

County Wicklow PPN 2022 Report to 31st December

PPN Membership
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 2022, 378 member groups – 11 Nov 2022, 404 member groups • We have welcomed 26 New Groups in 2022. A list of all member groups is available on our website
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 • Presentation to WCC Elected Members: PPN staff made a presentation to elected Members highlighting where the PPN has worked collaboratively with WCC and brought added value to various actions and pieces of work • Creative Places/My Future Baltinglass: PPN staff supported networking, information sharing, and linking of arts groups & creatives in Baltinglass with WCC Arts Office • Social Inclusion Work: In collaboration with Co Wicklow Partnership, organised and facilitated “Falling Through the Cracks” a look at hidden poverty in Co Wicklow to coincide with the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. Discussions focused on Food Poverty, Accommodation, and Isolation. A report was developed and is available on our website • Wicklow Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP): Worked collaboratively with WCC to join the consultations for the new Wicklow LECP to the consultations to review Our Vision for Community Wellbeing. This resulted in our PPN & WCC running an online survey and 8 consultation workshops to develop a Vision for the County and link the information provided by our communities into the LECP. Wicklow Women’s Social Inclusion Network with support from County Wicklow Partnership SICAP Programme facilitated one of the workshops on International Women’s Day. Over 60 women from diverse backgrounds engaged with us. Attended the Wicklow Comhairle na nÓg: 2022 Youth Summit and heard from the attendees (approx. 100) about their ‘Vision for our County’. In total we received approximately 2,000 inputs (ideas/issues/suggestions) from 300 people who represented 74 community groups & networks. Worked with WCC to participate in an LECP Engagement Pilot Project funded by Dept Rural & Community Development & managed by Pobal. Wicklow is one of four counties that were chosen to develop strategies that will encourage more engagement with the LECP process. A consultant was hired to engage with targeted groups in relation to their knowledge and participation in the LECP process. A report on the Wicklow process will be compiled in early 2023. Presentation to Coalition 2030 & Roscommon Environmental Network PPN staff presented our collaborative work on the LECP with WCC to over 90 attendees over 2 events • Disability & Inclusion Work: Actively participated in the WCC Disability & Inclusion Steering Committee. Particularly focusing on a proposal put together by our PPN in collaboration with Disability Federation Ireland, Children & 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 DISC committee accessed funding to progress this work. The guide was launched on 2/12 in the Arklow Bay Hotel. Ran a survey with PPN member groups to identify supports they need to enable them to be more accessible to People with Disabilities. PPN Staff attended a National Disability Authority Focus Group with Public Officials. The meeting discussed best practise in consulting with People with Disabilities.

- **Community Response to Ukraine Crisis:** Linked in with the Wicklow Community Response Forum for information sharing and peer support. Ran a **PPN/Co Wicklow Volunteer Centre Survey** to identify the response being provided by community groups with the aim of providing supports and addressing gaps. **West Wicklow Interagency Group:** PPN staff participate in this group that was set up to support refugees that have been re-located to West Wicklow.
- **Community Centre Network:** Hosted a peer support meeting for groups that are responsible for community centres. 4 groups presented their experience and discussed issues including ownership, governance, insurance, and operational issues
- **The Citizens Information & Co. Wicklow Network for Older People research project on Accessing Online Financial Services** – Focus Group in Donard. PPN staff organised a venue and promoted the session to people over 60 in the area.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** Worked with WCC Environmental Officer to develop and run a campaign for Sustainable Development Goals Week where community groups were invited to “Fill the Wheel and Map the Goals.” 15 case studies were submitted through the PPN for this initiative. The case studies were advertised on social media, our news update, local media and input on to the WCC SDG Mapping Tool.
- **Presentation to Local Authority Staff:** Made presentations to WCC students undertaking the Diploma in Local Government Studies and the Institute of Public Administration Certificate. A question in these courses related to PPNs.
- **Linking & Networking Our Members & Service Providers/Statutory Organisations:** Made beneficial connections between our member groups, statutory organisations, and service providers.

