Cork Nature Network



Annual Report and Financial Statements
1st January to 31 December 2022

Cork Nature Network (Company Limited by Guarantee)

Cork Nature Network

Company No. 560881 / Revenue Charity No. CHY 21602
Registered Charity No. 20106200

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1. Aim and Mission

Cork Nature Network is a not-for-profit registered charity which was established in 2015. The organisation was developed to provide a local source of information on wildlife and to promote conservation. The aims of Cork Nature Network are:

"To benefit the community of Ireland by promoting and encouraging the conservation of wildlife and habitats by educating and increasing the awareness of the need for conservation in Ireland.

1. To promote nature conservation.
2. To educate and increase awareness of the need for conservation.

Protecting and promoting Ireland's wildlife through education, conservation, and research to restore a healthy ecosystem for all species and peoples of Ireland.
Delivering on our mission will require a renaissance in how people view and engage with nature, so that appreciation of wildlife is not seen as a recreational activity, but an essential interrelationship vital to the well-being and sustainable future of people and wildlife

The Board of Directors in 2022 was:

Gill Weyman (Chair) Stepped down 2022. Re-elected September 2022
Harm Deneen (Treasurer) Resigned April 2022
Tanja Marinch (Treasurer) Coopted by directors in August 2022. Stepped down and elected September 2022
Rosianne Bencik (Secretary)
Valerie Soma (Webmaster) Resigned September 2022
Helena Gavin (Marketing) Resigned September 2022
Jess Bird (Marketing) Elected September 2022
Brian McElligott (Health and Safety)
Eileen O'Riordan (Human Resources and Training)
Maggie McColgan (Development/Grants)

The company registered address is An sibin, Ballinvoher, Castletownroche, County Cork. 0872282040.

We are working towards compliance to the Code of Governance. We also have an agreed Code of Conduct and Conflicts of Interest Policy.

2.WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the 2022 Annual Report from Cork Nature Network. Our activities have continued to grow post covid-19 and we had a very busy year including increased funds, more company internal procedures put into place and an increase in our events and projects.

Our board procedures continued to develop and we updated our strategic plan (Post Covid-19). We reviewed our Code of Governance document. We also brought on two new board members to replace the treasurer and marketing director who stepped down for personal reasons. We were delighted to welcome Jess Bird and Tanja Maricich.

Our grants team resulted in funding for a manager for Beaumont Quarry. This was the first time we have secured funds for this project and we engaged Ruth Connell on a two day a week contract to oversee the management plan and work plan. We also completed our first Biodiversity Action Plan for the Tramore Valley Park and completed our first otter survey. We continued with the new project “Valuing Insects” which has continued to grow in terms of interest and activities organised with many of the online webinars being booked out.

We held a fund-raising event in the Marina Market where we secured a number of prizes and ran an online raffle.

Our partnerships continued to blossom with other organisations. We contributed to a leaflet on the Glen Park with Friends of the Glen and Coomhola Salmon Trust.

Our key challenges for 2023, will be to secure funds to continue the Beaumont Quarry and Tramore Valley Park project and to maintain our current work programmes with our current volunteer and sub-contractors. The economic climate is reducing the level of donations and therefore with future reviews, I am confident we can overcome these challenges and move forward to become a professional and nationally based organisation.

I would like to thank our amazing volunteers and members. All of which are highly valued and appreciated. I look forward to another progressive year where Cork Nature Network is spreading the message at local and national level on the importance of protecting our wildlife habitats and species.

Thank you.

Gill Weyman

Gill Weyman Chair

3.Internal operations

In 2022, Cork Nature Network developed a five-year strategic plan to set direction and measure the internal operations of the organisation.

1. Maintaining a healthy volunteer base
2. A good reputation
3. Mission-driven core values
4. Responsible fiscal management
5. Dealing and adapting to change
6. Reaching the right audience
7. Collaborating with stakeholders and communities
8. Measuring progress and outcomes

Included in the strategic plan are measurements that tie into the code of governance.
Cork Nature Network is registered with lobbying.ie and regularly reports on its submissions as required.
Cork Nature Network also has a code of conduct and a data policy.

