



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe
Public Participation Network Galway County

Galway County PPN Secretariat Meeting

10th October 2023 @ 7pm

Online via Microsoft Teams

Attendees: Mary Mullen (RW), Duana Tuite (SW), Vincent Lyons, Dan Dowling, Jarlath Canney, Aodán MacDonncha, Patrick McHugh, Martina Finn.

Apologies: Carmel McGrath, George Francis, Tom Madden, Nicola Johnston.

AGENDA

Welcomes

Updates

Budget

PPN National Conference Feedback

Update From Chairperson

Intercultural Day Ballinasloe

Plenary Planning

AOB

Welcomes

Mary Mullen welcomed PPN Secretariat to the meeting. PPN workers shared PowerPoint slides corresponding to the agenda.

- ❖ Reminder of **The Wheel PPN Supports** are available to Secretariat and Staff.
- ❖ Previous *The Wheel* training available to view here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/b4571-public-participation-networks-latest-news/>
- ❖ Upcoming *The Wheel* webinar on BUDGET 2024 - IMPACTS ON THE COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY SECTOR (WEBINAR) <https://www.wheel.ie/training/2023/10/budget-2024-impacts-community-voluntary-sector-webinar> (PPN are members so should be able to get access to webinar).

Updates

PPN Membership as of 10/10/2023 stand at 1,258 member groups. It was noted that the numbers on the Members Directory available on the public website are not auto-updating accurately. Mary Mullen to look into this.

Minutes of last meeting approved: proposed by Vincent Lyons, seconded by Jarlath Canney.

Budget

Budget breakdown as of September 2023 was provided in an infographic. Updated numbers for October to be provided once they go through the financial system.

High-cost items include; training, marketing and promotion, online subscriptions.

SDG training which happened in September (25th & 26th September) for Tidy Towns groups will be funded through the PPN in collaboration with GCC Tidy Towns fund.

Significant upcoming costs include: PPN Winter Plenary (in-person).

PPN National Conference Feedback

- ❖ The 5th PPN National Conference in Arklow Bay Hotel, Wicklow, on 5th & 6th Oct 2023.
- ❖ Secretariat members who attended: Aodán MacDonnacha, Dan Dowling, George Francis, Martina Finn, Vincent Lyons. Support Worker who attended: Duana Tuite.
- ❖ Duana presented slides with updates from the Conference and some photos she took (professional photos will likely be shared by the Conference organisers).
- ❖ Duana informed the Secretariat that she will gather any slides/reports that were presented at the Conference, once they are sent to the workers, and send them out to Secretariat/Reps.
- ❖ Vincent Feedback:
 - Excursion: to Aughrim Community Facility was informative, the story of how they started from nothing, and a walking poles demonstration in the rain.

