



# Cork Nature Network

## *Annual Report 2016*



Cork Nature Network. Registered Address. An sabin, Ballinvoher, Castletownroche, County Cork.

Directors: Gill Weyman, Cian Gill, Katriona Wallace, Valerie Soma and Aideen Kane



## WELCOME

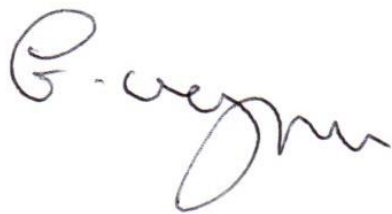
*It has been the second year of our operation and has been another memorable and action-packed year for Cork Nature Network. We have continued to grow and develop into a recognised local organisation who organise quality events and run successful projects.*

*We have five directors during 2016: Gill Weyman, Cian Gill, Katriona Wallace, Aideen Kane and Valerie Soma. During this time the management team numbers increased up to 21 active members. All volunteers! The management team was encouraged to implement the actions from the 2016 work programme. Without our management team Cork Nature Network would not be as effective as we are. In 2016, we also had the kind assistance of a local solicitor Cian O'Mahony who provided advice on our legal requirements in becoming a registered charity. Cork Nature Network gained charitable status in 2016.*

*We have focused on increasing our public profile through our projects, events and social media. We have also developed our web site and have networked with a wide range of organisations in order to be out there and part of the Cork community.*

*Cork Nature Network has taken time to develop itself as a NGO operating in Cork at ground level. The level of support, commitment and good will from our volunteers is incredible and highly valued. Without them we could not operate to the level of success that was reached in 2016. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has helped or participated in our events during the year.*

*Thank you.*



Gill Weyman  
Chair



## ***Promotion and publicity***

Publicity and promoting our organisation has been at the forefront of our work, raising our profile through our website, Social Media Pages, Press releases and our logo.

During 2016, Edel Jennings a volunteer graphic designer produced the logo for Cork Nature Network. The otter was chosen as it was felt to symbolise the importance of wildlife in Cork. Ireland is believed to be a stronghold for the otter and Cork City and County has populations of otters. Otters live on both land and water. Therefore, at the AGM in 2016, the members agreed that the otter logo as above would represent our organisation.

The website has not been easy to develop and there were problems along the way but by the end of 2016 the web site was up and running and almost complete by the membership page and a few amendments to its image.

Social Media includes Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Later in 2016, a LinkedIn profile was added. Aideen Kane oversees the social media with input by project managers and other volunteers. Other Facebook pages added were Cork Invasive Alien Plant Species, Cork Ladybirds and Cork Otter. These were led by Karen Loxton, Gill Weyman and Chris Moody respectively. Facebook has been one of the most successful means of social media outreach. The likes on Facebook increased in 2016 from 869 in January to 1,810 in December. Twitter and Instagram engagement have increased, but further work is needed to increase our profile on these pages.

Press releases were sent out to the local Cork papers for each event. Information on the events was printed in local papers such as: Evening Echo, the garden section of the Evening Examiner, Southern Star and Grapevine.

## ***Events***

During 2016 large number of successful events were organised. In March a talk on lichens was held as part of the Lifelong Learning Festival. In April we held an urban walk and in May Cork



Nature Network teamed up with Cork Environmental Forum to organise a seminar on creating a vision for 2016. The event was about remembering what the environment was like in 1916 and it identified the impacts on the natural environment by agriculture and forestry over the past 100 years. The seminar included a visioning of how we would like to see our species, forestry and farming practices develop in the next 100 years. Key speakers were Dr Liam Lysaght from the National Biodiversity Data Centre, Ted Cook, Heritage Specialist and Dr. Darren McAdam O'Connell from the Cork Environmental Forum.

In June there was a harbour walk and a talk by Damian Enright. This was followed by a visit to Bere Island to assist with recording species for BioBlitz that is run by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. In July we held two woodland walks: the first in Ballyannan Woods and the second in Glengarrif woods. All events were well attended. Numbers ranged from 10-25.

August was equally busy with National Heritage Week events. These included a mini bug hunt, a walk in Doneraile Wildlife Park and a ladybird talk. Heritage week concluded with the annual picnic in Beaumont Quarry. The mini beast hunt was booked up and the annual picnic was very well attended.

In September we had a stall and gave a talk on ladybirds in Millstreet Country Park and in November during science week a series of short talks was given in Blackrock Castle on Beaumont Quarry, Otters, Buzzards, the Kerry slug and phenology. The numbers attending events averaged at around an average of 15 people per event, although events such as the seminar and the science week had numbers around 40 and 30 respectively.

## **Projects**

Cork Nature Network ran four projects:

Beaumont Quarry is an ongoing project and was led initially by Jo Goodyear and then by Cian Gill. Beaumont Quarry is a disused limestone quarry that ceased operation in the 1960s. It was then left to regenerate naturally and now has a wealth of species and wildlife.



The steering group for the project met twice during 2016 to discuss the management plan and the actions that are proposed over a five-year period. Jo Goodyear/Cian Gill and Gill Weyman sit on the steering group.

Two clean ups were held during 2016 to remove some of the waste that has been dumped on the site. Each year an annual picnic is held where there is a celebration of the site. Food, music, face painting and wildlife talks and walks are offered.

