

PPN Newsletter

Winter 2018



Welcome to the fourth 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.

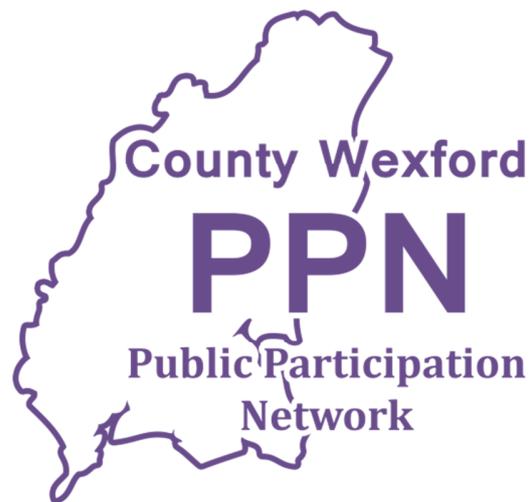
Wexford PPN Membership

Following the recent re-registration process Wexford PPN currently has;



Thanks to all of those who complete the re-registration form this year. We are now using the Salesforce database system and we hope that all future re-registrations will be much simpler.

You will already have seen that the new system allows us to personalise our information bulletins. It also allows us to track correspondence with each of you and in 2019 we hope to start using the text message function also.



Increasing Awareness & Understanding

Lack of awareness and understanding of PPNs continues as a concern. This is not only a Wexford concern but one held by PPNs across the country.

With little budget available we are unable to spend significantly on promotional material or advertising. We are however, continuing to promote Wexford PPN across the county with events such as the following;



Kevin Molloy & John Carr at Gorey Agricultural Show in June



John Carr & Noel Stacey representing Wexford PPN at WexBizSummit with Pat Collins at Wexford County Hall in October



David Doyle & Annette Dupuy at Bannow & Rathangan Show in July



Kevin Molloy & John Carr at South East ARA Show in Whites Hotel in June

Annette Dupuy, our PPN Support Officer (SO) also conducted information sessions to some of the sections at Wexford County Council in order to increase awareness and understanding within the Local Authority.

While Wexford PPN is based at Wexford County Council it is an independent organisation and this is highlighted in all activity we undertake.

More recently Wexford PPN presented to the Wexford Federation ICA about the organisation. If your group is part of a network that Wexford PPN could present to please get in touch and let us know.

A further undertaking to increase awareness and to let members know of our activity and spending was the production and launch of our 2017 Annual Report at our Celebration Event in Irish National Heritage Park in July.





PPN Celebration & Annual Report Launch



Tom Dempsey, who launched our 2017 Annual Report



Enjoying the sunshine at PPN Celebration & Annual Report Launch

PPN Huddles

A new initiative the 'Huddle' was undertaken in the second half of 2018 also.



What's a Huddle?

It is an informal meeting of community and voluntary groups in an area.

The Huddle is an opportunity to get together, have a chat, and find out what other groups in the community are doing.

Our first huddle was held in Our Lady's Island in July and was hosted by Our Lady's Women's Kitchen. This event brought together a range of members and non-members, and provided a space for community to network. It was an opportunity for Wexford PPN to highlight our own organisation and this event resulted in a new member group joining.



PPN Huddle attendees at Our Lady's Island

Following the success of this Huddle a further Huddle was held in Glenbrien in September. This event was hosted by the Old School Centre, Glenbrien.

Wexford PPN plan to extend the Huddle activity in 2019 and so if your group would like to Host a Huddle in your community get in touch.

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 The Department of Rural & Community Development, PPN 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.

This group has produced the second Public Participation Networks Annual Report 2017. This report provides information on national PPN development and provides recommendations for further development.

