



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Public Participation Networks

Annual Report 2019

Prepared by
The Department of Rural and Community Development
and the National PPN Advisory Group.
www.gov.ie/drcd



**928 Representatives on 424
Boards and Committees**

**Hundreds of supports
for Representatives**

**Reporting on PPN impacts
for the first time**

**Continuous engagement
with Member Groups**

**Increased Social
Media profile**

**169 training programmes for more
than 6,000 Member representatives**

**Increased PPN
Staffing in 2019**

**Recommendations for
future development**



12,083

**Community and
Voluntary Groups**

**Highlights of
2019**



2,920

**Social Inclusion
Groups**



596

**Environmental
Groups**



15,599

Member Groups



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Foreword by Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Minister Joe O'Brien



I am delighted to be able to present the fourth annual report on Public Participation Networks. The primary role of PPNs is to facilitate participation and representation of communities on local decision-making bodies in a fair, equitable and transparent manner. By hosting meetings and providing training opportunities, PPNs also enable volunteer-led groups to connect with like-minded groups locally and to build their own skillsets. These activities are crucial in developing the capabilities of the wide variety of groups active in Ireland's communities.

PPNs operate on the principle of community engagement, which is about encouraging people and groups to work together to achieve a common goal in making a meaningful difference and enhancing their communities. These collaborations cover local issues as diverse as green spaces, conservation of towns and rivers, health and wellbeing through community sporting facilities, climate action and working with the disadvantaged and marginalised in our society.

In cities and counties around the country, PPNs regularly hold workshops and public consultations to facilitate this engagement and discuss the issues impacting local communities. The work of the PPN is a valuable tool in informing Local Authorities of the views and needs of the communities they serve.

As our population has grown and diversified, so too has the need for more community engagement. And PPNs are rising to this challenge: the growth of PPNs has continued in 2019, with 15,599 organisations in a PPN by the end of 2019 – an increase of over 1,600 in just one year. We are fortunate that Ireland has a strong cohort of volunteer-run groups around the country, and PPNs provide the means for these groups to input meaningfully into the ongoing development of their communities.

A recent case study commissioned by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform¹ highlighted PPNs' many successes in contributing to local policy and decisions on matters such as parks, transport routes and waste management. PPNs are also used for hundreds of consultations nationwide and provide training to thousands of people on topics such as governance, Garda vetting, and financial management. PPNs around the country have also carried out other valuable projects for their local communities, such as health-related campaigns, environmental workshops, and reports on disability. Many of these wonderful initiatives undertaken in 2019 are outlined in more detail in this report. It is also important to note that the Government sees the PPNs as having a key role in our recovery from Covid-19 as outlined in the Resilience and Recovery 2020 – 21: Plan for Living with Covid-19.

I congratulate the PPNs and all concerned for the remarkable achievements over the last year. I wish to affirm that my Department and Government remain committed to continuing our support of PPNs to ensure that all citizens have a say in the policies and decisions that affect their lives and their local communities.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Joe O'Brien". The signature is fluid and cursive.

*Joe O'Brien, Minister of State
with responsibility for Community Development and Charities*

Foreword by the Chairperson of the Public Participation Network (PPN) National Advisory Group, Ciara Bates

2019 has been another remarkable year in the development of PPNs nationally. The continued growth in the number of groups affiliated to the PPN is a testament to the great work being done on the ground nationally. At the end of 2019, PPN membership nationally stood at 15,599, an increase of some 1,600 over the 2018 figure and this increase in membership has continued into 2020.

In this, the 2019 Annual Report, you will see first-hand the impact of the work of PPNs throughout the country. PPN representatives have contributed to local government policy and decision-making across a wide range of matters such as byelaws on open spaces (parks, beaches), transport routes, and restructuring the LEADER programme. PPNs have also been used as a vehicle for a range of consultations and collaborations with local authorities nationwide, including on the Healthy Counties initiative, Digital Strategy Consultation Workshops, and the development of Biodiversity Plans. Much of this work was enabled by the engagement of a Support Worker in 2019 by each PPN, funded by the Department, to assist the Resource Worker in their day-to-day activities.

The range of activity by PPNs and their impact were also reported in another study published in 2020 by the Department of Public Expenditure and Reform² which outlined how PPNs have developed since they were established, noting the successes and challenges they encountered along the way and what we can learn from them. This study, along with the PPN Annual Reports, have provided a comprehensive overview of the work and impact of PPNs and highlighted key issues for consideration in their ongoing development.

In relation specifically to 2019, the third PPN Annual conference hosted by Carlow PPN and Carlow County Council in October 2019 was a resounding success. A number of examples of best practice by PPNs were presented included Kerry's Universal Access, Wexford's Resilient Communities and Kilkenny's Creating a Sustainable Future in collaboration with South East PPNs. These presentations by PPNs were very well received and have provided much "food for thought" for the entire PPN community.

In addition, a new network of Secretariat members was established in 2019, with the assistance of a Facilitator funded by the Department to help the group to understand their common objectives, their role within the PPNs and assist them in the development of work programmes. The National PPN Advisory Group also advanced a number of key new initiatives in 2019 including an update of the PPN User Handbook, the development of a National PPN Communications Campaign and the ongoing provision of targeted PPN-related training throughout the year. I would like to highlight the fact that the PPN Handbook being developed in consultation with all PPN stakeholders represents a major project for both the Department and the National Advisory Group.

As the PPNs have progressed over the past five years, the kinds of resources and supports needed have also inevitably grown and changed. Looking ahead, a review of the PPN structure will commence in late 2020 to assess how PPNs are operating and highlight instances of best practice – a project from which all PPNs and stakeholders stand to benefit. I look forward to working with the National Advisory Group and all PPN stakeholders in the roll-out of this structural review.

2019 proved once again to be a very busy year for PPNs, as they continue to move from strength to strength with each new project and initiative. On behalf of the National Advisory Group, I thank you for all your hard work during 2019 and look forward to our continued collaborations and successes.



Ciara Bates, Chairperson, National PPN Advisory Group

Introduction

Involving people in making the decisions that affect them and their lives is a core principle of democracy. Real participation goes beyond voting (representative democracy) to a situation where people and government work in partnership to co-create infrastructure and services, solve problems and work towards the well-being of all in this generation and the generations to come (deliberative democracy). By definition, such an approach requires a leaving aside of power differentials, and making a specific effort to ensure that the voices and views of people who are not traditionally influential are heard and considered.

In 2014, the Local Government Act was amended to introduce Public Participation Networks (PPNs). The PPN recognises the contribution of volunteer-led organisations to local economic, social and environmental capital. It facilitates input by these organisations into local government through a structure that ensures public participation and representation on decision-making committees within local government. These PPNs have been established in every local authority area in Ireland. By the end of 2019, over 15,500 community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations were members of a PPN. Over 920 PPN representatives were elected to 424 committees on issues such as strategic policy, local community development, joint policing and so on.

Local authorities and PPNs work together collaboratively to support communities and build the capacity of member organisations to engage meaningfully on issues that concern them. PPNs have a significant role in the development and education of their member groups, sharing information, promoting best practice and facilitating networking. Local authorities also have a vital role to play in facilitating participation through open consultative processes and active engagement.

Role of the National Advisory Group

The report of the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government which was set up in September 2013 made recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making processes at local government level. The Working Group Report was published in February 2014.

That report outlined the ways in which structures and processes for securing the engagement of organised civil society with local government could be strengthened. To do this, the Report recommended that a Public Participation Network (PPN) be established in each local authority area to enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees of the local authority.

The Working Group Report recommended that the work of PPNs should be monitored and evaluated regularly in line with best practice. The first National PPN Advisory Group was established in 2016 for this purpose and ran until September 2018.

A second National PPN Advisory Group, established immediately after the term of office of the first group ended, is fully representative of all stakeholders. The Group now includes one representative each from the Community and Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion sectors, three PPN Volunteers – one each representing the three different sectors, three PPN resource workers and two Local Authority staff (one at Director of Service level and one directly supporting a PPN). The Group is chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development who also provide the secretariat services for the Group. Membership of the Advisory group is set out in Table 1.

Table 1: Membership of the National Advisory Group during 2019

Sector	Name	Organisation
Chair	<i>Ciara Bates Principal Officer</i>	Department of Rural and Community Development
Community and Voluntary Sector Representative	<i>Catherine Lane</i>	Women's Council of Ireland
Social Inclusion Sector Representative	<i>Dr Seán Healy, S.M.A. Director</i>	Social Justice Ireland
Environmental Sector Representative	<i>Michael Ewing</i>	Environmental Pillar
Resource Worker Representative	<i>Helen Howes</i>	Wicklow PPN
Resource Worker Representative	<i>Annette Barr Jordan replaced by Avril Wilson</i>	Tipperary PPN
Resource Worker Representative	<i>Jamie Moore replaced by Sarah Wetherald</i>	Sligo PPN
PPN Volunteer Representative C&V Sector	<i>Aileen Eglington</i>	Dún Laoghaire Rathdown PPN
PPN Volunteer Representative Social Inclusion Sector	<i>Bibiana Savin</i>	South Dublin PPN
PPN Volunteer Representative Environment Sector	<i>Theresa O' Donohoe replaced by Terrence Mc Donough</i>	Galway City PPN
CCMA Representatives	<i>Alan Farrell</i>	Galway County Council
	<i>Dympna Farrell replaced by Rebecca Loughry</i>	Cork City Council

Along with its monitoring role, the Advisory Group is also charged with advising and supporting the Department of Rural and Community Development to develop the PPNs. This is being achieved through the development of key performance indicators for PPNs and local authorities in conjunction with the Department. This Annual Report, which gives an overview of the work done by PPNs in 2019 was developed by the National PPN Advisory Group for completion by PPNs and Local Authorities.

Methodology

In early 2019, a consultation template was devised and agreed by the National Advisory Group and circulated to all PPNs and Local Authorities for completion. The completed templates were collated in a database for analysis purposes.

We are delighted to report that all 31 PPNs returned reports. Where possible, comparable data from 2018 is included, however this data will not be directly comparable to that contained in the Annual Report for 2018 as that report concerned 29 of the 31 PPNs.

Glossary of Terms

There are a broad range of definitions covering the nature and scope of public participation and local government. Some of these are explained below:

Advisory Group means The National PPN Advisory Group (see also NAG).

Associate Members are groups that do not fulfil the full criteria for membership of the PPN.

Community refers to a place (such as a neighbourhood or wider area), identity (such as belonging to an ethnic group), or interest (such as a commitment in common with others, for example, disability rights).

DoS means Director of Services (Local Authority).

The **Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government** oversees the operation and development of the local government system and provides the policy framework within which local authorities work and deliver services to the communities that they represent and serve. From July 2017, the policy framework regarding LCDCs, LECPs and PPNs transferred from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to the Department of Rural & Community Development. Article 28A of the Irish Constitution recognises the role of local government in providing a forum for the democratic representation of communities and in exercising and performing powers conferred by law.

The **Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD / the Department)** was established in July 2017 to promote rural and community development and to support vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities throughout Ireland. In relation to the PPNs, the Department is the majority funder, provides the Chair of the National Advisory Group and has overall responsibility for the development and oversight of the PPNs.

The **Elected Council** is the policy making forum of the local authority; the municipal district members make decisions that affect their Municipal District area. Elected Councils (operating at local authority or municipal district level) exercise 'reserved functions' defined in law across a range of legislation. The day-to-day management of a local authority is carried out by the executive, i.e. the full-time officials led by the chief executive. The chief executive has a duty to advise and assist the Elected Council in the exercise of their functions.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC) A Local Authority Committee comprised of councillors, TDs, Senators, the Gardaí and external stakeholders such as PPNs which makes policy proposals on policing issues. Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act provided for the establishment of JPC's in each Local Authority administrative area and as part of the Local Government structures.

LAGS The Leader Programme is administered at local level through Local Action Groups (LAGs).

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) a Local Authority Committee with public and private members which oversees community development programmes in an area including LEADER and SICAP. PPNs typically have 5 members on that committee. The aim of LCDC's is to develop, coordinate and implement a coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

LEADER A funding programme delivered through the LAGS, which aims to support economic, social and environmental development of rural areas. LEADER is a programme that supports both private enterprise and community groups in delivering projects aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity in rural areas.

...

Linkage Group A group of PPN stakeholders in a particular issue who meet to make policy recommendations and work closely with a PPN representative on a relevant Board or Committee.

Local Authorities (LA) City or County Councils. Play a key role in supporting economic development and enterprise at a local level. Local Government support on the ground is critical to the success of many initiatives which drive local communities. These range from local festivals and events; design of streetscapes and village renewal schemes; support for micro-enterprises, business parks and incubation units; involvement in energy efficiency projects; promotion of rural broadband and planning for major investments in the green economy.

Local Development Companies (LDC) Organisations with a remit to support economic and social development in their catchment area. LDCs are typically contracted to deliver programmes such as the Rural Development Programme (LEADER), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Tús.

Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for a range of changes to the organisation and work of local authorities. Among other things, it provides for the amalgamation of a number of local authorities; the abolition of town councils; the abolition of city and county development boards; the establishment of local community development committees and it provides for a range of changes to the functions carried out by local authorities. Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 commenced on 1 June 2014, it provides the legislative basis which gives effect to the Framework for Public Participation and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs).

MOU means Memorandum of Understanding (agreement between LA and PPN).

Municipal District (MD) A subdivision of a Local Authority area. Councillors meet at Municipal District level as well as in full council. MDs were established following the Local Government Reform Act in 2014.

n=(XXX) Denotes number e.g. number of replies, number who answered question.

NAG means the National PPN Advisory Group.

Not for profit organisations are organisations that work for the good of society, communities and/or specific interest. They do not make a profit and any income they do make that is above what they need to keep the organisation running is invested back into the organisation to improve it or to keep it going. No payments are made to any shareholders. It includes a vast range of organisations from very small groups with no income to large charities.

Plenary All the member groups in a PPN. The Plenary is the ultimate decision-making body of the PPN.

PPN Budget means the annual amount a PPN has available to it, derived from DRCD, the LA & other sources.

Salesforce a data and information management system that is common to all PPNs. The system itself allows PPNs to capture and manage information regarding member groups, store details on organisations and community and network groups, manage funding, manage campaigns such as email communications, generate custom reports and much more.

Secretariat means the administrative body of the PPN whose role is to put into practice the decisions of the Plenary; ensure that the PPN runs smoothly in between Plenaries; coordinate the activities of the PPN; communicate regularly with all PPN Member Groups and spread information about all PPN activities as widely as possible; and facilitate and enable the PPN Workers in their day to day activities to deliver PPN objectives.

SICAP (Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) is designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality. Each SICAP provider works with both individuals and community groups in a city / county or subdivision thereof, with a focus on people experiencing disadvantage and areas which are designated disadvantaged.

SLA means Service Level Agreement (generally between PPN and a service provider or the Local Authority and a service provider).

Social Inclusion activity centred on working to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment using community development approaches to build sustainable communities, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.

SPC (Strategic Policy Committee) Local authority committees in city and county councils whose membership includes Elected Councillors, representatives of business, farming interests, environmental/conservation groups, trade unions and community and voluntary members. It is the task of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), as committees of the council, to advise and assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy. They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services. The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages.

Sustainable Development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Thematic Group A group of PPN stakeholders working on a cross-cutting policy theme, e.g. disability, social inclusion, sustainability.

Tús A community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed people.

User Guide A composite set of Guidelines and advice issued in 2016 to assist PPNs and other stakeholders.

Volunteer-led organisations are those which are governed by a group of volunteers acting as a committee, board or other structure. They may also have paid staff who act on behalf of the Board.

Well-being describes a community whose basic needs are met, where people have a sense of purpose and feel able to achieve important goals, to participate in society and to live the lives they value and have reason to value.

Working Group means the Working Group on Citizen Engagement. This group was set up in September 2013. Its role was to make recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision making at local government level. The Report of the Working Group was published on 28 February 2014 and its recommendations led to the establishment of the PPNs.

Worker means Resource Worker, Support Worker or other worker engaged by the PPN to carry out its duties.

Public Participation Networks – Making an Impact!

