

# PPN Summer Plenary Report

01/08/2023

11am Online via Teams

## Agenda:

- Welcomes & Introductions
- Approval of reps
- Adoption of Workplan and Budget
- Updates from Secretariat – Vincent Lyons
- Updates from committees-
  - Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services SPC – Mark Green & Aodán Mac Donnacha
  - JPC - Aodán Mac Donnacha
- Training Needs Analysis
- Key Challenges by Pillar
- **Guest Speakers**
  - Ellie Loftus -Sports Inclusion Disability Officer
  - John Waters Town and Village Renewal Scheme
  - Tina Ryan Climate Action Plan – Invitation for Submissions
  - Clann Credo Presentation Tracey Hannon
- AOB

**Attendees:** See Below

**Apologies:** See Below

## MINUTES:

Mary Mullen welcomed all participants to the Summer Plenary of Galway County PPN. The PPN Secretariat was introduced to the group. Mary Mullen shared updates with the group on the work of the PPN. There are currently 1,243 member groups. The various committees which have a PPN representative were shared with the group.

Duana Tuite explained the work of the PPN in further detail, shared an infographic which outlined the activities of the PPN so far this year.

The group was then invited to vote on the election of the following **new PPN representatives**;

- George Francis – PPN Secretariat (Social Inclusion)
- Martin Ward – Housing SPC

The results were as follows

YES 100% (17 votes) / NO 0%

Both reps are now officially deemed elected.

The group was invited to approve and adopt the **Workplan** for 2023. Results as follows;

YES 100% (18 votes)/ NO 0%

Workplan officially approved and adopted. Mary Mullen shared an update on the budget spent so far this year.

The group then heard an update from the PPN Secretariat with Vincent Lyons giving an overview of PPN's at National level along with details on the functions of PPN's.

Aodán Mac Donnacha gave a presentation on behalf of himself and Mark Green, PPN representatives on the Planning, Environment, Agriculture & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee. The presentation gave an overview of the work of the SPC over the past year.

Aodán also gave an overview of the Joint Policing Committee.

Duana Tuite facilitated a discussion on the training needs of the plenary using Teams word cloud poll – results can be seen in image below.

Training needs analysis
Funding Schemes
Team Building
UN CRPD and Disability Inclusion
Governance
charity governance
Climate action awareness
Public Sector Duty
Access Audits
Climate change
safe guarding
biodiversity
EDI (equality diversity inclusion)
recruitment of volunteers
accounts
retaining board members
plant based diet
annual report for charity regulator
eu funds
environment
SDGs
youth involvement
transportation in the county
water quality
capacity building
IDG
ecohousing
transition towns
computer training and defib/first aid

Suggestions made through the chat function were as follows;

[Martina Finn]

Capacity building for Communities to engage on environmental and Climate changes and how to

Transition to low carbon, sustainable living. SDG and IDG, Eco housing Transition towns, Community Supported Agriculture, Cooperatives, Community led and Owned energy projects, One planet living and development. Permaculture, Community resilience, sustainable living, environmentally Friendly Land use management

[Vincent Lyons]

a big issue is how to get more young people involved in their local community groups otherwise the groups will not prosper

[Jen Fisher]

plant based diets

[Music for Galway]

EDI training would be useful, thanks

The group then discussed and identified key challenges in each of the 3 PPN Pillars. Results below:

Community & Voluntary Pillar Key Challenges
lack of community spaces for all pillars
Youth activation
Leader funding reduced
retention of existing volunteers
Leader Funding PPN Policy Position Paper
Funding for community and voluntary organisations
staff retention
funding for migrants
accessible places in the community
including the roma and travellers
disability and health care services for children
difficult to sustain groups and volunteers consistently
burnout of important members and conflict within groups

Social Inclusion Pillar - Key Challenges
failure to put notices in other languages
Funding for Irish Sign Language for the deaf community
Funding to roll out the local implementation of the UN CRPD
failure to phone and invite minority people
Migrant Inclusion
involve the hse
isolation of these communities such as elderly and marginalised
education on housing process in the co.co
lack of awareness of people of what resources funding and programs are available
racism is everywhere

tech problems for people not on internet ect.

doing consultation papers and responding to policy submissions

### Environmental Pillar Key Challenges

Derelict houses in village

social inclusion

Getting young people involved in community work

Cost of insurance

youth engagement

derelict houses

failure to engage schools and sports clubs

the environmental pillar is the least well represented even though climate and biodiversity are such hot topics at the moment

Training & Awareness on biodiversity loss

lack of engagement with the general public, lack of knowledge within the council itself, slow pace of change, lack of progressive policies, legacy of historic bad policies, general lack of urgency

Rural depopulation

climate and biodiversity

land abandonment

more support for household cost of living on waste

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Maria Heneghan highlighted the cut in this year's LEADER funding as a key issue for community groups in County Galway, making a suggestion that the PPN issue a Policy Position Paper in response to this.