OUR CORE VALUES

1. We recognise that our members, volunteers, supporters, and visitors are vital to our success, and we seek to provide excellent standards of service and response to their needs
2. We will aim for the highest possible standards of professionalism and efficiency in all aspects of our work
3. Where possible, we will work in partnership with other organisations in pursuit of common objectives and efficient use of resources and, in particular, to help deliver progress towards our Vision for a Living Landscape
4. We will apply an environmental and socially responsible stance to financial decisions involving sponsorship and procurement of goods and services
5. We work to connect and increase public understanding of how nature is interconnected and that acting now is key to reducing the impacts of habitat and species loss
6. Our conservation and land management decision-making are based on sound scientific evidence, research, and consultation with appropriate experts
7. We believe that anyone can make a difference.

REPORT FROM THE DIRECTORS

Jess Bird (Marketing Director)

The 2022 focus of the Marketing Team was to continue to build on past strategies and continue to develop the team. We also continued with improved communications and processes internally which supported external events and public relations and how these were promoted across the social channels, national press and website.
We have volunteers each now working across specific platforms to grow these platforms and are in the process of increasing the skills of the volunteers. The tone and branding of Cork Nature Network social media platforms have also been standardised.
We also engaged with DCU from an opportunity with the Wheel where a team of students analysed our website traffic and developed campaigns to grow our success rate of website hits.

Brian McElligott. Health and Safety/Legal Matters)



We saw a welcome return in 2022 to a full season of Cork Nature Network activities unaffected by pandemic restrictions. Unfortunately, the return to activities also resulted in one minor injury accident being reported. No serious injury was sustained but a suggested action to avoid a recurrence, is the gathering up of all tools before breaks and designating an area of breaks away from the work area. No other accidents were recorded in 2022. In the coming year, I hope to carry out training on H&S reporting to bring a focus to reporting of near misses, close calls etc.

Maggie McColgan (Development/Grants)

In 2022, we secured nearly €100,000 in funding through grants and tenders. Roughly €65,000 was allocated to Community Biodiversity Action Plans – affirming our reputation as a leader in community conservation efforts and bringing various stakeholders together to protect Ireland's natural heritage. Funders included Community Foundation Ireland, AXA Parks, Cork City Council, Cork County Council, Heritage Council, National Parks and Wildlife Service, Fota Wildlife Park, Office of Public Works and Local Authorities Water Programme. Our grants team worked hard to ensure our projects had sufficient resources and Cork Nature Network could continue to grow. We also focused on corporate sponsorships and will increase our efforts in that area as well as individual gifts and fundraising in 2023 and beyond.



EILEEN O'RIORDAN (HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING)



The main activities during 2022 included finding the right people for the right volunteer role – advertising through IVOL and social media. This included the interviews for the roles of Public Relations Officer, Communications and Engagement Manager, Membership Officer, social media Officer, Graphic Designer, Booking Systems and Events Administrator and the Treasurer.
An annual survey was developed considering our objective of achieving a healthy volunteer base with the goal of improving retention. Through gaining insights on our volunteers' experience, we aim to make improvements and expect to see more data by the end of 2023.
Partnered with DCM and created a CNN digital account for online learning (self-paced e-learning and webinars) for all our volunteers relating to management skills development and on-trend topics including wellbeing and current affairs.

Continued to set up volunteers on membership training i.e. The Wheel – to support them in their role.
Developed an exit form for volunteers who leave, to be sent along with the 'Thank You Letter' to gain feedback on the volunteer's experience.
Developed the Mangers Guide to onboarding to put a structure in place for managers to support them with new starters on their team.

Tanja Marincich - Treasurer



Started volunteering as Director and Treasurer for Cork Nature Network at the end of July 2022. The role of the Treasurer is to support the organisation by reviewing all financial information including accounts, income, grants and project expenditures. In 2022 the Finance team worked on creating new policies and procedures to formalise and streamline the work in Finance, including dual approval of expenditures and efficiencies in using the new ERP system Big Red Cloud.

