



Annual Report

January 2019 – November 2019



Wicklow Uplands Council
Parish Hall, Main St, Roundwood, Co Wicklow
info@wicklowuplands.ie
www.wicklowuplands.ie



newstalk



Contents

1.	Introduction	1
1.1.	Guiding Values	1
1.2.	Strategic Planning	1
2.	Wicklow Uplands Council Structure.....	2
2.1.	Panel Structure	2
2.2.	Board of Directors	2
2.3.	Wicklow Uplands Council Team	3
3.	Finance	4
3.1.	Core Funding	4
4.	Representing the shared interests of the Wicklow Uplands	4
5.	Project Updates.....	5
5.1.	Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS).....	5
5.2.	Sustainable Trail Developments	7
5.2.1.	Bray to Kilmacanogue Trail	8
5.3.	PURE Project	9
5.3.1.	The PURE Mile Competition.....	9
5.4.	Deer Management Project.....	10
5.5.	Village Interpretative Panels	10
5.6.	Upland Path Survey.....	11
6.	Publicity.....	11
6.1.	Conferences, Events and Outreach.....	11
6.2.	Website and Development of Social Media.....	11
6.3.	Wicklow Mountain Views Newsletter.....	12
6.4.	Media Engagement	13
7.	Organisational Management – Governance	14

1. Introduction

Wicklow Uplands Council (WUC) is an independent, voluntary organisation which represents the shared interests of over 50 diverse member groups and individuals in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands. The organisation takes a partnership approach to sustainable development and promotes projects which bring value to the people who live and work in the Wicklow Uplands and to those who use the area for recreational activities. This report summarises the work and activities undertaken by the Uplands Council in 2019. Throughout 2019 WUC continued to engage with its' members, project partners and the general public to address some of the challenges faced in the uplands, in line its core mission;

'To support the sustainable use of the Wicklow Uplands in consensus and partnership with those who live, work and recreate there'

1.1. Guiding Values

WUC operates within the following core values:

Consensus: The process of consensus building is central to the work of WUC. Since inception, all decisions made by the Board of the Uplands Council have been made by consensus. By its nature this requires the resolution or mitigation of all minority concerns and objections.

Community Participation: WUC believes that the people who live, work and recreate in the uplands must be provided with opportunities to participate in the various local, regional and national decision making processes affecting the area. WUC represents the views of the local people and presents their case to the statutory decision makers.

Partnership & Collaboration: WUC is committed to work for the sustainable use of the Wicklow Uplands in partnership with statutory stakeholders in the spirit of Local Agenda 21. It recognises the necessity for, and benefits of, collaboration and partnership.

1.2. Strategic Planning

The strategic plan of WUC follows priority themes which include:

- To encourage rural employment
- To support the retention of the rural population
- To improve communications and to raise awareness of the identity of Wicklow Uplands Council and its work
- To promote the Wicklow Uplands by collectively promoting towns and villages which act as 'gateways' to the area
- To continue to develop opportunities for sustainable recreation
- To encourage best management of our natural heritage, habitats and landscapes

2. Wicklow Uplands Council Structure

2.1. Panel Structure

WUC represents over 50 diverse member groups and individuals. The membership of WUC is divided into four panel groups; farmers & landowners, environmental and recreational interests, economic & tourism interests, and community groups. These panels represent the shared and diverse interests found in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

2.2. Board of Directors

At the AGM, each of the four panel groups can nominate a specific number of candidates to sit on the Board of Directors to represent their interests for the year ahead¹. A total of nineteen Directors are elected at the AGM. Those nineteen can then co-opt an additional eight Directors to the Board. Co-options may be elected from any of the panels. The purpose of electing co-options is to allow for additional expertise on the Board. Therefore, the total amount of Directors that can sit on the Board of WUC amounts to 27. While WUC has a large Board of Directors, it is important that the various stakeholders in the uplands are represented. Consensus is central to the work of WUC and no decision by the Directors has been decided by a vote since the organisation was established in 2007. A full list of Directors for 2019/2020 is included in Table 1 below.