In an addition to previous years, the Department asked each PPN to provide some detail on the impacts they each felt they had in 2019. The response to this request was overwhelming and demonstrates the diverse range of work undertaken by PPNs across the country in areas such as delivering deliberative democracy; community wellbeing; social inclusion; environmental issues; the Sustainable Development Goals; supporting Member Groups; engaging in projects to foster integration and human rights; developing networks and promoting their own development. Included in this section is just some of the examples received. More detail on impacts reported by each PPN and in their own words is included in Appendix 3.

Impacting Deliberative Democracy

- ▶ Submissions made by PPNs to the County Councils' Draft SPC Scheme. Submissions were based on recommendations received from PPN Representatives which resulted in more comprehensive submissions which were taken on board.
- ▶ The appointment of a PPN representative on the advisory group to advise the Minister on the role and remit of a directly elected Mayor.
- ▶ One PPN designed and managed a transparent election process for a new Secretariat and reps for all SPCs, LCDC and JPC independent of the Local Authority processes.
- ▶ Running elections and surveys through PPN websites which is a key efficiency gain.

Impacting Community Wellbeing

- ▶ Organisation of Community Safety Events in the Municipal Districts in 2019 incorporating Community Garda, Solicitors, Muintir na Tíre, Community Banker, Road Safety Authority, HSE Safeguarding etc. The event provided the public with a forum in which to stay safe and well in their Community and promoted positive actions being done by local groups.
- ▶ Since the passing of a motion on the Changing Places Campaign in one area, a PPN Representative has presented on this Campaign at the Local Community Development Committee. The County Council Community Development Office is championing this campaign through their work, including exploring the inclusion of Changing Places in new Community Facility builds and refurbishments.
- ▶ One PPN continued to promote the defibrillator mapping project in the county in 2019. This ensured that all defibrillators in local communities were mapped and the information shared with the National Ambulance Service. As stated, the defibrillator project was nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence Award. This was the second such map to be launched in Ireland.
- ▶ One PPN collaborated with the local Chamber of Commerce and Local Enterprise Office and held a Sustainable Living and Wellbeing Weekend. 25 workshops, demos and talks were held along with an ethical market.
- ▶ Organisation of meetings to discuss the Policing Plan for the county and to develop a community submission to it. These meetings resulted in the development of the Policing, Safety & Security Thematic Network. Additionally, one such meeting acted as a catalyst for the development of a local area Community Alert Group which continues to meet and work closely with the local community Garda.

Impacting to benefit our Member Groups

- ▶ Standalone premises operated by one PPN offered free/subsidised meeting space for various community & voluntary groups. This has strengthened these groups and increased solidarity within the sector.
- ▶ Creating a 'Plain English' booklet detailing the scope and remit of PPNs.
- ▶ Provided training to Community Groups in Social Media & how to promote their community work through video/poster design etc., How to write a successful funding application, Workshops on the New Governance Code.
- ▶ Bringing together, for the first time, all funding information into one place and using this to form a successful funding ready seminar which featured key partners such as the local authority, the local Volunteer Centre, and the local LEADER partnership.

Impacting Social Inclusion

- ▶ The Access for All report produced by one PPN has been sent to the Council, TDs, MEPs, Senators and all locally affected organisations and has already had an effect on future planning. The County Council established a Disability Housing Group on which the PPN is represented.
- ▶ A member of a local Access Group stepped forward for one of the SPCs. This is the first time that a visually impaired person has stood for election and it was the result of attending the access workshops – they saw the importance of being involved in formal structures that can affect change.
- ▶ A Dementia Friendly Pilot Project undertaken by one PPN in collaboration with the HSE was aimed at businesses, young people and local representatives in the local area with training provided. A report was produced and circulated and it is hoped to roll this initiative out countywide through the Healthy County Plan.
- ▶ Through working closely with a local Travellers Group and the Travellers Primary Healthcare Team, one PPN has encouraged and supported a Traveller Woman to sit on the Board of the County Childcare Committee.

Impacting for Human Rights

- ▶ The increased awareness across a range of cross-sectoral organisations of the obligations under the Public Sector Duty and their significant engagement with the issue as a result of a collaborative approach between a PPN, the Council and the City Partnership.
- ▶ Following engagement with the PPN, the Public Sector Duty was listed as an objective in the Council Corporate Plan.

Impacting for the Sustainable Development Goals

- ▶ One PPN worked with the County Council in their role as an SDG Champion where both the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and the County Council presented at the PPN Plenary along with a Secretariat member. They promoted and raised awareness of the SDGs by providing practical examples of what any person can do on a daily basis in achieving the goals.
- ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals was the theme of another PPN Plenary in November 2019. Two students who represented Young People at the local Action for Global Goals and Climate Change in the Dáil presented to the membership.

Impacting Integration

- ▶ Initiated and supported the emergence of a community welcome group in an area where an emergency centre for international protection applicants opened. Acting as catalyst for the community and to provide supports for these efforts to get up and running.
- ▶ In conjunction with NASC, the Coordinator of one PPN led a range of consultations with those living in Direct Provision centres around the area. This resulted in the production of a response to the Oireachtas consultation on Direct Provision and the International Protection System on behalf of those who participated in these consultation workshops.
- ▶ Established the Intercultural Forum in the area to make sure representatives from communities are aware of all the different supports and services in the county, to allow them to integrate with each other, access grants and be part of the decision-making process.

Impacting to support the Environment

- ▶ A collaboration between several PPNs on an environmental conference aimed at encouraging growth and membership of the Environmental pillars but also to encourage participation in the areas of conservation and biodiversity. Following this conference, the PPNs' membership of the Environmental pillar increased, creating new environmental representatives and an expansion to the Linkage group.
- ▶ One PPN provided an Eco Tent at a local show in August 2019 and the Climate Change and Biodiversity Open Day May 2019.
- ▶ A Green County was developed by one PPN on foot of an idea from the LCDC Environmental Representative. Workshops on Green Business, Green Energy, Green Farming, Young people and the Environment took place along with a Tidy Towns workshop on Good Environmental practices.

Impacting Networks

- ▶ Following re-designation of county boundaries, a PPN engaged in awareness-raising of PPN activities and benefits among members of the Community & Voluntary sector in new locations.
- ▶ Development of a Volunteer Centre.
- ▶ Hosting a group of volunteers from Northern Ireland District Councils on a study trip in 2019.

Impacting our Development

- ▶ In conjunction with the Council's Service Republic team, the PPN held workshops and compiled a list of objectives which the Secretariat could choose from going forward as specific targets for their annual work plan.
- ▶ Furthered the PPN reach on Social media.
- ▶ Arranged a consultation for the relevant stakeholders to feed into the consultation on the PPN Handbook.

Section 1

Membership

Membership of a PPN offers many benefits. By joining a PPN an organisation will get:

- ▶ Access to relevant information on funding and grants coming through the Local Authority;
- ▶ The opportunity to advertise their activities via the PPN newsletter, website, emails etc.;
- ▶ Access to capacity building and training events which will support them in their work.
- ▶ Access to information on decisions and proposals being made in their county / city and the ability to comment on and input to them, along with other PPN member organisations.
- ▶ An opportunity to network with and learn from other organisations in the county / city who may be involved in similar types of projects.
- ▶ The opportunity to become part of a Linkage Group for a Board or Committee of interest and be able to have their views heard and contribute to local policy.
- ▶ The opportunity to nominate members to sit on a Board or Committee on behalf of PPN.

Each organisation must then choose to be part of one College which represents their primary interest – Community and Voluntary, Environment or Social Inclusion.

At the end of 2019, PPN membership totalled 15,599 member groups (including Associate Members) across the 31 PPNs. Community and Voluntary organisations continue to account for the majority of members (77.5%), followed by Social Inclusion organisations (18.7%) and Environmental Organisations (3.8%). Table 2 below provides a breakdown of full Membership by type of organisation and shows the comparative increase in each area over 2018.

College	2018 (n=31)	2019 (n=31)	Increase No.	% Total 2019
Community and Voluntary	10,721	12,083	1,362	77.5
Environmental	513	596	80	3.8
Social Inclusion	2,709	2,920	211	18.7
Total	13,943	15,599	1,656	

* Includes Associate Members

A total of 17 PPNs offered an Associate Membership, generally for organisations which did not meet the full membership criteria, but who wished to be involved and receive information. In total, PPNs had 232 Associate Members - 178 Community and Voluntary Associate Members, 12 Environmental Associate Members, and 42 Social Inclusion Associate Members (an increase of 30% from 119 the previous year).

Full re-registration was carried out by 20 PPNs, while the remainder updated members' contact details as changes were notified to them.

Section 2

Representation and Decision Making

For 2019, the PPNs were asked to report on how they consulted with their member groups, from distributing information, to attending consultation events and making written submissions. Table 3 provides a summary of the actions taken by PPNs to support their membership to engage in a more deliberative democracy.

Method	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
Distributed information to member groups about local consultations	29	2	0	0
Distributed information to member groups about national consultations	22	9	0	0
PPN Reps attended consultation events representing the PPN	8	17	5	1
Resource Worker attended consultation events representing the PPN	10	17	3	1
Made written submissions to consultations as the PPN or as a subgroup (linkage group, etc.)	6	20	3	2
The PPN organised consultations with its membership (i.e. organise meetings and surveys)	7	19	2	3

As can be seen in Table 3 the majority of PPNs always provided their members with information about local and national consultations taking place. Resource Workers or PPNs Representatives attended consultation events on behalf of the PPN ‘Always’ or ‘Sometimes’ in the majority of cases, and again a majority reported that it either made written submissions or organised its own consultation events with its members ‘Always’ or ‘Sometimes’.

All 31 PPNs provided views about how consultations are organised and / or some detail about consultations in which they had participated, contained in Appendix 4.

Support for Participation

Receipt of appropriate information in a timely manner is key to enabling PPNs to participate, and engage their membership to participate, in consultations. PPNs were asked to provide feedback on their perception of the engagement process, set out in Table 4.

Table 4: Support for Participation, 2019







Support	Always	Sometimes	Rarely	Never
The PPN is notified about all local authority consultations.	14	16	1	0
The PPN is notified about local authority consultations in a timely manner (i.e. allows for consultation with membership)	5	23	3	0
The PPN can access feedback on the submissions it makes to consultations	8	14	5	4

Feedback provided by the PPNs strongly indicates that more time is needed to fully engage with membership in respect of Local Authority consultations and that more engagement mechanisms are required for participative consultations, as opposed to online surveys.

Representation on Decision-making Bodies

One of the key areas in which PPNs can directly influence the decisions made at local government level is by representation on Boards and Committees, such as Strategic Policy Committees, Joint Policing Committees, County Boards and so on. Table 5 provides a full breakdown of Board and Committee composition.

Table 5: Participation of PPN Representatives on Boards and Committees, 2019

Gender		Proportion Ratio	Total
Number of Representatives			
 Male 496	 Female 432	Male : Female 53:47	928
Number of new Representatives elected			
 Male 223	 Female 181	Male : Female 55:45	404
Number of Representatives retired during year			
 Male 97	 Female 70	Male : Female 58:42	167
Total number of Boards and Committees			424

The overall number of Representatives reported increased slightly from 924 in 2018 to 928 in 2019, however it should be noted that the 2018 report referred to 29 PPNs while the 2019 report is made in respect of all 31 PPNs. This means that the number of board and committee representatives per PPN has declined over the course of 2019. The number of Boards and Committees on which the Representatives sit increased from 375 across 29 PPNs in 2018 to 424 across 31 PPNs in 2019.

The number of seats contested in 2019 was 147, whereas 304 were uncontested (that is, only one nomination per seat was permitted or received for the post). The number of open seats available for PPN representation on Boards and Committees in 2019 was 103.

As can be seen in Table 5, there is almost gender parity across PPN representation on Boards and Committees, with a slightly higher proportion of male representatives elected in 2019. There was also a higher number of male retirees than female retirees in 2019.

Sixteen PPNs (52%) reported that at least one individual represents their PPN on more than one Board or Committee. A difficulty in attracting people to these roles and a reluctance on the part of some PPNs to lose the skills of those currently in the position were cited as reasons why this was the case. Three PPNs reported that they had either remedied this situation or they intended to do so in early 2020.

Supports for PPN Representatives

The role of PPN Representatives is acknowledged across the PPN network and their volunteerism and experience are greatly appreciated. A range of supports have been put in place across the PPNs for their Representatives, on which Table 6 provides greater detail.

Type of Support	No. of PPNs	No. of Groups (if applicable)
Linkage Groups	23	102
Thematic / Activity Groups	19	36
Representatives Charter	28	-
Specific Training for PPN Representatives	24	-
Training for Linkage Groups	8	-
Meeting Feedback Forms completed by Representatives	25	-
Local PPN Representatives Network	16	-
One-to-One Support	28	-
Local Authority / Committee Host	22	-

Asked to comment on these supports, PPNs reported a wide divergence of views as to the efficacy of supports for Representatives. In some cases, the difficulty in securing Representatives who could undertake the role as required, and provide feedback, acted as a barrier to engaging with supports. One-to-one supports seemed to work well in most PPNs, however these are resource intensive. Many of the comments contained in this section were mirrored in the 'Recommendations' section and, as such, have been dealt with in that section of this Report.

Linkage and Thematic Groups

Where Linkage or Thematic Groups exist, these can either take the form of overarching areas (for example, Social Inclusion, Environmental, Health and Wellbeing, Community and Voluntary, Planning and Strategic Development, Economic Development, Joint Policing Committee and so on) or more specific areas of interest (for example linked to specific Committees or related to Older People, Climate Change, People with Disabilities, Environment and Water and so on). Ten PPNs reported that their Linkage Groups elected Representatives to sit on Committees and Boards, while in other PPNs the Linkage Groups either were not established / active; or elections were made by the full Plenary or College.

Of the 102 Linkage Groups reported as being in existence (Table 6), 70 were deemed to be active, that is hold three or more meetings within the year (including virtual meetings). These 70 Linkage Groups are spread across 21 of the 31 PPNs who responded to this question. Comparatively, there were 35 active Thematic Networks. Communications with Linkage Groups and Thematic Networks can be delivered virtually (that is, by email, Facebook or other virtual platform); in person / through meetings; or via the Resource Worker / Co-ordinator.

When asked about the level of participation across Linkage Groups, 4 PPNs reported that this was 'Excellent'; eleven reported it as 'Good'; 3 reported it as 'Average'; and 5 reported it as 'Poor'. When asked the same question about Thematic Groups, 3 PPNs reported participation as 'Excellent'; 9 reported it as 'Good', 2 reported it as 'Average' and eleven reported it as 'Poor'.

Examples of Linkage and Thematic Groups at Work

- ▶ Health Representatives delivering presentations on Universal Access Movement to the full Council.
- ▶ Representative on the Volunteer Service Network put forward a proposal to engage as an independent Volunteer Centre. Currently being piloted with an interim Board.
- ▶ Development of a submission on the Draft Climate Action Plan.
- ▶ Social Inclusion, Community and Rural Affairs SPC raised concerns resulting in an audit of CCTV in a particular area.
- ▶ PPN Representative on a JPC proposed the purchase of a property marking machine, adopted by the council and machine purchased in 2019.
- ▶ Engaged with the College Green Pedestrianisation Project.
- ▶ Proposal from a JPC to improve privacy in Garda Stations, forwarded to Garda Headquarters.
- ▶ Housing and Transport Linkage Group inputs into updates to the An Bord Pleanála website.
- ▶ Development of an Equality Votes group in advance of the Local Elections.
- ▶ Providing supports to Member Groups making funding applications by vouching for these groups.
- ▶ Mapping the locations of defibrillators within a large county.
- ▶ Economic Development, Enterprise Support & Tourism proposed supports for small businesses, resulting in an additional €50,000 allocation to the Local Enterprise Office (LEO) to support same.
- ▶ Undertaking of a strategic disability study resulting in an "Access for All" Disability Awareness Report.
- ▶ Development of a Waste Water Research Project with a local Institute of Technology.

