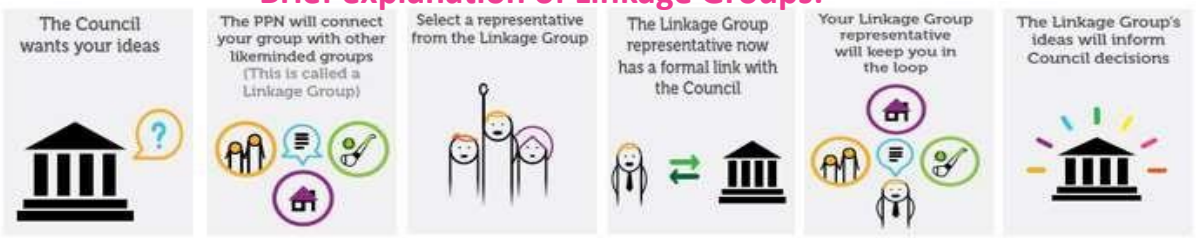
About Galway County PPN Linkage Groups: What they are, how they work and How you can get involved

Galway County Public Participation Network
Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe

Brief explanation of Linkage Groups:

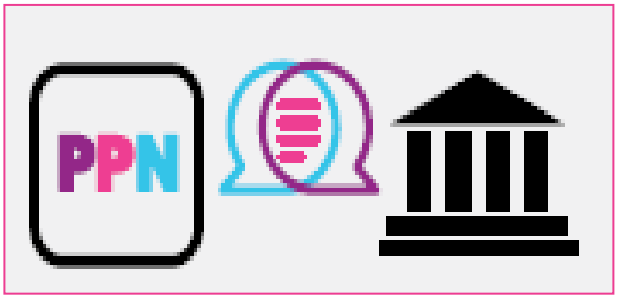


What is a Linkage Group:

A Linkage Group is a collection of PPN member groups/organisations who have an interest in the work of a given external committee. The Galway County PPN also refers to such groups as 'Working Groups' and 'Forums'.

Role of Linkage Groups:

1. PPN representatives on local policy committees feedback to their Groups and facilitate the two way flow of information between policy makers and the community.



2. Linkage Group members meet to discuss and debate policy and help inform PPN reps and support them in forming a position on policy issues that represents the community voice.

3. The Group also nominate, elect and otherwise support PPN reps on these external committees.

Joining Linkage Groups:

1. Any PPN member/individual can join any Linkage Group/Working Group/Forum at any time. Some Groups may be more active than others.

2. Email administrator@galwaycountyppn.ie stating which Group(s) you or your group would like to join.

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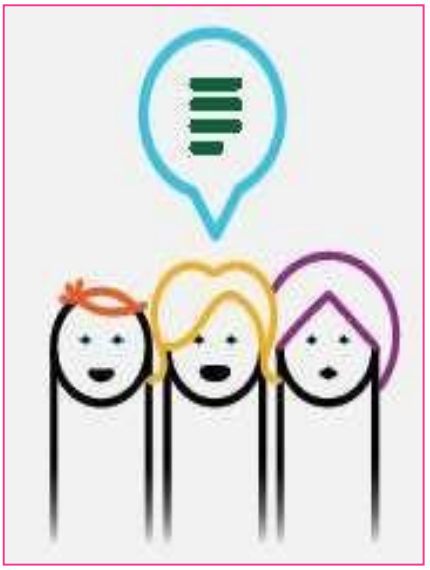
External Committees Galway County PPN Linkage Groups are aligned to:

There are currently 7 Groups in operation in Galway County PPN. Some are aligned to the Strategic Policy Committees, the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and others are aligned to a common interest.

1. Housing Linkage Group
2. Galway Intercultural Forum (Community and Cultural Development Linkage Group)
3. Green Recovery Working Group (Climate Change & Biodiversity Linkage Group)
4. Galway County Disability Forum
5. Galway County Older Persons Forum
6. Local Community Development Committee Linkage Group
7. Tidy Towns Linkage Group



Linkage Groups to be developed:

Economic Development and Enterprise
Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services
Transport & Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee

How Linkage Groups work:

1. There is one Linkage Group created for each external committee that has seats allocated to Galway County PPN reps.

2. New Linkage Groups are established by the Secretariat on an issue basis or as requested.

3. Linkage Groups report to the wider PPN membership at the Plenary meetings.

4. A Linkage Group lasts the lifetime of the committee it is aligned to, or for the purpose it was formed for (for example a consultation process).

5. Until a facilitator is appointed from its membership, each group is facilitated by the PPN workers, to organize meetings, communications and the general work of the Linkage Group.

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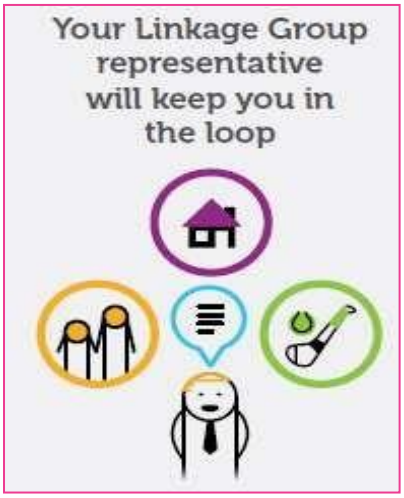
Support for Linkage Groups and their PPN representatives

1. The PPN Handbook 2020
2. Galway County PPN Governance Documents
3. PPN reps reporting template for elected PPN representatives –This template is to help Galway County PPN reps who sit on external committees to report effectively to their respective PPN Linkage Groups, the Secretariat and the wider PPN membership.
4. Code of conduct signed by all elected PPN representatives
5. Dedicated webpages on the Galway County PPN website that are regularly updated
6. Galway County PPN professional online meetings Zoom package available
7. Availability of Galway County PPN staff to support as appropriate

What your group/organisation can do to help Linkage Group communications:

1. Use the Linkage Group communications structures to share relevant information, strengthen the Linkage Group system and support the elected PPN representatives
2. Ensure that the person(s) who is representing your group/organisation on a Linkage Group has an email address they can access and that this is confirmed with the PPN staff. Email: Administrator@galwaycountyppn.ie
3. If there is more than one person on a Linkage Group representing your group/organisation, please clarify which person has voting rights on behalf of your group/organisation



Adapted from the Limerick PPN Info sheet