



Lionra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chontae na Gaillimhe
Public Participation Network Galway County

Galway County PPN Plenary

Tuesday 19th November 2024

6:00 pm – 21:30 pm

Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway County

MINUTES

ATTENDEES: *see below.*

APOLOGIES: *see below.*

SURVEY RESULTS: *see below.*

PHOTOS AND EVENT PLANNING: *see below.*

AGENDA

Registration, Refreshments and Exhibitor Tables

- Registration and Refreshments.
- Exhibitor Information Tables.

Welcome & Event Overview

- Welcome, Housekeeping - *Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker.*
- Master of Ceremonies (MC's) - *Maria Heneghan and Patrick McHugh, PPN Secretariat.*

Presentations

- The Role of the Ombudsman - *Mr. Ger Deering, The Ombudsman.*
- PPN Implementation Roadmap - *Maria Heneghan, PPN Secretariat.*
- Community Support Schemes - *Mary McGann, Galway County Council.*

7:30-7:45pm; BREAK (refreshments)

PPN Business Matters

- Reflection on 10 Years of PPN - *Jarlath Canney, Dan Dowling, Vincent Lyons, PPN.*
- Long Service Awards - to Jarlath, Dan, Vincent, *by Jacqueline Carroll, County Council.*
- Ratification of PPN Representatives - *Patrick McHugh, PPN Secretariat.*
- Amendments to PPN Representatives Charter and Constitution - *Vincent Lyons, PPN*
- PPN Workplan and Budget 2024 - *Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker.*
- Survey to Input into PPN Workplan 2025 - *Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker.*
- Closing remarks and thanks - *MC's from PPN Secretariat and PPN Resource Worker.*



EXHIBITOR INFORMATION TABLES

Exhibitors from a variety of organisations working with the Community and Voluntary sector, as well as several local PPN Member Groups and other organisations, held information tables for half an hour before the meeting began. This is a valuable networking time for all attendees to meet each other, learn about the services and local organisations and for the exhibitors to network amongst themselves.

List of exhibitors below.

WELCOMES

➤ Welcome, Housekeeping, Running Order - *Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker*. Duana Tuite welcomed the PPN Members, PPN Representatives, Galway County Council staff, special guest speakers namely the Ombudsman Ger Deering, exhibitors and other guests. Duana informed guests of the location of exits, refreshments, and toilets, and reminded everyone to sign in either on the online link or physical sign in sheets. Duana introduced the two Master of Ceremonies (MC's), Maria Heneghan and Patrick McHugh, PPN Secretariat members.

➤ Master of Ceremonies (MC's) - *Maria Heneghan and Patrick McHugh, PPN Secretariat*.

Patrick gave a welcome and introduction on behalf of the PPN Secretariat Committee, both in Irish and English. Patrick and Maria Heneghan took turns introducing guest speakers and different portions of the meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

A copy of the slides is available to PPN members on request. A copy of all presentations from the meeting will be published on the PPN website (<https://www.galwaycountypnp.ie/>) alongside this Plenary Report.

➤ **The Role of the Ombudsman** - *Mr. Ger Deering, The Ombudsman*.

The Ombudsman, Mr. Ger Deering, gave a PowerPoint presentation on 'The Role of the Ombudsman' to those in attendance. The presentation was very well received and there was time for some questions at the end.

Further information available online at: <https://www.ombudsman.ie/en/>

➤ **PPN Implementation Roadmap** - *Maria Heneghan, PPN Secretariat*.

Carmel McGrath gave a presentation on 'PPN Implementation Roadmap' to those in attendance. Carmel is a Representative of Galway County PPN on the Department of Rural and Community Development's Advisory Committee 10-year review of PPNs, which led to



publication of the PPN Roadmap.

The PPN Roadmap is available online at:

<https://assets.gov.ie/static/documents/public-participation-networks-roadmap-july-2024.pdf>

➤ **Community Support Schemes** - Mary McGann, Galway County Council PPN Liaison.

Mary McGann, Administrative Officer in Galway County Council, Department of Rural and Community Development presented on the Community Support Schemes 2025. The focus of the 2025 funding scheme is: *“Working together to maintain County Galway as a uniquely attractive place in which to live, work, invest and visit”*.

Contact details for the various streams of the grants are below:

Economic Development:	tourism@galwaycoco.ie
Community Development:	communitysupportscheme@galwaycoco.ie
Arts Grants:	artsoffice@galwaycoco.ie
Heritage Grants:	heritage@galwaycoco.ie
Irish Language Grants:	gaeilge@cocogaillimh.ie

BUSINESS MATTERS

➤ **Reflection on 10 Years of PPN** - Jarlath Canney, Dan Dowling, Vincent Lyons, PPN.