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Examples of Linkage and Thematic Groups at Work

- ▶ Achievement of the silver medal at the All Ireland Community and Council Awards for the county's Healthy initiative.
- ▶ Securing additional seats on strategic Committees and Boards for marginalised groups in the area.
- ▶ Production of a consultation report for the review of Strategic Policy Committees and the securing of increased representative places for community groups.
- ▶ Expansion of the Rural Transport Initiative.
- ▶ Environmental conservation concerns fed into the Greenway Route Plan for the county.
- ▶ Providing feedback to the Department of Justice and Equality on issues of concern re Direct Provision in the area.
- ▶ Older Persons Network and Age Friendly Alliance securing proposals on Public Realm and Housing for inclusion in to the Local Development Plan.
- ▶ Securing the Public Sector Duty as an objective of the Council Corporate Plan.
- ▶ Proposal to align the Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce with the PPN to embed supports within the community taken on board and a Coordinator linked to the PPN for this purpose.
- ▶ Extensive engagement with Sports Partnership to promote sports and sporting facilities to marginalised groups.
- ▶ Input in to the JPC Strategic Plan and the appointment of a committee to oversee its implementation, on which the PPN is also represented.
- ▶ Series of initiatives proposed to the JPC – in relation to anti-social behaviour, drug use, illegal dumping and CCTV taken on board by the JPC.
- ▶ Establishment of a Social Isolation and Loneliness among Older People committee to support older people in the county.
- ▶ Using the Vision for Community Wellbeing, developed by the PPN, as an example of consultation facilitating local decision-making. This is now being progressed with a subgroup of the LCDC.

Municipal District Representatives

Thirteen PPNs reported as having Municipal District Representatives. The supports provided to these Representatives were largely the same as referenced in Table 6, with some PPNs holding specific meetings or additional training programmes for their Municipal District Representatives. Nine PPNs reported having no Municipal District Representatives. This would obviously be the case where there was only one Municipal District in the area, however where this was reported in areas with more than one Municipal District, PPNs expressed a concern that it was difficult to achieve buy-in from membership at this level and meetings can be rolled in with other meetings, such as Community Safety Networks and so on; or a lack of forum at Municipal District level to allow for representation.

Section 3

Communications and Promotion of PPNs

Communicating the role and objectives of the PPN is critical to engaging new and existing member groups and other stakeholders. All 31 of the respondent PPNs were actively involved in promoting their PPN in 2019. Social media played a key role in the communications programmes of all PPNs, with dedicated websites, Facebook pages and Twitter used extensively. Being conscious of groups who may not use online platforms, some PPNs also communicated through face to face events and printed materials. Table 7 provides a breakdown of the communications methods used, including the number of PPNs using each method and the total number of communications involved.

Communication Method	No. of PPNs	No. of Communications	No. of Followers / Likes
Printed Newsletter	8	566	-
E-Newsletters Online	25	881	-
Emails	30	456,887	-
Websites	31	13,648	-
Facebook	25	15,222	40,290
Twitter	21	6155	12,023
PPN Roadshows	13	41	-
Participation in events hosted by others	28	277	-
Local Radio	26	252	-
Promotional Materials	21	-	-
Use of Local Libraries, Citizens Information Centres etc.	27	-	-

Promotional materials developed by PPNs included pens, shopping bags, booklets, trolley key rings, USB keys, leaflets, pull-up banners, magnets, folders, mugs and umbrellas.

What is communicated to members is obviously as important as the methods of communication used. To this end, PPNs were asked to detail the type of content communicated from a set list (see Table 8).

Table 8: Content Communicated to Membership, 2019

Content Communicated	No. of PPNs	Content Communicated	No. of PPNs
PPN Events	31	PPN Representative Reports	19
PPN Activities	31	Funding Information	31
PPN Vacancies	30	Consultations	30
Member Group Activities	27	Other	12

Those who reported 'Other' amongst the content communicated to their membership listed items such as other information which may be relevant to the community; training; public notices; community alerts; notices regarding webinars; surveys and so on.

Website Functionality

Access to information through a dedicated website is a given in this digital age. All 31 respondents reported having a website with varying levels of functionality, as detailed in Table 9.

Table 9: Website Functionality, 2019

Functions	No. of PPNs
List/Database of registered members	26
Minutes / Reports of Secretariat Meetings	15
Minutes / Reports of Plenary Meetings	18
Minutes / Reports of Linkage Group Meetings	10
PPN Representative Reports	15
PPN Newsletters	21
Advertising Member Events / News	27
Up to date list of all PPN Representatives	26
Adopted PPN Policies	23
Adopted PPN Budgets / Accounts	13

Salesforce Usage

Salesforce is used as the primary mechanism to manage the membership database and communications in all 31 PPNs (see Table 10 for breakdown). This is an improvement on 2019 when 28 of the 29 respondent PPNs were using it as their primary database.

Salesforce Usage	No. of PPNs
Primary Database	31
Members Profiles	26
Registering Members directly from Website	28
Mass Emails	30
Sending E-Bulletins / Newsletters	24
Mass Texting	15
Tracking attendance at Plenary Meetings	6
Tracking attendance at Linkage Groups	4
Tracking attendance at Secretariat Meetings	7
Tracking attendance at PPN Organised Training	7
Running Reports on Full Member Numbers	29
Running Reports on Electoral Area or MD Membership Numbers	23
Running Reports on Membership by Pillar	27
Running Reports on Membership by Cause	14
Running Reports on Bounced Emails	20
Running Reports on Email Open Rates	10
Running Reports on Active and Inactive Members	10
Running Reports on Group Structures	10
Tracking participation in consultations	1
Calendar	5
Dashboards	17

Section 4

Training and Capacity Building

PPNs provide invaluable free and low-cost training to their membership, Secretariats and Representatives to support them to fully engage within their communities. This training can be technical in nature (for example, how to write funding applications; governance; data protection) or more soft-skills based (for example, self-advocacy workshops; community development; thematic showcases). The organisation and provision of this training and capacity building function is time and resource intensive. However, it is an important part of the work of the PPNs to support their community groups to participate in local decision-making. Some examples of the types of training provided are listed below and a breakdown of the time involved is provided in Table 11.

Examples of Training and Capacity Building programmes provided by PPNs in 2019

- ▶ Governance Code
- ▶ Grant Information and Application
- ▶ GDPR
- ▶ Social Media
- ▶ Work planning
- ▶ Building a website
- ▶ Writing a Constitution
- ▶ Introduction to Community Development
- ▶ Understanding Local Government
- ▶ Role of the PPN
- ▶ Facilitation Skills
- ▶ Effective Fundraising
- ▶ Volunteer Management
- ▶ Community Wellbeing
- ▶ Environment Day
- ▶ Advocacy and Influencing
- ▶ Role of Representatives

One PPN provided a Training Fair in 2019 open to all Members and other groups. This has proven so successful, they intend to repeat it as an annual event.

In line with their community ethos, where appropriate, training is available to all members and groups in the area. Specific training is, of course, reserved for specific groups / bodies (for example the Secretariat and Representatives).

	Number
Number of Training programmes	169
Number of Training Sessions	881
Number of Training Hours delivered	1,771
Number of attendees	6,433

National and Regional Networking and Initiatives

Networking is central to the establishment of the PPNs within their communities. Engaging with membership at local and regional level, and networking with stakeholders at a national level ensures that PPNs are up to date on new developments, are accessible to their membership and are supporting, and supported by, their peers. All 31 PPNs reported engaging in some national and regional networking initiatives in 2019 (Table 12).

Event	No. of PPNs	Comment
National PPN Conference	31	
Regional Social Justice Ireland Meetings	18	
National PPN Resource Workers Network	31	
Ploughing Championship	13	
The Wheel Conference (PPN Stall / Masterclass)	6	
Locally Organised Regional PPN Networks	21	Including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taste of the County • Regional inter-agency meetings • County-wide Network • A Celebration of Volunteering • National Secretariat Network

Section 5

Management, Administration and Finance

The administration of the PPN is supported by a voluntary Secretariat drawn from the membership. This body reports to the Plenary of the PPN, which should meet at least twice every year. PPNs may also meet on a Municipal District or other local level. The Secretariat is also responsible for facilitating and enabling the day-to-day activities of the PPN Workers and implementation of the Work Plan.

In 2019, 351 places were allocated across the 31 PPN Secretariats, having an average allocation of 11 Secretariat Members (the numbers range from 8 to 20). Allocation of membership is based primarily on a distribution to the PPNs Colleges/Pillars (Community & Voluntary; Social Inclusion; and Environment), with 25 PPNs also allocating a role in respect of their Municipal Districts. The term of office of a Secretariat member ranges from 2 to 5 years, with an average of 4 years. Of the 351 total allocated places, there are currently 284 filled and 67 vacant seats. All 31 PPNs reported an attendance rate of greater than 60 per cent from within the Secretariat membership in 2019, with fourteen PPNs reporting a rate of 80 per cent or more, and an average rate of 76.7 per cent (see Table 13).

Table 13: Secretariat Allocation, Vacancies and Attendance Rate per PPN, 2019

Name of PPN	Allocation	Vacancies	Attendance Rate (%)
Carlow	9	2	90
Cavan	12	0	75
Clare	10	5	80
Cork City	9	1	70
Cork County	20	0	60
Donegal	11	0	60
Dublin City	12	3	64
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown	9	1	72.29
Fingal	9	3	65
Galway City	16	7	60
Galway County	11	0	60
Kerry	11	2	80
Kildare	11	3	58
Kilkenny	10	4	100
Laois	12	4	75
Leitrim	9	3	85
Limerick	10	0	95
Longford	9	0	85
Louth	18	2	75
Mayo	14	1	75
Meath	12	2	73.53
Monaghan	12	2	80
Offaly	9	3	95
Roscommon	9	2	90
Sligo	8	2	85
South Dublin	12	1	70
Tipperary	15	4	80
Waterford	11	3	70
Westmeath	8	0	90
Wexford	11	3	75
Wicklow	12	4	90
Total	351	67	76.7 (Average)

Managing a Flat Structure

The PPNs are established on the basis of a Flat Structure. Having a Flat Structure ensures that no single voice or group of voices controls the PPN. It means that there is collective responsibility for getting things done and achieving the aims of the workplan. This develops the capacity of the whole group and means that all members understand all aspects of the process. The flat structure is maintained in a number of ways across the PPNs, as detailed in Table 14.

Operational Mechanism	No. of PPNs*
Rotating Facilitator	24
Rotating Roles (Staff Liaison, Finance etc.)	14
Decisions made by consensus	30
Proposals brought to Plenary	30
Terms of Reference emphasising flat structure	30
Minutes / Reports available to all PPN members	26
* Note: Roscommon was not operating in 2019	

In addition to the above, 24 PPNs reported that their Secretariat have had at least one subgroup in 2019. These include Finance, HR, Communications, Staff Liaison, Capacity Building, Internet and Social Media, Policy and Procedures, Wellbeing, Host and Annual Awards.

Meetings

A total of 66 Plenary Meetings were held across 30 PPNs in 2019 (the exception was Cork County). Of these, one was held during the day, 62 were held in the evening and four were held at the weekend. In addition, 284 Secretariat Meetings were held across the 31 PPNs in 2019, of which 68 were held during the day and 202 were held in the evening.

Eighteen PPNs held a total of 119 Linkage Group Meetings in 2019, of which 26 were held during the day and 93 were held in the evening. Fifteen PPNs held a total of 72 Municipal District meetings, of which 9 were held during the day and 63 were held in the evening.

Twenty-one PPNs held a selection of other meetings (390 in total), which covered topics such as Accessibility Mapping; consultations on the creation of a Vision for Community Wellbeing; workshops on Creating a Local Sustainable Future; 'Meet the Candidate' events in advance of the local elections; Intercultural picnics; Traveller Talks; Migrant Support events; Social Inclusion Week meetings and events; Climate Change forums and Funding Clinics.

Memorandum of Understanding

An active Memorandum of Understanding was in place between 29 PPNs and the Local Authority in 2019. For those nine PPNs who operated through a host organisation, a Service Level Agreement was in place in respect of eight of them.

Structure of the PPNs

PPNs may be established and operate under a number of legal and administrative structures. Of the 31 PPN respondents, 21 were hosted by the Local Authority; four were hosted by another Community Organisation and six operated as Independent Companies.

Staff and Recruitment 2019

In 2019 all PPNs had at least one member of staff and some had contracted some support work. A breakdown of the staffing arrangements is provided in Table 15.

Name of PPN	Resource Worker (WTE)	Administrator / Support Worker (WTE)	Development Worker (WTE)	Volunteer	Other (Detail)
Carlow	1	1	0	0	0
Cavan	1	0	0	0	1 Tús
Clare	0.4	0.8	0.8	0	0
Cork City	1	1	0	0	0
Cork County	1	0	0	0	0
Donegal	1	1	0	0	0
Dublin City	1	1	0	0	0
Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown	1	1	0	0	0
Fingal	1	1.4	0	0	0
Galway City	1.2	0	1	0	0
Galway County	1	0.5	0	0	0
Kerry	0	1	1	0	0
Kildare	1	1	0	0	0
Kilkenny	1	1	0	0	1 Agency
Laois	1	0	0	0	1 Temporary Support Worker
Leitrim	1	1	0	0	0
Limerick	0.5	1	0	0	0
Longford	1	1	0	0	0
Louth	1	1	0	0	0
Mayo	1	0.5	0	0	0
Meath	1	1	0	0	0
Monaghan	1	1	0	0	0
Offaly	1	1	0	0	0
Roscommon	0	0	0	0	0
Sligo	0.6	1	0	0	0
South Dublin	1	0.85	0	0	0
Tipperary	1	1	0	0	0.5
Waterford	1	0	1	0	0
Westmeath	1	1	0	0	0
Wexford	1	1	0	0	0
Wicklow	1	0.8	0	0	0

Of the 31 PPNs who responded, 29 PPNs recruited staff in 2019 – seven recruited Resource Workers, and 26 recruited a Support Worker / Administrator. Thirteen of the 29 PPNs reported recruiting through an open process, while the remaining 16 came through the Local Authority.

Staff of 19 PPNs are employed by the Local Authority, five are employed by the PPN Company directly (with one reporting that staff were either self-employed or employed by the PPN Company) and seven are employed by the Host Organisation. PPNs also differ in how, and by whom, staff are managed, with two PPNs reporting their staff as being managed by the Local Authority only; four as being managed by the Secretariat only; 18 PPNs reporting shared management between the Local Authority and the Secretariat, two as being managed by a Company Board and Secretariat; four PPNs reporting that their staff were managed by a Host Company and Secretariat; and one by the Local Authority, Hosting Company and Secretariat.

Where the management of staff is shared, the Secretariat manage the workplan, while the administrative and HR functions were the remit of the Local Authority / Host organisation.

Twenty-three of the 31 respondent PPNs reported that their office space was located within the Local Authority building; two were located in the Host Organisation's building; five were in a standalone rented space; and in one PPN, the staff work from home with the Host Organisation providing a postal address for the PPN.

Finance

Funding for PPNs is provided between the Department of Rural and Community Development (the Department) and the Local Authorities. While the Department provides the bulk of the core funding for PPNs, a small number receive amounts in excess of their expected allocation from their own Local Authorities to support their work. In a departure from previous years, a breakdown of funding allocations and expenditure headings is not provided within this Annual Report as this information was sought by the Department in advance of the preparation of the Annual Report. However, a total of €2,944,020.58 was spent across all 31 PPNs in 2019.

Agreeing the Annual Budget

The process for approving the annual PPN Budget is much the same across the 31 respondents to this question. The Budget is either drawn up by the Resource Worker and / or the Finance Subcommittee of the Secretariat. This is then approved by the Secretariat before being presented to the Plenary and Local Authority (in accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding in place).

Spending the Annual Budget

Spending by the PPNs is overseen by the Secretariat and discussed at Secretariat meetings, either on foot of a financial report to the meeting or as a standing item. Where the PPN uses the Local Authority Agresso system to manage its Budget, the approval system inherent in that system is followed.

Informing the Plenary

Most respondents (n=26) reported that their PPN either posts its Budget online or discusses its Budget at Plenary meetings. Two PPNs reported that there was no process currently in place for approval of the Budget by the Plenary, while two reported that the procedure for doing so was not in place in 2019 and one reported that responsibility for the PPN Budget rests entirely with the Secretariat.