The Board of Directors are all volunteers and meet monthly (except for August). This ensures that projects and programmes are progressing and that Directors are well informed of current issues in the uplands. It also facilitates open dialogue between various interest groups. There is excellent attendance at Board Meeting. Directors also take responsibility for assisting in the delivery of projects and represent WUC on committees and at events throughout the year.

In addition to the Board of Directors, an Executive Committee meets monthly to discuss operational issues. Subcommittees are also formed periodically to focus on specific issues and projects and present their recommendations to the Board for consideration.

From January to November 2019, voluntary hours by Directors attending Board and Executive meetings, amounted to **over 400 hours**. Additional voluntary hours were spent on subcommittees, projects activities and through by representing the organisation at various events throughout the year. Total voluntary hours amounted to over **500 hours**. A modest calculation on the value of these voluntary hours contributed by the Board of Directors amounts to over €5000.

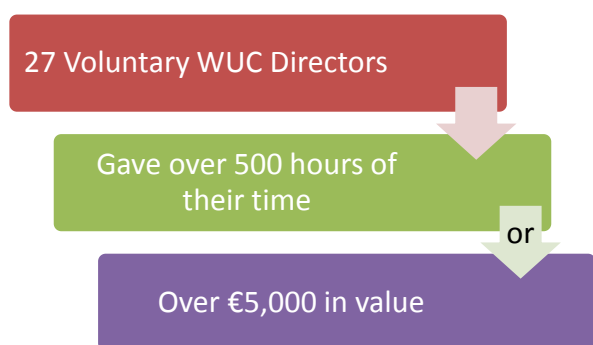


Plate 1: WUC Board Members at 2019 AGM

¹ Farmers and Landowning – 7 nominees; Environment and Recreation – 4 nominees; Tourism and Economic – 4 nominees; Community – 4 nominees

Table 1: Wicklow Uplands Council Board of Directors 2019/2020

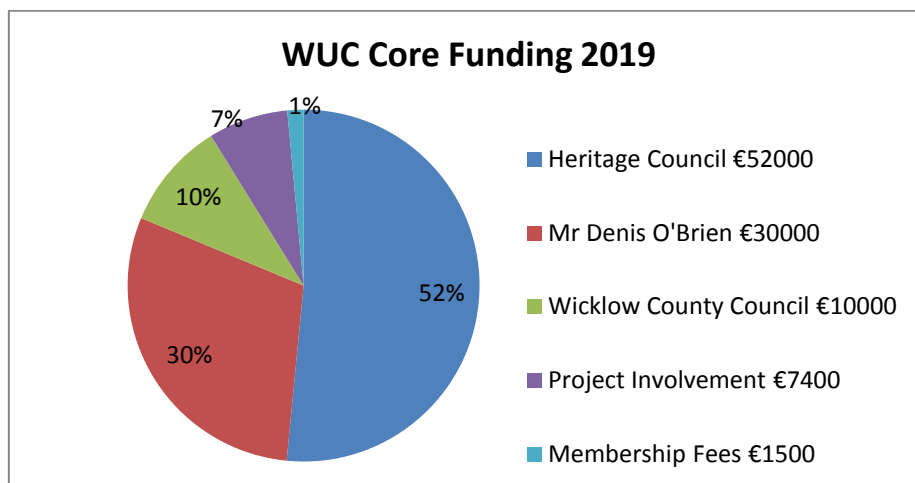
			Name	Organisation
Panel Group	Farmers and Landowners		Declan O'Neill	County Wicklow IFA
			Pat Dunne	County Wicklow IFA
			Thomas Broe	Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association
			Joe Morrissey	County Wicklow IFA
			Owen Brady	Individual Member
			Sean Malone	Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association
			Denis Halpin	Wicklow Cheviot Sheep Owners Association
	Environment and Recreation		Carmel Kealy	Motor Cycle Union of Ireland
			Jim Sheehan	Mountaineering Ireland
			Louis O'Byrne	Individual Member
			Pearse Foley	An Óige
	Community		Finian McEvoy	Glendalough & District Development Association
			Martha Mitchell	County Wicklow Farm Family Group
			Garvan Hickey	Individual Member
			Claire Chambers	Roundwood & District Community Council
	Economic and Tourism		Eugene Stephens	Ashford Self Catering Cottages
			Dairine Nuttall	Wicklow Nordic Walking & Ireland Tour Guide
			Geoffrey Seymour	Roundwood & District Community Council
			Sean Byrne	Lough Dan House, B & B
	Co-options		Tom Byrne	County Wicklow IFA
			John Medlycott	Individual Member
			Donal Anderson	Dublin IFA
			Daniel Molloy	Individual Member
			Ellen Durkin	Individual Member
			Philip Geoghegan	Ballymurrin Quaker Farmhouse
			Bob Galvin	Bray Coast Care
			Ashley Glover	Individual Member

