

Mountaineering Ireland Hillwalking Committee (HC) – Initial Work Plan 2019-2020

This document should be used in conjunction with Hillwalking Committee Terms of Reference, Mountaineering Ireland’s Strategic and Operational Plans

Action Area 1.	Support Mountaineering Ireland to implement its current <i>Strategic Plan</i> as it relates to the development of hillwalking; prioritise work areas that are most relevant to the mandate of the HC.
Expected Outcome: Successful implementation of the Strategic Plans hillwalking pillars/objectives.	
Activities	
1.1	<p>Support Mountaineering Ireland staff and committees to implement the current Strategic Plan and its Operational Plan as they relate to hillwalking. The following activities are correlated to the Strategic Plan:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Promoting the mountaineering ethos of adventure, personal responsibility and respect for the environment in line with Mountaineering Ireland’s policies 2. Improving engagement with members through modern communications channels and use of technology 3. Promoting Mountaineering Ireland membership to non-affiliated hillwalkers 4. The development and implementation of public awareness campaigns (e.g. Walk Safely) 5. Engagement with youth and educational organisations to build positive relationships and increase youth membership 6. The updating of Mountaineering Ireland’s Environmental Policies 7. Publication of Irish Peaks 8. Building stronger relationships with identified external organisations (e.g. upland partnership groups) 9. Promoting participation and an inclusive environment for all abilities in our sport 10. Development of informal skills training, associated workshops and online training res

Action Area 2.	Provide advice to the Board of Mountaineering Ireland on any matter relating to hillwalking and the further development of same. The following activities are being proposed.
Expected Outcome: improved communications, information sharing and relationships building, between members, clubs, staff, external stakeholders and Board of Mountaineering Ireland; increased membership of Mountaineering Ireland Including young people; improved technology platforms and better use of social media; identification of future hillwalking priorities; pro-active contribution in access and conservation matters;	
Activities	
2.1	<p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collaborate with the Membership Development Officer (MDO) and Hillwalking Officer (HO – yet to be resourced) to suggest, support and promote inter-club activity, and deliberate on how club officers can participate effectively in this endeavour; • Advise Mountaineering Ireland on the most effective methods of highlighting the work that is already being undertaken to support responsible hillwalking in Ireland; • Collaborate with Mountain Views beginning with the fulfilment of the 2018 Memorandum of Understanding; • Maximise the use of social media platforms as an effective method of information sharing between clubs, individuals and the broader hillwalking population.
2.2	<p>Informal Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interact with, and support, the Mountaineering Ireland MDO and Training Officer (TO), to determine strategies for the provision of informal training not currently administered by MTBI (e.g. navigation, GPS, first aid, environmental awareness); • Encourage clubs to directly access training providers to undertake training specific to their needs.
2.3	<p>Hillwalking Officer, Resources & Membership Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support Mountaineering Ireland to identify funding for a Hillwalking Officer and to secure the resources required to implement the HC work programme;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider ways to introduce more young people to the sport and managing the challenges therein; • Support MDO's initiatives to increase membership and participation; • Support the implementation of the <i>Head for the Hills</i> initiative; • Promote clarity on the allocation of resources by Mountaineering Ireland for hillwalking.
2.4	<p>Information Technology and Social Media</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Liaise with public and private mapmakers, collate feedback from members and work to obtain a digital mapping deal for members; • Update/re-format relevant website content.

Action Area 3.	Provide a voice for hillwalking within Mountaineering Ireland and to contribute to the development of future work plans/priorities.
Expected Outcome: Mountaineering Ireland members have more ownership and input in the direction and the overall development of hillwalking (as per initial IRC motion); increased membership of Mountaineering Ireland; increased activity and support, to address the most urgent needs of hillwalkers	
Activities	
3.1	Develop and implement a plan of action which will elicit regular, structured feedback from the membership regarding both the development of hillwalking, and the ongoing needs of hillwalkers.
3.2	Recognise the diversity within the sport and respond to the challenges that arise for participation.

Reporting time frame

- Mid-term Progress report to Board of Mountaineering Ireland

Date: Autumn Meet 2019