Networking - Working Regionally & Nationally

- **Resource Workers Network:** Attended Resource Worker Meetings & linked with PPN Workers in other counties to provide peer learning, shared experience & support throughout the year. **Advocacy Groups** worked with a sub-group of the network to develop a submission to DRCD for an increase in funding for PPNs. Worked with a subgroup of the network to make a Resource Workers submission to the PPN Review Report
- **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** & **PPN Review Oversight Committee**
- **PPN National Secretariat Network:** A Secretariat member attended regular meetings & participated in sub-groups of this peer support network
- **PPN Conference:** 8 Wicklow delegates attended the National PPN Conference in Portlaoise. The conference ran over 1.5 days and was an opportunity to spotlight the work of PPNs, share information and network, and learn about helpful initiatives. Plans are in process to host the 2023 Conference in the Arklow Bay Hotel on 5th & 6th October.
- **PPN Review:** PPN Review Report launched by DRCD and consultation opened for input on the findings/suggestions. A sub group of the Secretariat was set up to support a Wicklow PPN submission. PPN staff also worked with a sub group of the Resource Workers Network to develop a submission on the network’s behalf
- **PPN Support:** Met new Resource Workers in other counties to provide information and peer support
- **Eirgrid Roadshow:** PPN Staff supported the community consultation/communications team members to run 2 information events in Co Wicklow. PPN staff attended the Arklow event.
- **Climate Conversations:** Wicklow PPN Member Groups contributed to the Dept Environment, Climate & Communications in depth Climate Conversations in June. Discussions considered the effects of Climate Change, what communities are doing to

combat it, and what government can/should do to help. A report from the meeting is available on our website.

- **Community Climate Action Programme: Climate Education, Capacity Building and Learning by Doing (Strand 2):** Wicklow PPN was instrumental in gathering together a group that resulted in a collaboration with Irish Rural Link (IRL), Wicklow County Council, and Sustainable Energy Communities Mentors from Wicklow & Kildare to apply for funding to support Sustainable Energy Community Groups to implement their Energy Master Plans. A significant amount of time & effort was put into developing a very strong and worthwhile application which could have provided over €280,000 to support the work of SEC volunteers in Wicklow, Meath & Kildare. While our application scored 80% it was not enough to secure funding for our project. WCC is currently working to support the SEC groups in Wicklow.
- **PPN Review Report Implementation Group:** A working group has been formed at national level to develop an Implementation Roadmap to guide future action on how PPNs are structured and operated. PPN Secretariats, Representatives & Workers will be represented on this group. However, Wicklow PPN nominations to this committee were unsuccessful. The WCC Director of Services for Community, Cultural & Social Development represents the network of local authorities on this group
- **National Review of the Strategic Policy Committees Process:** The Dept Housing & Local Government is establishing a committee to review the current Local Authority Strategic Policy Committees structures & procedures. Each of the 31 PPNs have been invited to provide up to 3 nominations to this committee from their Secretariat & Representatives. However only 3 nominations from all nominees (a possibility of 93 nominations in total) will be selected to work on the committee. Nominations were submitted 30/9
- **Local Community Safety Partnership Pilot Project:** Attended a webinar about the development of the CSPs. The Dept. Justice provided an update on the pilot projects. A final evaluation will be conducted in 2023 and it is proposed to develop national structures to roll the project out across the country in 2024

PPN Meetings - Specific Work

- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat continued to advise and support the Resource Worker & Support Worker 11 meetings were held to date 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. 3 meetings held to date
- **HR Sub-Group:** Group includes 2 Secretariat Reps & Coordinator of Hosting Organisation. Set up to discuss & make recommendations to Secretariat on Staffing Management & Wellbeing.
- **PPN Summer Plenary (and street feast) 25/6 in CEART (Wicklow Travellers Group)** Wicklow Town. 25 people represented 20 member groups (49 apologies noted). The Plenary approved: 2022 Workplan, new member groups, new PPN Representatives, PPN Finance (budgets, expenditure, and processes), and amendments to the Constitution and Finance Policy
- **PPN Winter Plenary (online):** 32 people representing 28 member groups attended. A 2022 Works & Financial Report was presented. Members were asked to approve amendments to PPN policies as well as ratifying the appointment of PPN Representatives. Members approved the Draft 2023 Budget & Workplan. A presentation was provided to support members to make energy savings and to be more energy efficient.