In 2022 the team drafted the Finance & Accounting policies that are to be followed from 2023 onwards, which includes cash and bank practices, accounting practices, project management from a financial perspective, insurance, expenditures, and anti-fraud policies.

In 2022 income was €106,787, almost double the amount of 2021, and expenditures were €80,636, finishing the year with a surplus income of €26,151. The greatest amount of income came from third party funding (grants) with €101,664.

Rosiane Bencik (Company Secretary- non board member)



In 2022, four board meetings were held and records kept for all meetings plus recordings from Zoom.
The google drive was reviewed for the Cork Nature Network Filing system.
We set up alerts and set up processes to manage lobbying requests
Information from the AGM was uploaded on the Companies Registration Authority Website
On behalf of Cork Nature Network, I participated in Garda Vetting training to ensure compliance of our members
A secure email system was set up to deal with any sensitive information

4. Cork Nature Networks strategic direction

The long-term vision of the organization is to continue to develop as a national body that focuses on a bottom-up approach where increased education and awareness of local communities assist in driving decision-making processes for the betterment of our natural world.

Cork Nature Network aims to develop as a funded organisation that employs a number of staff to run and deliver our aim and mission.

We aim to deliver more national programmes to reach communities and to network with smaller groups who are often isolated and with a combined effort we believe that we can make a difference.

In 2022, our work was focused around our two long term strategic key areas.

4.1. To educate and increase awareness of the need for conservation

Education is key to change. It is important to understand why we need to protect wildlife and our online educational programmes, walks and talks and projects focus on increasing our knowledge so that we are informed to act and protect wildlife.

4.2. To promote nature conservation

We aim to help restore a healthy, functioning ecosystem for both wildlife and human populations in Ireland. Increasing awareness surrounding conservation is central to achieving this goal. We believe that through promoting the importance of Irish Wildlife today through our activities and projects with outcomes will help at local level deliver nature conservation programmes for future generations. It is also important that our projects are based on good scientific knowledge and research. We also comment where necessary on national and local strategies. We are registered with www.lobbying.ie and report on a quarterly basis on any submissions made. In 2022, we made 4 submissions.



5. Main achievements in 2022

In 2022, Cork Nature Network continued with its long-term projects: Otters and Beaumont Quarry and created a new project called Valuing Insects.

OTTERS



In 2022, the otter project concluded with reports on the diet from Tralee Institute of Technology and completion of the otter report. We also ran an event for members feeding back the results from the 2021 otter survey for Cork City and Cork Harbour.

The otter project in Youghal had previously included a talk in a school and production of a leaflet on otters. The project concluded in 20222, with the installation of an otter sign at the slobs in Youghal.



We secured funding for an online otter primary school pack from Fota Wildlife Park. A competition ran to name the otter which appeared in the pack. The winning name was “Attie” the otter. The pack is divided into three age groups and links into the Irish curriculum.

A book on “Otter Tails” was also developed by the promotions team, taking stories from a social media competition and incorporating them into an online book that can be purchased by Amazon.

BEAUMONT QUARRY

We started the process of saving the calcareous grassland in the quarry and engaged a sub-contractor funded by the AXA fund to manage the site on a part time basis. The management plan was updated and a work plan into place for the site. We were restricted by weather but managed two clean ups of Beaumont Quarry and a raking off of the bramble area that was cut for the first time. This was cut to encourage grassland species on the site.

WILD SPACES

Wild Walks

This project concluded in 2022 with an online talk about the project and the map and information on species updated onto our website.

Biodiversity Action Plans

Cork Nature Network ran action plans on biodiversity for Bandon in County Cork and the Tramore Valley Park in Cork City. It also delivered a water biodiversity action plan project in County Offaly.

Valuing Insects

This was a new project instigated by the decline of insects and the concern for how habitats are managed to encourage the longevity of our insect populations. A small team of four volunteers was established and a number of walks and talks offered throughout the year.

4.2. To promote nature conservation

We aim to help restore a healthy, functioning ecosystem for both wildlife and human populations in Ireland. Increasing awareness surrounding conservation is central to achieving this goal. We believe that through promoting the importance of Irish Wildlife today through our activities and projects with outcomes will help at local level deliver nature conservation programmes for future generations. It is also important that our

projects are based on good scientific knowledge and research. We also comment where necessary on national and local strategies. We are registered with www.lobbying.ie and report on a quarterly basis on any submissions made. In 2022, we made 4 submissions.

