

County Carlow Environmental Network

County Carlow Environmental Network Constitution

Title:

The name of the group will be County Carlow Environmental Network (CCEN).

County Carlow Environmental Network shall be a non-political, non-sectarian and socially inclusive organisation.

Aims: The enhancement of the physical and social environment, Carlow with reference to:

- Raising awareness of environmental issues.
- Providing leadership and practical action under the Environmental Network themes to minimise the environmental impact of Carlow and its environs.
- To contribute to the general improvement, enrichment and development of the environment in County Carlow.
- The promotion of an atmosphere of good neighbourliness and active citizenship the wider Carlow community.
- To be a representative voice of those in Carlow in all relevant environmental issues
- To make links with local political, social and environmental groups

Membership:

Membership of County Carlow Environmental Network will be open to anyone with an interest in environmental issues in the Carlow County area. There will be no membership fee. A quorum, for the purpose of any properly convened meeting of the Association, shall be 5 members. For full voting rights, members should have attended a minimum of 50% of meetings in previous 12 months. The Network commits to a minimum of 8 meetings in the calendar year.

Executive Committee:

The affairs of County Carlow Environmental Network will be managed by a Committee nominated and elected at the A.G.M. The AGM will be held during the December calendar meeting.

The structure of the committee of elected representatives shall be:

1. Chairperson
 2. Vice-Chairperson
 3. Secretary
 4. Treasurer
 5. Public Relations Officer
- All other member of the committee will be referred to as ordinary members and all members including the elected committee will have equal voting rights.
 - It is desirable to have a gender balance on the executive committee.
 - The committee will hold office for a period of one year.
 - The Committee may appoint sub-committees as deemed appropriate for specific purposes. Sub-committees may include members not on the executive committee.
 - Should a vacancy arise during the year the Committee will have the power to fill the position in a temporary capacity from the ordinary membership.
 - This appointment will remain in place until the next A.G.M.

- The Chair will preside over all meetings. In their absence, those in attendance will nominate a Chair for that meeting. The Committee has the right to replace an executive member who has failed to attend 3 consecutive meetings without valid reason.
- The Secretary will be responsible for calling meetings and taking the minutes.
- County Carlow Environmental Network shall have the right, to terminate the appointment provided that the committee member concerned has been afforded an opportunity for a hearing by Carlow Environmental Network, in compliance with the principles of natural justice. For this decision a two third's majority of the membership of County Carlow Environmental Network, present and voting will be required.

Finance:

The financial year will run from 1 January. County Carlow Environmental Network will endeavour to raise funding to support environmental programmes in Carlow. The funds of County Carlow Environmental Network will be held in a bank account in **an account to be designated**. The Treasurer will keep up-to-date accounts for the finances of the committee. All monies raised by or on behalf of the committee will be applied to further the objectives of the committee and for no other purpose. All cheques, withdrawals or other monetary transactions must be signed off on by at least two members of the committee of whom at least one will be the Chair, Secretary or Treasurer. For purchases in excess of €250, committee oversight is required and clearance must be sought. The breakdown of the accounts should be presented to the general membership annually at the A.G.M. by the Treasurer and/or Chairperson.

Voting:

Decisions at meetings will be by consensus where possible voting on ordinary issues will require a simple majority, except in the case of previous decisions being rescinded where a 2/3 majority will be needed. The Chair will have a casting vote in the event of a tie (in addition to his vote as a member). Voting where it concerns people will always be by secret ballot. Voting on other issues will be at the discretion of the meeting.

Amendments to Constitution:

This constitution may be amended only at an Annual General Meeting by a motion supported by no fewer than 2/3 of those present and entitled to vote. Motions must be submitted in writing no later than 2 weeks before the AGM for circulation to membership. The Executive Committee shall be the sole authority for the interpretation of these rules and the decision of the Committee upon any question of interpretation or upon any matter affecting the Association and not provided for in these rules shall be binding on the members subject to appeal to a General Meeting and shall not under any circumstances be subject to appeal to any court of law.

Dissolution:

Carlow Environmental Network may be dissolved

- at a General Meeting specially convened for that purpose, if supported by not less than $\frac{3}{4}$ of those present and entitled to vote.
- Such proposal shall be in writing signed by the proposer and seconder and issued to all members not less than 28 days before the meeting date.
- This meeting will also decide on the disposal of any funds and equipment which may be in the committee's name, or how to meet any outstanding debts. Any funds remaining will be donated to local charity, selected by the members present from a pool chosen previously by committee.

We certify that this is a current copy of the constitution of County Carlow Environmental Network which was adopted at a Committee meeting held

_____.

Signed: _____ Position: _____

Signed: _____ Position: _____

Signed: _____ Position: _____

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