

County Wicklow PPN Mid-Year Report

Membership
<p>15 New member Group – Total membership now: 393 A list of all member groups is available on our website</p>
Networking/Working Locally
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Encouraging Engagement with Local Decision Making: Circulated WCC and MD Meeting dates and agendas to encourage public engagement with local decision making throughout the year• Disability & Inclusion Work: Actively participated in the WCC Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee. The PPN has particularly focused on the development and circulation of 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 PPN is also supporting the committee in running consultations that will support the development of a Disability Strategy for the County.• Creative Place Making: Wicklow Co. Co Arts Office ‘My Future Baltinglass’. Circulated information to our network and facilitated networking and collaboration with local community groups, local artists and creatives.• International Womens’ Day: In collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership, Womens’ Social Inclusion Network, the PPN and WCC ran a consultation with over 60 women from diverse backgrounds. The information collected will feed into the Co Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan and the PPN ‘Vision for our Community Wellbeing’• Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg: attended the 2022 Youth Summit and heard from the attendees (approx. 100) about their ‘Vision for our County’• Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan: Working collaboratively with WCC on public consultations which will help to inform the development of the new Wicklow LECP. Working collaboratively WCC/Wicklow LCDC and the PPN successfully secured funding (through the DRCD & Pobal) to pilot a project that will encourage hard to reach groups to engage with the LECP consultation process.• Presentation to WCC Elected Members: The presentation highlighted where the PPN has worked collaboratively with WCC and brought added value to various actions and pieces of work.• Wicklow Refugee Resettlement: The PPN contributes to the Co Wicklow Community Response Forum, Bray & North Wicklow Ukrainian Refugee Response Committee and to the West Wicklow Community Response Local Area Team. Both groups have been established to share information and coordinate supports to help those fleeing the war in Ukraine. In addition, the PPN worked with Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre to survey the community respond to the Ukraine crisis.• Community Centre & Halls Peer Support & Networking online session: 4 groups presented their work & experience of managing local community centres. The session discussed issues of ownership, governance, insurance, funding, and operational issues. 14 people joined the call.• Networked with Local organisations and groups (e.g., Slaintecare, Co. Wicklow Age Friendly Coordinator) and facilitated networking of groups for information and supports.
Networking/Working Regionally & Nationally
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Resource Workers Network: Attended Resource Worker Meetings & linked with PPN Workers in other counties to provide peer learning, shared experience & support. Worked with PPN colleagues across the county to collate PPN Rep experiences in engaging with Strategic Policy Committees

- **PPN National Advisory Group:** Attend meetings as 1 of the 3 Resource Worker Representatives on this committee chaired by the Dept. Rural & Community Development. Also participated in **Annual Report Sub-Group & Review Oversight Committee**
- **PPN National Secretariat Network:** A Secretariat member attended regular meetings & participated in sub-groups of this peer support network
- **PPN Conference:** Wicklow hosting of this conference has been rescheduled from 2020 to 2023. Work has begun on planning for the 2023 event. The 2022 conference will be hosted by Laois PPN and County Council.
- **Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2):** Worked in close collaboration with Irish Rural Link, WCC Environment Section, and the SEAI Sustainable Energy Community mentors from Kildare & Wicklow to develop and submit an application for significant funding under this scheme. The project is seeking funding to support voluntary Sustainable Energy Communities (SECs) in Wicklow, Kildare and Meath to implement their Energy Master Plans (EMPs). The project (if funded) will consult with SECs to identify the barriers to implementation so far as well as any supports they need. It will develop & provide training and information resources as well as supporting SECs to do demonstration projects. The whole process will be documented with the aim of developing a toolkit that will guide & support SECs across the country to implement the actions in their EMPs.
Notification of application outcome is expected imminently.
- **Roscommon Environmental Network & Coalition 2030 online workshops on the Local Economic & Community Plan:** Presented details of the work of Co. Wicklow PPN & WCC is doing to encourage engagement with consultations to inform the development of the LECP and the PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing. 89 people attended the workshops.
- **National PPN Network Insurance Webinar:** Attended this session which received presentations from Peter Boland, Alliance for Insurance Reform and BHP. Circulated presentations to PPN member groups.
- **National Disability Authority Focus Group** with Public Officials. Met with various Depts and government agencies to discuss best practise in consulting with People with Disabilities.
- **Community Climate Conversations:** Initial discussions with the Dept of Environment, Climate & Communications and planning has begun in relation to the holding of an online Community Climate Conversation in line with the format developed by the Dept. The outcome of the conversation will contribute to the Climate Action Plan.

