



Uplands Community Partnership Conference



Wed 28th & Thurs 29th May 2014

The Park Hotel and Leisure Complex,
Dungarvan, County Waterford.



Irish Uplands Forum
Promoting Sustainable Economic and
Ecological Development in the Uplands

The Uplands Community Partnership Conference aims to

- Bring together established and emerging uplands community-based groups
- Facilitate debate among these groups and the statutory sector
- Explore the treasured Comeraghs, discuss current issues
- Inform the next Rural Development Programme
- Discuss Irish Uplands Forum's continuing role

Who Should Attend?

- Those who live, work and recreate in the uplands
- Uplands farmers, recreational and community activists
- Statutory organisations/agencies, public representatives, policy makers and researchers
- Anybody who cares for the uplands

Conference Programme

WEDNESDAY 28 MAY 2014	
09:00-12:00	REGISTRATION at Park Hotel, Dungarvan
10:00	CONFERENCE WELCOME: Frank Nugent , Chair, Irish Uplands Forum
10:10	LOCAL WELCOME: Dr Mike Sweeney , Copper Coast Geopark, Waterford
10:20	UPLAND 'SHOUTS' Community/environment: Declan Mulhern , Comeragh Community Development Group Farming: Flor McCarthy , Deputy President IFA , Black Valley, Co Kerry Recreation: Mario McRory , Mountaineering Ireland
10:40	INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE: <i>'Sustainable mountain development and its potential to support local communities'</i> Frank Rennie , Professor of Sustainable Development, Highlands and Islands University, Scotland Questions and Answers
11:30	BREAK
11:50	NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE <i>'Landscape and community in the uplands'</i> Brendan McGrath , planning consultant and author
12:40	LOCAL PERSPECTIVE <i>'Ballyhoura, from unknown mountain to international tourism destination'</i> Ms Carmel Fox , CEO Ballyhoura Development Questions and Answers
13:10	LIGHT LUNCH
14:00	LOCAL PERSPECTIVE <i>'The Wicklow Uplands Council story'</i> Sean Byrne , farmer and tourism provider
14:30	LOCAL PERSPECTIVE <i>'Uplands sheep farming'</i> Pat Dunne , Chair, IFA Hill Committee

15:00	<p>LOCAL PERSPECTIVE <i>'Biodiversity -grouse improvement through partnership'</i> Dr David Scallan, PRO of National Association of Regional Game Councils Questions and Answers</p>
15.30-18.00	<p>COMERAGH MOUNTAIN FIELD TRIP Walk and talk trip to the eastern side of the Comeraghs, visiting the Golden Mile project, Cruadh Wood community walk, recreational amenities at Mahon Falls and discussing upland farming, biodiversity, recreation. This walk and talk event will be informed by local experts in recreation, tourism, heritage, farmers and foresters.</p>
19:30	<p>CONFERENCE DINNER at Park Hotel, Dungarvan Comhaltas Comeraghs Music and craic</p>

THURSDAY 29 MAY 2014

08:00	<p>BREAKFAST</p>
09:00-9.30	<p>RECENT UPLANDS NEWS AND VIEWS <i>'Irish Uplands Forum update and findings from recent IUF research and projects'</i> Dr Mary Tubridy: Secretary, Irish Uplands Forum</p>
09:45	<p><i>'Mountaineering Ireland's perspective and experience of uplands partnerships'</i> Ruairí Ó Conchúir, Chair, Conservation and Access Group, Mountaineering Ireland Questions and Answers</p>
10:30	<p>BREAK</p>
11:00-12.55	<p>WORKSHOPS: Chair: Frank Nugent Delegates participate in two workshops, each of which lasts about an hour Workshop 1: Recreation and tourism: what do visitors want? Facilitator: Dr Jan Russell-O'Connor, Waterford Institute of Technology GIFT project OR Workshop 2: What is the future of uplands farming? Facilitator: John Fitzgerald, Chairman, Waterford IFA OR Workshop 3: How to engage all upland voices in partnership? Facilitator: Dr Deirdre Lewis, IUF member and countryside recreation consultant OR Workshop 4: How can biodiversity be enhanced by recreation, visitors and farming? Facilitator: Anja Murray, ecologist specialising in nature conservation policy and communications</p>
13:00	<p>LIGHT LUNCH</p>
13:45	<p>PLENARY SESSION: Chair: Dr Mary Tubridy 'Working together better' Rapporteurs' feedback Conclusions and next steps</p>
15:00	<p>CONFERENCE CLOSES</p>



CONFERENCE SPEAKER PROFILES

Frank Nugent

Frank is a founding member and is the current honorary chair of IUJ. He is a former Chair of the Mountaineering Council of Ireland (1997 to 2000) and has climbed in Ireland, Britain, the Alps, Pyrenees, Greenland, Himalayas and the Andes. He was deputy leader of the first successful Irish Everest Expedition (Stelfox 1993) and a member of the crew of Northabout, when it sailed the Northwest Passage in 2001. Now retired, professionally Frank is an expert in occupational training, curriculum and assessment design.

