



**Submission to Draft Guidelines - Joint Policing Committees  
September 2021**

**By**

**County Wicklow Public Participation Network**

**October 2021**



**MAKE CITIES AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INCLUSIVE,  
SAFE, RESILIENT AND SUSTAINABLE**



**PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE,  
ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS**



**STRENGTHEN THE MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND REVITALIZE  
THE GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

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## **Introducing County Wicklow Public Participation Network**

County Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) was established in July 2014 under the directive of the Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government and in accordance with legislation in the Local Government Reform Act 2014 (Section 46). Public Participation Networks were established to be an independent structure that would become the main link through which local authorities connect with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors in a process to facilitate communities to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system.

Co Wicklow PPN has 379 diverse member groups, some of these groups are networks in their own right. The PPN is rich in its diversity with member groups including, resident's associations, sports clubs, women & men's sheds, disability groups, Traveller groups, LGBT+ groups, community councils, arts groups and more.

PPN representatives serve as a voice for the community on structures including: the Local Community Development Committee; all of the Wicklow County Council Strategic Policy Committees; Wicklow County Childcare Committee; Co Wicklow Children & Young People's Services Committee; Co Wicklow Local Sports Partnership; Wicklow County Tourism Board; Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre, County Wicklow Partnership, and currently on the Co Wicklow Joint Policing Committee. PPN Representatives strive to ensure that the needs of the community sector are prioritised within local policy processes.

### **PPNs Nationally**

PPNs have been established in every local authority area in Ireland and by the end of 2020, 17,530 community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations were members of a PPN. Over 941 PPN representatives were elected to 410 committees on issues including strategic policy, local community development, joint policing and more.

### **Draft Guidelines – Joint Policing Committees September 2021**

Despite the success of sourcing community representatives for the Joint Policing Committee through the PPN structure to date, the guidelines state that the Steering Group of the JPC "arranges procedures for the appointment of any new or replacement members". It also states that "In relation to Community Members, each JPC should decide the most appropriate community-based representation".

The PPN membership has the broad diverse base of representation, including groups working towards social inclusion for marginalised communities that is highlighted as crucial throughout the document. The PPN has a proven record in consultation, inclusion, and engagement. The PPN also operates best practise in governance ensuring that our procedures for electing PPN Representatives are clear, inclusive, and effective. Feedback

from committees where the PPN has Representatives has always been positive with reports that PPN Representatives are engaged, committed, and bring valuable experience to their work.

Consequently, Co Wicklow PPN suggests that the community-based representation should be sourced through the PPN and hope that this is provided for in the final draft of the Guidelines