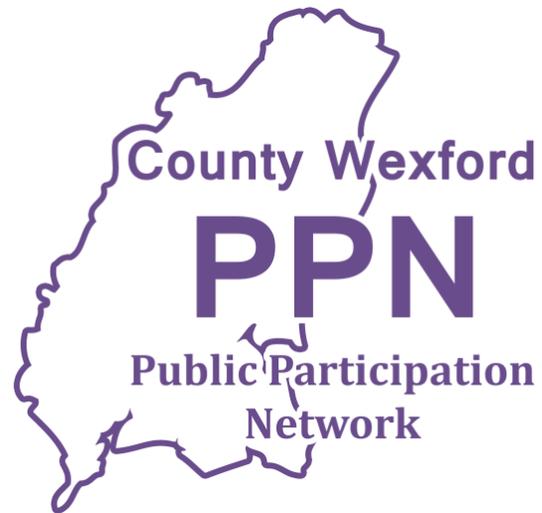


PPN Newsletter

Spring 2018

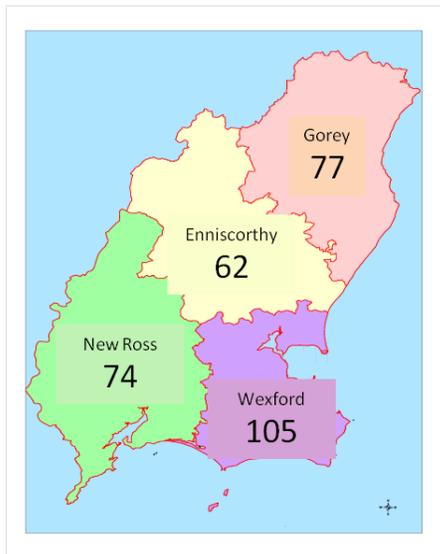


Welcome to the third edition of Wexford PPN's Newsletter. This newsletter is designed to keep you up to date with what's happening in the PPN. We hope you enjoy it.



Wexford PPN Membership

Wexford PPN currently has 318 members, spread across the county as follows...



Numbers in each Electoral College are;

College...



Increasing Awareness & Understanding

Work continues on increasing awareness and understanding of Wexford PPN both locally and nationally.

At a national level, Wexford PPN was one of the PPNs represented at this year's National Ploughing Championships. With the support of the Department of Rural & Community Development, and co-ordinated by Wexford PPN & Offaly PPN, PPNs across the country manned a PPN stand to increase awareness and to highlight the role of PPNs.



The Department deemed this activity very successful with the PPN being the busiest

stand in the Department of Rural & Community Development marquee!

Locally Wexford PPN had stands at Wexpo, Sports Active Strategy Launch, BOI Enterprist Town Event in Bunclody and most recently at the Traveller Health & Wellbeing event organised by Wexford Local Development.



Kevin Molloy & John Carr at Wexpo



David Doyle representing Wexford PPN at the Traveller Health & Wellbeing Conference

Wexford PPN developed a dedicated website www.wexfordppn.ie in the second half of 2017 which is helping to develop our independent identity.



The Wexford PPN Animation, a three and a half minute summary explanation of the PPN, was also developed in late 2017 and launched at our October Membership Meeting. This animation can be viewed on our website and our facebook page. Please continue to share this animation to groups who may be interesting in joining Wexford PPN



Wexford PPN Animation

Staff at Wexford County Council were due to receive training on PPNs in October. This was in an effort to increase awareness and

understanding of the PPN role among staff and to encourage greater information provision to Wexford PPN.

Unfortunately Storm Ophelia hit and the trainer from Social Justice Ireland could not travel. It is expected that the training will be re-scheduled by Wexford County Council to be completed in Q1 2018.

Funding Focus

The October County Membership (Plenary) Meeting had a theme of 'Funding Focus'. This was driven by member feedback which had shown a desire for funding hints and tips in addition to some support signposts.

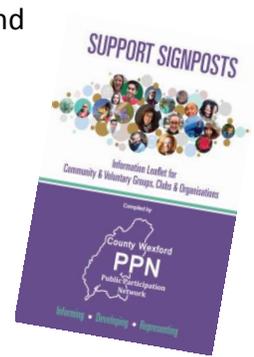
Wexford PPN commissioned John Warren of JE Warren to give a presentation on 'Grant Writing Hints & Tips' at the meeting followed by Q&A



At the meeting Wexford PPN also launched our Support Signpost leaflet which was compiled by our PPN Support Officer and designed to help groups become aware of

the supports available and to provide some reference sites.

Thanks to all who attended and contributed at the membership meeting.



National PPN Conference

The first National PPN Conference took place in Sligo in October and was attended by our PPN Support Officer.