Dr Mike Sweeney

Mike is a mining engineer, geologist and business man. He has spent most of his working life abroad (Africa, Asia, Europe). On returning home in 2006 he became a volunteer director with the Copper Coast Geopark, sits on the Co-ordination Group for European Geoparks and is on the Advisory Group to the Geological Survey of Ireland. Among his local interests is ownership of the Beach House Gallery which supports the work of over 100 Irish artists and craftspeople.

Frank Rennie

Frank Rennie is Professor of Sustainable Rural Development at the University of the Highlands and Islands in Scotland and is Assistant Principal (Research, enterprise, and development) at Lews Castle College UHI. He is the Programme Leader for the MSc in Sustainable Rural Development, and tutors mainly postgraduates and research students. His research interests lie in new approaches to online education and the benefits of ICT networking for sustainable rural development.

Brendan McGrath

Brendan is a planning consultant living in the Burren. He is author of "Landscape and Society in Contemporary Ireland" which was published by Cork University Press in 2013. Brendan has more than 30 years experience working as a planner in Ireland. Most of that time he has worked in Irish local planning authorities. He has also worked overseas in Africa and Papua New Guinea.

Sean Byrne

Lives in the Wicklow Mountains overlooking Lough Dan where he operates an 80 acre hill farm and a successful guesthouse specialising in walking holidays. He is also involved in road haulage and road passenger transport. Sean is a founding member of Wicklow Uplands Council and board member for over ten years.

Pat Dunne

Pat Dunne has been involved in the Wicklow Uplands Council since its formation and is now Vice-Chair. He is currently Chair of the Hill Committee of the Irish Farmers' Association. Pat's family have been sheep farming for generations and have a long and positive relationship with recreational users in the picturesque Glenmalure Valley, County Wicklow.

Dr David Scallan

David Scallan is a geographer with an interest in rural policy, ecology and recreational hunting. He received his PhD from NUJ Galway in 2012. In a voluntary capacity, David is the Public Relations Officer for the National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC), which is the largest hunting and conservation non-governmental organisation in Ireland. David has worked with a range of community groups, in

particular, local gun clubs, state agencies and NGOs interested in upland management and the conservation of the Red Grouse.

Dr Mary Tubridy

Mary Tubridy is an ecologist and environmental consultant with a particular interest in sustainable rural development. She was the principal author of the Wicklow Uplands Study (1993) has been consultant to various EU funded projects on landscape and recreation. She has recently completed a thesis on upland spatial planning.

Ruairí Ó Conchúir

Lives in the Burren County Clare. He has worked for the last twenty years in agricultural management, land reform, conservation and community based eco-tourism projects in Ireland and South Africa. He is an active hillwalker and mountaineer, is on the board of Mountaineering Ireland and has been chair of its access and conservation committee for many years.

Ms Carmel Fox

Carmel Fox is CEO of Ballyhoura Development who manage and deliver a range of national and EU programmes supporting place and citizen based initiatives in North East Cork and South and East Limerick, the area covered by the Local Development Company. In playing a key role in the development of the Ballyhoura Country tourism brand, Carmel has significant experience in mobilising community initiatives into economically viable projects. Through adopting a multi-player, multi-level and multi-dimensional approach and optimising the value from a range of national policies, Ballyhoura Development stimulates sustainable development

Booking form

Attendance at the conference is subject to registration.

The conference fee is €100. This covers conference dinner and field trip. A concession rate (€50) is available for representatives of voluntary, community and environmental groups and students. If sponsorship is provided, bursaries will be available to cover accommodation. Accommodation is available at **Dungarvan Park Hotel and Leisure Centre** (www.dungarvanpark.ie). Two nights B&B €140, one night B&B €70.

Registration can be carried out through www.irishuplandsforum.eventbrite.ie or by completing this booking form and sending it to: Irish Uplands Forum, Main Street, Roundwood, Co Wicklow.

Payment can be made through the website, by cheque/cash or by submission of purchase orders.

Name:

Name of organisation:

Telephone:

Email:

Details of special dietary requirements

All other queries to the **Conference Desk** at: Phone: (01) 281 8416 or events@irishuplandsforum.org



Other accommodation available:

HOTELS

Lawlors Hotel

058 41122
www.lawlorshotel.com
info@lawlorsshotel.com

Gold Coast Golf Resort

058 45050
www.goldcoastresort.com
goldcoastholodays@eircom.net

BED AND BREAKFAST

Cairbre House

058 42338
www.cairbrehouse@eircom.net
cairbrehouse@eircom.net

Newtown Farm Country House

024 94143
www.newtownform.com
farm@newtownform.com

The Whitehouse

058 41951
Olive102@hotmail.com

CAMPING

Bayview Caravan Park

058 45050
www.goldcoastgolfresort.com/caravan-park-in-waterford.html
goldcoastholodays@eircom.net

SELF-CATERING

Drisia Farmhouse

086 365 0028
liam.treacy46@gmail.com

