

Galway County PPN Plenary

Tuesday, 27th September 2022

6:00pm – 9:00pm

Claregalway Hotel.

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: *See below.*

APOLOGIES: *See below.*

AGENDA

Welcome & Business matters

- What is the PPN?
- Vote on changes to the PPN constitution
- Adoption of Workplan and Budget
- Ratification of new PPN Reps
- Reps reports
- Motions

7:30-8pm; BREAK (light refreshments)

Presentations

- Patrick Mc Hugh, (Clár Éifeachteacht Fuinnimh), 'Energy Efficiency Training'
- Fiona McDonagh-Delaney (AMACH), 'Supporting LGBTIQ+ Communities'
- Anne Graham (Community Finance Ireland), 'Financing for Community led organisations'
- Cian Strolla (Cipher Digital Developments Ltd), 'LocalHub - Connecting communities with localised information'.

WELCOME & BUSINESS MATTERS

Vincent Lyons welcomed everyone to Galway County PPN's first Plenary since 2020.

Charlotte May presented on the work and role of the PPN as a refresher for Members.

Lorraine Lally from Epilepsy Ireland noted that this has all been heard before and questioned the impact the PPN was having. She noted that she had been a part of the 2007 Working Group on Active Citizenship and that not much had changed since then. She remarked that the Pillar system was not working and that marginalised groups were not being accessed and supported. She questioned whether the PPN was aware if their emails were getting to people. The Workplan was also queried.

Vincent Lyons commented that the Galway Co PPN reach out to groups and operate an Opt in policy whereby groups are invited to engage with the PPN.

Charlotte explained that the PPN does also reach out to groups and that the emails sent out were monitored and that people were welcome to suggest amendments to the Workplan and help create it. To increase participation a hybrid model for the PPN would be adopted going forward, meaning that one Plenary will be held in person and one will be held on online, to increase participation.

Votes were taken on changing the PPN Constitution, adopting the Workplan and Budget 2022, and ratifying newly elected PPN Reps.

Charlotte explained the suggested amendment to the Galway County PPN Constitution of 2018:

- Reason: Current Constitution requires 10% of members in attendance to make decisions (PPN Handbook suggests 15%). For the Galway County PPN this means that at each Plenary, over 100 Member Groups would need to be in attendance. Achieving this much participation was rarely achieved.
- DRCD issued a circular to update this rule to allow for a simple majority required to pass a vote of those attending.
- Background: Many PPNs were not reaching required numbers at Plenary meetings. This mean that decisions could not be legitimately made by the Plenary.

The text of the Amendment can be viewed in the Appendix.

A Vote took place.

The amendment to the PPN constitution was passed.

YES - 26

NO - 2

Next, the Workplan and Budget 2022 was discussed. Lisa Fenwick from DFI asked that the following changes be made: Under **Objective 1** in relation to the **Galway Disability Forum** in the 'Who can help?' Box – to amend this to include **SPC Reps and LCDC Reps** to ensure that any issues that may arise that are related to the work of the County Council e.g. Housing or Planning get fed into the relevant SPC and/or to the LCDC?

Lisa Fenwick also mentioned that accessibility of information is crucial for the Galway Deaf Club and NCBI Advocacy Local Area Network to be able to participate in the work of the Forum and the PPN.

Charlotte agreed to make these changes and to look into making the PPN info available in Irish Sign Language.

Áine Bhreathnach from Coiste Forbartha Corr na Móna said that all documents were sent out too late, only a few days before the meeting. This left not enough time to process them.

Charlotte said that next time documents would be sent out sooner but that all documents have been publicly available, online since the beginning of the year under the 'Resources' section of the website. She also noted that the Workplan had not changed significantly compared to the previous year as the work of the PPN is consistent between the years and projects 'roll' into one year from the last.

Next, Mark Green from An Taisce queried what the difference in the 2022 Budget was compared to last year's Budget. Charlotte explained that the main difference was the price cap placed on events such as the Cathaoirleach Awards which the DRCD has set at €4000. Otherwise, there was slightly more funding placed on IT/web-based services to accommodate the increased use of online platforms such as Zoom, since the Pandemic. Otherwise, the Budget allocation had not significantly changed from the 2021 Budget.

A Vote took place.

The Workplan and Budget 2022 was approved by Plenary & adopted by PPN.

YES - 31

NO - 0

Next Charlotte asked the Plenary to adopt the following PPN Representatives nominated by Member Groups. A list of the Nominees, their nominating groups and Committees had been sent out previously.

