The Wicklow Uplands Council
Tom Byrne-Vice Chairman
Wicklow uplands overview

• Born out of conflict
• Right of way
• High court – Walker vs Enniskerry walking group

• Mantra

“To represent the people who live, work and recreate in the uplands“

• Est. in late 1970’s –no funding
• Ltd by gaurantee, registered charity, registered lobby group
• Funding
  • Local authory
  • Heritage council (Government)
  • Private Benefactors
WUC-Structure

Annual General Meeting

- Farmers & Prop Owners
- Env & Rec
- Community
- Economic & Tourism
- Co Options

Executive committee

Sean Byrne
Chairman

Tom Byrne
Vice-Chairman

Brain Dunne
Co-ordinator (full time employ)

Carmel Kealy
Secretary

Jim Sheehan
Treasurer
WUC-Projects

Past
• Vegetation Management
• PURE project
• Village Interpretative Panels
• Outdoor Recreation
• Rural security initiative
• Winter Weather

Present
• PATS accessibility
• Deer Management
• Targeted output scheme
Targeted output scheme

- Improve diversity in the uplands
- €3 million funding over 5 years
- Incentivise farmers to improve the habitat
- Generation of ideas
  - Blocking water courses
  - Managing heather
  - Increase shepherding
  - Introduction of native bee hives
  - Area grazing
National park

- Spine of Wicklow
- 22500 ha (1/3 of Wicklow)
- Cat 2 National park (state owned)
- NPWS
- ~ 1 million visitors per year
National park
Conclusions

- The WUC is a small organisation
- Multiple projects – limited budget
- Great achievements
- Replicated in Europe
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