2.3. Wicklow Uplands Council Team

WUC employs a full time Co-ordinator, a part time Administrative Officer and a full time Project Manager (PURE Project). The Coordinator and the Administrative Officer are based in WUC's Roundwood Office, while the PURE Project Manager is based in Wicklow Mountain National Park HQ in Kilafin. WUC also contracts the services of a Communications Officer and a Project Manager (Deer Project) on a part time basis.

3. Finance

In 2019, WUC continued to be supported by three main sources of core funding. These are; the Heritage Council, Mr Denis O'Brien and Wicklow County Council. This core funding allows for the employment of staff, modest project spending and the running of WUC's Roundwood office. Other funding includes administration charges for project involvement and membership fees.



In addition to core funding WUC leverages significant additional funding for specific projects. This funding is ring-fenced for those projects e.g. Deer Project, Trail Developments and the PURE Project who's finances are administered by WUC.

3.1. Core Funding

Obtaining a secure source of core funding is a key priority for WUC. Despite a proven track record in the delivery of successful projects and programmes which bring value to the Wicklow and Dublin uplands, core funding continues to be a challenge. WUC is very grateful to its long standing funders however the Directors are very cognisant for the need to seek alternative secure sources of funding. 62% of WUC's current funding needs to be applied for through grants each year. A new funding commitment was arranged with Mr Denis O'Brien until the end of 2022 however there is great uncertainty beyond that point.

4. Representing the shared interests of the Wicklow Uplands

One of key objectives of WUC is to represent the shared interests of the Wicklow Uplands. An effective way of meeting this objective is through participation in a number of fora and committees. Throughout 2019 WUC was represented by its Coordinator or Directors on a number of local and national structures including:

- Co Wicklow Public Participation Network (CWPPN)
- Dublin Mountains Partnership Consultative Forum
- Irish Uplands Forum
- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)*
- National Upland Network Partnership
- Wicklow County Tourism
- Wicklow Heritage Forum
- St Kevin's Way Management Committee (Brian Dunne acting Chair from Nov '19).

- Wicklow Joint Police Liaison Committee
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
- Wicklow Multi Agency Animal Welfare Committee
- Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Committee
- Member of Leave no Trace Ireland
- Member of the EUROPARC Federation (WUC Chairman, Tom Byrne, sits on a Commission for Sustainable Agriculture with the Federation).

* New in 2019. The LCDC is a substantial committee which is responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding in Wicklow. It brings a more joined-up approach to the running of local and community development programmes and interventions. Chairman, Tom Byrne, has filled the position.



Plate 2: Members of WUC's Environment and Recreation Panel at Panel Meeting Discussion

5. Project Updates

Wicklow Uplands Council has initiated and participated in various projects and partnerships which bring value to the people, who live, work and recreate in the Wicklow Uplands. Throughout 2019 WUC continued to operate and participate in a number of key projects.

5.1. Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS)

WUC continues to implement the Sustainable Uplands Agri-environment Scheme (SUAS) pilot project (Year 2 of 5). The SUAS Project is a European Innovation Partnership (EIP) funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food, and the Marine (DAFM) under the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. The project is officially operated by WUC SUAS, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wicklow Uplands Council.

The SUAS project was developed by WUC following several years of research on upland vegetation management, the decline in upland farming activity and the associated decline in biodiversity. The

project is designed to support commonage shareholders and individual farmers in the sustainable management of the environmentally significant habitats which they farm in the Wicklow and Dublin Uplands.