#### Otters of the River Bride

This project was instigated due to proposed flood protection measures for the River Bride by the Office of Public Works. One of the measures proposed included culverting a section of the river. Cork Nature Network were already aware of the presence of otters in the river and in 2016 a citizen science project began intended as a baseline survey of the river. This would enable a before and after comparison to be made. The project started with a training day for the volunteers. A total of four visits were made to the river to collect otter spraint.

During 2016 the otter project manager Dr Karen Loxton and Dr Paddy Sleeman were invited give a talk on the project to the Dingle Aquarium. In the latter part of 2016 Cork Nature Network, Chris Moody (local resident) and Dr Paddy Sleeman met with the Office of Public Works to discuss the project, the flood protection measures and the culverting proposal. The outcome was that the Office of Public Works were going to continue with the culvert. This was disagreed by the meeting members as these measures may impact upon the otters using the River Bride. The river has a high level of otter activity and otters use the area for breeding and food.

#### Buzzards

The project on buzzards involved a survey of the Kanturk area. The project consisted of a survey of buzzards by local volunteers, who were recruited and trained to look for buzzards in the Kanturk area. The project concluded with a presentation on the results in Kanturk library.

#### Cork Invasive Species Project

Funding was secured to run a project on invasive plant species. A total of four species were identified, Japanese Knotweed (*Fallopia japonica*), Himalayan Balsam (*Impatiens glandulifera*), Winter Heliotrope (*Petasites fragrans*) and Old Mans Beard (*Clematis vitalba*). The existing



web site [www.corkinvasiveplants.ie](http://www.corkinvasiveplants.ie) was used as a basis of information and as a place to submit records.

### ***Education events***

A series of talks on birds and bats was given to Douglas Tidy Towns Group and Douglas Scouts Group. Bird and bat boxes were made by Carrigaline and Glounthane Mens Shed and put up in Douglas Woods. This was followed by a number of bug hunts.

A talk was also given at Fermoy Tidy Towns, Kinsale College and the Irish Plant Society. Cork Nature Network also ran a series of marine talks for Cork County Council.

### ***Events attended***

Cork Nature Network attended a number of events throughout the year. These included.

- EPA Water conference
- Celtic Seas
- Swan River Basin Management
- Cork City Public Participation Network forum
- Heritage Week launch
- Fota Wildlife Park Green and Native Species Weekend
- Harbour Week

### ***Funding***

Cork Nature Network raises funds through membership, donations and events. Membership numbers during 2016 were small as the web site was not fully functional. Funding events held included carol singing, donations, events contracts and grants. Funding was secured from Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Lush and Councillor Kieran McCarthy.

### ***Training and Organisational Membership***

A number of volunteers received training in First Aid and Marketing. Cork Nature Network are also members of The Wheel. Two companies joined Cork Nature Network during 2016.



## Formatted Trial Balance

Client : 606 Cork Nature Network CLG		Accounting Year : 31st December 2016		
Code	Description	2016 Current €	2015 Comparative €	Variance €
<b>Profit &amp; Loss</b>				
<b>Sales</b>				
001	Donations	480	354	126
001.01	Membership	675	82	593
001.02	Funding	160	2,238	(2,078)
001.03	Projects & activities	3,495	590	2,905
		<u>4,810</u>	<u>3,264</u>	<u>1,546</u>
	Gross profit	<u>4,810</u>	<u>3,264</u>	<u>1,546</u>
	Gross profit percentage	<u>100</u>	<u>100</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Administration costs</b>				
309	Staff training	1,127	120	1,007
326	Insurance	435	280	155
336	Project & event costs	4,336	1,111	3,225
341	Printing, postage and stationery	77	155	(78)
342	Advertising	163	88	75
365	Legal and professional	35	20	15
368	Accountancy	650	650	-
371	Bank charges	84	4	80
396	Depreciation on fixtures, fittings and equipment	93	93	-
		<u>7,000</u>	<u>2,521</u>	<u>4,479</u>
<b>Other income</b>				
403	Government grants received	1,795	1,572	223
	Operating loss/(profit)	(395)	2,315	(2,710)
	(loss)/profit on ordinary activities before interest	<u>(395)</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>(2,710)</u>
	(loss)/profit on ordinary activities before taxation	<u>(395)</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>(2,710)</u>
	(loss)/profit on ordinary activities after taxation	<u>(395)</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>(2,710)</u>
	(loss)/profit for the year	<u>(395)</u>	<u>2,315</u>	<u>(2,710)</u>





**Cork Nature Network CLG.**  
**year ended 31st December 2016**  
**Income Analysis**

	2016	2015	Variance
Cork City Council	250	1,022	-772
Cork City Council - Ward funding	150	150	0
Cork City Council - Development grant	395	0	395
Cork County Council - Scholl Marie Talks	1,000	0	1,000
Cork County Council	0	400	-400
Lush LTD	0	2,185	-2,185
Donations & fundraising	480	662	-212
Membership	675	82	593
Events & activities	865	305	560
NGO funded training	160	0	160
Flood Management Plans	2,630	0	2,630
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>6,605</u></b>	<b><u>4,836</u></b>	





**Cork Nature Network CLG.  
year ended 31st December 2016  
Deferred Income**

	2016	2015	Variance
Cork County Council - LA 21	400	0	400
Cork County Council - Buzzard survey	900	0	900
Cork County Council - Otter Survey	1,100	0	1,100
Office of Public Works	752	0	752
Flood Management Plans	2,370	0	2,370
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>5,522</u></b>	<b><u>0</u></b>	

Note: Deferred income relates to income received in the year but unspent at the 31st December. This amount is available to be allocated to expenditure in following accounting year.

