

### County Wicklow PPN Report – June 2021

Membership	Total Members 376 (20 new 2021)
Networking/ Working Locally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Participating in Community Response Forum (CRF) meeting 22<sup>nd</sup> June Contact through the Community Call has decreased significantly. Acknowledged that meetings are useful for information sharing and will continue on a monthly basis.</li> <li>• Collaborating with WCC and Local Link Transport Service to address transport and access issues for the residents of the Rathmore Direct Provision Centre. A response to a letter from the PPN was received from The Dept. Children, Equality, Disability, Integration &amp; Youth stating that the Rathmore centre has “recently been allocated with funding in order to improve transport links to and from the centre. There is now a bus running from the centre into Wicklow and Ashford on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. In addition, there is also a bus that runs to Newtown Mount Kennedy, a shopping bus once a week to Greystones, a post office bus to Ashford on Friday and a church run on Sunday to Ashford. As such there is at least one bus a day into Ashford or Wicklow”. Seeking clarification that these services are now being implemented.</li> <li>• Attended the WCC Access and Inclusion Group meeting 3 June. The PPN Resource Worker presented a proposal put together in collaboration with Disability Federation Ireland, Childre &amp; Young Peoples Services Committee, Bray Area Partnership, Co Wicklow Partnership and Cllr. Miriam Murphy. The proposal contained a Tender to engage a consultant to develop a guide for community groups and service providers that would support them to be more inclusive of people with disabilities. The committee is reviewing the proposal with the possibility of providing funding for it to progress.</li> </ul>
Networking/ Working Regionally, & Nationally	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attended a Dept Rural &amp; Community Development’s webinar which focused on Our Rural Future. Presentations, Questions &amp; Answers were conducted by Minister Joe O’ Brien and Dept officials</li> <li>• Attended a meeting organised by Feasta which explored the development of creating a Wellbeing Economy Hub for the Island of Ireland</li> </ul>
PPN Meetings/ Specific Work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPN Secretariat Meeting 8<sup>th</sup> June. Secretariat minutes are available on the PPN website.</li> <li>• PPN Policy Development Sub-Group Meeting 16<sup>th</sup> June. Continue Constitution review, and the development of Nomination &amp; Election policy.</li> <li>• Collated the information from PPN Reps and various reports to fill the 2020 Annual Report Template which was submitted to Dept. Rural &amp; Community Development ahead of the 14 June deadline. The report template consisted of over 120 questions covering all aspects and procedures of the PPN’s work.</li> <li>• The June Plenary (members meeting) took place on Wed 30 June. The theme of the summer plenary was “Valuing Our Ethnic Minorities”. The 49 attendees approved the PPN 6-month work &amp; finance report prior to taking part in a brief poll to explore members experiences in access and making a submission to the County</li> </ul>