In 2018, three commonages and one non-commonage site were selected to participate in the first phase of the project. Commonage is land that is owned or grazed (grazing rights) by more than one person. Typically each shareholder owns, or exercises a grazing right over, a defined fraction of the total area and this is detailed on each shareholders folios. In 2019, an additional four commonages and two non-commonage sites were selected to participate in the second phase of the project. This amounts to 7 commonages and 3 non commonage sites, a total of 48 individual farmers, now actively participating in SUAS.



Plate 3: SUAS Open Day, Aug 19. On site discussions

The formation of Commonage Groups is one of the key innovations of the SUAS project. The shareholders on each commonage site all undergo a facilitated process to form 'Commonage Groups'. The use of a trained external facilitator is an important factor in the formation of the Commonage Groups as it provides greater support to the groups and allows the opportunity to work through any issues which may arise or be likely to arise. Each group elects a Chairperson and Secretary and develop a bespoke constitution. This is the first time in Ireland that a formal collective approach like this is being used for the commonage farming system in Ireland. The full report on this process is published on WUC's website²

Ecological baseline surveys have been carried out on all sites accepted into the project. The baseline surveys assess the current environmental condition of the each site and include management recommendations to improve to improve their current condition. Using this information and the farm data (i.e. flock size, grazing period), integrated management plans are developed for each site. The management plans for all Phase 1 sites are finalised and underway while the management plans for the Phase 2 sites are currently being finalised. The management plans include measures to be carried out by



Plate 4: Ecologist, Faith Wilson, discussing management plans with farmers

² <http://www.wicklowuplands.ie/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/SUAS-Facilitation-Report.pdf>

the participating farmers which will go towards the improvement of the habitat condition. The baselines and management reports for all Phase 1 sites are currently available on WUC's website³. Phase 2 reports will be uploaded as soon as they are complete.

Measures carried out by the farmers in Phase One include: increased shepherding activities; controlled burning training and activities; swiping of vegetation in order to create fire breaks and promote greater vegetation diversity; distribution of mineral bucket to attract sheep to areas which need more grazing activity; reintroduction of cattle grazing to trample heavy vegetation; restoration of old bog roadways; the planting of native broadleaf trees in gullies to stabilise streamside's, prevent erosion and protect water quality. Each year the impact of these measures on the habitat and biodiversity is assessed by the ecologist to determine if the desired effects are being achieved.

The SUAS project has received considerable attention since it was launched. In April, an EU group of over 60 people attending a Standing Committee on Agriculture Research (SCAR) conference in Dublin made a site visit to Wicklow to learn about SUAS. Presentations were made on the background and development of the project and its progress. As a direct result of that visit, Declan Byrne, SUAS project manager, was invited to France to attend and speak at the EU Agri Innovation Summit 2019. The first open and demonstration day for the SUAS project was held on August 21st, 2019 in conjunction with Heritage Week. Uplands areas are hugely significant natural heritage sites and their management is an important part of our natural and cultural heritage. Over 120 people attended the open day which involved presentations by guest speakers from; WUC, NPWS, UCD and Teagasc.



Plate 5: Members of EU Delegation during SUAS Site Visit. April 2019

5.2. Sustainable Trail Developments

WUC continues to work closely with local landowners, community groups and Wicklow County Council to investigate expanding existing trails and develop new trails which will realise a long distance off-road route from Bray Station in the North of the county to Woodenbridge in the south.

³ <http://www.wicklowuplands.ie/suas-reports/>

WUC is responsible for the management of the Avonmore Way and Sugar Loaf Way walking trails. The Avonmore Way continues to grow in popularity and was audited by Sport Ireland Trails in April 2019. It passed without any issues. Wicklow County Council sought and was successful in securing just under €400,000 funding to construct a bridge over the Avonmore River. Upon completion the bridge will not only provide a safe pedestrian link between the Avonmore Way and Rathdrum but will also see a pedestrian route realised from Avondale House to Glendalough. The project, which is being led by Wicklow County Council, is progressing well. Construction is expected to begin will begin in 2020.