PPN National Conference, Sligo

The event was the brainchild of Sligo PPN Secretariat and with its success the plan is to continue it as an annual event.

Learnings from the first event will be incorporated into the design of the 2018 event, which will now be organised by the PPN National Advisory Group.

Planning is currently underway and we expect the 2018 event to take place in early summer, in a more central location – watch this space.

Developing Representation

Wexford PPN continues its work to develop representation of our members. Currently we have 25 Reps across 10 Committees



In September 2017, Wexford PPN commissioned Social Justice Ireland to conduct some training entitled 'How to be an Effective PPN Rep'. This was part of our ongoing support for PPN Reps to help them in their roles.

Wexford PPN Reps came together again at a Reps Roundtable Event in December to review the year and look at ways to further develop Wexford PPN Representation. Feedback was compiled and a letter issued to Wexford County Council Chief Executive regarding initiatives Wexford PPN believes would enhance public participation in Wexford.

PPN Reps are now linking in with members at the Municipal District Meetings to provide feedback to members and to gather views and opinions to feedback to the committees. Make sure you utilise this MD Meeting opportunity in your area. The next MD Meetings will be in April & May 2018

All vacant and interim Rep positions were publicised in December and nominations sought to fill these seats. We are delighted to now have some new Reps in place. A list of all Reps provided later in this newsletter.

Secretariat Replacement

At our October Plenary members ratified the Secretariat Re-Election Policy which had proposed a policy of annual election process where one third of the Secretariat are replaced each year.

Bringing this policy into play will begin with replacement of a third of the Secretariat through nominations & elections in March 2018 – with those appointed having a term of office from April 2018 – March 2021.

Workers Meetings & CPD

Our PPN Support Officer is part of a National Network of Workers which meets 4-6 times per year. These meetings are invaluable for Wexford PPN as we get the benefit of shared experience, see what others are doing, and work through the continued development of PPNs across the country.

In January, workers from across the country attended a two day CPD Event for Workers, funded by the Department.



The CPD event was held in Athlone and gave PPN Workers the opportunity to look in a little more depth at issues and areas of concern for development of PPNs, in addition to having a workshop on Worker Wellbeing.



Worker CPD Workshop

National PPN Advisory Group

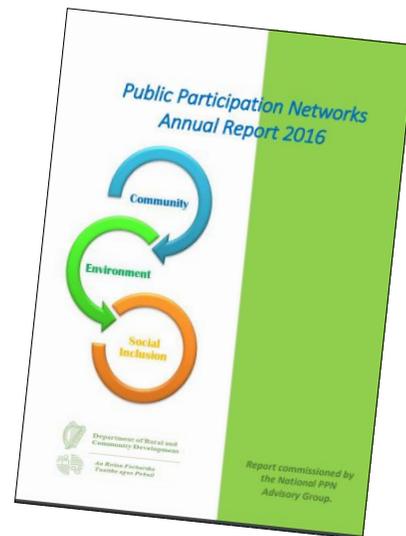
The National PPN Advisory Group is a group made up of representatives from each of the PPN Stakeholders; including representatives from Department, Workers, Pillars, Local Authorities, & Volunteers (PPN Members).

The role of this group is to advise and support the Department in the development and operation of PPNs. In doing so, the Advisory Group is required to monitor progress on the development and implementation of PPNs across the country to ensure the consistency of implementation across local authority areas.

They have produced the Public Participation Networks Annual Report 2016 as a first step

in establishing a data baseline to capture the range of activities undertaken by PPNs.

This report is available to view on our website <http://wexfordppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/Report-on-PPNS-2016.pdf>



The main recommendations for the development of PPNs include, in summary;

- A national publicity campaign.
- National co-ordination for PPNs
- Funding of an administrator in each PPN
- Commitment to security of funding for PPNs
- Review of the PPN structure – including linkage groups
- Enhancing Local Authority capacity with regard to Public Participation

Training & Capacity Building

Wexford PPN aims to help groups in achieving their objectives, by further developing themselves, through access to conferences, training, mentoring, networking, seminars etc. Based on feedback from members Wexford PPN offered fifteen training sessions across a range of topics in 2017. These events included;



Training continues in 2018 and we have provided members with details of upcoming events. These events are also posted on our facebook page, and you can book your place using the links provided there also or by getting in touch.

If there is a specific area that your group is interested in training in, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Other Events

Earlier this month Wexford PPN organised a Guided Art Tour of Wexford County Council Art Collection in collaboration with Wexford Arts Department.

The tour guide for the day was Oonagh Latchford and the feedback was excellent. We aim to organise another Guided Art Tour for March as this event was over-subscribed and unfortunately we had some members who did not get to come along.