Cork Nature Network was delighted to be one of the project partners with the Kinship project. The Kinship Project is based in Tramore Valley Park. The Kinship project is a public artwork in Tramore Valley Park which provides artistic residencies to local artists in order to develop a sense of connection between the people of Cork and the ecology of Tramore Valley Park. It aims to create a sustainable Ecolab and to exchange knowledge and creativity amongst the local community. This project is an opportunity to develop a new relationship with the park, modelling 'care' as a civic responsibility to all the inhabitants.

The project is a partnership with Cork City Council, receiving help from the Creative Climate Action fund, an initiative from the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media and the Department of Environment, Climate and Communication.

Walks and talks

Date	Event	Type of event	Registered	Attended
20/02/2022	Beaumont Quarry clean up	Clean up	3	3
21/02/2022	Local Communities and Green Spaces	Online	72	43
20/03/2022	Rewilding day: Talk on Lynx	Online	73	35
04/04/2022	Talk on Butterflies: The importance of butterflies	Online	98	60
09/04/2022	Beaumont Quarry clean up	Physical event	25	16
10/04/2022	Entomology Group walk	Physical event	24	20
26/05/2022	Otter's event – Ballincollig	Physical event	35	23
05/06/2022	Rocky shore event - Harbour Festival- World Environment Day	Physical event	36	25
18/06/2022	Entomology Group event	Physical event	12	7
13/08/2022	Hedgehogs in Fota Wildlife Park (Heritage Week)	Physical event	70	35
14/08/2022	Tree talk in UCC (Heritage Week)	Physical event	29	10
17/08/2022	Butterfly walk	Physical event	15	17
21/08/2022	BQ treasure hunt or talk (Heritage Week)	Physical event	19	20
06/10/2022	Valuing Insects: Catastrophic Insect Loss in the Global Biodiversity Crisis	Online	66	40e
20/10/2022	Members Event: Otters	Online	30e	20e
17/11/2022	Choughs of Ireland	Online	86	49
TOTAL			**693**	**423**

In 2022, 693 registered with our events and 423 of these attended leading to a take up rate of 61%. Numbers registered in 2021 were 1882 but numbers attending were not recorded until 2022. This is likely

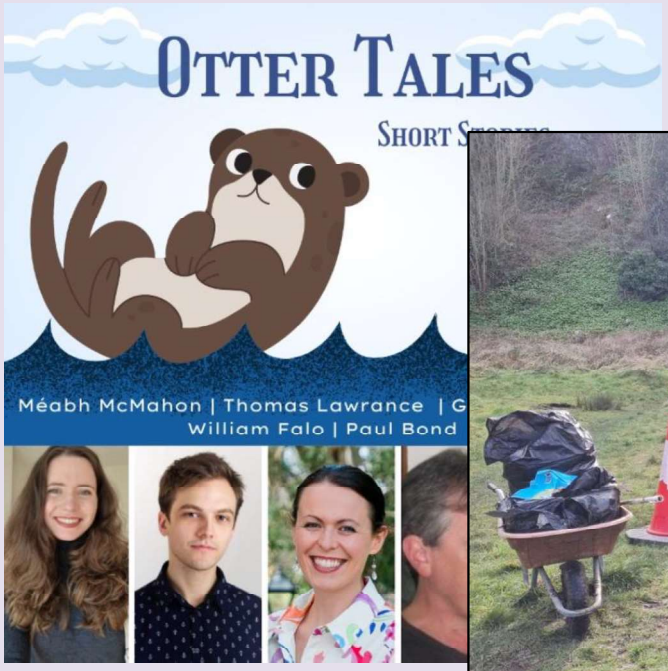
due to the leaving of the COVID-19 restrictions and we will continue to monitor our events to see uptake and which type of events are more popular in attendance numbers.

Cork Nature Network partnered with the Test Project to deliver two talks to the public on biodiversity themed topics. The third talk had to be cancelled due to weather conditions and was not rescheduled.