The three Secretariat members who have volunteered on the Secretariat Committee with PPN since its inception, spoke in recognition of the 10th anniversary of PPN's.

Jarlath reflected on the formation of PPN's as their current structure, and the pre-cursor to the PPN which was the Community and Voluntary Forum, he also noted that Galway County PPN formally began in March 2004 when the Forum was dissolved. He spoke about the development of the national PPN Handbook as a vital resource for all PPN's.

Dan spoke about the progress of the PPN, how vital the input from all stakeholders is both locally and county wide is, and the value of being involved with the PPN structure, for him and all who volunteer for PPN Representatives or Secretariat committee positions, as well as to all regular PPN member organisations. He mentioned the increase in funding to allow for a second PPN staff a number of years ago, and the 2025 increase in operational budget.

Vincent looked to the future of the PPN and recognised the significant milestone of the 10th anniversary while reflecting on his journey with the PPN. He spoke about the value of being involved with the national and regional PPN networks and working groups or advisory groups of the PPN national structure, as a Representative of Galway County PPN or of the Community and Voluntary Pillar, at different times over the years.

All three Secretariat commended the PPN staff past and present, the support from Galway County Council, especially the PPN Liaison past and present. The Department of Rural and Community

Development (DRCD) staff from the PPN national office were also thanked. It was noted that without the ongoing support of Galway County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development, both financially and with other resources and supports, the PPN would not be in operation nor as successful as it is today.

➤ **Long Service Awards presentations** - to Jarlath, Dan and Vincent, *by Jacqueline Carroll.*

Jacqueline Carroll, *the Director of Services for the Rural & Community Development, Integration and Environment Departments, Galway County Council*, presented Long Service Awards on behalf of Galway County Council to Jarlath Canney, Dan Dowling, and Vincent Lyons. As all three of them are coming to the end of the maximum allowable 10-year term as PPN Secretariat members.

Jacqueline and Mary McGann, *the PPN Liaison and Administrative Officer in Galway County Council Community Section*, conspired to include this last-minute addition to the agenda which was a complete surprise to the award recipients and guests. The awards honor the dedication of the three volunteers with the PPN and their other voluntary activities in their communities. The recipients were completely surprised and delighted to receive the awards which comprised a framed certificated and inscribed, hand carved wooden sculptures, depicting a traditional boat, a symbol of Galway. They were each presented their awards separately and Jacqueline commended them for their dedication and asked them questions to reflect on their time with PPN.

➤ **Ratification of PPN Representatives** - *Patrick McHugh, PPN Secretariat.*

PPN Representative Posts filled since Summer Plenary 2024 – for ratification by Plenary.

The following Reps were ratified by a majority show of hands at the PPN Plenary 19/11/2025.

Board/Committee	Nominating Pillar/MD/Area	Representative
Galway Rural Development	Galway East	Carmel McGrath
Galway Rural Development	Galway East	Martin Ward
Claregalway Per Cent for Art	Claregalway	Vincent Lyons
Claregalway Per Cent for Art	Claregalway	Geraldine Kilmartin
Housing SPC	C&V Pillar	Seamus Duffy
Economic SPC	C&V Pillar	Lyn Donnelly
Physical Development SPC	C&V Pillar	Aodán MacDonncha
Community SPC	C&V Pillar	Paul Dillon
Environment SPC	C&V Pillar	Noel Finnegan
Climate Action SPC	C&V Pillar	Hazel Pagett Morrison

Housing SPC	Social Inclusion Pillar	Helen Jennings
Community SPC	Social Inclusion Pillar	Chika Onyia
Physical Development SPC	Environment Pillar	Mark Green
Environment SPC	Environment Pillar	<i>Election Process Ongoing: Kevin O’Crowley / Rory McKenna</i>
Climate Action SPC	Environment Pillar	Peter Butler
LCDC	C&V Pillar	Gerard Costello
LCDC	C&V Pillar	Máirín NíChonghaile
LCDC	Social Inclusion Pillar	Kevin Gavin
LCDC	Social Inclusion Pillar	Peter Gohery
LCDC	Environment Pillar	Jen Fisher

➤ **Amendments to PPN Representatives Charter** - Vincent Lyons, PPN Secretariat.

Amendments to PPN Constitution & PPN Representatives Charter – for ratification by Plenary.
Amendments related to: PPN Reps sitting on the following committees:
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), Strategic Policy Committee (SPC), and PPN Secretariat Committee.

