's, so they should be top down instructions that take a longer view
- Policy on land types ecosystems etc. rather than LA or county lines

Jannette O'Brien (Moderator)

Breakout Room 1 – Current Actions and Ambitions

- Can this be replicated in our county?
- Carlow Town Has one of the highest walkers in the Country. This is from one of the County Development Plan Submittals
- Pandemic effect. Walking for Social engagement
- Interaction between local community and farming and shared
- Funding for biodiversity study €6k
- Columbanus Way - Significant funding gained. Entire County approach. Starting point at 9 stones. Storyboards being erected. Continues to Bangor in Co. Down. Mainly walking route
- Energy Programme – SEAI Local Community & Funding achieved for feasibility study underway
- COVID fund – expanding Zoom reach.
- Difficulty in getting people interested and involved in Environmental and Climate action issues
- Bernadette – Workshops worthwhile. More needed.
- Lots happening around Climate Action – but very fragmented
- Small groups working away. How do we pull them together?

Breakout Room 2 – Enabling Community Action (Funding)

- Funding being played to the Media – needs to be brought to the local level. €65k allocated nationally. DNA & Scientific covering mammals, aquatic – too small. Dept. Agri.
- Biodiversity funding coming through CCDP. Priority seems to be to GET the money... not in the roll out of the project
- Complexities in terms of funding application process
- Short turn-around timeframe
- Ruling out small scale groups and projects
- Leads to lack of community support and project will frequently discontinue
- Would prefer to see funding communing through Council structure rather than Leader due to complexities with leader funding process. Administration process needs to be looked at.
- Belgium – upgrade of rental housing scheme. No tax on rental income provide they reached a standard of sustainable building performance.
- Tax relief for attendance at education workshops. Increased attendance and provide a small income for small voluntary groups.
- Credit system in place in schools.

Breakout Room 3 – Informing National Policy

- National Anti-Poverty Strategy – system needs to be replicated with Climate
- End date in sight for legislative implications
- Breastfeeding creates culture of eating natural – implications for less waste, less food miles.
- Can we connect this action to national climate action?
- Our local governmental institutions are way behind international standards.
- Lack of joined up thinking from the top down
- System AND culture change needed
- Is the vehicle there to make this happen?
- The circular economy could be the vehicle to make this happen. Could this be front and center in a government plan.

Recommendations

Overall the outlook was positive. There was an emphasis on the work taking place at a local level. It is clear that a bottom up approach that focuses on actions that individuals and community groups can work away on, was favoured. The tone of the evening suggested that these groups need far more support than they are getting, both logistically and financially. Going forward the overwhelming opinion was that any action fund should be easy to draw down, available for smaller amounts and perhaps administered by the local authority. There needs to be a long-term strategy, and groups need to be helped in any activation. A more central location for groups to meet so that knowledge and experience can be shared is needed, perhaps to be facilitated by the PPN. There were differing opinions on policy, reflective of the diversity of groups present, but again the majority opinion seemed to be that it should be more locally focused with a top down approach failing to take notice of local nuances. We're far behind international standards and the government need to apply more joined up thinking between departments as Climate change is not just an environmental issue but a social and economic one too.