Reimbursement of Expenses to Representatives

The largest expenditure item in the total PPN Budget (excluding salaries and related) in previous years has been Representative's Expenses. It is therefore important for the PPNs to have an agreed method of recouping expenses. For expenses related to Local Authority Boards and Committees, 13 PPNs reported that these came from the Core PPN Budget; 13 PPNs reported that these were paid by the Local Authority; and five PPNs reported that it was some combination of both. Where the answer was both, there was an arrangement between the PPN and the Local Authority for the reimbursement of these expenses or exchange for services.

Where PPN Representatives are invited to sit on non-PPN and non-Local Authority Boards and Committees, 17 PPNs reported that these expenses were paid by the organisation hosting the meeting; and 14 PPNs reported that they were not.

Hosting Charge

Ten of the 31 PPNs reported that they paid a hosting charge or management fee. The mechanism for determining this fee varied across these PPNs, with seven PPNs reporting that they pay a fixed charge, while the remaining three PPNs pay a charge based on a percentage of gross salary costs or desk calculation.

Budget Management

Seven of the 31 PPNs had their full Budget transferred to a PPN bank account; the Budget of 20 PPNs was managed by the Local Authority; in one PPN the Budget was transferred to the Host Organisation's bank account and three PPNs reported having some of their Budget transferred to a PPN bank account on a phased basis. A breakdown of how Budget expenditure is approved is set out in Table 16.

Approval Process	No. of PPNs
Secretariat approves all expenditure	11
Secretariat and Resource Worker share approval	10
Resource Worker approves all expenditure	1
Local Authority approves all expenditure	1*
Secretariat, Local Authority and Resource Worker share approval	9

*One PPN reported that the Secretariat and Local Authority approved all expenditure.

Financial Policy

Eight of the 31 PPNs reported having a formal Financial Policy in place. The remaining respondents to this question reported that their Secretariat or Local Authority approved expenditure decisions within their respective administrative systems. Six PPNs specifically reported that they follow all public procurement guidelines in relation to their expenditures.

Policies and Procedures

In order to ensure best practice in the governance of PPNs, each PPN has developed a set of Policies and Procedures to support its Secretariat, Representatives, Staff and Members. Table 17 provides a breakdown of the policies and procedures in place during 2019.

Policy / Procedure	No. of PPNs
Constitution	21
Terms of Reference for Secretariat	26
Terms of Reference for Subgroups (of Secretariat)	12
Terms of Reference for Linkage Groups	11
Terms of Reference for Plenary	15
Representative Charter	29
Expenses Policy	25
Dignity for All	15
Grievance / Conflict Procedure	22
Access Policy	11
HR Procedure	15
Induction Programme for new Representatives	23
Procurement Procedure	14
Staff Recruitment Procedure	19
Staff Development Procedure	13
PPN Rep Reporting Templates	27
Glossary of Terms for Member Groups	21
Health and Safety Policy	16
Other*	15

***Details of 'Other'**
Codes of Conduct; Training Policy; Data Protection Policy; Data Retention Policy; Vulnerable Adults Policy; Fraud Prevention Policy; Conflict of Interest Policy; Bullying and Harassment Policy; Elections Policy; Procedures Manual; Website and Newsletter Inclusion Policy; Representatives Manual; Vision for Community Wellbeing; Secretariat Re-election Policy.

Interagency Collaboration

All 31 PPNs reported engaging in some interagency collaboration in 2019. This took the form of partnerships with the Community Development section of the Local Authority; inter-agency collaboration on the implementation of the Healthy Ireland strategy at local level; delivering the National PPN Conference; collaborations with Age Friendly Ireland; Seachtain na Gaeilge; Family Resource Centres; Community Health Forums; Community Education Forums; Comhairle na nÓg; co-hosting meetings with Travellers groups; EqualityVotes initiatives; collaborations with volunteer centres, local development companies and State agencies; Enterprise Town Awards; Older People's Council; and the establishment of a Training Fair in the county.

Social Inclusion

PPNs are uniquely placed within communities to engage a whole range of marginalised groups and to support them to engage in democratic processes. All 31 PPNs reported having engaged in social inclusion activities in 2019. Actions taken on behalf of the PPN in furtherance of their social inclusion agenda have included targeted consultations (for example in Clare where the PPN worked with Traveller groups on submissions to IHREC and the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government); holding themed events (such as Cork City's Coordinator working with NASC on a series of themed events on self-advocacy for people in Direct Provision; the promoting of Laois Africa Day; the Understanding Hate Crime and Women's Equality Seminars in South Dublin); engagement in Community Awards (such as Love Where You Live Leitrim); and providing training for marginalised groups across the country.

Section 6

Work with the Local Authority

The PPN User Guide³ in operation in 2019 provides “The PPN will be the main link through which the Local Authority (LA) connects with the community, voluntary, environmental and social inclusion sectors” and “PPN ... will ... enable the public to take an active formal role in the policy making and oversight activities of the LA’s area of responsibility.” The intention is for a collaborative partnership approach. Positive relationships between PPN and the LA are essential for success.

As part of the Annual Report process, Local Authorities were asked to provide examples of how they had supported the development of PPN, and the active participation of environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary organisations in policy and decision making, information sharing and capacity building (other than the provision of the Budget allocation or the core duties of the Resource Worker, where the Resource Worker is employed by the Local Authority). Table 18 provides a breakdown of supports identified in respect of all 31 Local Authority areas for which responses were received.

Support Mechanism	Number
Active Memorandum of Understanding in Place for 2019	29
Memorandum of Understanding Reviewed in 2019	24
Assist, where appropriate, the PPN in achieving its Work Plan	28
Supported the PPN to be active Actors in the LECP	22
Cross-departmental participation in PPN Events	24
Involvement of Local Authority PPN Contact Person in PPN	26
Provided additional core funding to the PPN to support its work (additional to the €80,000)	15
Provided additional funding for specific PPN projects	8
Specific campaigns* to promote the work of the PPN within the local authority	10
<p>*Details of ‘Specific Campaigns’ Promotion of PPN literature in Council buildings; encouragement of groups to join the PPN; arranging presentations in collaboration with the PPN to raise awareness of the PPNs; one to one supports for the PPN Workers; organising speakers at PPN Funding Workshops; Budgetary oversight; sponsorship of the Community Awards; involvement in Social Inclusion Week; dedicated section in the Local Authority Newsletter; attendance by key staff at PPN events and meetings; provision of IT, graphic design and printing supports.</p>	

Local Authority Consultations

The PPNs can and should be a key mechanism for Local Authorities to gather the views of their communities in response to calls for consultations. They are best placed to engage with a membership of community groups and have a track record in producing and supporting submissions. Table 19 provides an overview of the number of consultations undertaken by Local Authorities in 2019 and the engagement with PPNs during this process.

Consultations	No. of PPNs
Local Authority Public Consultations in 2019	390
Notifications of Consultations sent to PPNs in 2019	432
Local Authority Consultations carried out via PPNs as the main vehicle in 2019	77
Consultation workshops jointly hosted by the Local Authority and the PPN	46

The total number of consultations conducted by Local Authorities was higher than in 2018 (when there were 219 consultations reported), consequently the number of consultation notifications sent to PPNs in 2019 was also higher (from 210 to 432). The number of consultations carried out via PPNs as the main vehicle in 2019 is higher than that in 2018 (from 47 to 77), and the number of consultation workshops jointly hosted has also increased, from 39 to 46.

Specific Areas of Collaboration

Local Authorities and PPNs also collaborated on a host of other events and initiatives in 2019. **These include:**

- ▶ Chambers Ireland Awards
- ▶ Healthy County Initiatives
- ▶ Environmental Initiatives
- ▶ Launch of the Town and Village
- ▶ Revitalisation Plan
- ▶ LEADER Calls
- ▶ Voter Registration events
- ▶ County Boundary Implementation meetings
- ▶ Age Friendly Expo
- ▶ Digital Strategy Consultation Workshops
- ▶ Integration Forums
- ▶ Social Cohesion Strategy
- ▶ Biodiversity Plan
- ▶ Housing Strategy
- ▶ Equality and Human Rights Projects
- ▶ LECP Review and Implementation Plan
- ▶ Vision for Community Wellbeing
- ▶ Grant Information Evenings
- ▶ Community Enhancement Programmes
- ▶ Community Awards
- ▶ SICAP
- ▶ Bealtaine Festival
- ▶ Tidy Towns
- ▶ Climate Adaptation Strategy

Allocation of Community Seats

Local Authorities are responsible for a range of Boards and Committees in respect of areas of local interest. In 2019, 882 community seats were available, of which 668 were allocated through the PPNs while the others were allocated through other means. Two Local Authorities reported that they would review the allocation of seats when the representative term has ended.

Examples of these Boards and Committees include:

- ▶ Local Community Development Committee
- ▶ Arts, Culture, Recreation and Leisure SPC
- ▶ Peace IV Partnership Committee
- ▶ North West Fisheries and Local Advisory Group
- ▶ Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Forces
- ▶ Climate Change, Environment and Energy SPC
- ▶ Economic Development, Enterprise and the Community SPC
- ▶ Culture, Libraries and Digital Development, Tourism, Enterprise and Economic Development SPC
- ▶ Housing, Corporate and Culture SPC
- ▶ Enterprise SPC
- ▶ Joint Policing Committee
- ▶ Transport SPC
- ▶ Arts, Culture and Language SPC
- ▶ Heritage Forums
- ▶ Travel and Transportation SPC
- ▶ Infrastructure SPC
- ▶ Sports Partnership
- ▶ LEADER Partnership

Grant Eligibility

PPNs act as an information hub for community groups in accessing information and supports about Local Authority grants. In recognition of this, and the role of PPNs in enhancing the efficacy of community groups through capacity building, training, networking and so on, some Local Authorities have made membership of the PPN an eligibility requirement for accessing grants. In 2019, six Local Authorities had this requirement in respect of all grants; 12 had this requirement for most, but not all grants; in 12 Local Authorities, groups were advised to join, but it was not compulsory; and in one Local Authority, there was no such stipulation.

Training and Induction by Local Authorities

Nineteen of the 31 Local Authorities reported providing specific induction or training to newly nominated PPN Representatives in 2019. In terms of training and awareness building of Local Authority staff, 24 Local Authorities reported engaging in training or awareness building activities with staff working in their Community Department, while 19 reported engaging in these activities with staff working outside the Community Department.

Section 7

Recommendations

Having reviewed the work of the PPNs over 2019, PPNs and Local Authorities were asked to make a series of recommendations to develop the PPNs.

These were then categorised under the following headings:

▶ Governance
▶ Promotion of PPNs / Communications
▶ Participation
▶ Resources
▶ Structure
▶ Training

Governance

- A greater level of assistance ought to be provided at national level on issues such as governance, finance policies, legal status etc. At present, the local approach results in PPNs around the country navigating the same issues separately, which is not incredibly efficient or consistent.
- Development and standardisation of policies for the operation of the PPNs.
- Provision of detailed guidance on the respective roles involved in the PPNs.
- Develop a strategic vision for PPNs.
- Clarify the ratifications process of the Environmental Pillar.

Promotion of PPNs / Communications

- Creation of a national logo for PPNs.
- Development of a national promotional and information campaign for PPNs.
- Greater national recognition of PPNs across all relevant Government Departments.
- Develop a methodology pack for Local Authority staff on public engagement.

Participation

- Enhance the collaboration between the PPN and the Local Authority.
- Ensure Local Authorities adhere to the requirement that PPNs act as the main route for community consultation and representation.
- Representative from the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government be appointed to the PPN National Advisory Group to closer align the PPNs and policies of Local Government.
- Senior Local Authority staff to engage with PPNs.
- Develop and implement more effective communications structures for Representatives and their Boards / Committees, to include updates on community development initiatives.
- Develop a more robust input mechanism at Municipal District level, particularly in terms of LECPs.
- Adopt the basic principles of engagement for local decision-making.
- Explore the development of thematic linkage groups.
- Develop a mechanism for issues from community organisations to be fed directly to Representatives on the various Local Authority Boards and Committees.
- Develop a Local Authority handbook, such as that provided by the IPA, to provide a detailed breakdown of each department within the Local Authority.

Resources

- Increased budget for PPNs at local and national level.
- Ensure sustainability of funding for PPNs.
- Ensure Support Workers are permanent staff.
- Implementation of a National Resource Worker to support the PPNs at national level.
- Review grading structure of PPN staff.
- Ensure security of funding.
- Publish a report on staff resources to include the number of staff who left the PPNs in 2019.

Structure

- Simplify the structure of the PPNs.
- Enable the establishment of the role of Chairperson of the Secretariat, rotating annually.
- Make the PPNs part of the statutory development plan for the Local Area Plans and Co-Development Plans.

Training

- Capacity building for Member Groups re engagement on Boards and Committees.
- Formal training on Salesforce for PPN Workers.
- Regional training for Representatives.
- Provide a more inclusive induction programme for Representatives and Elected Councillors.

In addition to overarching recommendations, set out above, all PPNs and Local Authorities were asked to make specific recommendations on training requirements and how to enhance partnership. These were as follows:

Training - Local Authority

- ▶ Refresher training on the role and function of the PPN, and how it is of benefit to the Local Authority.
- ▶ Community Development training and briefing sessions.
- ▶ Induction training for Local Authority staff and elected members, procured at a national level for consistency.
- ▶ Training on the development and uses of the Vision for Community Wellbeing.
- ▶ Information session on the Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy.
- ▶ Training on guidelines for consultations by Local Authorities.
- ▶ Public engagement and the role of the PPN.
- ▶ IT Skills.
- ▶ Effective engagement of marginalised groups.
- ▶ Human Rights and the Public Sector Duty.
- ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals.
- ▶ Plain English.
- ▶ Representation and Advocacy.
- ▶ Communications training.

Training - PPN

- ▶ Salesforce.
- ▶ Advocacy and Influencing Policy.
- ▶ Local Authority structures.
- ▶ Public Speaking and Communications.
- ▶ Governance.
- ▶ Data Protection.
- ▶ Induction for Secretariat Members and Representatives on their respective roles.
- ▶ PPN Role and Structure.
- ▶ Statutory basis for SPCs.
- ▶ Policy Development and Decision-making.
- ▶ How to increase active members.
- ▶ Human Rights and Equality / Public Sector Duty.
- ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals.
- ▶ Strategic Planning.
- ▶ How to write submissions.
- ▶ Charities Regulation.
- ▶ Holding effective meetings.
- ▶ Social Media.
- ▶ IT Skills.

Partnership - Local Authority

- ▶ Greater awareness raising of the PPN and its functions and objectives.
- ▶ Induction for Representatives on Local Authority Boards and Committees.
- ▶ Networking event on how deliberative and participative democracy could be achieved in partnership.
- ▶ More lead-in time for initiatives, meetings, consultations and other collaborations between Local Authorities and PPNs.
- ▶ Collaborative planning with all stakeholders.
- ▶ Regular updates from the Local Authority.
- ▶ Local Authorities to provide information on the roles and functions of Local Authority Boards and Committees.
- ▶ PPN to be referenced as a form of participation in the Local Authority Guidelines.
- ▶ Increased knowledge of the importance of the PPN contribution to policy making, drawing on existing Government materials.
- ▶ Departmental Circular outlining induction requirements for Local Authorities.
- ▶ Holding pre-meetings for Committee Representatives.
- ▶ The provision of feedback to the PPN on submissions made by them.
- ▶ Guidance/rules on the hosting of meetings to facilitate Representatives (day, evening, weekends etc.).

Partnership - PPN

- ▶ Link with other statutory partners through their parent Departments to ensure policy consistency.
- ▶ Encouragement of PPN Representative input into the agenda and meetings by the Local Authority.
- ▶ Strengthening member engagement.
- ▶ Changes to the SPC overall structure.
- ▶ Formal meetings between the PPN and senior Local Authority staff on areas of collaboration.
- ▶ Agreeing a policy-development work programme.
- ▶ Receipt of agendas and reading materials in good time in advance of meetings.
- ▶ Better integration into the Local Authority decision-making process.
- ▶ Greater understanding of the roles of the various committees.
- ▶ Improved communications with Local Authority staff and Representatives on Boards and Committees.
- ▶ Greater equality of input at Committees and Boards.