- **PPN Policy Development:** A subgroup of the Secretariat that held 2 meetings to review & make recommendations of various PPN policies. 4 policies were amended and brought to members for approval including: Constitutions, Financial Policy, Communications Policy, Volunteer Policy
- **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 – Consultations - Submissions

- **PPN Representation/Committees:** At the end of the year 32 PPN Representatives sat across 17 committees & boards (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. Due to PPN governance procedures many PPN Reps come to the end of their allowable terms in 2022 **Induction meetings & support for PPN Representatives** took place throughout the year when needed
- **The County Wicklow Disability Strategy:** PPN Staff supported the development of the Wicklow Disability Strategy, providing information and encouraging engagement with the consultations
- **The County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy** PPN Staff supported the development of the Age Friendly Strategy, providing links to various groups & services that could support its development & implementation
- **Consultations Ran:** Collaborated with Dept. Environment, Climate & Communication to run Climate Conversations to feed into the Climate Action Plan, Ran 8 consultations to review Our Vision for Community Wellbeing and to feed into the WCC LECP consultations, Ran a survey with member groups to identify the supports they need to include People with Disabilities
- **Submissions Made:** Submitted to: WCC Customer Service Strategy, PPN Review Report (on behalf of Wicklow PPN and as part of Resource Workers Network group) Submission to WCC Elected Members in relation to recycling & waste disposal from inputs provided during our Vision for Community Wellbeing consultations. The possibility of introducing levies on using Wicklow Recycling centres was on the Agenda for the October council meeting. Submissions are available on our website
- **Consultations Highlighted:** Highlighted 86 opportunities for people to feed into various plans & strategies

Training – Capacity Building - Funding

- **Dept Webinars:** Attended the Communications Seminar focusing on developing national branding resources for PPNs. Attended advisory supports webinar introducing The Wheel & Adare HRM contracted by the Dept to support PPNs. Attended Dept webinar on the PPN Structural Review Report inputs and next steps. Attended a webinar on the “Basics of Employment & HR Practice” and “Successful Communications for Community & Voluntary Groups”
- **Staff Training:** Salesforce Database Training, Public Sector Duty Training, Salesforce Data Cleansing Training, Public Participation & Access to Justice on Environmental Matters, Canva Training
- **Member Group Training: Meet the Funders** – focus on funding streams administered by WCC & LEADER Funding 35 attendees benefited, 13/4 Meet the Funders – focus on corporate funding including presentations from Community Foundation Ireland, Sth. East Fisheries Local Action Group, Wind Farm Funding and Eirgrid 27 attendees received

information and tips, **Risk Management for Community Groups** facilitated by Carmichael Centre, 20 attendees received useful advice, **Insurance for Community Groups**, 22 groups received information provided by BHP insurance. **Let's Examine Conflict Management** 13 people received information and advice on dealing with conflict provided by Fiona Callan, Carmichael Centre, **Let's Get Going on Good Governance** 21 people were introduced to the fundamentals for good group governance by Senan Turnball, Carmichael Centre.

- **Resources:** All presentations & training resources available on our website.
- **Training Opportunities:** Highlighted/Advertised 41 Training Opportunities through social media and newsletters
- **Funding Supports:** Highlighted/Advertised 66 Funding Opportunities/Competitions through social media and newsletters
- **PPN Members Funding Handbook:** Continue to update our Funding & Events Page on our PPN Website

Communications

- **Members Update Ebulletin:** 37 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 171 up to 1902 and increased followers by 228 up to 2318. Some posts are reaching over 3.5K. We also manage "Include Us In" a Facebook Page dedicated to Social Inclusion information
- **Local Newspapers:** 13 articles about our PPN work were printed across the Wicklow People and the Wicklow Times

Outreach

- Presentation to Wicklow Active Retirement Group highlighting the role & work of the PPN and facilitating community linkages
- Attended WCC Library Service event for International Women's Day
- Attended Greystones LivComm Community Exhibition. Spoke to all exhibiting groups and encouraged engagement with VCWB/LECP consultations
- Secretariat member attended launch of Brockagh Community Hub
- Met with Community Liaison Officers from Codling Wind Park to discuss community connections and the benefits to the community from future funding opportunities through the community benefits fund
- Attended Tearmann Community Garden Annual Summer Celebration. Spoke with Project committee members and other local community groups.
- Met with Arklow member groups: Arklow Pyramid Project Heritage Group, Arklow RNLI, Beresford Terrace Residents Group.
- Attended Slaintecare Healthy Communities launch in Bray
- Hosted a stall at the Best of Wicklow tent at the Tinahely show
- Attended Wicklow Travellers Group event run as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence
- Attended/displayed a stand at the Bray Area Partnership Community Lunch