Ratification of PPN Reps:

- JENNIFER FISHER for LCDC
- MÁIRÍN NÍ CHONGHAILE for LCDC
- GERARD COSTELLO for LCDC
- KEVIN GAVIN for LCDC
- PETER GOHERY for LCDC
- AIMEE MCGEE for HOUSING SPC
- NORA CORCORAN for HOUSING SPC
- PETER BUTLER for Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC
- MARGARET SHEEHAN for Climate Change and Biodiversity SPC

All of the above reps were approved and ratified by the Plenary.

YES - 31

NO - 0

The plenary then heard reports from PPN Reps **Mark Green** (*Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC*), **Gerard Costello** (*LCDC*), **Peter Butler** (*Climate Change & Biodiversity SPC*), **Megan Flynn** via Video (*Community & Culture SPC*), and from **Aodán MacDonnacha** (*JPC*).

The Reps reports are available in the PPN Plenary Presentation accompanying this report and are periodically posted on the PPN Website available here: <https://www.galwaycountypn.ie/about/ppn-reps/>

A motion was put forward by Anna Murphy (Kinvara Climate Action) that 'Galway County Council would adopt a motion to ban the use of pesticides (except in cases of invasive species) in line with Dublin, Cork and other Councils. After discussions with Mary McGann from the Galway County Council and CLLR Alastair McKinstry, the group decided to table the motion until the next Plenary.

THE PLENARY TOOK A SHORT BREAK FROM 7:30PM – 8PM.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were then given from the following organisations,

- Patrick Mc Hugh, (Clár Éifeachteacht Fuinnimh), 'Energy Efficiency Training'
Patrick reported on the work of CEF and its training series planned to help community centre and domestic residences increase their energy rating and reducing their energy use (see Presentation Slide 50 onwards).
- Fiona McDonagh-Delaney (AMACH), 'Supporting LGBTIQ+ Communities' (see Presentation Slide 60 onwards).
Fiona highlighted the Resource Pack the LGBTQI Interagency Support Group had made at that this would form the basis of training being rolled out in October.
- Anne Graham (Community Finance Ireland), 'Financing for Community led organisations'
Anne explained how Community Finance Ireland support community groups through flexible funding support options (see Presentation Slide 66 onwards).
- Cian Strolla (Cipher Digital Developments Ltd), 'LocalHub - Connecting communities with localised information'
Cian presented on his new app aimed to bring communities together in a concentrated manner, with targeted, local information directly to people's phones about what is happening locally (see Presentation Slide 81 onwards).

Closing: Vincent mentioned the work of GRD on the Smart villages project in Mountbellew and thanked all for coming.

Charlotte thanked Mary McGann who was the Galway County PPN liaison person in the Galway County Council and was a great ally and support to the PPN.

Meeting Ended: 9pm

Date of next Plenary: TBC

ATTENDEES: *(in alphabetical order by Group/ Organisation)*

Annette Cavanagh	9 Arch Musical Society
Fergal Cavanagh	9 Arch Musical Society
Fiona McDonagh-Delaney	AMACH LGBT+
Tiernan Arnup	AMACH LGBT+
Mark Green	An Taisce
Jen Fisher	Ballinderreen Bee Wild (PPN Rep)
Niamh Morgan	BHP Insurance
Mairead Conroy	Brothers of Charity Services – Ireland West Region Galway QED
Michael Riddell	Cath Eachroma 1691
Cian Strolla	Cipher Digital Developments Ltd
Geraldine Carr	Claregalway & District DayCare Centre
Willie Byrne	Clarinbridge Men’s Shed
Jim Daly	Clarinbridge Tidy Towns
Áine Bhreathnach	Coiste Forbartha Corr na Móna
Síle Ní Chonghaile	Coiste Forbartha na bhForbacha
Anne Graham	Community Finance Ireland
Peter Butler	Conversation Volunteers Galway (PPN Rep)
Padraig Joseph Neenan	Cortoon/ Lavally Golden Age Club
Lisa Fenwick	Disability Federation of Ireland
Lorraine Lally	Enable Ireland
Amanda Corbett	Faite Area Community Service, Brothers of Charity
Peter Gohery	Galway Disability Forum (PPN Rep)
Aisling Finnerty	Forum Connemara
Brian Conneely	Forum Connemara
Adam Delapp	Forum Connemara
Frank O’Connor	Forum Connemara
Karen Mannion	Forum Connemara/ Clifden Arts Festival
Micheál Ó Mainín	Gaeilge Locha Riach
Philip Henderick	Galway Centre for Independent Living
Úna Ní Threasaigh	Galway Centre for Independent Living
Cllr. Alastair McKinstry	Galway County Council
Cllr. David Collins	Galway County Council
Steve Dolan	Galway Rural Development
Damien Quinn	Galway Rural Development
Maria Heneghan	Galway Rural Development (PPN Rep)