Appendix 1: PPN Contact Details (May-July 2020)			
Name of PPN	Email	Website	Name of PPN
Carlow	✉ carlowppn@carlowcoco.ie 🌐 www.carlowppn.ie	🔗	Leitrim
Cavan	✉ cavanppn@gmail.com 🌐 www.cavancommunity.ie		Limerick
Clare	✉ admin@clareppn.ie 🌐 www.clareppn.ie		Longford
Cork City	✉ info@corkcityppn.ie 🌐 www.corkcityppn.ie		Louth
Cork County	✉ ppn@corkcoco.ie 🌐 www.corkcountyppn.com		Mayo
Donegal	✉ donegalppn@donegalcoco.ie 🌐 www.donegalppn.ie		Meath
Dublin City	✉ ppn@dublincity.ie 🌐 www.dublincityppn.ie		Monaghan
Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown	✉ enquiries@dlrppn.ie 🌐 www.dlrppn.ie		Offaly
Fingal	✉ ppn@fingal.ie 🌐 www.fingalppn.ie		Roscommon
Galway City	✉ info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie 🌐 www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie		Sligo
Galway County	✉ administrator@galwaycountyppn.ie 🌐 www.galwaycountyppn.ie		South Dublin
Kerry	✉ ppn@kerrycoco.ie 🌐 www.kerryppn.ie		Tipperary
Kildare	✉ kildareppn@gmail.com 🌐 www.kildareppn.ie		Waterford
Kilkenny	✉ ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie 🌐 www.ppnkilkenny.ie		Westmeath
Laois	✉ ppn@laoiscoco.ie 🌐 www.laoisppn.ie		Wexford
			Wicklow

Appendix 2: Overview of PPN Activity

Name of PPN	Number of Secretariat places allocated	Number of PPN Representatives	Number of Active Linkage Groups	Number of Plenary Meetings Held	Total Expenditure (2019) €	Number of E-Newsletters Produced	Number of Decision-Making Committees PPN Sits On	Hosting Arrangement	Total Membership	Social Inclusion Pillar Members	Environment Pillar Members	Community Pillar Members
Carlow	9	21	6	2	€96,081.93	12	8	Hosted by Local Authority	413	45	11	357
Cavan	12	36	1	2	€73,334.00	15	16	Operating as an Independent Company	246	100	13	133
Clare	10	20	3	4	€115,515.00	12	9	Operating as an Independent Company	251	19	46	186
Cork City	9	30	0	4	€99,882.74	19	14	Hosted by another Community Organisation	186	85	10	94
Cork County	20	35	9	0	€85,338.00	2	12	Hosted by Local Authority	940	165	35	740
Donegal	11	41	3	1	€96,484.00	12	22	Hosted by Local Authority	562	47	14	501
Dublin City	12	26	0	1	€64,016.66	39	14	Hosted by Local Authority	733	490	2	241
Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown	9	32	0	2	€97,460.50	12	10	Hosted by another Community Organisation	557	101	17	439

Appendix 2: Overview of PPN Activity

Name of PPN	Number of Secretariat places allocated	Number of PPN Representatives	Number of Active Linkage Groups	Number of Plenary Meetings Held	Total Expenditure (2019) €	Number of E-Newsletters Produced	Number of Decision-Making Committees PPN Sits On	Hosting Arrangement	Total Membership	Social Inclusion Pillar Members	Environment Pillar Members	Community Pillar Members
Fingal	9	23	5	2	€128,408.20	12	9	Hosted by Local Authority	248	25	128	95
Galway City	16	46	6	4	€102,110.76	40	21	Operating as an Independent Company	131	41	11	79
Galway County	11	32	0	1	€76,063.08	0	9	Hosted by Local Authority	877	168	20	689
Kerry	11	8	4	4	€137,361.73	360	19	Hosted by Local Authority	707	75	20	612
Kildare	11	19	0	1	€80,803.00	43	9	Operating as an Independent Company	949	117	27	805
Kilkenny	10	22	3	2	€79,799.56	49	11	Hosted by Local Authority	347	90	12	245
Laois	12	30	1	2	€92,878.43	12	13	Hosted by Local Authority	549	70	16	463
Leitrim	9	35	0	2	€89,360.72	10	12	Hosted by Local Authority	239	60	8	171

Appendix 2: Overview of PPN Activity

Name of PPN	Number of Secretariat places allocated	Number of PPN Representatives	Number of Active Linkage Groups	Number of Plenary Meetings Held	Total Expenditure (2019) €	Number of E-Newsletters Produced	Number of Decision-Making Committees PPN Sits On	Hosting Arrangement	Total Membership	Social Inclusion Pillar Members	Environment Pillar Members	Community Pillar Members
Limerick	10	19	0	2	€23,773.90	0	8	Hosted by Local Authority	101	35	8	58
Longford	9	39	16	5	€98,689.36	24	17	Hosted by Local Authority	378	54	5	319
Louth	18	35	1	2	€103,960.71	52	15	Hosted by Local Authority	341	112	7	222
Mayo	14	18	1	2	€80,000.00	8	7	Hosted by Local Authority	857	121	0	736
Meath	12	24	1	2	€111,382.63	24	12	Hosted by Local Authority	900	89	14	797
Monaghan	12	42	1	4	€93,620.00	0	12	Hosted by Local Authority	524	87	37	400
Offaly	9	22	0	2	€105,698.00	24	13	Hosted by Local Authority	431	3	2	426
Roscommon	9	22	0	1	€49,112.62	0	10	Hosted by Local Authority	129	16	7	106
Sligo	8	41	1	1	€109,589.00	6	15	Hosted by Local Authority	340	31	12	297

Appendix 2: Overview of PPN Activity

Name of PPN	Number of Secretariat places allocated	Number of PPN Representatives	Number of Active Linkage Groups	Number of Plenary Meetings Held	Total Expenditure (2019) €	Number of E-Newsletters Produced	Number of Decision-Making Committees PPN Sits On	Hosting Arrangement	Total Membership	Social Inclusion Pillar Members	Environment Pillar Members	Community Pillar Members
South Dublin	12	24	1	2	€102,570.00	0	13	Hosted by another Community Organisation	700	158	28	514
Tipperary	15	42	2	2	€111,879.69	13	19	Operating as an Independent Company	878	107	24	747
Waterford	11	46	2	1	€101,047.99	15	21	Operating as an Independent Company	714	117	25	572
Westmeath	8	36	0	2	€111,082.00	12	20	Hosted by Local Authority	723	167	10	546
Wexford	11	28	1	2	€94,923.99	43	14	Hosted by Local Authority	359	67	9	283
Wicklow	12	34	2	2	€131,792.38	11	20	Hosted by another Community Organisation	289	61	18	210
Total	351	928	70	66	2,944,020.58	881	—	—	15,599	2,920	596	12,083

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Carlow – Impacts

- ▶ Carlow PPN Submission to the consultation on Draft SPC Scheme where all recommendations were considered and taken, including reinstating the number of SPC seats from 9 to 12 and in doing so giving the PPN an extra seat to take the total number of PPN Reps on SPCs up to 13.
- ▶ Presenting to and liaising with local Carlow County Councillors has made an impact in that Local Councillors will come to the PPN looking for information and are more willing to work with the PPN.
- ▶ Work began on consulting with our members in 2019 on a Wellbeing Vision and has been very well received.

- ▶ Working with Carlow County Council in their role as an SDG Champion where both the Department of Climate Action and Communications and Carlow County Council presented at our second Plenary along with a Secretariat member. They promoted and raised awareness of the SDGs by providing practical examples of what any person can do on a daily basis in achieving the goals and where Carlow County Council informed members on the work they have been and are doing within their role as Champion to make County Carlow a better place to live.
- ▶ Carlow PPN hosting the National PPN Conference had a great impact for the PPN. While the Community Department and the PPN have always worked well together, the Conference reinforced this relationship and also the relationship with the Chief Executive.

Name of PPN: Cavan – Impacts

- ▶ Co-hosted a community services festival with dozens of agencies and hundreds of members of the public attendance in a public square. Very successful event for information dissemination and promotion of PPN work.
- ▶ Highlighting successful groups:
Cavan PPN organised a site visit to a Social Farming Project and invited local representatives, media, and members of the new communities and documented this.

- ▶ Cavan PPN drew all Environment groups together to launch and take part in a LEADER Biodiversity Project in the county. Cavan PPN spearheaded the community initiative which then was rolled out by LEADER.
- ▶ Hosted an Awareness Culture Day for Yellow Flag schools, multicultural groups and had guest speakers from a number of backgrounds, agencies and groups.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Clare – Impacts

► Under the direction of our secretariat and plenary Clare PPN takes its brief around participation as a key element of its work. Areas for work identified in discussion with our member groups included working to inform and engage the community in all democratic processes including local and national government. To this end Clare PPN has carried out various government training workshops with new communities, (3 in 2019) and in collaboration with An Garda Síochána and Clare County Council we run voter registration one stop shops in advance of each local or general election or referendum. We have also run very successful 'hustings' including for the 2019 Local Elections.

► Clare PPN hosted 5 'Meet the Candidates & Voter Registration' events, one in each Electoral Area in County Clare in the run up to the 2019 Local Elections.

Candidates were invited to address their voters and those attending were given the opportunity to have their questions answered by the candidates.

These events were hosted and MC'd by Peter O'Connell, Editor of the Clare Champion, Gloria Callinan of Clare Local Development Company, Fiona McGarry of Clare FM's Morning Focus programme, Andy Hamilton of the Clare People and Christy Sinclair outgoing Secretariat Member of Clare PPN.

At each of these five events, Clare PPN in collaboration with An Garda Síochána, hosted a one-stop shop for voter registration where people were assisted to register for the supplementary register of electors if they were not already registered to vote.

This resulted in hundreds of new registrations to vote taking place which is very impactful from the perspective of engagement in the political process.

Clare PPN also organised one extra hustings event with candidates for those in a direct provision centre in the county and organised transport to a hustings event for others.

► Clare PPN now has standalone premises and can offer free/subsidised meeting space for various community & voluntary groups. Incredibly this was unavailable in the town of Ennis until now and both meeting rooms are in constant use. This has strengthened these groups and increased solidarity within the sector.

► In 2019 Clare PPN initiated and supported the emergence of a community welcome group in Miltown Malbay where an emergency centre for international protection applicants opened. Whilst all credit goes to the community for their efforts the PPN was able to act as catalyst and to provide supports for these efforts to get up and running. In a similar vein in response to the opening of a new direct provision centre in Ennis in December 2019 Clare PPN in collaboration with other organisations, individuals and businesses were able to organise a very successful Christmas present drive to support people living in Direct Provision. Activities in support of migrants and international protection applicants have been indicated as priority actions by our social inclusion college at every PPN plenary meeting to date.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Cork City – Impacts

- ▶ In conjunction with NASC, the Coordinator of Cork City PPN led a range of consultations with those living in Direct Provision facilities around Cork. This resulted in the production of a response to the Oireachtas consultation on Direct Provision and the International Protection System on behalf of those who participated in these consultation workshops.

The purpose was to investigate how advocacy capacity could be built among those living in the international protection system and direct provision settings, and producing a submission was a way of teaching through doing. This fed directly into the aims of expanding participation, developing capacity, and identifying needs among one of the most marginalised groups in Cork City.

- ▶ At the invitation of Cork City Council in June, the Coordinator represented the PPN at a range of meetings around the areas newly added to Cork City after the expansion of the city boundary. This allowed for awareness raising of our activities and benefits among members of the community and voluntary sector in areas previously designated as within the Cork County boundary.

Given the substantial challenges and opportunities offered by the expansion of the city boundary, engaging in such activities at such an early stage of the expansion process allowed the PPN to develop strong connections with key local groups in each of the new areas of the city.

Name of PPN: Cork County – Impacts

- ▶ Boundary Transition, a PPN boundary sub-committee were formed in Cork County PPN who created a relationship with the Cork City PPN plus the Boundary Transition Team met with the PPN Secretariat on a number of occasions to keep them updated and receive feedback.
- ▶ In conjunction with Cork County Council's Service Republic team, the PPN held workshops and compiled a list of objectives at the end which the Secretariat can choose from going forward as specific targets for their annual work plan.

- ▶ Cork Volunteer Centre, following a presentation to the Secretariat, a number of workshops followed that members participated in plus they now have a broader understanding behind the volunteering concept.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Donegal – Impacts

- ▶ Donegal PPN Community & Voluntary Pillar organised Community Safety Events in the Municipal Districts in October/November 2019 incorporating Community Garda, Solicitors, Muintir na Tíre, Community Banker, Road Safety Authority, HSE Safeguarding etc. The event provided the public with a forum in which to stay safe and well in their Community and promoting positive actions being done by local groups.
- ▶ Donegal PPN Social Inclusion Pillar organised a Housing & Homelessness Forum in May 2019. Speakers from LA, Social Housing, Homelessness Groups highlighting and addressing the issues.
- ▶ Donegal PPN Environment Pillar organised an Environmental Showcase in March 2019 ‘Climate Changed’ to highlight positive climate action being done in the county. Speakers included local Davie Philip from Cultivate and Cloughjordan Ecovillage who introduced the Sustainable Development Goals, Local Climate Action Officer, Students ‘An Taisce Climate Ambassadors’, who showcased their ‘Cli-Mates’ project and ended with a conversation café encouraging further action and collaboration from groups.

Name of PPN: Dublin City – Impacts

- ▶ Dublin City PPN provided a link for communication throughout the year on issues like Tidy Towns.

Name of PPN: Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown – Impacts

- ▶ Dún Laoghaire Rathdown PPN has invested a considerable amount of time in recruiting and running elections for PPN representatives, in line with Local Authority specifications for each role.
- ▶ DLR PPN created the ‘Plain English’ booklet detailing what the scope and remit of PPNs are, which was printed in 1,000 copies and made available to potential and existing members.
- ▶ One of the key objectives for 2019 for Dún Laoghaire Rathdown PPN was to have the Workplan for 2020 agreed by the end of the 2019 year. This has been achieved at the Plenary meeting in October 2019.
- ▶ In line with our Workplan, the Representative charter was created and distributed to all members.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Fingal – Impacts

- ▶ Community Safety Crime and Policing meeting group elected 6 PPN Reps to Fingal Joint Policing Committee (1 seat to be filled in 2020).
- ▶ Since the passing of a motion on the Changing Places Campaign a Fingal PPN Rep has presented on this Campaign at the Local Community Development Committee. The Fingal County Council Community Development Office is championing this campaign through their work, including exploring the inclusion of Changing Places in new Community Facility builds and refurbishments.
- ▶ Motion submitted to Fingal County Council on multi-annual funding arrangements for certain programmes under the control of the council.
- ▶ Motion submitted to Fingal County Council on Community Facilities licensing rules regarding political gatherings and assemblies. Policy to be reviewed.

Name of PPN: Galway City – Impacts

- ▶ Galway City Community Network (Galway City's PPN) facilitated and has influenced collaboration, cross-sectoral and inter-agency partnerships as an approach to working in Galway City.
- ▶ The collaborative approach to the implementation of the Galway Healthy City initiative that GCCN has contributed to in association with the Galway City Council, the HSE and Galway City Partnership.
- ▶ The increased awareness across a range of cross-sectoral organisations of the obligations under the Public Sector Duty and their significant engagement with the issue as a result of a collaborative approach between GCCN, Galway City Council and Galway City Partnership.
- ▶ The increased awareness of equality, human rights and environmental / sustainability issues as a result of the work that GCCN led in the local elections 2019.
- ▶ The increased openness to engagement with Galway City Community Network and its members by the Arts Office in the development of the new Arts Strategy as a result of the engagement between the Arts Office and GCCN.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Galway County – Impacts

- ▶ The fact that Galway County PPN can run elections and surveys through our website is a key gain and saves the PPN a fortune in postage.
- ▶ Galway County PPN's engagement with the communities in delivering appropriate training and funding opportunities is a key deliverable as all community groups need sources of funding to deliver on their operating programs.
- ▶ In terms of the development of the PPN, increasing our membership by 135 in 2019 is a testament to the success of the PPN. One of Galway County PPN's key priorities is to get information to our members in a timely fashion.