The need for the amendments was identified by Galway County Council PPN Liaison and drafted with the PPN Resource Worker. The text was distributed to all Plenary attendees, and it was instructed that only PPN members organisations should vote.

The following amendments were approved by a majority show of hands at Plenary 19/11/2025.

LCDC & SPC’s:

Remove:

The term of a representative on the JPC, LCDC and SPCs is 3 years in length. A representative can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms (six years in a row). A representative who has served two terms cannot serve a third consecutive term on the same committee. An outgoing representative can serve a further consecutive term only in the event of the linkage group not having a suitable replacement.

Replace with:

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):

The initial term of a representative is 3 years and at the end of this period, it will be reviewed by the LCDC, and the term may be extended for no more than 3 more years. Following the



maximum term of 6 years, there must be a compulsory break of a minimum 3 years prior to any further nomination of that individual.

Strategic Policy Committees:

The term of a representative on the SPC's is 5 years in length, in line with the term of office of the Elected Council. A representative can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. A representative who has served two terms cannot serve a third consecutive term on the same committee.

PPN Secretariat:

Remove:

The term of the Secretariat members is the length of the council term and 3 years thereafter. A Secretariat member can serve a maximum of two consecutive terms. A Secretariat member who has served two terms cannot serve a third consecutive term. An outgoing Secretariat member can serve a third time after first taking a one term break.

Replace with:

The term of a representative on the PPN Secretariat is 5 years, and a representative can serve a maximum of 2 consecutive terms. The Secretariat will ensure that the PPN Secretariat Membership is refreshed at least every 3 years, through naturally occurring vacancies and/or the longest-standing members stepping down.



➤ **PPN Workplan and Budget 2024** - Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker.

GALWAY COUNTY PPN BUDGET

<u>Expenditure:</u>	€
Staff	65,215.77
Secretariat	2,078.11
Office Admin – insurance, equipment, etc	2,695.81
Events Admin – room hire, online subscriptions	1,144.86
Events Sponsored by PPN – Cathaoirleach Awards	4,000.00
Training	4,363.00
Total expenditure to date	79,497.55

Pending: salaries, PPN Plenary Costs

Core Income:

Department of Rural and Community Development	60,000.00
Galway County Council	30,000.00
Total Income	90,000.00

***** In 2025, additional €14,840 in core funding = 100,540.00**

Ringfenced Funding:

PPN Support Worker expenditure to date: 30,556.34

Income:

Department of Rural and Community Development	25,700.00
Galway County Council	5,000.00
Total Income	30,700.00



GALWAY COUNTY PPN WORKPLAN 2024

Capacity Building Function

Training carried out in 2024:

- Facilitation Skills
- Understanding and Influencing the Oireachtas
- Sources of Funding for Non-Profits
- Digital Marketing for Community Groups
- Website Design for your Organisation
- Permaculture Course
- Targeted Training for Secretariat and PPN Representatives
- Information on North-West Regional Training for PPN's.

Information Hub Function

- E-mails, social media, website
- Monthly Newsletters
- Funding Workshops on Local Enhancement Programme, Community Support Schemes, CLAR
- Information Workshop – Research to Barriers on Involvement in PPN's
- Events - PPN Energy Master Plan & SEAI SEC Events on 4th & 5th April across all MD's, Cathaoirleach Awards to recognise best practice across communities, PPN National Conference, information stands at local events.

Representation Function

- Nomination and Election processes for PPN Representative posts
- Linkage Groups to promote feedback and representation: Green Energy Working Group, Disability Forum
- Consultations – Municipal District and Linkage Group consultations for LECP
- Submissions – to Galway County SPC Scheme.



➤ **Survey to Input into PPN Workplan 2025** - Duana Tuite, PPN Acting Resource Worker.

The Survey was provided in paper format only at the event.

SURVEY QUESTIONS:

Information Hub:

A vital role of the PPN is to act as an information hub for local communities. The PPN does this by keeping local communities informed of relevant local and national issues, news, resources and funding supports.

How do you rate how we're doing this? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

Do you have any specific suggestions in improving methods of communications such as e-mails, social media, website, monthly newsletter, workshops, and events, e.g., more streamlined / targeted communication, different headings in the PPN newsletter, facilities on website?

Representation:

A vital role of the PPN is to represent 'the voice of the community' on decision-making boards and committees. The PPN does this by selecting PPN Representatives who represent the views of the relevant Pillar or Municipal District and provides feedback to and from this wider group to the decision-making committee.