In the mean time you can check out the Art Collection here

<http://wexfordcountycouncilartcollection.com/>



Are there other events you would like Wexford PPN to organise?

Examples could include;

- Field trips to see the work of communities around Wexford,
- PPN Members attending County Hall to view a Council Meeting

If so get in touch and let us know.

Information Sharing

In 2017 Wexford PPN kept members informed with 39 information bulletins, 2 newsletters like this one, and regular facebook posts.

Keeping members informed with....



These bulletins continue to receive very positive feedback from members but if you have any comments or suggestions please get in touch.

We would like to try and **measure the impact of these bulletins** and so are asking members to let us know if you have benefited in any tangible way from these bulletins;

- Did you find out about a grant you didn't know about and in turn receive funding from it?
- Were you made aware of a consultation taking place that was relevant to your group?
- Did you find out about a resource for your group that you didn't know about?
- Did you find out about a training activity for your group (outside of PPN Events) that you utilised?
- Did you attend any conference or event (outside of PPN events) that you became aware of through the bulletins?

We would love to have your feedback in whatever way you find easiest. You can send us an email, send us a note, and we will have cards available for you to fill in and feedback at our County Membership Meeting also.

We will use this information to guide our work and to provide feedback to our funders of the impact of our work. If you don't want us to use your group name please let us know and we will keep the feedback anonymous when telling others about it.

Strategy & Workplan

The Secretariat is the elected Volunteer administrative body that help in the running of Wexford PPN.

In late 2017 this body commissioned Ahearne & Collins to conduct a facilitated process of Strategy Development for Wexford PPN. This process was designed with an immediate aim of developing a 2018 Workplan and with a longer term aim of developing a three year strategy for Wexford PPN.

Now with a body of work completed Wexford PPN members will have an opportunity to discuss and comment on the proposed 2018 Workplan, and to suggest further elements for inclusion in the longer term strategy, when the discussion takes place at the County Membership Meeting in Enniscorthy on 1st March.

To allow members to review in advance the draft workplan and proposed budget allocation will be issued to members in advance of the meeting.

Could all member group contacts please make sure that the draft workplan is circulated to your own members before they attend.

Volunteer Opportunities

Wexford PPN has one paid employee and beyond this relies solely on the voluntary contribution of members.

"Volunteers are not paid -- not because they are worthless, but because they are priceless."

In 2018 Wexford PPN are looking to set up **three new working groups**. These working groups will focus on the core functions of Wexford PPN and offer members the opportunity to get more involved in the running of Wexford PPN. It is proposed that working groups will meet circa three times per year. The working groups are:

1. **Capacity Building** – looking after the development needs of members

(training, conferences, networking, seminars etc)

2. **Communication** – covering information sharing to members and awareness building generally (print material, social media, website, promotion, summer shows etc)

3. **Representation** – working to build the representation structures of Wexford PPN (working with Decision Making Bodies where we have representation, Rep training, promoting the representation function to members etc)

Can you please share this opportunity to your own members and get in touch if you would like to volunteer for any of these working groups. Working group meeting times and locations will be facilitated based on the working group members so don't let that put you off!

Other ways to get involved...

- Do you have a skill that you could offer to Wexford PPN?
- Could you help out at events? (set up, sign in, photos, stewarding, etc)

Wexford PPN relies on Volunteers to keep the network going and so the more the better!

Please get in touch by email or phone if you would like to help out in any way.

Your Representatives

Just a reminder that Wexford PPN Secretariat are:

Name	Representing
<i>John Carr</i>	<i>Wexford District</i>
<i>David Doyle</i>	<i>Enniscorthy District</i>
<i>Frances Ryan</i>	<i>New Ross District</i>
<i>Kevin Molloy</i>	<i>Gorey District</i>
<i>Pat Rath</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary</i>
<i>Thomas Cullen</i>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Environment</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>

Wexford PPN has representation on three decision making bodies outside of Wexford County Council. These committees and their current representatives are as follows;

Committee	Representatives
<i>SE Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG)</i>	<i>Ann Wall</i>
<i>Sports Active – Wexford Local Sports Partnership</i>	<i>Kevin Molloy John Carr</i>
<i>SE Regional Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce (SERDATF)</i>	<i>Ann Lacey</i>

Wexford PPN has 21 Representative positions on Committees of Wexford County Council. Current representatives are as follows;