5.2.1. Bray to Kilmacanogue Trail

All elements of the Bray Head Loop (5.5km) trail are now fully completed following the erection of map boards in June 2019. Work also progressed on establishing a walking trail through the grounds of Belmont Demesne and Killruddery. The **Belmont Way** trail successfully links the Bray Head Loop to the **Sugar Loaf Way**. The route is fully established on the ground and all way-marking signage has been erected. Map boards for the trailheads in Belmont are currently in development. The development of these trails realises a walking trail from Bray to the Sugar Loaf, a distance of 15km. The route has been inspected by Sport Ireland Trails for accreditation as an official waymarked trail. A few minor items are to be completed and the trails will be added to their register. These trails will undoubtedly be a major attraction and boost to the area as it will provide numerous options for walkers of all abilities. Those who wish to take on a challenge can climb the three peaks of; Bray Head, the Little Sugar Loaf and the Great Sugar Loaf. In addition, a new café has been opened in the grounds of Belmont Demesne as a result of the trail developments in the area.



Plate 6: The View of Bray Head Cross and Bray Seafront from the Bray Head Loop

The development of these three trails allowed for the ECOtrail Wicklow, a prestigious international Trail Running Event, which was held on 28th September 2019. The trail started and finished on Bray Seafront and had over 1,100 runners from around the world take part. ECOtrail Wicklow provided a selection of challenging routes; 18km, 28km, 45km and 80km. Such was the success of the event that it will take place again in 2020 and 2021 with a growing number of participants expected.

5.3. PURE Project

The PURE Project (Protecting Upland and Rural Environments) is a partnership project involving statutory and non-statutory organisations including; Wicklow County Council, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown County Council, South Dublin County Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Coillte and Wicklow Uplands Council. WUC continues to administer the PURE Project and employ the project manager, Ian Davis. This project is the first of its kind in Ireland and tackles illegal dumping and fly-tipping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands. There is a dedicated clean up truck, the PURE Truck, which ensures an effective clean-up response time and results the swift removal of any dumped material. A lo-call-phone-line 1850 365 121, operates 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year, and allows any member of the public to report incidents of illegal dumping, or, individuals who are responsible for such activities.



The project was officially launched in September 2006 and to date has removed over 3000 tonnes of illegal dumping from the uplands. It has also witnessed a 63% reduction in illegal dumping in the Wicklow/Dublin uplands. 2019 marks the end of the current three year funding arrangement with the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment (DCCAE). WUC and the project partners remain fully committed to the project and are actively lobbying for a new funding agreement going forward. The partners are seeking a 10 years funding arrangement from the DCCAE which will allow the project to expand further and build on its impressive record of success. WUC continues to play an important role in the project representing non-statutory and private landowners' interests on the PURE management committee, administering the project account and employing the project manager.

5.3.1. The PURE Mile Competition

The PURE Mile is a community/environmental initiative of the PURE project which encourages communities in Wicklow to keep a mile stretch of road and the immediate environment litter free while simultaneously considering the preservation and careful maintenance of the flora and fauna, ditches, hedge-rows, and any other natural or man-made features of the area. 2019 marked the 10th year of the PURE Mile competition with over 500 miles of road entered into the competition. A Gala awards night was held Oct 16th to celebrate all the successful participants of the PURE Mile 2019 competition. A total of €5,500 prize money was presented to a wide range of groups in recognition of their hard work and success in the PURE Mile competition.

In 2019 a number of groups also 'Adopted' more isolated roads in upland areas. In April, in support of the PURE Project and the PURE Mile competition, WUC carried out its annual litter pick along a 7km stretch of the Sally Gap, from Kippure Adventure Centre to the Sally Gap crossroads.



Plate 8: Volunteers from WUC following successful litter pick of the Sally Gap. April 2019

5.4. Deer Management Project

In 2018, Wicklow Uplands Council signed a three year contract for the provision of sustainable Deer Management Services in Co. Wicklow. Jointly funded by The Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine and The Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, the project is being strategically managed in conjunction with Wicklow Deer Management Partnership. The aim of this project is to establish three new Deer Management Units (DMUs) throughout the county. A DMU is an area of land where landowners, hunters and other interested parties come together to manage deer with agreed objectives.

Each DMU will assess and monitor the adverse impacts of deer in those areas and make recommendations towards reducing those impacts in a sustainable manner. There has been considerable interest in the project and five DMU's have now been established. Landowners in each DMU have signed MoU's to take part in the project and management plans are currently being put in place for each.