How do you rate how we're doing this? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

Do you have specific suggestions on enabling representatives to better represent 'the voice of the community' e.g., developing a Vision for Community Wellbeing to identify key issues for communities, developing Linkage Groups across key thematic areas for groups with common interests to feed into consultations on policy documents/

Capacity Building – Member Groups:

A key aim of the PPN is to educate and strengthen the capacity of communities to contribute positively to their communities. The PPN does this by increasing participation in the PPN and working with the local authority to identify measures to increase capacity of groups to support their local community.

How do you rate how we're doing this? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

Do you have specific suggestions for building capacity of community groups, for example by doing an analysis of training needs and offering relevant training, facilitating networking and sharing of best practice between Member Groups, etc.

Capacity Building – PPN Staff & Representatives:

The PPN must ensure that its staff, Secretariat, and PPN Representatives have access to training and capacity building opportunities to enable them to carry out their roles.



How do you rate how we're doing this? (1 being poor and 5 being excellent).

Do you have specific suggestions for building capacity of staff, Secretariat members, and PPN Representatives either by the PPN of local authority?

SURVEY RESULTS:

➤ Representation:

Rating (1 being poor and 5 being excellent):

3, 3.

Comments:

- Linkage Groups
- 2 Reps on relevant PPN's like 2 environmental reps on Climate SPC, 2 on Environment SPC. It's really hard to get ideas into the SPC's.

➤ Capacity Building – Member Groups:

Rating (1 being poor and 5 being excellent):

3, 3.

Comments:

- Facilitating networking
- It's difficult to break through although there is loads of information coming through all the time, sometimes it's information overload. I don't know how to address this, maybe a budget for radio adverts of something like that or features in the advertiser.

➤ Capacity Building – PPN Staff & Representatives:

Rating (1 being poor and 5 being excellent):

4, 3.

Comments:

- Secretariat members, PPN Reps.
- Not sure.

➤ **Closing remarks and thanks - MC's from PPN Secretariat and PPN Resource Worker.**

The attendees were all thanked, the guest speakers, special guests, the Ombudsman, staff of Galway County Council, all the exhibitors, the venue staff, PPN members and PPN Secretariat and Reps and the PPN Staff. The meeting ended early due to icy road conditions and attendees were advised to get home safely.

PHOTOS



Attendees at Plenary



Galway County Council Staff



Award Winners: Vincent, Dan, Jarlath - Secretariat



PPN Staff and Secretariat: Duana, Silvana, Carmel

Photos by Silvana Falasca, PPN Support Worker and Jarlath Canney, PPN Secretariat.

APOLOGOES

Aodán mac Donncha, PPN Secretariat. Aodán visited the venue briefly before the event.

Kieran Coyne, Senior Executive Officer, Galway County Council.

Donncha Foley, Galway Volunteer Centre.

Dermot O'Donovan, Connemara Envir Ed & Cultural Centre.

Michelle Moriarty, Family Carers Ireland

ATTENDEES

	NAME	ORGANISATION	TYPE OF GUEST
	GALWAY COUNTY PPN		
1	Maria Heneghan	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Presenter
2	Vincent Lyons	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Presenter
3	Dan Dowling	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Presenter
4	Jarlath P. Canney	Galway County Public Participation Network	Secretariat/Presenter/Photographer
5	Carmel McGrath	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Presenter
6	Patrick McHugh	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Presenter
7	Martina Finn	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/Exhibitor
8	Maritn Ward	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Secretariat/PPN Info Table
9	Duana Tuite	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Resource Worker/Presenter
10	Silvana Falasca	Galway County Public Participation Network	PPN Support Worker/Photographer
	SPECIAL GUESTS		
11	Ger Deering	Ombudsman, Office of the Ombudsman	Special Guest Speaker
12	Jacqueline Carroll	Galway County Council - Director of Services, Rural, Community Development, Integration & Environment	Special Guest
13	Mary McGann	Galway County Council-Rural & Community Development	Presenter
14	Theresa Donohue	Galway County Council-Rural & Community Development	Special Guest
15	Eimear Dolan	Galway County Council-Rural & Community Development	Special Guest
	EXHIBITORS		
	PPN Secretariat & Staff	Galway County Public Participation Network	Exhibitor
16	Thomas Peoples	Galway Sports Partnership	Exhibitor
17	Janet Kehelly	Galway County Council-Local Authority Integration Team	Exhibitor
18	Mark Molloy	Galway County Council-Environment section	Exhibitor
19	Majella Moylan	Galway County Council-Rural & Community Development	Exhibitor
20	Morven Brooks	Galway County Council-Rural & Community Development	Exhibitor
21	Michelle Connellan	Galway County Council-Housing section	Exhibitor
22	John Moore	Galway County Council-Housing section	Exhibitor
23	Mark Lee	BHP Insurance	Exhibitor
24	Steve Dolan	Galway Rural Development (GRD)	Exhibitor
25	Liz MacDonald	Galway Rural Development (GRD)	Exhibitor
26	Elizabeth Steede	Galway Hooker Sailing Club	Exhibitor
27	Dave O' Leary	Galway Hooker Sailing Club	Exhibitor
28	Tina Concannon	Galway Hooker Sailing Club	Exhibitor
29	Ann Marie Bonar	Tusla Fostering	Exhibitor
30	Gerard Costello	Muintir na Tire Community Alert	Exhibitor
31	Tracey Hannon	Clann Credo	Exhibitor
32	Anne Graham	Western Development Commission	Exhibitor
33	Anna Murphy	Rights of Nature Group	Exhibitor
	Martina Finn	Celt (Centre for Environmental Living and Training)	Exhibitor
34	Jen Fisher	Kinvara Climate Action / Rights of Nature Galway	Exhibitor
35	David Bohan	FORUM Connemara	Exhibitor
36	Peter Lydon	FORUM Connemara	Exhibitor
37	Eithne O' Halloran	FORUM Connemara	Exhibitor
38	Yevheniia Bohachova	FORUM Connemara	Exhibitor