Cork Nature Network partnered with the Friends of the Glen and Coomhola Salmon Trust to develop information on biodiversity for their first leaflet on the site.

Cork Nature Network also organised a fundraising event in the Marina Food Market with music kindly donated by Aine Duffy and prizes offered by Fota Wildlife Park, Jameson Distillery, Eco Douglas, Dinky Doughnuts, Guji Coffee and MKT Burger.









6.FINANCIAL REPORT

Statement of Financial Position

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	6	**2,629**	3,167
Current Assets			
Debtors	7	**9,741**	1,787
Cash at bank and in hand		**52,028**	42,767
		61,769	44,554
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8	**(5,984)**	(15,478)
Net Current Assets		**55,785**	29,076
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		**58,414**	32,263
Reserves			
Income and expenditure account	10	**58,414**	32,263
Members' Funds		**58,414**	32,263

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the micro companies' regime.

We as Directors of Cork Nature Network CLG, state that -

a) the company is availing itself of the exemption provided for by Chapter 15 of Part 6 of the Companies Act 2014,

b) the company is availing itself of the exemption on the grounds that the conditions specified in section 358 are satisfied,

c) the members of the company have not served a notice on the company under section 334(1) in accordance with section 334(2),

d) we acknowledge the company's obligations under the Companies Act 2014, to keep adequate accounting records and prepare financial statements which give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company at the end of its financial year and of its profit or loss for such a financial year and to otherwise comply with the provisions of the Companies Act 2014 relating to financial statements so far as they are applicable to the company.

Income Statement

Cork Nature Network CLG

INCOME STATEMENT

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

	Notes	2022 €	2021 €
Income	4	**106,787**	59,524
Expenditure		**(80,636)**	(56,014)
Surplus for the financial year	10	**26,151**	3,510

The company has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus for the financial year. The results for the financial year have been calculated on the historical cost basis. The company's income and expenses all relate to continuing operations.

Notes to Financial Statements

Cork Nature Network CLG

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

continued

4. Income

The income for the financial year is analysed as follows:

	2022 €	2021 €
By Category:		
Membership & Donations	**4,774**	8,458
Sales	**349**	803
Third Party Funding	**101,664**	50,263
	106,787	59,524

The whole of the company's income is attributable to its market in the Republic of Ireland and is derived from the principal activity of advancement of environmental sustainability.

5. Employees

The average monthly number of employees, including directors, during the financial year was 0, (2021 - 0).

6. Tangible assets

	Fixtures, fittings and equipment €	Total €
Cost		
At 1 January 2022	4,456	4,456
At 31 December 2022	4,456	4,456
Depreciation		
At 1 January 2022	1,269	1,269
Charge for the financial year	558	558
At 31 December 2022	1,827	1,827
Net book value		
At 31 December 2022	**2,629**	**2,629**
At 31 December 2021	3,187	3,187

7. Debtors

	2022 €	2021 €
Trade debtors	**9,741**	-
Prepayments	**-**	1,787
	9,741	1,787

8. Creditors

Amounts falling due within one year

	2022 €	2021 €
Accruals	**984**	1,230
Deferred Income	**5,000**	14,248
	5,984	15,478

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

for the financial year ended 31 December 2022

9. Status

The liability of the members is limited.

Every member of the company undertakes to contribute to the assets of the company in the event of its being wound up while they are members, or within one financial year thereafter, for the payment of the debts and liabilities of the company contracted before they ceased to be members, and of the costs, charges and expenses of winding up, and for the adjustment of the rights of the contributors among themselves, such amount as may be required, not exceeding € 2.

10. Income Statement

	2022 €	2021 €
At 1 January 2022	**32,263**	28,753
Surplus for the financial year	**26,151**	3,510
At 31 December 2022	**58,414**	32,263

11. Capital commitments

The company had no material capital commitments at the financial year-ended 31 December 2022.

12. Post-Balance Sheet Events

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the financial year-end.

13. Approval of financial statements

The financial statements were approved and authorised for issue by the board of directors on 23 June 2023.

6. Financial Statements