Mary McGann	Galway County Council
Mark Molloy	Galway County Council
Eimear Dolan	Galway County Council
Marty Ward	Glinsk Community Development
Sheila Holland-Fox	GRETB
Anne McCarthy	Kilbeacanty Community & Rural Development
Hazel Wille	Kinvara Climate Action
Geraldine Murray	LCDPM Community Alert
Gerard Costello	Monivea Community Alert (PPN Rep)
Anna Lardi	Music for Galway
Mary Cronin	Older Persons Council
Anne Mitchell	Galway County Older Persons Council
Martin Davy	Pastime Conamara (PPN Rep)
Charlotte May	Resource Worker
Vincent Lyons	Secretariat (PPN Rep)
Aodán Mac Donnacha	Secretariat (PPN Rep)
Jarlath Canney	Secretariat
Patrick McHugh	Secretariat
Martina Finn	Secretariat
Mary Mullen	Support Worker
Billy Gibbons	Tuam Men's Shed
Liz Wonnacott	Volunteer Galway

APOLOGIES:

Carmel Mc Grath	Killereerin Development Company
Stephanie O'Regan	Athenry Tidy Towns
Cllr. Ivan Canning	Galway County Council
Cllr. Mary Hoade	Galway County Council
Cllr. Pádraig Mac an Iomaire	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shane Curley	Galway County Council
Cllr. Martina Kinnane	Galway County Council
Cllr. Shelly Herterich Quinn	Galway County Council
Cllr. Declan Geraghty	Galway County Council
Cllr. Evelyn Parsons	Galway County Council
Cllr. Geraldine Donohue	
Aimee McGee	Housing SPC (PPN Rep)
Nora Corcoran	Housing SPC (PPN Rep)
Kevin Gavin	Lámh Linn
Kathleen McMahan	Liam & Tom O'Flaherty Society
Tracey Noone	National Meals on Wheels Network
Martin Ward	Western Traveller (Secretariat Member)
Sean Flanagan	Lakeview Estate Residents Association

Diarmuid Kelly	Cuan Beo (PPN Rep)
Carmel McGrath	Kilkerrin Development Company (Secretariat Member)
Tina Ryan	Galway County Council
Conor Ruane	LAWPRO
Magan Flynn Dixon	Oranmore Arts Festival (PPN Rep)

Appendix:

Suggested Amendment to PPN Constitution:

Attending the Plenary Meetings

The main decision-making body of the PPN is the Plenary (i.e. all the independent Member Groups of the PPN) which should, unless in exceptional circumstances, meet at least once a year to review how the PPN is working and to set the work agenda for the coming period.

The main role of the Plenary is to direct the operations of the PPN, to set overall PPN policy and procedures and to agree the annual Workplan and budget. The elected Secretariat is responsible for the administration of the PPN between Plenary meetings.

Subsets of the PPN such as Municipal District PPNs and Linkage / Thematic Groups also inform the process.

Registration for meetings is mandatory and includes registration by members, Secretariat members and staff.

A Plenary Meeting shall be deemed a valid meeting if at least 15 per cent of the Member Organisations are represented and also if at least four of those present are members of the Secretariat. There must also be an automatic and guaranteed 21 days' notice of the meeting.

If a quorum is not available, those present may elect to proceed with either of the following:

Option A

- The meeting should be postponed and rescheduled for a more suitable date, no later than one calendar month after the date of the original meeting.
- In the event that a quorum is not present at the rescheduled meeting, and provided that those in attendance consist of a simple majority (that is, half plus one) of all groups registered to

attend the meeting, the number of participants present will be deemed to be the quorum and the meeting will be validly held.

- No objections to proceedings, including resolutions, ratifications and decisions, of the rescheduled meeting shall be permitted on the basis that there was no valid quorum in attendance at the originally scheduled meeting.

Option B

- Determine that the current attendance at the plenary is sufficient for the plenary to proceed. Decisions made at this plenary will be validly passed by a simple majority (that is, half plus one) of those in attendance.

In any event, if over 50% of the Secretariat Members' terms have expired by the date of the holding of the Plenary meeting, or the rescheduled Plenary meeting, whichever shall apply, the requirement that the quorum include four Secretariat Members will cease to apply.