Name of PPN: Kerry – Impacts

- ▶ Mapping of defibrillators in County Kerry, this project was initiated and Kerry PPN had several meetings with the HSE. They acknowledged they only had a fraction on their data base so the impact of this information is phenomenal and of such high value to the community at large.
- ▶ The Community Awards Applications for 2019 tripled as a result of Kerry PPN social media posts through Facebook and the PPN website. The impact is that more groups connect with the PPN. Though not a requirement, it is suggested and groups do feel it is essential to stay connected and know what is happening in the county through information sharing, relationship building and connectedness."
- ▶ Kerry PPN's Access for All report has gone to Kerry Council, TDs, MEPs, Senators and all locally affected organisations and has already had an effect on future planning. Kerry County Council established a Disability Housing Group and the Kerry PPN are represented.
- ▶ A member of a local Access Group in Killorglin stepped forward for one of the SPCs, this is the first time that a visually impaired person has stood for election and it was from attending the access workshops, they saw the importance of being involved in formal structures that can affect change.
- ▶ Presentation to Full Council Meeting regarding PPN, its role, responsibility and relationship with the Local Authority. The impact is that the Kerry PPN name and reputation is becoming more well-known and the LA sees the importance of linking in with the Kerry PPN.
- ▶ Kerry PPN reps on the LCDC have forced agreement for a non-agenda meeting to discuss purely matters raised by the PPN Membership. The impact is progression and that issues and concerns from the groups on the ground are brought to a structure where they can be discussed and this in turn is fed back to the community. This element is essential as it builds trust and relationships.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Kildare – Impacts

- ▶ As outlined as a suggestion in the Kildare PPN submission to the Kildare County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme, the PPN received a commitment that Kildare County Council would cover the travel expenses of the PPN representatives, at the rate applicable to elected members of the council.
- ▶ Kildare PPN furthered our reach on Social media. 43% increase in Facebook followers in 2019. 66% increase in Twitter followers in 2019.

Name of PPN: Kilkenny – Impacts

- ▶ Kilkenny PPN played an integral role as part of the committee for the National Enterprise Town Awards here in Kilkenny City. The PPN worked with the community groups linking them with existing enterprise and local businesses. The bid for Kilkenny City was successful and Kilkenny became the National Winner of NETA in 2019.
 - ▶ Kilkenny PPN supported a Community Services Programme, who instantly identified the programme as unique and one of its kind. On foot of the success of the programme and its standards, the Community Service Programme Supervisor, won a National Probation Services Award for Innovation in service provision which was adjudicated by Dr Hilda Loughrane, School of Social Work and Social Policy, UCD. Rothe House is a 17th century Irish merchant's townhouse in the heart of Kilkenny City and as a result of this initiative, engagement with and support from the PPN, it now plays host to both group and individual placements for Probation Community Service. In
- this case, through the work of our Social Inclusion Working Group, the PPN recognised the value and importance of the Probation Service and the Community Service and how if society dispenses with discrimination and stigmatisation, good things can happen that will benefit everyone involved.
- Very quickly a proposal was put to the Board where a 6-week trial was agreed. Ten months later, they are still on site attending two days per week which is indicative of the great working relationship which has ensued.
- ▶ Kilkenny PPN worked in conjunction with regional PPNs in Carlow, Waterford, Wexford and Tipperary on an environmental conference located in Kilkenny City. This was to encourage growth and membership of the Environmental pillars but also to encourage participation in the areas of conservation and biodiversity. Following this conference, Kilkenny PPN's membership of the Environmental pillar saw an increase in membership, new environmental representatives and an expansion to the Linkage group.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Kilkenny – Impacts

Continued...

- ▶ Development of Kilkenny Volunteer Centre. We worked with Volunteer Ireland to develop a Volunteer Service and Centre here in Kilkenny. Kilkenny PPN was successful in its application to become a member of the Board of the Volunteer Centre to oversee and manage the development going forward.

- ▶ It was proposed that Kilkenny PPN become an SDG ratified member. This was then taken to Plenary where it was formally voted on and ratified by the general membership.

Name of PPN: Laois – Impacts

- ▶ Laois PPN “Access for All” Disability Awareness Report. At a monthly meeting the secretariat of Laois PPN decided to undertake a strategic disability study based on the SPC of Laois County Council. By doing this the PPN would be able to utilize local groups to identify gaps in services provided by Laois County Council. The process commenced with a consultation with over 80 individuals in attendance. This consultation resulted in the formation on the Disability Special Interest Group (DSIF) and the “Access for All” disability report which was presented to Laois County Council. This report was also submitted to the Corporate Plan 2019-2024. This process was agreed by the secretariat, representatives and members alike.

- ▶ Laois PPN worked with all community groups in Mountrath to host a public consultation. We did this by completing a SWOT analysis of Mountrath in order to bring groups together in order to achieve common goals. The consultation resulted in a comprehensive report being compiled and submitted to Laois County Council and Mountrath Town Team, which was well received. The consultation was very positive giving everyone present the opportunity to air their concerns.

- ▶ Laois PPN made a submission to the Laois County Council Draft SPC Scheme. This submission was based on recommendations received from Laois PPN representatives which resulted in a comprehensive submission. Laois County Council took on board a number of recommendations made by Laois PPN.

- ▶ Laois PPN launched Laois Connects 2019. This event involved a host of organisations to promote mental health and wellbeing during the month of October. Laois PPN liaised with The Thomas Hayes Trust (PPN Member Organisation) to hold an intimate gathering of PPN members to talk about suicide, the impact it has on families and the help available in our communities. Brendan Courtney (RTE) was in attendance and interviewed the participants. This event is over-subscribed and gained a lot of traction through positive local press articles. The event raised awareness of mental health issues within the community.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Leitrim – Impacts

- ▶ Leitrim PPN continued to promote the defibrillator mapping project in the county in 2019. This ensured that all defibrillators in local communities were mapped and the information shared with the National Ambulance Service. As stated, the defibrillator project was nominated for a Chambers Ireland Excellence Award. This was the second such map to be launched in Ireland.
- ▶ Leitrim PPN co-hosts and financially supports the annual Love Where You Live Awards. These awards give tangible recognition to the many community groups and individuals doing Trojan work throughout the county.

- ▶ The Consultation on Forestry in Leitrim was one example of the impact of the PPN in 2019. Over 150 submissions were received and a formal motion was brought before the Special Policy Committee for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning. The matter is to be discussed further when SPC's resume and will ultimately be brought before a full meeting of Leitrim County Council. There was a huge response and the SPC motion acknowledged further debate was required.

Name of PPN: Limerick – Impacts

- ▶ Limerick PPN representatives on the LCDC:
 - Played a key role when a decision was made to move budgets across different themes in the EU LEADER Programme.
 - Informed the decision-making process on the funding for environmental/biodiversity projects under certain programmes.
 - Were a critical influence on LCDC position paper development.
- ▶ The decision by plebiscite in Limerick to hold elections for a directly elected mayor was a historic one. It was significant that the PPN was invited to have a representative on the advisory group to advise the Minister on the role and remit of the directly elected Mayor for Limerick. The group was scheduled to report back to Government in mid-2020.

- ▶ The Healthy Limerick Steering Group made recommendations to the LCDC for a programme of work worth almost €250,000 with six actions to enhance health and wellbeing in Limerick and a mental health small grant initiative. This programme was approved in 2019 and most actions got underway in late 2019.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Longford — Impacts

- ▶ Longford PPN collaborated with Longford Chamber of Commerce and Local Enterprise Office and held a Sustainable Living and Wellbeing Weekend. 25 workshops, demos and talks were held along with an ethical market. This was to promote sustainable businesses, communities etc.
 - ▶ Longford PPN organised and funded One to One Environment & Biodiversity Clinics with a qualified consultant for all Tidy Town Groups. This resulted in all groups increasing their points in 2019. Biodiversity Workshops were also held for all PPN Members with a particular focus on groups with Community Employment scheme workers.
 - ▶ PPN groups developed Election Mandates based on their Community Wellbeing Visions for each MD. Mandates were printed and circulated and used when candidates were canvassing.
- ▶ Because of training delivered by Social Justice Ireland and funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development on how to use data to underpin Wellbeing Visions, Representatives of Longford PPN are better able to bring community priorities to the committees they sit on. This knowledge and confidence mean they can fully participate in the decision-making process.
 - ▶ Longford PPN established the Intercultural Forum to make sure representatives from communities are aware of all the different supports and services in the county, to allow them to integrate with each other, access grants and be part of the decision-making process. This has been very successful to date.

Name of PPN: Louth — Impacts

- ▶ Louth PPN members recommended a series of changes to the SPC scheme in 2019. These were taken on board by the Local Authority and this influenced the final SPC make up in Louth.
- ▶ Louth PPN representatives are involved in the Joint Policing Committee. The community reps have brought new proposals for the operation of these committees to ensure the community voice is heard.
- ▶ Louth PPN members on the LCDC are heavily involved in the Social Inclusion sub-committee. In 2019 members highlighted certain target groups and areas that needed extra supports through the SICAP programme. This resulted in new initiatives piloted in the County.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Mayo – Impacts

- ▶ Mayo PPN administered the election process of representatives to the Oweninny Board, Community Benefit Fund.
- ▶ Mayo PPN administered the election process of Representatives to 5 Strategic Policy Committees, the LCDC Committee and the Joint Policing Committee.

- ▶ Mayo PPN provided training to Community Groups in Social Media & how to promote their community work through video/poster design etc., How to write a successful funding application, Workshops on the New Governance Code.

Name of PPN: Meath – Impacts

- ▶ Meath PPN conducted an Insurance Survey: Over 90% response rate which informed the report of the national picture published in 2019.
- ▶ Meath PPN purchased and distributed a further 4 defibrillators to CFR Groups and provided training for the Groups members. This training was provided by Meath Civil Defence.

- ▶ Meath PPN started the Community Well Being Vision process with a view to channelling these grass roots inputs into County Strategies such as 2020 County Development Plan.
- ▶ Meath PPN provided an Eco Tent at the Trim Show August 2019 and the Climate Change and Biodiversity Open Day May 2019.

Name of PPN: Monaghan – Impacts

- ▶ Following the local elections in May 2019, 16 new Representatives of Monaghan PPN were ratified by the plenary in November 2019. We filled 16/17 seats and the new reps ratified are very eager to represent the PPN on their respective committees. I would be confident we got 16 excellent new members who will work hard to ensure the voice of the wider membership is heard.
- ▶ Monaghan PPN has made a significant impact in supporting the community and voluntary sector in 2019. We engaged with new members in our Social Media training. Attendance members at all events has increased. New agencies are familiar with us now through these events and there has been great collaboration and knowledge sharing.

- ▶ Monaghan PPN hosted a group of volunteers on a study trip from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Councils. The group were interested in the PPN structure, funding, relationship with the Local Authority, policy making and work programmes. Many PPN representatives attended and they gave the group an informative overview from their perspective, in particular, the challenges and the positives they have experienced.

The trip also consisted of a tour to some local community centres and speaking to the volunteers who manage them who talked about the importance of the PPN to them and the support they receive from it.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Offaly – Impacts

- ▶ Offaly PPN undertook the Community Consultation on a wellbeing statement for Offaly. This aroused people's interest, engagement and ownership of their County. The Vision statement is due to be completed in 2020.
- ▶ The Sustainable Development Goals was the theme of the Offaly PPN Plenary in November 2019. Two students who represented Young People at the local Action for Global Goals and Climate Change in the Dáil presented to the membership. This was received very favourably followed by Catriona Rodgerson IEN. We receive a lot of feedback and interest in opportunities to bring about change in Communities.
- ▶ Green Offaly is a PPN brainchild and with the fore sight of the LCDC Environmental Rep came to fruition and was launched as the catalyst to serving Offaly in terms of the Environment. Workshops on Green Business, Green Energy, Green Farming, Young people and the Environment took place and a Tidy Towns workshop on Good Environmental practices. All were very well attended and were highlighted in local media.

Name of PPN: Roscommon – Impacts

- ▶ Please note that RPPN was not established during most of 2019. In October 2019 RPPN was re-established. We then:
 - Elected a Secretariat and reps to committees
 - Held a Successful Plenary on the 27/11/2019
 - Adopted the Code of Conduct
 - Extensive work on Draft Constitution

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Sligo — Impacts

- ▶ Sligo PPN led a piece of national research on Insurance reform and the impact of escalating premiums on community groups. The research received widespread media coverage but was also used to lobby at national level for reform.
- ▶ Following strong submissions from Sligo PPN and presentations regarding the social model of disability, this has now become a core theme in the SCC Access Strategy. This is also reflected in on the ground action with walkability audits taking place with groups and planning activities reflecting universal design.
- ▶ Following a piece of local research regarding understanding of climate change, Sligo PPN staged an Environment seminar featuring Prof John Sweeney and Sligo County Council Chief Executive Ciaran Hayes. The event led to greater understanding of the concept, allowed citizens to understand how local planning is addressing the issue, identified projects and ideas for community/local government partnership and led to increased numbers involved in local action.

- ▶ Through a series of submissions and board presentations, the environment college of Sligo PPN were successful in getting representation on all SPCs. This now ensures that, rather than being seen as a stand-alone agenda, the environment is reflected across all aspects of policy development.
- ▶ The biggest issue raised by members was the lack of coherent information and support regarding funding. Sligo PPN, for the first time, brought together all funding information into one place and used this to form a successful funding ready seminar which featured key partners such as SCC, SVC and Sligo Leader and also had workshop and Q&A elements. The event attracted over 250 people and members have called for it to become an annual event.

Name of PPN: South Dublin — Impacts

- ▶ South Dublin PPN have worked with South Dublin County Council to ensure that the Transparency Code is followed with respect to SPCs and other information. As a result, all 2018 and 2019 minutes and agendas are now available to the public via the website, available to SPC Reps on a timely basis (as per the Committee Standing Orders) and the Council is in compliance with the Transparency Code.

- ▶ A key issue identified by many PPN Community and Voluntary Groups in South Dublin during 2019 was rising insurance costs and how they are impacting on their organisations.
Following this feedback and a national survey of PPN groups on the high cost of insurance, the South Dublin PPN Community Pillar organised an Insurance workshop for all groups.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: South Dublin – Impacts

Continued...

The purpose of the workshop was to provide an opportunity for groups to meet and discuss the insurance issues that affect them, to share their stories and to explore ways in which they could work together to raise awareness of the impact insurance premiums will have for community activity in the future.

Following the workshop, a motion was put to the SDCPPN Plenary meeting in November to join the Alliance for Insurance Reform which was passed. The PPN recognises that Community groups are working on a voluntary basis delivering important benefits to their communities and we are hopeful that in joining the Alliance the PPN can move collectively to preserve this work. Groups have made connections through the workshop and the issue of rising insurance costs has been raised and highlighted at a local and national level.

▶ The South Dublin PPN Representatives who sit on SPCs and other committees give a voice to Community, Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion Groups in the County. The Representatives also bring back information from the LA about initiatives, grants, programmes etc. that are relevant to the groups.

▶ It has been an ongoing objective of South Dublin PPN pursued by the PPN representatives on the LCDC for the local authority to action the Public Sector Duty in compliance with the Human Rights and Equality Commission Act. During 2019 the Public Sector Duty was listed as an objective in the SDCC Corporate Plan. The PPN looks forward to the drafting of a plan to outline the human rights and equality issues in the county, together with the priority actions required to address these issues.

▶ South Dublin PPN had limited activity between February 2018 and October 2018. A key objective during 2019 was to raise awareness of the PPN and increase engagement with PPN groups in the County. This was achieved through a number of presentations and events including:

- Pillar Meetings
- Presentations to Committees and Groups
- Plenary Meetings
- Events including:
 - Climate Change Workshop; SDG Workshop; Neighbourhood Watch / Residents' Association Meeting; Understanding Hate Crime Seminar; Insurance Workshop; Women's Equality Seminar; Housing Action Plan Workshops.

