

## Wicklow PPN Work Report

July 2025

### Strategic Plan Goal 1 – Representation

- **Coproduction Session – 3rd July** - A dynamic coproduction session took place with excellent attendance from across County Wicklow. The purpose of the session was to co-create engaging content that promotes the message of the Wicklow PPN and encourages broader community involvement. The session brought together a rich tapestry of knowledge, skills, and lived experiences, ensuring that every voice was heard and valued. Through collaborative effort, participants contributed to the development of a comprehensive suite of materials, including:
  - **Presentation PowerPoint** – visually engaging slides to communicate the PPN’s mission and opportunities.
  - **Lesson Plan for Presenters** – structured guidance for delivering the presentation effectively.
  - **Script for Media & Voiceover** – clear messaging for radio, video, or online platforms.
  - **Visual Supports** – graphics and visuals to enhance understanding and accessibility.
  - **Group/Organisation Welcome Letter Template** – a warm and informative introduction for new members.
  - **Checklist for Engagement** – practical steps to foster active participation.
  - **Mentoring Programme Guidelines** – framework to support peer learning and leadership development.
- **Next Steps** - A pilot test of the presentation delivery is planned, followed by a comprehensive evaluation. Feedback from this phase will inform revisions and improvements to ensure the materials are impactful and inclusive.
- **PPN Representatives – Peer Support:** An engaging online coproduction session was held with local representatives and the Secretariat, marking the first in a series of peer support gatherings. Attendance was strong, and participants, both new and established were warmly welcomed. The session fostered open and honest dialogue, with attendees sharing personal experiences from their committee work. Valuable peer-to-peer support emerged, with practical tips and solutions offered to those facing challenges. The feedback highlighted the session as extremely useful and supportive. Meetings will be held every two months to maintain ongoing support and connection.
- **National PPN Emergency Response Consultation** – 17th July 2025. *Midlands Park Hotel, Portlaoise* - **Theme:** *Building Community Resilience for Times of Emergency*. Supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG), this landmark event brought together PPN representatives from across Ireland to strengthen national collaboration and community preparedness. **Purpose & Impact** - The consultation aimed to: Foster networking and knowledge sharing, Identify challenges faced by communities, Develop collaborative solutions to enhance resilience during emergencies. **Highlights: Opening Address:** Dan Bergin (Laois PPN) warmly welcomed delegates, **Vision & Context:** Charles Stanley-Smith (Tipperary PPN) outlined the event’s purpose and long-term goals, **Case Study:** Brian Smith (Leitrim PPN) shared a compelling presentation on the impact of storms in Leitrim and the PPN’s role in the emergency response. **Workshops:** Facilitated by professional consultant Harriet Emerson, the interactive workshops encouraged deep discussion and practical knowledge exchange, all aligned with the central theme of resilience. The event was proudly hosted in Laois, with national support from Minister of State Jerry Buttimer and the DRCDG. The organising

committee comprising representatives from Laois, Leitrim, and Tipperary PPNs extend heartfelt thanks to all delegates for their active participation and valuable contributions.

**Key Message:** PPNs across Ireland continue to be recognised as vital pillars of support and communication in times of crisis, showcasing the strength of grassroots collaboration and community led preparedness.

- **Southeast Regional PPN Network – PPN Rep Training** – working with colleagues to run an event on 27 September in Kilkenny to support PPN Representatives sitting on local authority committees. Meetings took place on 9<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> July to progress.
- **Sustainable Energy Communities:** Staff & Environmental Secretariat Reps met with the Sustainable Energy Communities mentor to examine if the PPN should register as an SEC and what supports this would lever for member groups. Staff and member groups also attended a SE Systems Community Fund webinar
- **National PPN Conference Subgroup:** Attended meeting on 8 July to support Meath PPN in running this year's National Conference
- **National Annual Report Subgroup:** Wicklow staff member sits on this national group, chaired by DRCDG. The group prepares the Annual Reporting Template by reviewing the previous template, reviewing tenders to develop the report, and reviewing tenders to produce the report. The reporting template was issued to all PPNs on 26<sup>th</sup> June and must be completed and returned by 8<sup>th</sup> August. Wicklow PPN staff member participated in a tender review for the design of the 2024 report.
- **County Wicklow Food Partnership: Staff** attended meeting on 29 July. The focus of the meeting was arranging "Food for Thought – County Wicklow Food Partnerships Symposium", a county event scheduled to take place on 25 September in The Brockagh Centre
- **National Voter Registration Day 2026** – Staff working with KWETB Representative to run an awareness campaign for National Voter Registration Day in early 2026
- **Consultations:** Following discussion with member groups, PPN staff drafted submissions to the WCC Consultation on the Biodiversity Action Plan and the new strategy to support the community & voluntary sector in Ireland. Circulated information and encouraged engagement with 9 National Consultations and 3 Local Consultations including: Affordable Housing Survey 2025, Identification-of-Bathing-Waters-2025 and Part 8 - Rockbrae House Vevay Road Bray.