This report is available to view on the Department of Rural & Community Development website here

https://drcd.gov.ie/wp-content/uploads/180904-Final-Design-Version-2017_PPN_Annual_Report.pdf



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

- **Promotion:** Increase the visibility of PPNs on a National Level by organising an awareness campaign promoting the PPNs. This includes promoting the PPN across all Government departments, LAs and within communities.
- **Extra resources** for the PPN, with an emphasis on additional staff for both administrative and development roles.
- **Improved support** / recognition from the LA for the work of the PPNs

- **Review of the PPN Guidelines and Structures**
- **A national resource point** is needed to guide PPNs in their operations & development, support general policy, provide guidance on national policy development and consultations, and to provide a hub for information on training and joint supports.

PPN Field Trip



This event took place on Tuesday 26th June and involved a visit to Wicklow PPN, Wicklow Traveller Group and Shuttle Knit – a community social enterprise.

The visit was thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended and it was great to share experiences with our neighbouring PPN and communities.



Field Trip to CEART, Wicklow

PPN Staffing

Wexford PPN was delighted to have secured a temporary part time resource to cover our PPN SO's leave during the Summer.

Clara Mai Doyle was a pleasure to work with



a great addition to the team for her short time with us.

The need for additional resource for the PPN has been recognised in both the National PPN

reports of 2016 & 2017. Wexford PPN was delighted to receive news in November that there will be additional funding for an Administrative Assistant in 2019.

This one year contract will allow Wexford PPN to focus on the development work required.

Currently Wexford PPN Secretariat are looking at options as to how this contract can be facilitated.



Once this is agreed the aim is to recruit for the position in Q1 2019.

National PPN Conference

The second National PPN Conference took place in Athlone in October and was attended by our PPN Support Officer and two members - David Doyle & Noel Stacey.



Bairbre Nic Aongusa, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Rural and Community Development PPN National Conference, Athlone

This year's event included a range of best practice presentations and fieldtrips which were both informative and beneficial for networking with others.

Our PPN SO attended the Offaly Fieldtrip which included a trip to Ferbane Food Campus and Pullough Community Shop.



Ferbane Food Campus



Pullough Community Shop & Cafe

Reports from the event are available from all Wexford PPN attendees on our website under the 'Developing' Section

http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=21

Events like this also allow PPN Secretariats, Representatives and ordinary members to tease out issues and concerns with the PPN structures and their practical application. This is an event with all of the key stakeholders in the room – with representatives from Department of Rural & Community Development, and Local Authorities attending in addition to PPN Members.

Wexford PPN supported some members to attend this event and we would encourage this activity again in 2019. These events are a great opportunity to network with others and to provide inspiration and alternative perspectives for our own work.

PPN Representation

Wexford PPN continues its work to develop representation of the community & Voluntary Sector on key Decision Making bodies across the county. In 2018 we had 25 PPN Representatives across 10 Committees.

PPN Representatives are volunteers who, in addition to working in their own community, volunteer to represent the PPN Membership at various committees across the county.

Wexford PPN recently sought nomination for some current Representative vacancies and these nominations are currently being reviewed and processed. Below are details of the Committees and their current PPN Representatives.

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The role of this committee is to develop, implement and co-ordinate a coherent and integrated approach to local community development with County Wexford through various state agencies and representative from the community and voluntary sector.

The committee has 19 members, with six being Wexford PPN Representatives. These PPN Representatives are broken down as follows:

- 3 Community & Voluntary
- 2 Social Inclusion
- 1 Environment.

More information on the structure and functions of the LCDC are available here http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=97

During 2018 Wexford PPN were asked to review five of the six PPN Representatives to this committee, due to length of time served. Nominations for same were sought and following an election process for the Community & Voluntary & Social Inclusion Seats representatives were deemed elected. The Environment seat remained vacant and so the current rep remained in an interim capacity. The recent nominations in November have sought to fill this seat again.

The current LCDC Reps are as follows;

LCDC PPN Reps	Representatives
<i>Community & Voluntary</i>	<i>Pat Rath Peter O'Connor Lucy Medlycott</i>
<i>Social Inclusion</i>	<i>Anne Shannon Brian Toomey</i>
<i>Environment</i>	<i>Karin Dubsky (Interim)</i>

The LCDC meets at least bi-monthly and reports from the LCDC Reps are provided for PPN Members with all available on our website http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=109

Reps attend PPN Municipal District & County Membership meetings giving members an opportunity to engage with Representatives.