Through these events and meetings, awareness of the work of the PPN and of each pillar group has increased. At the various meetings / events people were able to speak directly to PPN representatives. Engagement with PPN groups has increased and there was a good level of participation in the events held. South Dublin PPN plans to build on this progress to increase input and feedback to PPN reps sitting on SPCs and other committees.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Tipperary – Impacts

- ▶ Tipperary PPN in particular has had a key impact in Tipperary Local Authority Corporate Plan. Community and economic staff attended our community wellbeing consultations and used information from these consultations to feed into the corporate plan. PPN made submissions to the Local Authority corporate plan which were also taken on board.
- ▶ LCDC Representatives from Tipperary PPN have advocated for more space for SICAP at the meeting - qualitative report on work carried out by CEO/Project workers and testimonials by local Community Groups and Individuals (Social Inclusion subgroup).
- ▶ Over the course of the year Tipperary PPN provided a lot of training for our members but one thing that stands out in relation to capacity building of our members/communities is the Degree program run through Equal Ireland.
- ▶ Tipperary PPN conducted Municipal District meetings and true consultation in the community through the wellbeing vision which have enabled the PPN to really connect with its members. This process is true community consultation and has been really appreciated by the members and those that attended and completed the survey online.
- ▶ Tipperary PPN arranged a consultation in Tipperary for the relevant stakeholders to feed into the consultation on the PPN Handbook. It proved a very worthy exercise to have LA staff, Reps, Secretariat and PPN members in the same room discussing the topic. There was good discussion and it was good to see people animated about the PPN and trying to ensure that it strives to become what the community need /want. The submission that Tipperary PPN made is now being fed into the user guide consultation.

Name of PPN: Waterford – Impacts

- ▶ Waterford PPN is taken much more seriously than hitherto; we are prepared going into meetings, follow up previous issues, ask relevant questions and press on PPN related concerns; as a result, we are seen more as a key component of the body/committee etc., our views are listened to and we therefore have more of an impact.
- ▶ Waterford PPN set up the Older Persons Council (OPC) - regional meetings, procedures, seed money and now we have an independent OPC which coordinates well with the PPN (the OPC have a rep on the Secretariat) as well as its wider remit.
- ▶ Waterford PPN designed and managed a transparent election process for a new Secretariat and reps for all SPCs, LCDC and JPC; the previous elections had been run by the Local Authority; this time it was very much PPN owned, good engagement from groups and fresh blood - we also took into consideration the gender balance and regional representation.
- ▶ Waterford PPN have taken the initiative in driving the regional network: drawing up draft Terms of Reference, getting them agreed and formalising the structure.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Westmeath – Impacts

- ▶ Westmeath PPN has been working to ensure that the timing of meetings facilitates greater participation by Representatives. Some success with 2 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) and Westmeath Community Development (WCD); also, some success in timing of consultation meetings with Municipal Districts.
- ▶ Westmeath PPN made 9 Submissions on behalf of its member groups to Westmeath Joint Policing Committee (JPC):
 - RAPID groups requesting that the Local Authority enforce its Anti-Social Behaviour Policy in Local Authority estates and remind any LA tenants of their responsibilities as tenants - this was done.
 - Rise in Drug Dealing in rural communities - Noted by Gardaí.
 - Illegal dumping of rubbish, especially drug litter - training of LA staff put in place - New Local Authority helpline put in place - Community Training put in place.
 - Westmeath PPN requested update on the National CCTV scheme and if this scheme will be implementable in Westmeath -This is a national issue/ongoing.
 - Support the delivery of further Anti-Intimidation Training to Community groups to facilitate them dealing with intimidation on the ground. (Train the Trainer) - Agreed, not yet taken place.
 - Build and Design safety - New estates' plans should be viewed by Gardaí re safety in estates and retrospective building or conversions (side windows etc.). - Agreed in place.
 - Request for the enforcement of speed limits/zones (30km) in housing estates – ongoing.

- Support and Promote the development and distribution of a “Community Safety booklet”. - Agreed not yet in place, WPPN to lead.

- Support the “Road Safety Event” organised by Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg. - Very successful event - to be an annual event.

- ▶ Following consultations with Westmeath PPN members; Westmeath PPN submission to Westmeath Joint Policing Committee (JPC) that the following 3 themes be prioritised for action by Westmeath JPC in its Strategic Plan 2020-25:

- Road Safety • Anti-social Behaviour • Drugs & Drug Dealing

All of the above were agreed for inclusion in Westmeath JPC New Strategic Plan 2020-25. Westmeath PPN JPC Reps were also invited to attend and input into the JPC full day workshop on New Strategic Plan.

- ▶ Westmeath PPN submissions to Mullingar Municipal District for 2019 Budgets. Seventy submissions were received by Westmeath PPN from its member groups for submission to Mullingar Municipal District. The submissions were categorised under 5 main themes as follows:

- Landscaping; • Facilities; • Other.
- Public Lighting; • Road Safety;

The following are the results of these 70 Submissions:

- 46 Acted upon / Completed
 - 10 Delayed due to Budgetary Constraints in 2019
 - 14 Referrals
-

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Westmeath – Impacts

Continued...

- ▶ Westmeath PPN submissions to Athlone Municipal District. Sixty-Seven submissions were received by Westmeath PPN from its member groups for submission to Athlone Municipal District. These 67 submissions were categorised into 6 main Themes as follows:
 - Environmental Concerns
 - Road Safety
 - Anti-Social Behaviour
 - Public Lighting
 - Social Supports
 - Other.
- ▶ The following are the results of these 67 submissions:
 - 49 Acted upon/ Completed
 - 9 Delayed due to Budgetary Constraints in 2019
 - 9 Referrals

Name of PPN: Wexford – Impacts

- ▶ Wexford PPN LCDC reps have a good record of attendance at the LCDC and LAG meetings and frequently bring up or comment on issues of concern to the groups they represent. Also, a presentation was made to the LCDC by one of our LCDC PPN Reps on Universal Basic Wage.
- ▶ Wexford PPN launched our Vision for Community Wellbeing document in 2019. It provides a good basis on collating the issues of concern to community groups across the county. There was a wealth of specific information gathered during the consultation process which can be used to inform specific requests and actions in the future. In particular this should feed into the Healthy County Plan and related initiatives.
- ▶ The regular newsletter emails issued by Wexford PPN office provide a comprehensive and valuable source of information for community groups. Improved formatting in Salesforce if possible would be helpful to make them more user friendly.
- ▶ Wexford PPN supports the Ferns BFriendly Service - pilot befriending service as above which provides a friendly call to approximately 15 clients in the Ferns area of the county weekly. This has proved extremely successful and the plan is to go back to the LCDC to secure funding to run a county wide befriending service on a permanent basis.
- ▶ Wexford PPN's Dementia Friendly Pilot Project - Buncloody Dementia Awareness Pilot Project. PPN Rep in collaboration with HSE worked on Dementia pilot project aimed at businesses, young people and local representatives in the Buncloody area with training provided. Report produced and circulated and it hoped to roll this initiative out countywide through the Healthy County Plan.

Appendix 3: Impacts by PPN

Name of PPN: Wicklow — Impacts

- ▶ Wicklow PPN have good relationships with Wicklow County Council and through our submission to the SPC scheme the following outputs were achieved: Co. Wicklow PPN were allocated 2 seats on the newly formed Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC (one for the east and one for the west of the county). An environmental seat for PPN Representatives was created on SPCs that did not previously have one. This has strengthened the Environmental Voice in WCC policy making committees and increased citizen engagement.
- ▶ Wicklow PPN began circulating the agendas for the Municipal District Meetings. In addition, we directed members to where they could find the contact details for elected representatives and previous minutes. Anecdotal evidence tells us that this has encouraged communities to engage with their Municipal District with PPN members attending meetings, contacting their local reps and actively looking for the Agendas when they have at times been delayed.
- ▶ Wicklow PPN ran Meet the Candidate events in all of the 5 Municipal Districts where all candidates were asked, and signed a pledge to work towards achieving the Visions for Community Wellbeing. These meetings provided the opportunity for candidates to give a brief introduction to themselves and then to meet the community by circulating around the tables (cafe style) which provided a more informal and safe space for better engagement.
- ▶ Through working closely with Wicklow Travellers Group and the Travellers Primary Healthcare Team, Wicklow PPN has encouraged and supported a Traveller Woman to sit on the Board of Wicklow County Childcare Committee.

- ▶ Wicklow PPN organised two meetings (one East and one West) to discuss the Policing Plan for the county and to develop a community submission to it. These meetings resulted in the development of our Policing, Safety & Security Thematic Network. Additionally, the meeting in West Wicklow acted as a catalyst for the development of a Baltinglass Community Alert Group which continues to meet and work closely with the local community Garda.

- ▶ Conversations that took place during Wicklow PPN's Community Wellbeing Consultations and an outreach engagement in Blessington along with the natural development of a North Wicklow Environmental Network prompted our PPN to collaborate with the IEN on an Environmental Networking event in West Wicklow. A call was made at the meeting to find interested parties that might develop a West Wicklow Environmental Network. A group formed and the PPN Support Worker facilitated the first three meetings to support the group to develop its aims and objectives. The group continued to grow in strength and went on to nominate and act as a linkage group for the PPN Rep to the Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Carlow – Example

- ▶ Timing is again an issue - time in which they notify the PPN, if at all, and time allowed for the public to respond to the consultation. Always seems to be rushed. Adequate time not given from notification to closing date for submissions. Also, Plain English not adhered to in the majority of cases.

Name of PPN: Cavan – Example

- ▶ Where online consultations or written ones are required this has worked well but more participative consultations have resulted in lower engagement. E.g. good submissions for Interconnector issue but lack lustre attendance at in-person consultation with agency.

Name of PPN: Clare – Example

- ▶ Community Policing Consultation
 - Circulated press release re: community policing submission.
 - ▶ Draft Spatial & Economic Strategy
 - Attended stakeholders meeting on the Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy.
 - Held training session on submission to Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy.
 - Circulated draft and online survey.
 - Made draft available at specific desk in office for written submissions.
 - Clare PPN made a submission to Draft.
 - ▶ Clare County Council Heritage 2030 consultation
 - Held Heritage Plan consultation event with members.
 - Sent submission on Heritage 2030 Plan.
 - ▶ National Volunteer Strategy
 - Co-facilitated consultations in six venues across the county.
 - Made submission based on consultations.
- ▶ Clare Arts Plan
 - Held public consultation event.
 - Made submission based on consultation.
 - ▶ Submission on review of PPNs
 - Made submissions to Department of Community and Rural Development in advance of their consultation on the use of private company legal structures for PPNs.
 - ▶ Oireachtas Committee on Justice and Equality
 - In consultation with member group, made a written submission to Committee on Direct Provision.
 - ▶ Clare County Council Traveller Accommodation Plan
 - Held consultation event with Primary Health Workers on TAP.
 - Made submission to the Draft Traveller Accommodation Plan.
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Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Clare – Example

Continued...

- ▶ Clare County Council SPC Scheme
 - Circulated survey to database on SPC scheme.
 - Made submission to the Draft SPC Scheme resulting in an extra environmental pillar rep.
- ▶ Clare County Council Climate Adaptation Strategy
 - Attended meeting with Minister regarding Climate Adaptation Strategy.
 - Held consultation event attended by 40 individuals representing 27 environmental groups.
 - Made joint submission to the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy.
 - Attended Council meeting in observatory role re: ratification.
- ▶ Clare County Council Corporate Plan
 - Held consultation with reps and secretariat on draft Corporate plan.
 - Circulated draft Corporate Plan via database for comment from PPN members.
 - Made submission on Draft Corporate Plan (PPN not included at drafting stage).
- ▶ Consultation on Ireland's Long-term Strategy on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction
 - Made submission from PPN gathered from input to previous climate related submissions.
- ▶ Consultation on the Draft National Marine Planning Framework
 - Attended public consultation on behalf of Clare PPN.

Name of PPN: Cork City – Example

- ▶ Major local consultations were highlighted for members through mass email, mailouts, website, and social media campaigning. A new online consultation platform was launched on www.corkcityppn.ie in August 2019 to facilitate remote engagement in consultations, this platform uses survey monkey to draw in feedback when consultations are active.

Unfortunately consultations such as that relating to the Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy involved a very limited lead in, which made it very difficult for us to respond effectively and include our members in consultations - this was particularly a problem in hampering the organisation of workshops and meetings. A greater level of notice would have helped us to provide sufficient notice to members wishing to contribute and plan our work accordingly.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Cork County – Example

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ January 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cork Volunteer Centre, focus groups on National Volunteering Strategy. • Meeting between Cork County & Cork City PPN Boundary subcommittee on proposed boundary extension. • Public consultation on proposals to modernise the electoral registration process. ▶ February 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Input into Visitor Experience Development Plan for area from Kinsale to Ballydehob, Haven Coast VEDP. ▶ March 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on review of PPN User Guide by DRCD. • European Anti-Poverty Network Citizens Dialog Workshop, <i>What is the role of the EU in supporting a more equal society.</i> • Heritage Ireland 2030, A new national Heritage Plan for Ireland. • Draft Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy for the Southern Region Public Consultation Days. ▶ April 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cork County Council Information meeting on Durseys Island Cable Car Project. • Industrial Heritage of County Cork, Public engagement. ▶ May 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revitalising Rural Ireland Citizens Dialogue event in Waterford. • All PPN groups impacted by boundary change notified to complete online survey. • Public Consultation on National Social Enterprise Policy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ June 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PPN User Handbook, 2nd draft. • Lough Fadda & Ownagappul Streams public meetings. ▶ August 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Survey re Insurance costs for PPN member groups. ▶ September 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rural Policy 2020 Public Consultation Survey. ▶ October 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Three Heads Visitor Experience Development Plan in partnership with Comhar na nOileán, Fáilte Ireland & Kittiwake Solutions. ▶ November 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public consultation for East Cork PPN groups on proposed Celtic Interconnector with Eirgrid. • CCC Proposed Variation No. 2 on Retail Outlet Centres of Cork County Development Plan 2014. • Information meetings on The River Basin Management Plan 2018-2021. • Public consultation on Cork railway line level crossings upgrades. • Public consultation for new national policy for Ireland's Offshore Islands. • Irish Environmental Network, online discussion. |
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Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Donegal – Example

- ▶ Donegal PPN made 3 Submissions in 2019
 - Draft Climate Change Adaptation Strategy.
 - SPC Draft Plan.
 - Draft Corporate Plan.

Name of PPN: Dublin City – Example

- ▶ PPN members are notified and invited to public consultations by the LA. Further discussions and consultations are arranged by the LA if requested by the PPN.

Name of PPN: Dún Laoghaire / Rathdown – Example

- ▶ We distribute information about local and national consultations through multiple means of communication, including direct email to our members, Ezine newsletter, website posts and social media share. We also provide support and guidance when queries arise.
- ▶ We organised 4 workshops and circulated surveys for local DLR consultations. We made 2 submissions on behalf of the DLR PPN.

Name of PPN: Fingal – Example

- ▶ Members are informed of local and national consultations by monthly newsletter.
- ▶ Linkage Groups are often involved in Consultations where a rep has attended meetings e.g. Fingal Coastal Way, Dublin Airport Local Area Plan, Fingal Archaeology Strategy and Bus Connects.
- ▶ Fingal PPN attended many public consultations including Broadmeadow Way and Masterplan for Swords.
- ▶ Emails are sent to specific groups (geographical areas) e.g. Cycle and Pedestrian routes on Harry Reynolds Road, Balbriggan and School Streets Scheme in Malahide.
- ▶ Workshops were held with PPN members on Fingal Digital Strategy, Fingal Biodiversity Plan and Fingal Climate Action Plan.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Galway City – Example

▶ GCCN is particularly concerned with the promotion of meaningful and effective participation of communities in the decision-making processes that affect their lives. GCCN is deeply committed to the principles of participation, representation and consultation as we believe that:

- It is the right of people to participate in decisions and policies that affect them and their communities;
- The participation of people and communities benefit and improve decision-making and policy development.

This principle is reflected in the recent publication of the Office of the Planning Regulator, Increasing Public Engagement in Local Authority Development Plans: A communications toolkit, that states, ‘The need to encourage greater participation in local decision-making and the importance of citizens playing a role in influencing the plans which affect their lives and communities is well recognised. Increased participation by communities in local plan-making is good for the development of communities and good for local democracy’ (p.3).