5.5. Village Interpretative Panels

Since 2007 Wicklow Uplands Council has led a community based project to develop a network of interpretative panels in towns and villages across County Wicklow. Thirteen communities have since joined the network including Aughrim, Baltinglass, Blessington, Dunlavin, Enniskerry, Kilmacanogue, Laragh, Newcastle, Newtownmountkennedy, Rathdangan, Rathdrum, Roundwood and Tinahely. The panels highlight local heritage features and points of interest and are proving a popular focal point for visitors to the area and local people. This year Wicklow Uplands Council, with funding from County Wicklow Partnership (LEADER) is working with local community groups in Ashford, Lacken and Shillelagh, Co. Wicklow to develop heritage interpretive panels in their locality. The project is

near completion, with final artwork agreed and it is expected that the new panels will be erected by the end of the year. The project is a partnership between local communities, Wicklow County Council and Wicklow Uplands Council.

5.6. Upland Path Survey

It was hoped that WUC, in partnership with; Mountaineering Ireland, NPWS, Mountain Meitheal, Coillte and County Wicklow Partnership would carry out a survey of upland paths of Co Wicklow in 2019. Unfortunately due to time constraints and changes in the planned approach for the project, it was delayed significantly. However, the partners have now an agreed approach and aim to submit for LEADER funding for the survey in early 2020.

The survey will assess current levels of upland path erosion and will take a diagnostic approach, making recommendations on the repairs necessary to fix those paths most damaged. Over 100km of upland path in Wicklow are already identified as suffering from erosion.

6. Publicity

6.1. Conferences, Events and Outreach

Representatives of WUC have attended and participated at a wide range of events, conferences and meetings throughout the year. Some of the key events in 2019 which were organised or attended by WUC representatives include;

- 2018 Uplands Study Visit Review
- Meetings with Upland Network Coordinator, Mary Mulvey
- DAFM EIP Workshops in relation to the SUAS Project
- Launch of Wicklow Walking Maps, organised by WUC
- Irish Uplands Forum AGM, Co Antrim
- National Ploughing Championships, representing SUAS
- Visit of EU Delegation to SUAS in Laragh, Co Wicklow
- Launch of East Wicklow River Trust
- Invited by Wicklow County Council to Meet HRH Prince Charles on his visit to Wicklow
- Irish Rural Link Climate Conference
- Mountain Awareness Day, Co –hosted between WUC and Mountaineering Ireland
- Presentation of WUC projects to Wicklow Rotary Club
- SUAS Open Day and Heritage Week Event
- Glenasmole Heritage Week Event
- Update Meeting with members of INHFA in Newport, Co Mayo
- EUROPARC Annual Conference, Latvia
- IUF EIP Networking Meeting, Glencree, Co Wicklow
- Burren Winterage Festival
- Launch of IUF Socioeconomic Report

6.2. Website and Development of Social Media

WUC continues to improve communications and grow its online presence through its website and through the steady growth of social media pages; Twitter, Facebook and Instagram.

WUC's website www.wicklowuplands.ie is the main source of information for work and projects carried out by the organisation. It continues to have a growing audience with over 10.6k unique

users from Jan – Nov 19. This represents a 48.2% growth in new users compared with the same period in 2018. There is an average audience of 1,100 unique visitors per month.



Plate 9: Wicklow Uplands Council website homepage

WUC's Facebook page⁴ also continues to grow in followers. There are now 2,310 followers of the page which represents a growth in followers of 40% since January 2019 and a 125% growth since January 2018. There is a high and steady engagement rate with Facebook posts with over 6,000 average engagements per month and a reach of over 23,000 people per month.

WUC's Twitter page⁵ has 1,600 followers and generated over 125,000 impressions since January. A more recently created WUC Instagram page⁶ has gained 1,038 followers.

