

## **National PPN 2018 Conference,,Athlone. 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2018.**

Introduction by Assistant secretary, Dept. of Rural and Community Development.

Outlined the support by the Dept. of PPN and active citizen participation within democracy, citing the Citizens Assembly. She noted the linkage to LCDC and SPCs' and that it was better in some Counties.

The national report, 2017 shows 12,800 groups which is up 21% from 2016. NAG feeds into Dept. and helps show what is working and feeds into government policy on the community. She noted the Resource Workers networks and their workloads and hoped for some positive outcomes in 2019.

The Chair of Westmeath Co. Co. welcomed everyone to Athlone and thanked the PPN team for their hard work in organising the Conference. He noted the field trips which help to illustrate the work of communities.

The C. E. of Westmeath thanked the working group which organised the conference, outlined the role of the L. A. in representing, serving and leading communities, thanked the Dept and Leader and the neighbouring counties for facilitating the site visits.

He noted the NOAC performance indicators for PPN registrations, and the linkage which PPN serves through the LCDC, SPC and Joint Policing Committees.

PPN resource workers from Westmeath, Carlow, Fingal and Wicklow outlined some of their activities. Westmeath outlined the strong working relationship between PPN and each Municipal District and how it operates, Carlow talked about how it has developed a consultation toolkit for communities which can be used by other PPNs'.

Fingal outlined the newly reinstated Mayors Community Awards which used plain English, an online assessment by outsiders, the promotion and joint branding between the Co. Co. and PPN and a Peoples Choice award.

Wicklow spoke about their wellbeing local statement which has six headings used to link community needs. PPN meets, networks, promotes PPN, and increases relationships and benefits of registering with PPN. They are developing their 2019 strategy and action plan based on the community needs notified to them under the well being programme.

Six breakout sessions were held then as per agenda.

The LCDC / SICAP was chaired by an official from the Dept. of Rural & Community Development. SICAP 2018 – 2022 was discussed and was based on feedback from the previous programme and ESRI and national consultations, which were outlined. He set out the reporting and the roles which Pobal, LCDC and LDC were engaged in. A brainstorming session took place where questions such as whether PPN are successful, what is needed to improve its work and if it is targeting vulnerable groups.

Field trips were arranged to see projects in Moate, Ferbane, Kilbride in Roscommon, Projects in Westmeath and RAPID area in Athlone and to monuments and the Royal canal in Enfield.

**Report compiled by Noel Stacey**