- Workshop: Communications Strategy – most feedback from the PPN reps was dissatisfaction with the PR campaign, that it seems like a waste of money, people hadn't heard of the campaign or received marketing materials/packs.
- Conference overall: a success, more engagement and views from attendees taken than at previous conferences, as that feedback from the last conference was taken on board.
- Someone asked Vincent would Galway host next year's conference. Vincent said he'd speak to staff and Secretariat about it.
- ❖ Aodán Feedback:
 - Workshop: Joint Policing Committee (**JPC**) changing to new structure called Community Safety Partnership (**CSP**). Waterford PPPN was part of a pilot programme running for almost 2 years. The new structure is being rolled out in 2024. There would be a commitment to 50% community representation.
- ❖ Dan Feedback:
 - Reiterate the feedback others provided. On the JPC/**CSP** meeting he quired the presenter if it would be another quango or genuine engagement with community reps and was reassured the plan was good. Dan and Aodán have booklets on the Waterford CSP project.
- ❖ Martina Feedback:
 - Thanks to Duana for organising and communicating the schedule and plan to the Secretariat attendees.
 - Martina's internet connection cut out and she couldn't give further updates on the Conference.
- ❖ George sent apologies. We will try to get feedback on Conference from Martina and George at a later date.
- ❖ Everyone thanked the other attendees and expressed how it was great to spend time in person together and represent Galway County PPN and meet other PPN's.
- ❖ Discussion about possibility of Galway County organising the PPN Conference 2024:
 - Ideally whoever is organising would have more notice and lead in time.
 - We would probably need to co-host with Galway City to share resources, the conference would have to be held in the city for ease of access for attendees via public transport or car.
 - Queries on how the funding of the event works, how much the Department funds, or Local Authority/Host Organisation.
 - If City and County co-host, then how is cost split and which officials would be invited to speak from both Local Authorities plus Galway City Partnership the City PPN host organisation.
 - There is a lot of work in planning the event, do the PPN staff get a release from some regular duties to dedicate the time to the Conference? It was noted that there is an event planning team with members from different PPN's who would have experience planning previous conferences.
 - It was expressed that it would be a great showcase for Galway and a great opportunity for the outgoing PPN Secretariat and Reps who are leaving in 2024.
 - We would need to think more about it, find out about funding structure, speak to Mary McGann in Galway County Council about it.
 - It is an election year in 2024, that will impact the date of the Conference, and the availability of resources and officials to attend.

Upcoming Events

- **Green Recovery Working Group (GRWG):** Proposed date of next meeting: Thursday 24th October at 7pm Online. Minutes of Environment SPC aren't shared with us until the day before the SPC meeting so it's difficult for PPN/GRWG to engage with SPC.
- **PPN Workers Meeting:** Hybrid (Dublin/Online) 26th October at 10am-3pm.

- Ballinasloe Intercultural Day: George Francis was unable to attend today's meeting. Event has been **postponed to early 2024** due to venue undergoing renovations.
- LAWPRO / Rivers Trust / PPN: follow up meeting with interested groups about setting up a Corrib Rivers Trust. 11th November 2023. PPN to help with admin and inviting groups for the meeting.
- **PPN Winter Plenary**: in-person plenary proposed date Tuesday 28th November 6:30pm - 9pm.
- **Plenary Planning meeting** for proposed for **Thursday 19th October at 7pm** online.

Update from Chairperson

Martina's internet connection was lost so she was unavailable to give an update. Mary Mullen suggested we get an update via email or at next meeting.

Plenary Planning

- ❖ **Plenary Planning meeting** date set for **Thursday 19th October at 7pm** online. Invite to be sent out with minutes. We need as many PPN Reps as possible to attend and help with planning please.
- ❖ Discussion on planning Plenary:
 - Various Galway County hotel venues were suggested. Workers will get some quotes. Maldron Hotel Oranmore was top of the list for ease of access from Galway West and East. Raheen Woods hotel Athenry and Medowscourt Hotel Loughrea, Connemara Coast and the Claregalway Hotel were also suggestions.
 - Organisations/people to invited to speak/have info tables: The New Chief Executive of Galway County Council to do opening address.
 - Insurance companies to have info tables, Climate and Biodiversity team to have info/present on Climate Fund or Climate Plan. Galway Volunteer Centre to replicate recent presentation PPN workers attended.
 - Round table workshops. Only one or two presentations.
 - More brainstorming ideas are on the PowerPoint slides.
- ❖ PPN Workers to get quotes from hotels ahead of planning meeting.

AOB

Mary Mullen suggested it might be nice for the Outgoing Secretariat/Reps to do a little booklet with their tips and advice for new PPN Reps starting in 2024.

JPC meeting on 6th November in Medowscourt Hotel Loughrea, open to all, Mary to forward invite to secretariat.

Deepest Sympathies on behalf of the PPN to Patrick McHugh on the death of his mother.

MEETING ENDED: 8:10pm

NEXT MEETING DATE: **21st November 2023 @ 10am Chairperson Nicola Johnston**