	<p>Development Plan. They then listened to speakers from Wicklow Travellers Group, Africa Irish Society of Wicklow and Rathmore Direct Provision Centre. The speakers talked about what has helped them to feel included in Co Wicklow as well as the times that they have felt excluded and faced discrimination. Focus group discussions were themed around the questions in the Towards a National Action Plan Against Racism for Ireland Public Consultation Document. The evening ended with a photo montage from Wicklow Travellers Group and an uplifting video that the AISW put together to celebrate Africa Day</p>
<p>Representation Consultations/ Submissions *Submissions available to view on PPN website</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Held a meeting of PPN Secretariat members and PPN Representatives 15 June. The meeting included information about the PPN Review, using Chatter as a means to communicate, and training &amp; information opportunities. Reps had the opportunity to meet &amp; discuss their roles &amp; experiences in small groups, creating connections and providing peer support.</li> <li>• Developed a Resource Document to support member groups to access and make a submission to the Draft Wicklow County Development Plan 2021-2027. This included 2 videos that show how to get access to the CDP via the WCC website or by using the PPN Resource (which gives direct access), and how to use the online consultation portal to view the document and make submissions. The Resource also provides support to understand the CDP (the plan and the process of developing it) as well as providing tips, information, and templates to make a written submission.</li> <li>• Working with a sub-group of PPN Reps to use Chatter, an online platform connected to Salesforce. Chatter makes collaboration and networking easier, allowing a number of people with the same interest to share information, post updates &amp; ask questions. The aim is to set up Chatter groups to act as online Linkage Groups for PPN Reps.</li> <li>• Ran a survey to explore PPN members experiences in accessing and making a submission to the Draft County Development Plan. The responses will feed into the PPN submission to the current consultation.</li> <li>• Held focus group discussions at the PPN Plenary on the topic of racism and discrimination of our ethnic communities. Questions were also circulated to those members who could not attend on the night. The information will feed into a PPN submission to the public consultation on the National Action Plan Against Racism.</li> <li>• Encouraged engagement with: Draft Wicklow County Development Plan; Wicklow Town Team Feasibility Study for the Development of a Youth Theatre; SSE Renewables Arklow Windpark Survey; WCC Review of Recycling Centres; National Outdoor Recreation Strategy; Eirgrid Sustainability Survey; PPN Structural Review; Conference on the Future of Europe; Alliance for Insurance Reform: Assessing Community Benefits as a Result of New Judicial Guidelines on Personal Injury Damages; Marine Protected Areas for Ireland Town Hall Meetings; National Action Plan Against Racism; Community Foundation Ireland Training Needs Analysis for the Community Sector</li> </ul>

<p>Training &amp; Capacity Building</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resource Worker &amp; PPN Reps attended AILG Training: Housing Commitments in the Programme for Government and Affordable Housing Delivery 25 June</li> <li>• Highlighted/Advertised Training &amp; Workshops: Community Led Housing Webinar; ILMI CREATE (supporting people with disabilities into employment; Developing A Catchment Wide Restoration Plan; Community Energy Information Events</li> <li>• Highlighted/Advertised Funding Opportunities/Competitions: Communities Integration Fund; Wicklow Sports &amp; Recreation Partnership Club &amp; Community Supports Scheme; Community Enhancement Fund; Summer of Play Initiative; NALA Student Development Fund; Supervalu Tidy Towns Competition; Coca Cola Thank You Fund; Ecclesiastical Movement for Good Fund; Local Improvement Fund; Connected Hubs Fund; Outdoor Recreation Facilities Fund; LEADER Food Initiatives Fund</li> <li>• Update PPN Members Funding Handbook</li> </ul>
<p>Communications</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Circulated Update E Bulletin 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> &amp; 25<sup>th</sup> June</li> <li>• Website updates</li> <li>• Facebook 1669 likes (5 monthly inc) 2001 follows (16 monthly inc)</li> </ul>
<p>Outreach</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presented the benefits of joining a PPN to the managers of Clan (Age Friendly) Housing schemes across the country.</li> </ul>
<p>Administration/HR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Day to day correspondence, accounting and reporting</li> <li>• Resource Worker &amp; Support Worker Planning meetings</li> <li>• Resource Worker &amp; Support Worker Supervision meetings</li> <li>• HR Subgroup meetings</li> </ul>
<p>Planning/Upcoming Work</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 July National Resource Workers Meeting</li> <li>• 5 July PPN Liaison Subgroup meeting, bring Secretariat, Host Organisation, Local Authority and PPN Resource Worker together.</li> <li>• 6 July Meeting of PPN Reps on the CCSD SPC to develop a proposal to make some amendments to the Community Awards Application Form that will include environmental criteria and links to the SDGs as well as a proposal to run an information meeting about the work of the CCSD SPC.</li> <li>• 13 July Secretariat Meeting</li> <li>• 20 July Community Response Forum Meeting</li> <li>• 21 July Policy Subgroup Meeting</li> <li>• Make Submissions to the County Development Plan and the National Action Plan Against Racism</li> <li>• Planning &amp; Organising Autumn/Winter Workplan</li> <li>• Support Worker Annual Leave 13 – 16 July &amp; 26 July to 9 August</li> </ul>