**Transition Kerry Communtiy Climate Action Event 11th November 2017**

**Feedback and harvest from particiapnt groups**

The Transition Kerry Climate Change Conference “***Up for the Challenge? Community solutions to climate change”*** was planned and structured to ensure that it was thought provoking, informative and highly participative. Facilitated table conversations were a feature of the day from the outset. Throughout the day the discussions were animated and people were exercised by the topics raised by the speakers.

**Morning session:**

There was concern regarding the lack of political attendance/leadership and there was hope due to the work happening at grassroots level. There was dismay expressed at the disconnect between those who are concerned and active and those who are oblivious to the major challenges facing us.

Participants also expressed a sense of being overwhelmed when confronted by the scale of the problems, their implications for the planet and it’s inhabitants and the urgency conveyed regarding humankinds need to mobilise and take action.

Thoughtful questions and comments were formulated for the speakers regarding how people could be engaged and what needs to change. These questions/comments included:

* The need for a change from our social/ economic model of growth
* How much our current education system is contributing to the climate change problem
* The need for government departments to connect the dots
* How we can work together was flagged on a number of occasion

**Afternoon session:**

During the afternoon participants were asked to choose a theme with the option of moving to other tables to contribute their ideas under the 3 broad areas of:

* Home
* Workplace
* Community

The themes were *Energy, Food and Biodiversity, Waste, Water, Local Economy, Education and Awareness raising, Agriculture, Personal and Community.*

Participants at each table addressed the question “***WHAT ARE THE ACTIONS WE CAN TAKE TO ADDRESS CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE IN THIS AREA?***

Recommendations/suggestions that emerged across all the themes were:

* The need to localise how we produce our energy, food and goods in general
* It was noted that this would give rise to sustainable local employment, reduce transport costs anmd carbon emissions
* Encouragement of repair and recycling shops and businesses along with the creation of local hubs where skills and equipment can be hired was also proposed

The need for a major rethink of our behaviour, attitudes and values was discussed across the themes.

* Role modelling behaviour
* Questioning and changing structures
* Engagement with nature
* Building bridges intergenerationally so that the wealth of knowledge , energy and wisdom can be shared was advocated
* People connecting in nature, working together and sharing food was also seen as a valuable avenue for influencing real change.

Education and awareness are needed so that people can make more informed and efficient choices in relation to all of the themes it was suggested. The need to challenge consumption patterns and habits in how we use energy, water and other vital resources, how we generate and dispose of waste and how we grow and source our food was discussed throughout the day.

The question of supports and incentivisation was raised. It was suggested that these measures could serve to help people make the necessary changes:

* Raising and lowering taxes
* Grants and subsidies
* Tree planting
* Home insulation
* Consumption patterns
* Energy use
* Ownership of energy, including options for consumers to feed into the grid/microgeneration, would empower people to make changes