#### **Strategic Plan Goal 2 – Member Support**

- **PPN Membership:** 513 Member groups.
- **Member Re-registration:** Wicklow staff participating in a national sub-group to re-view and simplify the member re-registration process. The process is currently being piloted in Wexford and Wicklow will begin the process in phase 2 in the autumn.
- **Member Training/Information sessions:**
  - **Governance Training** – Staff, in collaboration with County Wicklow Partnership SICAP continue to work with Senan Turnbull to explore the content for running 3-4 sessions to support members in good governance and protection measures. Online sessions will take place across autumn/winter months with a final session taking place in person in 2026.
  - **Grant Writing and Funding Workshop:** Staff are progressing plans for this training which will be held on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September in the Brockagh Centre, Laragh. Currently fully booked with a waiting list in place
  - **Committee Skills Training:** Staff liaising with Carmichael to arrange this training.
- **Member Support:** Supported individual member groups with queries in relation to governance, insurance, funding opportunities, information provision and making beneficial connections

- **Outreach:** PPN (through Staff & Secretariat) attended community events including: PPN Connect Events, Wicklow Pride Queer Coffee Morning, Art Exhibition and the Pride Parade, Tinahely Show
- **Funding:** Circulated information about 19 funding streams open for application

### **Strategic Plan Goal 3 – Communications**

- **PPN Newsletters:** 11 July & 18 July
- **Wicklow PPN Connects – Library Sessions - Bray Library 16th July** - A public session was held at Bray Library from 11am to 1pm, where the community offered a warm welcome. Attendees engaged in meaningful conversations and had opportunities to network with local organisations such as: Citizens Advice, Bray Partnerships, Wicklow ETB. In the afternoon, a meeting with the Bray Travellers Group provided a tour and insight into the impactful work being done by the community and increase engagement of underrepresented groups.
- **PPN Website:** Regularly updating & archiving. Updates for new SPCs and Reps.
- **PPN Facebook Page & Instagram:** Daily posts of relevant information, funding, consultations, and events
- **Project Management App (Basecamp):** exploring the use of this communications app to facilitate Networking and Rep peer support/information sharing
- **Circulate Council and MD Meeting Agendas**

### **Strategic Plan Goal 4 –Governance & Operations**

- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat held a meeting on 8 August in the Brockagh Centre. They considered correspondence, and reviewed finances. Discussions took place in relation to Wicklow PPN registering as a Sustainable Energy Community, organising training supports for member groups, reviewing PPN policies, and reports from PPN projects. The Secretariat also approved nominations for PPN Representative positions and new membership applications. A further operational review session is being planned for the autumn and will focus on the policy documents that connect the PPN with the host organisation and the local authority.
- **Policy Review:** PPN staff preparing discussion document for Policy Review
- **Reporting:** June Work & Financial Report developed and circulated to members.
- **Annual Report:** Began gathering information for the Wicklow PPN 2024 Annual Report to the Dept Community & Rural Development
- **Staff Support & Supervision:** Ongoing support for existing staff and Wicklow Traveller Group Manager provides supervision for resource workers.

### **Upcoming Work**

- PPN Stand at the Tinahely Show 4 August
- Submit Wicklow PPN 2024 Annual Report to DRCD by 8 August deadline
- Finalise & make a submission to the Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan
- Meeting with Social Innovation in Sport Officer (WLSP) 11 August
- Meeting with representative from Bray Old Folks Association who is currently researching services for the elderly in Bray 11 August
- Meeting with Bray Area Partnership staff 20 August
- DISC meeting 21 August
- PPN stand at the Greystones Plaza Market 24 August
- Food Partnership Meeting 25 August
- Southeast Regional PPN Staff Meeting 7 & 25 August
- Continue to finalise Good Governance Training, Committee Skills Training & Writing Successful Funding Applications Training
- Continue to work with WCC & KWETB to promote voter registration.

- Sustainable Development Goal Week (19 – 28 Sept) – develop an activity to highlight the importance of the SDGs during this awareness week
- PPN Connects events: Carnew – 2nd September, Tinahely – 3rd September, Blessington – 10th September, Baltinglass – *To be confirmed* (following cancellation) Continue to work with Southeast Regional PPN Network colleagues to organise a PPN Reps Training & Networking session in Kilkenny in September