

Consultation type	Time period	Locations	Attendance	Goal	Comments raised	Response from Geopark
Public “town hall” meeting	December 2016 to February 2017	CDS, Corr na Móna Peacocks Hotel, Maam Cross Tourmakeady Hall	25 in CDS 32 in Maam Cross	Raise awareness of Geopark	Impact on farmers and development Community involvement in Steering group Geopark boundary and management of different area sizes Funding origin Potential for European funding Impact on jobs and income Presence of interpretive centre Importance of continuous heritage story among the communities Roadmap for Geopark development Fear of overdevelopment for mass tourism Local authority involvement	Highlighting the lack of extra planning regulations attached with geopark designation Formation of steering group with community representatives Decision on final boundary of geopark based on communities’ willingness and geological narrative Work towards the financial involvement of other agencies and application for national funds Inclusion of EU funding targets in Management plan Development of business network based on Burren geopark model Need for an office in geopark but not necessarily a single large interpretive centre Development of wider heritage narrative for the region involving the communities’ local heritage Drafting of roadmap for next 2-3 years Highlighting the notion of sustainable development in the management plan Inclusion of Galway and Mayo County council in Steering group
Milestone 1 March 2017: Launch of report on JCWL geopark development						
Public “town hall” meeting	May 2018 ?	Tourmakeady Hall Maam community Hall	13 in total	Raise awareness of Geopark	Concern about new potential restrictions	Highlighting the lack of extra planning regulations attached with geopark designation
Online Survey	May 2018 ?	Sent to 20 businesses, individual and organisations	6 responses	Gauge interest and understanding of Geopark	Good understanding of geopark concept and enthusiasm Concern about new potential restrictions Necessity for integration with other tourism initiatives in Ireland	Close working relationship with Wild Atlantic Way team in Mayo and Galway
Milestone 2 June 2018: Hiring of geopark geologist						
Milestone 3 September 2018: Launch of first JCWL geopark website						
Irish UGG Committee Forum (open to all)	February 2019	Peacocks Hotel, Maam Cross	30	Updates on Irish Geoparks activities		
Milestone 4 February 2019: Announcement of award of RRDF grant						
Public “town hall” meeting	October 2019	Tourmakeady Hall Pub Tí Búrca, Clonbur	11 in Tourmakeady 10 in Clonbur	Updates on geopark activities Nomination of community reps on Steering Group	Nora McHugh King (communities), Tom Halloran (farmers) and Dominic Ó Mórán (tourism) nominated for steering group representation Location of geopark office Funding of geopark post RRDF project	2 out of the 3 nominees selected by the cross-community organisation JCWL GeoEnterprise  Office currently in Tourmakeady and for midterm future. Bid for location of potential new interpretive centre would be open. Securing long term funding to be a major part of RRDF project
Milestone 5 January 2020: Start of JCWL geopark 2-year project with 3.5 staff, development of new logo and brand						
Community consultation meeting (and survey)	March to May 2020	Community Halls and online	2 to 10 people for each of the 20 communities	Information finding on community councils activities Detailed description of Geopark and opportunities for communities Survey of training requirements	Issues with current national planning restrictions in parts of the region  Issues linked with climate change, biodiversity loss, parking congestion and public transport, derelict buildings, weak broadband and mobile coverage, low governance/management activity of some communities Potential for more detailed information on draft website Interest in learning more about geopark, geology and geosites Interest in targeted training for management and development	Creation of geopark flyer to be dropped at every business and residential address in the region highlighting the lack of extra planning regulations attached with geopark designation Integration of sustainable development as the cornerstone of every development plan in the region at community, county, regional and national level  Interaction with local heritage experts for content on draft new website and future signage Development of Geopark Ambassador course (running since January 2021) Information gathering and dissemination on current courses offerings. Running of specific training to the communities and businesses: Social media (July 2020), marketing video production (May 2021)
Milestone 6 October 2020: Launch of current JCWL geopark website and tourism strategy 2020-2025						
Online Survey	November 2020	Sent to 200 businesses	53 respondents	Baseline survey about business activity in Geopark Survey of training requirements	Interest in training on marketing and promotion Interest in learning more about geopark, geology and geosites Interest in training on sustainable development Interest in targeted training for management and development	Running of specific training to the businesses: Digital and social media (May 2021), Geopark Ambassador course (running since January 2021), 2 geopark staff participating in Biodiversity action plan course Running of Business network development training (June 2021)
Milestone 7 June 2021: Online conference “Explore our Whispering landscape”, 300 attendees + video content created						
Post flyer	June 2021	In post box	8214 residential 2000 business	Informing all residents on what a geopark is and isn’t Give a point of contact		
Community consultation meeting	August to December 2021	Community Halls and online	2 to 10 people for each of the 20 communities	Updates on geopark activities Updates on community council activities	Great enthusiasm and satisfaction with progress of geopark development Need for signage  Query about the development of visitor centre Consideration needed ahead of potential congestion issues at tourism hot spots Local businesses and sustainability Further interest in ambassador course Access to the outdoors need to be managed and indemnified	Continue roll out of new information online and printed in connection with communities Geopark signage plan has been agreed by Steering group and procurement is ongoing. Consultation with communities on location and content to come. Such a visitor centre is not necessary but would be a great asset. Better for villages to plan for their development first. Tourism strategy emphasises slow tourism. Geosite conversation plan in development Business network charter includes principle of sustainable development The ambassador course will run again periodically and is free and open to all Roll out of pilot access scheme in Binn Shleibhe a great model, as is the contact with landowners in Kilbride area for university fieldtrips
Farmers mart	November 2021	Maam Cross mart Ballinrobe mart	Stand at Mart	Engagement with farmers	Concern about new potential restrictions Opportunities for farmers with geopark development	Use of website information and mail flyer Contact with local agricultural colleges for geopark presentation
Milestone 8 December 2021: End of RRDF project and commitment of funds from funding partners						
Business networking meeting	February 2022	Lodge at Ashford, Cong	40 businesses	Networking event Geopark digital visibility plan		Dissemination of logo, pictures, weblinks and information for inclusion on business network members website
Communities networking event	November 2022	Valkenburg, Ballinrobe	17 community organisations represented	Consultation on draft management plan 2022-2028 Networking event	Overall agreement and satisfaction with the Management Master Plan Looking for support to do with walking trail development and management, funding information Appetite for more community networking events Looking for support on new business development, promotion of region for education visits, derelict building regeneration Geopark as a means to slow down or even reverse depopulation in rural villages	Interaction with agencies stakeholder and information dissemination  Plan for further networking events for communities Interaction with agencies stakeholder and information dissemination  Overall development work by geopark aims to keep villages and communities alive and thriving (see vision of master plan)