In that context, GCCN actively encourages and facilitates engagement in relation to making policy submissions at local and national level. We have developed and adopted a model for the development of submissions, all of which are based on the GCCN Policies and Positions document:

- Information about the consultation or call for submission is circulated to all members.
- A workshop/thematic group meeting is held to discuss the issue.
- A draft submission is prepared by the GCCN resource worker and circulated for comment.
- A final draft is then prepared and submitted.

▶ GCCN actively participates in written submissions in two ways. We inform members and encourage them to make their own submissions and we request members input into formulating submissions compiled and submitted by GCCN. In 2019, GCCN submissions included:

- Busking and Street Performance Byelaws.
- Climate Adaptation Strategy.
- Hate Speech Legislations.
- Galway City Council Corporate Plan.
- PPN user Guide Review.
- Seanad Traveller Consultation.
- The National Social Enterprise Policy.
- Draft Strategic Policy Committees’ Scheme 2019-2024.
- The National Volunteering Strategy.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Galway County – Example

- ▶ We consulted our members on the issues they would like highlighted to the prospective Councillors and we engaged a consultant to produce a report on the findings which was presented to the PPN members at a public session prior to the election.
- ▶ The appropriate fora for these findings were the SPCs but because they did not meet in late 2019 we did not have an opportunity to address the issues. These will be presented through the PPN reps at the upcoming SPC meetings.
- ▶ Notice of the following consultations taking place was sent out to all PPN:
 - Consultation on a Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy 2019 – 2024.
 - Litter Management Plan 2019 – 2024.
 - Public Consultation Waste Action Plan for a Circular Economy.
 - Arts Plan 2019 – 2024- 2 Public meetings held for this one in Claregalway and Maam Cross.
 - Heritage Ireland 2030 Consultation meeting (Heritage Management Plan 2019-2021).

Name of PPN: Kerry – Example

- ▶ The Kerry PPN actively took part and contributed to 19 consultations in 2019.
 - KCC Corporate Plan.
 - Strategic Policy Committee.
 - Housing Strategy.
 - KCC Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy.
 - Local Property Tax.
 - Kerry as a tourism destination.
 - Volunteering Strategy.
 - Kerry PPN to LCDC.
 - PPN Consultation on the PPN User Guide.
- DRCD Stakeholders consultation.
- Independent review of Community Services Programme.
- KCC, Draft Traveller Accommodation Programme.
- Consultation, A new Diaspora Policy for Ireland.
- Social Inclusion Strategy, both in County Kerry and Dublin.
- Kerry Diocesan Youth Services Strategic Action Plan.
- Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy for the Southern Region.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Kildare — Example

- ▶ Kildare PPN held a workshop to make a submission for the Kildare County Council Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy on Solas Bhride, Kildare on the 2nd of July 2019.
- ▶ Kildare PPN held a workshop to make a submission to the Kildare County Council Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2023 on the 14th of November 2019 in the Osprey Hotel.
- ▶ The Resource Worker attended the National Volunteer Strategy Consultation the 4th of February 2019 representing the PPN.

- ▶ The Resource Worker and support worker attended the Kildare Volunteer Centre Strategic Plan Workshop consultation 16th October 2019.
- ▶ 18 National Public Consultations advertised.
- ▶ 8 Regional Public Consultations advertised.

Name of PPN: Kilkenny — Example

- Graiguenamanagh/Tinnahinch Local Area Plan 2020 (16/10).
- Input on Kilkenny Draft Retail Strategy (17/10).
- Kilkenny County Council Draft Corporate Plan 2019-2024 (17/10).
- Draft Strategic Policy Committee Scheme 2019-2024.
- Abbey Quarter Demolition of Maturing Building (25/06).
- Ormonde Street Urban Enhancement (14/06).
- Piltown Urban Enhancement (07/06).
- Kilkenny County Council Climate Action Adaptation Strategy 2019-2024 (17/06).
- Proposed Material Alternations to the Draft Callan Local Area Plan 2019 (07/02).
- Proposed Material Alterations to the Draft Thomastown Area Plan 2019 (31/01).

- Heritage Ireland 2030 (20/03).
- Consultation on the Future Regulation and Quality Improvement Framework for School Age Childcare (21/05).
- Draft National Volunteer Strategy 2020-2025 (20/12).
- Review of User Guide for PPN's (09/03).
- Consultation on the Irish Language Scheme 2020-2022 (13/11).
- Hate Speech Consultation (24/10).
- Pathways to Work Strategy Call for Submissions (26/08).
- Plant Health and Bio Security Strategy 2020-2025 (14/08).
- Draft Climate Change Sectoral Adaptation Plan for Flood Risk Management (19/07).
- Ireland's Diaspora Policy Consultation (03/04).
- Cyber Security Strategy Public Consultation (19/03).

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Laois – Example

- Laois PPN “Access for All” Disability Awareness Consultation.
- Vision for Community Wellbeing Consultation – Westmeath.
- Mountrath Public Meeting – Consultation hosted by Laois PPN.
- Midlands Region PPN (MRPPN) Tidy Town/Environmental Pillar Consultation.
- PPN User guide Consultation.
- Consultation on Rural Ireland – Dolmen Hotel Carlow.
- Laois Digital Strategy.
- Draft SPC Scheme 2019-2024.
- County Development Plan.
- Disability Strategy 2017-2020.
- Laois County Council Corporate Plan 2019-2024.

Name of PPN: Leitrim – Example

- ▶ Consultation on Forestry in Leitrim: Beginning in 2018 Leitrim PPN held one major consultation on Forestry in Leitrim, the aim of which was to provide an opportunity for the views of local people to be recorded for presentation to the Leitrim Strategic Policy Committee for Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning. The consultation involved an online and hard copy survey which was distributed through email, post, in the county libraries and at public meetings. This consultation process continued through to March 2019. Over 150 submissions were received. A comprehensive report was brought before the SPC on April 23rd 2019.

The meeting agreed the following motion: That Leitrim Economic Planning and Development SPC accepts and welcomes the report (“Public Consultation on Forestry Activities in County Leitrim”), recognising the active citizenship shown by Leitrim communities and Leitrim PPN in communicating their views on forestry activities in Leitrim and in exploring how forestry can best contribute to the well-being of the communities and people of Leitrim.

That, in response to the report, this SPC will study the report and in relation to each objective will advise the PPN (a) the means (be it policy, plans, programmes, authority or other mechanism) by which the Local Authority can contribute to achieving the objective, or (b) the reasons the local authority cannot contribute to achieving the objective. That this SPC commits to bringing the report to the full council for discussion prior to completion of the CPD review. A new SPC was subsequently formed in February of 2020. The matter is yet to be finalised.

- ▶ National and local consultations were issued on the website and highlighted in newsletters with members urged to consider the issues and submit especially when submissions were easy to make through questionnaire type surveys.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Limerick — Example

- ▶ All Council consultations post-August 2019 were communicated to the PPN staff. Any national or local public consultations the staff became aware of were also distributed primarily via social media. The focus remained, however on the governance structures of Limerick PPN.

Name of PPN: Longford — Example

- ▶ Three PPN Municipal District consultations held to support member groups to develop Election Mandates 2019 based on PPN Community Wellbeing Vision Statements (12-14/02).
 - ▶ Submissions:
 - Intercultural Strategy.
 - Healthy Ireland.
 - Corporate Plan.
 - Strategic Policy Scheme.
- ▶ PPN Disability Reps consulted on Longford Town Access Plan (23/01 and 17/07).
- ▶ Intercultural Forum consultation (06/03 and 23/05).

Name of PPN: Louth — Example

- ▶ Members are informed of local and national consultations by monthly newsletter.
- ▶ PPN Members attended the National PPN Conference.
- ▶ The PPN carried out a Community Consultation in 2019.

Name of PPN: Mayo — Example

- ▶ County Development Plan.
- ▶ Corporate Plan.
- ▶ Healthy Ireland Plan.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Meath – Example

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ January 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slane Bypass, Have You Local Knowledge to Share? (17/01). • Irish Wetland Bird Survey 22nd January (18/01). • Give Your Views on Volunteering (23/01). • Have your say on the new National Heritage Plan (24/01). ▶ February 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your say about the integration of new communities in Meath & Louth (11/02). • Have your say on Meath's Digital Strategy (11/02). • DRCD Customer Action Plan and Customer Charter (15/02). • Have your say on integrating new communities in Meath & Louth (22/02). ▶ March 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your say on the HI Healthy Meath Strategy (08/03). • PPN Handbook: Consultation Process (08/03). • Have your say on the new National Heritage Plan: extended public consultation (20/03). ▶ April 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have your say on the Meath & Louth Migrant Strategy (05/04). • Have your say on National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland (29/04). ▶ May 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept. Rural and Community Development: Consultation events re Rural Policy (03/05). • Residents: What's happening in your estate? (22/05). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ June 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Save the Date: National Stakeholders Forum 11th October – Mobile Phone & Broadband Task Force (13/06). • Climate Action Strategy for County Meath – Public Consultation (19/06). ▶ July 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Member Survey on Insurance Costs & Impact (08/07). • Have your say on the Draft SPC Scheme for Meath County Council (10/07). • Meath Digital Strategy Draft – Have Your Say (18/07). • Have your say on the Draft Litter Management Plan for Meath (19/07). • Proposed Amendments to Foreshore Byelaws 2010 – Public Consultation (19/07). ▶ August 2019 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meath Digital Strategy Draft – Have Your Say (13/08). • Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy (28/08). • What would make your community the best place to belong? (30/08). • Insurance Survey – Results (30/08). |
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Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Meath – Example

Continued...

- ▶ September 2019
 - Review of Local Community Development Committees (02/09).
 - Rural Policy 2020 – Public Consultation Survey (10/09).
 - DRCD Rural Policy Consultation – Town Hall events (13/09).
 - MCC Climate Action Strategy (19/09).
 - Kells MD: What would make your community the best place to belong? Have your say on Friday 4th October in Kells. (23/09).
- ▶ October 2019
 - Have your say on Meath County Council’s Corporate Plan for 2019-2024 (07/10).
 - Have your say on Boyne Greenway proposals (08/10).
 - Information Meeting: What’s happening in the Inny River and L. Sheelin catchment? 16th October, Oldcastle (09/10).
 - Find out what’s happening in the Broadmeadow River Catchment: 29th October (17/10).
- ▶ November 2019
 - N2 Slane Bypass – Public Consultation (07/11).
 - Call for Expressions of Interest – Community and Voluntary Sector Stakeholder Seats (21/11).
 - Have your say on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy (26/11).
 - Have your say on New Environmental Levies Proposal (27/11).
 - Our County, Our Voice: What do we want for the future of Meath? (29/11).
- ▶ December 2019
 - Launch of “Solving Our Own Problems” Report: 16th December, Kells (11/12).
 - Have your say on the new Draft PPN Handbook (13/12).
 - Notice of preparation of the draft Meath County Development Plan 2020-2026 (18/12).
 - Draft National Volunteering Strategy: launch of public consultation (20/12).

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Monaghan – Example

- ▶ Monaghan PPN informed its membership of 20 consultations in 2019. The majority were local authority consultations (Age Friendly, Migrant Strategy, WiFi 4 U and N2 Major roads consultations). Others were government department consultations.
- ▶ Monaghan PPN hosted a consultation workshop with Healthy Monaghan team and following that made a submission to their plan.
- ▶ Monaghan also informed its members of consultations/surveys from other organisations.
- ▶ Monaghan PPN made written submissions to the Monaghan County Council Strategic Policy Scheme.

- ▶ The PPN held a joint consultation workshop with Monaghan Volunteer centre and following that made a submission to the National Volunteer strategy.
- ▶ Environment staff were invited to meet the plenary and provide them with information on their Climate Action Adaptation strategy so that members could make a submission if they wished to do so.
- ▶ The PPN also held a Reaps Network “Think In” to consider the PPN User Guide back in February 2019 and as a result made a submission on same.

Name of PPN: Offaly – Example

- Public Meetings
- Public Realm
- Community Art
- Online
- Social Enterprise
- Volunteering

- Submissions
- Climate change
- Age Friendly

Name of PPN: Roscommon – Example

- ▶ Roscommon PPN did not have a Secretariat in 2019 and the Resource Worker was on maternity leave until October 2019.

Name of PPN: Sligo – Example

- Sligo climate adaptation plan
- National volunteering strategy
- Sligo Disability Plan
- PPN user guide
- Sligo SPC scheme

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: South Dublin – Example

- ▶ There were a number of consultations that the PPN put out to members and compiled feedback for submissions, e.g. our Environment Pillar held a Climate Change Workshop and the feedback gathered there was used for the submission to the Draft Climate Change Action Plan.

Submissions from the LA that the PPN sent out to groups include:

- SDCC Digital Strategy Consultation
- Consultation on proposed play spaces in Newcastle
- Draft scheme for the establishment of SPCs
- 300k – *Have your say 2019*
- Public consultation Draft Irish Language scheme
- SDCC Corporate Plan 2020-24 Survey
- Draft Litter Management Plan
- Draft Tallaght Town Centre Local Area Plan Consultation

Name of PPN: Tipperary – Example

- ▶ All consultations that are sent to us are distributed in our Newsletters or as once off emails.

Name of PPN: Waterford – Example

- ▶ All consultations that are sent to us are distributed in our Newsletters or as once off emails.

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Westmeath – Example

- Consultation on Further Education and Training (FET) Strategy May 2019
 - Consultation on Westmeath PPN Draft Constitution
 - Workshops - Westmeath Vision for Community Wellbeing
 - Have your Say National Volunteering Strategy Workshop / Meetings
 - Gageborough River Public consultation
 - Have your Say on Westmeath Digital Strategy
 - Consultation/Survey Housing Needs for Older Persons
 - Insurance Survey - Help Us to Help Your Group
 - Westmeath Public Participation Network (WPPN) to lead Vision for Community Wellbeing
 - Public Consultation - Electoral Registration 2019
 - Public JPC Meeting and consultation
- Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy
 - Public invited to have their say on issues impacting on rural Ireland
 - Seeking submissions Westmeath Joint Policing Committee (JPC) Strategic Work Plan
 - We NEED You! Community Wellbeing Consultation Draft Document 2019
 - Westmeath PPN needs your input to national submission on insurance
 - Westmeath Recreational Strategy Public Consultation Have Your Say
 - Consultation on Westmeath PPN action plan 2020/2021

Name of PPN: Wexford – Example

- ▶ This happens a lot and takes many forms. Usually at least the Resource Worker will attend consultations and report back; Environment Linkage Group (for instance) will attend relevant consultations; we increasingly work with SE Regional PPN Network for more regional consultation exercises; written submissions as well - could be simply on an SPC issue or a national or regional (e.g. SE Regional Assembly) where we might coordinate with regional colleagues;

Appendix 4: Views on Consultations / Consultation Examples

Name of PPN: Wicklow – Example

- ▶ Through Member News-bulletins, Email and Facebook raised awareness of 12 National, 1 Regional and 16 Local Consultations.
- ▶ In addition, our PPN held Consultations with member groups and interested parties in relation to 1 National, 1 Regional and 4 Local Consultations.
- ▶ A representative of our PPN attended meetings in regard to 1 Local and 1 National Consultation.
- ▶ Co. Wicklow PPN runs an annual consultation with member groups to give direction to its Annual Workplan.

- ▶ Co. Wicklow PPN made written submissions to 3 National, 1 Regional and 10 Local Consultations. Co. Wicklow PPN Submissions were made to: Co. Wicklow Policing Plan, Bray Area Partnership and Co. Wicklow Partnership SICAP Plans; WCC Corporate Plan; Wicklow County Development Plan; WCC Draft Climate Change Strategy; WCC Draft SPC Scheme; Letter Re WCC Local Property Tax adjustment; Bray Health Check; PPN User Guide Review; EMRA Regional Spatial & Economic Strategy; Draft National Volunteering Strategy; Co. Wicklow Outdoor Recreation Strategy; and Heritage 2030. All are available to view on our website.

Our PPN Community