PPN Meetings/Specific Work

- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat continued to advise and support the Resource Worker & Support Worker. Monthly meetings were held along with Emails, texts and calls when further help was needed.
- **Liaison Sub-Group:** A group consisting of 1 rep each from the Secretariat, the hosting organisation and WCC along with the Resource Worker. The group ensures that all local PPN Stakeholders are informed of the PPN's development & progress. 2 meetings held.
- **PPN Policy Development:** This subgroup of the Secretariat reviewed the PPN Constitution and Finance Policy.
The Service Level Agreements and Memoranda of Understanding for 2022 were finalised and signed by relevant parties.
- **PPN Annual Report:** The PPN Team (Secretariat, Representatives and PPN Workers) collaborated to complete the 2021 Annual Report. Over 100 questions sought information about; PPN membership; structures & networks; governance; representation; support; training; and events.

- **Governance:** Day to day correspondence, accounting, and reporting for PPN members, Secretariat, Host organisation, WCC and Dept. Rural & Community Development. Updating policies and procedures & running tendering processes where necessary.

Representation/Consultation/Submissions

Submissions available on the PPN website

- **PPN Representation/Committees:** At the end of May 2022 40 PPN Representatives sat across 18 committees & boards (This includes the Secretariat. The committees and our Reps are listed on our website). PPN Reps continued to represent the community on the committees they were assigned to in 2022. PPN Representative reports are available on our website.
- **PPN Representation/elections:** Ran nomination and election processes for various PPN representative positions throughout the year. 7 new Reps elected/nominated/elected in 2022.
- **Induction and information sharing & supports meetings for PPN Reps:** Facilitated introductions & inductions for new PPN Reps. In addition held peer support meetings with SPC Reps.
- **The County Local Economic & Community Plan & PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing;** Enabled PPN members and all citizens in Co. Wicklow to input to the development of both the LECP & PPN VCW through a variety of methods:
 - Online Survey
 - Written Submissions
 - Attendance at collaborative events: County Wicklow Partnership & Comhairle na nÓg events
 - In person consultation session in each of the 5 Municipal Districts
 - Online consultation session
 - Environmental focused consultation session

In total over 320 voices have been heard in this consultation to June 2022.
Additional voices will be heard through the pilot project that will encourage hard to reach groups to engage with the consultation process.
- **Submissions Made:** to the draft Wicklow County Council Customer Service Strategy using information received during the recent LECP/VCW consultations.
- **Consultations Highlighted:** Highlighted 32 opportunities for people to feed into various plans & strategies

Training, Capacity Building & Funding

- **Staff Training:** UN Convention on the rights of persons with disabilities and the public sector duty training, Dept session on running Community Climate Conversations, Salesforce training and Zoom training.
- **Member Group Training:**
 - **Meet the Funders** – ran over 2 sessions with presentations from 6 funders including Wicklow County Council. 62 people attended over the two sessions.
 - **Risk Management** (ran by PPN in collaboration with Carmichael) 20 attended
 - **Insurance for Community Groups** (ran by PPN in collaboration with BHP) 22 groups attended.
- **Resources:** All presentations & training resources available on our website.
- **Training Opportunities:** Highlighted/Advertised 19 Training Opportunities through social media and newsletters
- **Funding Supports:** Highlighted/Advertised 37 Funding Opportunities/Competitions through social media and newsletters

- **New Funding & Events page on PPN Website:** Developed, launched, and maintain new page on website which contains details of funding schemes and events. This replaces the PPN Funding Handbook.

Communications

- **Members Update Ebulletin:** 18 newsletters and information updates sent to our member groups to date.
- **Website:** Updated website throughout the year.
- **Facebook/Social Media:** Regular updates on Social Media throughout the year. Increased “likes” by 49 up to 1785 and increased followers by 98 up to 2200. We also manage “Include Us In” a Facebook Page dedicated to Social Inclusion information
- **Local Publicity:** 7 articles/adverts/reports Re Vision for Community Wellbeing /LECP Consultations.

Outreach

- Organised/attended meetings to support networking with member groups.
- Attended events including Wicklow County Council’s Library Service event for International Womens’ Day, Greystones LivComm Community Exhibition, Brockagh Community Hub launch, Tearmann Community Garden Annual Summer Celebration
- Meet with Community Liaison Officer from Codling Wind Park to discuss community connections and the benefits to the community from future funding opportunities through the community benefits fund.