Mary Mullen introduced the upcoming PPN Insurance Webinar which will take place on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> August at 11am. Registration link to be shared in due course.

The Plenary took a short break from 12:00 – 12:05

Guest Speakers gave their presentations.

Ellie Loftus  
Galway Sports  
Partnership  
Disability Officer

John Waters  
Town & Village  
Renewal Scheme  
2023

Tina Ryan  
Climate Action Plan  
Invitation for  
Submissions

Tracey Hannon  
Clann Credo

The PPN workers thanked all attendees and speakers for their presentations to the plenary.

[Meeting ended 1pm](#)

**Attendees:** PPN Workers: Mary Mullen, Duana Tuite.

Participants Registered 46

Áine	Bird	Burrenbeo Trust
Anne	Rabbitte	DCEDIY
Annette	Maye	Galway Film Fleadh
Aodan	Mac Donncha	CO Galway PPN and Taispeántas chois fharraige
Breda	Coneys	Connemara West
Denise	Feeney	Galway City Council
Eilín	Peircín	Comhar Chuigéal Teoranta
Ellie	Loftus	Galway Sports Partnership
Enda	Conneely	Comhar Caomhán
Feargal	Cavanagh	9 Arch Musical Society Claregalway
Gerard	Costello	Monivea Community Alert
Helen	Murphy	Glenamaddy Community Garden
Islammiyah	Saudique-Kadejo	GOCOM Radio
James	HARROLD	The Desmond O'Halloran Music Festival, Inishbofin
Jarlath	Canney	PPN Secretariat.
jen	fisher	Kinvara Climate Action
Jennie	Swannock	Galway Refugee Resettlement Programme
JOHN	WATERS	
John	MacDonald	Multiple Sclerosis Society Ireland
john	williams	handball
Kevin	Gavin	ARC Clifden CLG
Lisa	Fenwick	Disability Federation of Ireland DFI
Lorraine	Lally	NRM Network (National Register of Mediators) CLG & Epilepsy Ireland
Mairead	Conroy	Brothers of Charity Services Ireland - West region
Maria	Heneghan	Ballyglunin Development Company
Martin	Dolan	With Your Change .Com
Martina	Finn	Third Space Galway
Mary	O'Keeffe	Secretarial Team member/PRO Athenry Agricultural show.
Mary	Fahey	Galway Wild Geese - PPN NO: 000957
Michael	Mc Dermott	The Parish Shed. Monivea men's shed
Nick	Long	Cleggan Community Council
Padraig	Neenan	Cortoon/Lavally Golden Age Club
Patrick	Mc Hugh	Clár Éifeachtacht Fuinnimh
Peigí	Uí Cheidigh	Comharchumann Shailearna Teo
Peter	Butler	CVG
Philip	Hendrick	Galway Centre for Independent Living
Rebecca	Mooney	Galway County Council
Robbie	Blake	Galway Music Residency
Sean	Flanagan	Lakeview Estate Residents Association

Sienna	Fahey	Galway Wild Geese - 000957
Suzanne	Black	Music for Galway
Vincent	Lyons	Galway County PPN Secretariat

**Attendees:**

Mary Mullen  
Duana Tuite  
Vincent (Guest)  
Lisa Fenwick  
Eleanor Loftus  
Kevin Gavin  
Peter Butler  
jarlath Canney (Guest)  
Jen Fisher (Guest)  
Music for Galway (Guest)  
Gerard Costello (Guest)  
Breda Coneys  
Maria Heneghan (Guest)  
enda conneely  
Denise Feeney  
John Waters  
Aodan mac Donncha (Guest)  
Eilín Peircín (Guest)  
Robbie Blake (Galway Music Residency) (Guest)  
Tracey Hannon  
Martina Finn  
Patrick Mc Hugh  
Michael mc Dermott  
Peigí Uí Chéidigh (Guest)  
Feargal Cavanagh (Guest)  
Michael Mc Dermott (Guest)  
Mairead Conroy (Guest)  
Lorraine Lally  
Helen Murphy (Guest)  
sean flanagan (Guest)  
Islammiyah  
Aodán mac Donncha (Guest)  
James Harrold (Guest)  
Tina Ryan  
Rebecca Mooney  
Martin With Your Change

**Apologies:** Mark Green (PPN Rep), Peter Gohery, Nicola Johnston (PPN Secretariat), Mary Paula Healy, Colm Croffy (Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre), Kathleen McMahon (Liam and Tom O'Flaherty Society), Ruth Canney (Secretary of Tuam Women's Shed), George Francis (PPN Secretariat)

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