

THE BURREN COMMUNITY CHARTER

Part I

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For the Burren Community Charter Management and Advisory Groups



The Draft Burren Community Charter

Preamble

The Burren Community Charter (The Charter) is an agreement between the people who live and work in the Burren and the organisations that have responsibilities for the region, to safeguard this place, its people and its heritage while supporting the local economy and enhancing the community life of its residents.

The Charter brings a wide range of communities, organisations and agencies together to forge a common approach for the future management of the Burren, defining the role that each of these groups aspires to play within this approach and identifying how it can be implemented.

This Charter is a living, evolving agreement by the people and for the people of the Burren and our place. It focuses on what we can do together as opposed to what can be done for us. This Charter is a dynamic agreement that will be reviewed on a regular basis.

Values

The Charter recognises that:

- the Burren is a unique and exceptionally rich natural and cultural landscape.
- the local community must be central to decision making with regard to the management of the Burren.
- positive work has been undertaken in the Burren in recent years but we need to build on this work in a more integrated and forward-looking way.
- all signatories to the Charter wish to work in partnership to secure a more co-operative, productive and sustainable future for the Burren landscape and its people.

Vision

The Charter has a vision of the future of the Burren:

- where a high quality of life is enjoyed by all;
- where the natural, built and cultural heritage of the area is protected and improved;
- where respect for the environment and economic development go hand in hand;
- where there are ample opportunities for people to live and make a living;
- where there are recreational and educational opportunities for residents and visitors alike;
- where people work together for shared benefits and to resolve differences as they build a better future.

Delivery

Substantial progress has already been made in consulting stakeholders about what they see as the main challenges, opportunities and actions that the Burren Community Charter should address. Based on this input the Charter will develop realistic Action plans on the basis of 2 basic criteria:

- those which can be progressed through local co-operation;

**BURREN COMMUNITY CHARTER DOCUMENT PART I DRAFT.
FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES**

- those which will require additional resources and will take time to achieve.

Commitment

All communities, organisations and agencies who can subscribe to the values and vision of this Charter, and thereby to building a sustainable future for the Burren and its people, are encouraged to sign up to this Charter. They are thereby committing themselves to collaborating with others towards fulfilling this vision and undertaking the actions relevant to their own group.

Next Steps (2012)

1. Continue meetings of the Management Committee in its existing form to provide momentum to drive the project forward.
2. Invite representatives from relevant community groups to join Charter Advisory Committee and continue quarterly meetings.
3. Collate all comments to draft Charter document and prepare final document ready for signature, launch and circulation.
4. Develop themed action plans for the Charter which contain timeframes, budgets, roles and responsibilities.
 - Burren Winterage Weekend
 - 'One Stop Shop' resource centres
 - Audit of heritage education courses
 - Oral recordings on Burren agriculture traditions.
5. Pursue funding opportunities for the continued development of the Charter and its associated Action plans.
6. Develop and implement a communications strategy for the Burren Charter.

(Further details on the Burren Community Charter process and progress to date can be found in Part II of this document.)