



Co. Wicklow PPN 2023 Mid-Year Plenary Meeting

Saturday 24th June

in The Avon Blessington from 10am

MINUTES

Attendance: 29 Members

Also in Attendance: Helen & Grainne (Wicklow PPN Staff)
 Kim Townsend Symth (Wicklow Co. Co. Community Climate Action Officer)
 Carlow Community Climate Action Officer

Apologies: 23

Quorum:

Extract from PPN Constitution – Plenary Quorum

At least 15 per cent of the Member Organisations and also at least four of those present are members of the Secretariat.

If a quorum is not available, those present may elect to proceed with either of the following:

Option A - The meeting should be postponed and rescheduled for a more suitable date, no later than one calendar month after the date of the original meeting.

Option B - Determine that the current attendance at the plenary is sufficient for the plenary to proceed. Decisions made at this plenary will be validly passed by a simple majority (that is, half plus one) of those in attendance.

As 15% of member organisations were not represented at the Plenary. The Meeting elected by a majority vote (22 in favour) to proceed in line with Option B of the Constitution.

Therefore, Quorum for Plenary = 16

Minutes of the Mid-Year Plenary: Approved (by 21 of the attendees).

Co. Wicklow PPN Work & Finance Reports presented by Helen Howes.

(to view the Presentation, click [HERE](#). For Reports click [HERE](#))

PPN Membership: The Plenary Ratified (23 approved) the 18 community groups (see presentation for list of members) that have joined the PPN in the period 1st January to 31st May 2023.

PPN Representatives: The Plenary Ratified (26 approved) the 8 new PPN representatives (see presentation for list of representatives) that have being nominated since in the last PPN Plenary held on the 6th December 2022.

Governance/PPN Policies: The Plenary Ratified the following revised PPN Policies (policies available to view and download from the Wicklow PPN website)

- Constitution (25 approved)
- Election Policy (27 approved)

On foot of the revisions to the policies the meeting discussed the following:

A common membership criterion adopted across all PPNs.

Clarification of PPN membership for groups operating across more than one county due to their location in a border area.

Concerns were discussed around the revision to the Election Policy (A person who has completed 2 terms of office on the committee as a PPN Rep more than 12 months ago can be nominated for a seat on the same committee).

The accessibility of the Policies was also raised.

2023 Finance Report (1st Jan – 31st May): The Plenary Ratified (22 approved) the Mid Year 2023 PPN Finance Report to end of May 2023 (available on Wicklow PPN website).

The Work Report presentation highlighted the following:

PPN Strategic Plan: A PPN subgroup working with an external consultant are preparing a Strategic Plan for Co. Wicklow PPN. The Strategic Plan will be brought to the December Members' Meeting (Plenary) for ratification.

LECP Pilot Engagement Project with Marginalised Groups: Being implemented in collaboration with WCC and an external consultation. This project is ongoing and based on what was heard from marginalised groups the project is working to achieve three main outputs:

- The establishment of a Social Inclusion Measures group within the Local Community Development Committee to proof LECP actions
- The preparations of a booklet which aims to show how policy leads to actions and how the actions in the LECP have benefited Wicklow communities in reality,
- To feed into the National Guide for Inclusive Community Engagement in Local Decision Making

2023 Draft Budget & Workplan: The Plenary Ratified (22 approved) the 2023 draft budget and workplan.

Members were invited to communicate their suggestions and needs in relation to the focus of the PPN work for the remainder of 2023 and beyond. (available on PPN website).

Next Plenary

December 2023.

The remainder of the meeting was devoted to hearing about:

The New Community Climate Action Programme & Fund

Kim Townsend Smyth the new Wicklow County Council Community Climate Action Officer made a presentation to the meeting. Click [HERE](#) to access the presentation.

Please note that this fund is not yet accepting applications and meetings are continuing to be held at a national level to finalise procedures around the fund.

Discussion and Questions Raised:

When will funding be paid to groups who secure a grant under the scheme?

Currently the plan is that funding will be paid on completion of the project.

Many attendees raised concerns about this.

Option of Bridging Loans was suggested.

The suggestion was made that the Government should approach the Credit Unions re using their Reserves for provide Bridging finance for community groups.

The importance of a Just Transition was highlighted.

Can you apply for funding in retrospect? To be clarified

Fund Timeframe

For completion of Projects? – 18 months

For making an application? – it is proposed that the fund will be open for applications for an 8–10-week period.

Payment timeframe after completion of the project – plan for payments to be issued within 6 weeks of project completion, assuming all paperwork is submitted.

Can this fund be used along with another grant on a project?

It can not be used for the same specific activity. Could use this grant for one element of a larger project and use another grant for another element of the same larger project. For example, one grant for solar panels and another for insulation.

Will Projects need to conduct a feasibility study – this will incur additional cost?

To be clarified

Who is involved in finalising the procedures etc in relation to this new funding stream?

Is there a possibility that The Climate Action Regional Offices (CARO) could be involved?

Who can apply for this funding stream?

Can Parents' Associations apply? – need to be clear that the project is not something that would be eligible under other funding streams to schools

Can small groups/projects collaborate to make a joint application - Yes

Is there a common checklist/list of criteria for applications to this fund, so group could prepare and have ready for when the fund opens for applications?

The importance of keeping the application process accessible and straightforward was highlighted.

Will the fund cover Climate Awareness Actions?

Can you build in an education element into the project?

Strand 2 which was released earlier was focused on climate awareness actions.

There may be a possibility for climate awareness action funding under the Leader programme.

An educational element can be built into a project application.

When will this funding stream be open for applications?

Dates not yet finalised.

Can Wicklow County Council prepare and circulate a Who's Who in the Environmental section?

Can Wicklow County Council maintain a central record for groups applying for grants – to avoid groups having to resend documents required for grant applications.