Committee	Representatives
<i>Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)</i>	<i>Mary Hamilton Pat Rath Sean Quirke Anne Shannon Brian Toomey Karin Dubsy</i>
<i>Economic Development & Enterprise SPC</i>	<i>Dan Kennedy MaryB O’Leary Senan O’Reilly</i>
<i>Housing Community & Environment SPC</i>	<i>Ann Walsh Kathleen Fitzpatrick Marie Therese Power</i>
<i>Transportation & Water Services SPC</i>	<i>Bernie Mullen Breda O’Sullivan</i>
<i>Planning & Building Control SPC</i>	<i>Danny Forde</i>
<i>Joint Policing Committee (JPC)</i>	<i>David Doyle Tina Smith Joy Lattimore Rice</i>
<i>Courtown/ Riverchapel Local Policing Fora (LPF)</i>	<i>Tony Clyne Joy Lattimore Rice 1 Vacant Seat</i>

SPC=Strategic Policy Committee

Should you wish your PPN representatives to raise any issue at the relevant committees please do not hesitate to get in touch. Representatives also seek your opinion prior to attending the meeting and so please take the time to read the materials and feedback to your representatives.

County Membership Meeting

The bi-annual meeting of all PPN Members takes place from 6-9pm on 1st March at Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy.

We've sent all members the details of the event but just to highlight a few aspects of the evening below.

In addition to our own members and the Artists at the Expo we will have the following groups attending– Wexford MABS, WLD LEADER Community Team, IEN, An Cosan VCC, Community Finance Ireland, Clann Credo, Wexford Libraries, LAWCO, Sports Active, BHP Insurance & 3 Counties Energy Agency.

As a new element this year we have added two drop in information clinics. These are short 20 minute sessions to give you some more information & the opportunity to ask questions. The two information clinics on offer are;

- **'Creative Communities'** - Liz Burns, Arts Officer at Wexford County Council will provide an overview of the Funding Scheme, which offers an opportunity for communities to undertake a collaboration between Artists and County Wexford based communities, for arts projects. Artists in this scheme cover a broad range and many of the artists themselves will Expo at the Membership Meeting allowing you to have a chat with the artists, discuss

possible projects etc. The scheme will launch on the day of the meeting and so it is an opportune time to see examples of previous projects and see if it is something that could be of interest for your community.

- **'Sustainable Development Goals'** – Caitriona Rogerson is the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Project Co-ordinator at Irish Environmental Network (IEN). Part of Caitriona's role is to support and encourage Irish community groups to develop an understanding around the SDGs and how they impact at a local level. The goals are backed up by 169 specific targets which address challenges in areas as diverse as poverty, education, human rights, food security, clean energy, climate, peace, sustainable consumption and urbanization. Knowledge of these goals and targets provides an opportunity for Member groups and Caitriona will highlight the community supports available.

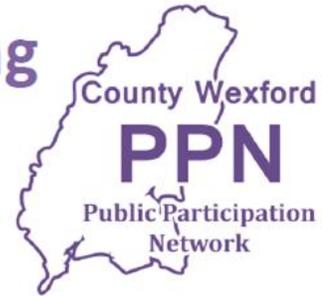
Wexford PPN are also looking at providing **transport to the event** in conjunction with Local Link Wexford, subject to demand.



Therefore please contact us by email or phone at latest by **20th February** if transport to the event is something you would utilise, if available.

County Membership Meeting

Wexford Public Participation Network (PPN) is a network of Community & Voluntary groups, clubs & organisations across Co. Wexford



Thursday 1st March 2018
Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy

6-9pm, with refreshments & finger food @ 7.15

The evening will include;

6.00– 7.15 **Expo & Networking**

An Expo with Members & other key organisations showcasing - including an opportunity to meet the Artists for 'Creative Communities' Funding Stream from Wexford County Council

7.30 – 8.00 **Keynote Speaker - Mr Tom Enright**

Wexford County Council Chief Executive, Tom Enright, will give a short address on 'The Importance of the PPN in Local Government'

8.00- 9.00 **Member Meeting & Discussion Session**

An opportunity for Members to discuss the activities and focus of Wexford PPN for the year ahead and to ratify key decisions made.

Reserve your place todayonline on our website or facebook page or by getting in touch

**Drop in
Information Clinics
6.15-7.15 pm**

Creative Communities

Liz Burns, Arts Officer, will provide an overview of the scheme and take Q&A

Session 1 @6.15pm

Session 2 @6.45pm

Sustainable Development Goals

Caitriona Rogerson from IEN will discuss supports available to communities

Session 1 @6.15pm

Session 2 @6.45pm

Not a member? ..get in touch to join today

✉ wexfordppn@wexfordcoco.ie
🖱 www.wexfordppn.ie

☎ **TEL: 053 919 6553**





Supported by:



 wexfordppn@wexfordcoco.ie
 **TEL: 053 919 6553**
 www.wexfordppn.ie