6.3. Wicklow Mountain Views Newsletter

The latest version of WUC's newsletter, 'Wicklow Mountain Views', was published in August '19. The publication contains news articles, features and photographs, on a broad range of topics such as recreation and community developments, historical accounts, heritage awareness, project updates and matters that affect the upland communities. Articles are authored by upland stakeholders, Board members and employees. 1500 copies are printed and distributed to members, local politicians, local libraries, community centres etc. An e-zine version of the newsletter is also circulated to a large mailing list. This can be viewed by visiting: [Wicklow Mountain Views- Recent Edition.](#)



⁴ <https://www.facebook.com/wicklowuplandscouncil>

⁵ <https://twitter.com/WicklowUplands>

⁶ <https://www.instagram.com/wicklowuplands/>

6.4. Media Engagement

WUC receives considerable media coverage in both local and national media (radio interviews and newspaper articles). Some highlights of 2019 include:

Month - 2019	Title and Publication
October	<p><i>"SUAS Pilot Project Team Attend EIP AGRI Networking Event"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: Wicklow Times, The Wicklow People <p><i>"Pure Mile Competition Awards Gala"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - WUC Board Members, photo published: The Wicklow People
September	<p><i>"Commonage Farmers Given A Hand Up By SUAS Initiative"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Irish Independent/ MSN.com <p><i>"The Sale of The Iconic Luggala Estate"</i> (quote provided).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: Wicklow Times, The Wicklow People.
August	<p><i>"The Importance Of The Luggala Estate To The Uplands"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview on East Coast FM (Wicklow This Week). Sean Byrne, WUC Board Member <p><i>"SUAS Project Open Day Event A Huge Success"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Farmers Journal, The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, WicklowNews.net, NRN Blog <p><i>"Guided Walk Will Show Deep History of The Valley"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: Tallaght Echo
July	<p><i>"Core Funding a Concern For Wicklow Uplands Council"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, WicklowNews.net <p><i>"Wicklow Uplands Council To Host AGM And Panel Meeting"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, WicklowNews.net <p><i>"Have Your Voice Heard in The Uplands"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview on East Coast FM (Don Swift Show). Tom Byrne, Chair of WUC
May	<p><i>"Over 60 Bags of Rubbish Collected During Clean-up On The Sally Gap"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, The Wicklow Voice
April	<p><i>"EU Delegation Visits The Wicklow Uplands To See The SUAS Project"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: Agriland.ie, The Farmers Journal, The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, WicklowNews.net <p><i>"Volunteers Needed For Litter Pick Event of The Sally Gap"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, Wicklownews.net.
March	<p><i>"Public Meetings To Decide Wicklow's Recreational Strategy A Huge Success"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times <p><i>"Working Together For The Common Good Of The Hills"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Irish independent. <p><i>"New Maps Of Walking & Heritage Trails in County Wicklow"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times

	<p><i>"Wicklow Uplands Council Disappointed Controlled Burning Season Not Extended"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Irish independent, Agriland.ie, The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, Wicklownews.net.
February	<p><i>"Uncontrolled Upland Burning Condemned By Wicklow Uplands Council"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: Agriland.ie, The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, Wicklownews.net, Extra.ie <p><i>"Developing Recreation Activities In The Uplands"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview on East Coast FM (The Morning Show). Brian Dunne, WUC Coordinator <p><i>"Information Event For Hill Farmers Seeking To Participate In Second Round Of SUAS Project"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, The Wicklow Times, WicklowNews.net. <p><i>"Promoting Responsible Dog Control In The Uplands"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview on East Coast FM (Wicklow This Week). Tom Byrne, Chair of WUC. <p><i>"The Challenges of Snow Tourism in The Wicklow Uplands"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Interview on East Coast FM (Wicklow This Week). Dairine Nuttall, Board Member of WUC.
January	<p><i>"Responsible Dog Control Practices"</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published: The Wicklow People, Wicklow Times

7. Organisational Management – Governance

WUC continues to strive for good governance in all projects and operations. WUC is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status and therefore must be fully compliant with the charities governance code. Governance is a regular agenda item for the Board of Directors and good governance policies and practices are being implemented continually.

- A Conflict of Interest and Conflict of Loyalty Policy was adopted by the Board in 2019
- Child Protection Policy: WUC does not deal directly with minors in any project or programme. WUC does not require a full Child Protection Policy. However, in the event that a minor attend a WUC event, they must be accompanied by a parent or guardian who will supervise them at all times.
- GDPR: WUC privacy policy is displayed on the www.wicklowuplands.ie website