39	Nórah Ní Cheannabháin	FORUM Connemara	Exhibitor
40	Mary Nohilly	Community Finance Ireland	Exhibitor
	PPN MEMBERS		
41	Peter Butler	Conservation Volunteers Galway	PPN Member/PPN Representative
42	David Devane	Ardrahan Agricultural Show	PPN Member
43	Aisling Bhreathnach	Coiste Forbartha Chorr Na Móna	PPN Member
44	Clodagh ní Ghoill	Meitheal Oibre Meitheal Oibre Cill Einne	PPN Member
45	Jessica LeConey	Barnardos Birth History	PPN Member
46	Mark Green	An Taisce	PPN Member/PPN Representative
47	Maeve Keane	Galway Community Circus	PPN Member
48	Lynn Carroll	Galway Community Circus	PPN Member
49	Vincent Flynn	Mountbellew Men's Shed	PPN Member
50	Áine Hanrahan	Corrib Lacemakers / Lásadóirí na Coiribe	PPN Member
51	Nuala McHugh	Corrib Lacemakers	PPN Member
52	Grainne Griffin	Corrib Lacemakers	PPN Member
53	Enda Conneely	Comhar Caomhan tei	PPN Member/PPN Representative
54	Noel Ó Murchú	Coiste Pobail Ros Muc	PPN Member
55	Peter Mannion	Coiste Pobail Ros Muc	PPN Member
56	Denis O'Dwyer	Bailte Slachtmhara Bhearna	PPN Member
57	Sean Langan	Caherlistrane GAA	PPN Member
58	Pádraic Mac Diarmada	Comhlacht Forbartha an Spidéil (CFAS)	PPN Member
59	James Harrold	The Desmond O'Halloran Music Weekend	PPN Member
60	Muiris Mac Gearailt	Coiste Halla Éinne	PPN Member
61	Gladys Nee	Comhairle Muintir an Chaisil	PPN Member
62	Anne Mc Carthy - Murphy	Kilbeacanty Community Development Association	PPN Member
63	Hazel Morrison-Pagett	Moycullen Heritage	PPN Member
64	John Mc Grath	Caherlistrane Kilcoona Community Council	PPN Member
65	Aengus Byrne	Bearna na Forbacha Aontaithe	PPN Member
66	Elaine Bohan	Caherlistrane GAA	
67	Nora Ní Ríán	Club Oige Rosmhuc	PPN Member
68	Jacqin McGovern	Bernardos Birth History	PPN Member
69	Karen O'Neill	Labane Ardrahan Community Development	PPN Member
70	Claire Barry	Brothers of Charity	
71	Jerry O'Sullivan	Labane Ardrahan CDA	
72	Michael Leainde	Ross-Aveal	
	APOLOGIES		
1	Michelle Moriarty	Family Carers Ireland	
2	Kieran Coyne	Galway County Council - Senior Executive Officer, Rural, Community Development & Integration	
3	Donncha Foley	Galway Volunteer Centre	
4	Dermot O'Donovan	Connemara Envir Ed & Cultural Centre	