

## 8.00 Minutes & Matters Arising from February meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, February 10th

**Time:** 7:30pm – 9:30pm

**Location:** Cavan County Local Development Board Room. Savina Donohoe chaired the meeting.

### 1. Welcome & Introductions (7:30pm)

**Present:** Sandra Nelson, Michael Lynch, Savina Donohoe, Rafaela Radulescu, John Brady

**Apologies:** Fiachra Keogh, Sridevi Balan, Sandra Nelson, Margaret (Mags) Bannon

### 2. Minutes & Matters Arising (7:35pm)

The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed.

**Proposed by:** John Brady **Seconded by:** Sandra Nelson

**Matters Arising:** It was noted that CCLD advertised through the Anglo Celt. **The Corlough Emergency Response Pilot Launch** had a very good turnout. The pilot pack includes all relevant links and resources for communities.

**Discussion on Corlough:** Corlough faces serious infrastructure issues, particularly with electricity. Around 70% of usage is electrical (power-related). Issues include high insurance costs due to risks (e.g. equipment failure). There are restrictions due to the nearby national park (Quilchea area), limiting solutions. It was agreed that other communities may be facing similar challenges.

**Actions:** The Council should be made aware of the situation. The PPN will submit a report on the Corlough issues. **Sandra Nelson** will draft this report.

**Additional Discussion:** A national S3 Report involving PPNs was discussed. Concerns were raised about lack of understanding of PPN work by external organisations. **Daniel Downey** will draft a response letter for Secretariat approval.

**Roadshows:** The first Roadshow Meitheal has taken place in Gowra. Five more are planned. Discussion on follow-up actions (email, letters, engagement). It was agreed that the Council and groups should provide feedback on issues raised

### 3. Finance Report (7:50pm)

A positive year overall, with strong engagement through training initiatives.

Corlough project noted as a key activity. **Proposed by:** Sandra Nelson **Seconded by:** Savina Donohoe

### 4. Staff Contracts (8:00pm)

Finian McNamara presented the draft updated contracts. Some adjustments are needed, particularly regarding contractual details.

**Coordinator Salary:** Current Coordinator Grade 5 mid-point has increased (approx. €57,000). Concerns were raised about immediately increasing salary to this level.

**Options discussed:** Gradual increase over time. Adjust working hours to 4.5 days per week on present wage, increasing to 5 days in 2027 at mid-grade 5 (option favoured). Increase annual leave instead of salary increase. It was agreed to **redraft the contract**, considering the grade increase for future implementation.

**Decision:** The Secretariat agreed in principle to the staff contracts, subject to revisions, for the favoured option above.

#### 5. Feedback from Sub-Committees (8:15pm)

Sridevi Balan submitted a report with regards to her representation in The National PPN via WhatsApp.

#### 6. Dates of Meetings & Workplan (8:30pm)

Upcoming meeting dates were discussed and noted. Importance of attendance highlighted.

#### 7. AOB (9:15pm)

**Community Project Idea:** Shane O'Connor proposed a community vacuum food pack initiative (food preservation). Possible funding options to be explored.

**Grants & PPN Visibility:** Grant applications are becoming easier. Organisations are more aware of PPN when applying. Need to ensure PPN profile is clear and accessible.

**Planning SPC:** Focus on small businesses and start-ups. Cavan noted as strong in entrepreneurship.

**National Staff Network:** Proposal to benchmark Secretariat staff pay. Suggestion to allocate €500 for specialist input. Proposed by: Michael Lynch Seconded by: John Brady

**Irish Language:** Suggestion for Secretariat members to use some Irish at meetings.

**HR Group:** Rafaela to continue involvement. Michael to be added.

**Sympathy:** Condolences to be sent to Margaret (Mags) Bannon on her bereavement.