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

The Strategic Policy Committees of Wexford County Council bring together both elected members and people actively working with external social, economic, cultural and environmental bodies to advise and assist in the formulation, development and review of policies related to council services.

SPCs prepare the groundwork for policies which are presented to, and then decided on by the local authority, including, as appropriate, at municipal district level.

Wexford County Council currently has four SPCs as follows:

- Economic Development & Enterprise SPC
- Housing, Community, & Environment SPC
- Transportation & Water Services SPC
- Planning & Building Control SPC

Further details of the committees and their membership are available here

http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=97

These committees meet on average four times per year, with the Transportation & Water Services SPC typically meeting less frequently. Current Representatives for Wexford PPN at these committees are as follows:

SPC	Representatives
<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 Marie Therese Power 1 vacant seat</i>
<i>Transportation & Water Services SPC</i>	<i>Bernie Mullen Breda O'Sullivan</i>
<i>Planning & Building Control SPC</i>	<i>Danny Forde</i>

Reps attending are from specific Pillars as follows:

Community & Voluntary

- *Dan Kennedy*
- *Ann Walsh*
- *Bernie Mullen*

Social Inclusion

- *MaryB O'Leary*
- *Breda O'Sullivan*

Environment

- *Senan O'Reilly*
- *Marie Therese Power*
- *Danny Forde*

The vacant Social Inclusion seat for the Housing, Community & Environment Seat will be filled from the November nominations. Reports from the Reps attending these committees are available on our website

http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=109

Policing Committees

The Joint Policing Committee's function is to serve as a forum for consultations, discussions and recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the Local Authority's administrative area, and in particular levels and patterns of crime disorder and anti-social behaviour, and to arrange and host public meetings.

This committee meets circa four times per year and Wexford PPN have three Representative Positions on this Committee

JPC Reps	Representatives
<i>Community & Voluntary</i>	<i>David Doyle Tina Smith</i>
<i>Social Inclusion</i>	<i>1 Vacant Seat</i>

The Courtown Riverchapel Local Policing Fora (LPF) is set up to ensure effective policing in Courtown Riverchapel area.

Representatives for this committee must live or work in the area of the LPF

Courtown Riverchapel LPF Representatives
<i>Tony Clyne Paul F Dubsky (interim) Joy Lattimore Rice (interim)</i>

Reports from the Reps attending each of these committees are available on our website http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=109

Other Representations

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>

Reports from the Reps attending each of these committees are available on our website http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=109

New Representations

Wexford PPN received a request for Representatives from two additional Committees in 2018 and the November Nominations seek to fill these vacancies. These committees are:

- Traveller Inter Agency Committee
- Connecting for Life Wexford (Suicide Prevention) ISG

Contacts for all PPN Reps and details of the Committees that they attend are available on our website also, should you wish to find out more http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=97

Wexford PPN Representatives have been working hard to bring forward the community view and to highlight areas of concern. We hope to showcase some of this work in our next County Membership event to show you the difference our Reps are making for Wexford.



Have you considered becoming a PPN Rep? If you would like to find out more about the Rep task get in touch.

You can also find out more on our website http://wexfordppn.ie/?page_id=102 and have a look at our Reps Charter which will give you a flavour of the task and the commitment required.

PPN Secretariat

The PPN Secretariat is the elected administrative body of Wexford PPN. They are responsible for the administration of the PPN between Plenary (Total Membership) meetings. Currently the Secretariat is made up as follows:

Name	Representing
<i>John Carr</i>	<i>Wexford District</i>
<i>David Doyle</i>	<i>Enniscorthy District</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>New Ross District</i>
<i>Kevin Molloy</i>	<i>Gorey District</i>
<i>Pat Rath</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary</i>
<i>Jonathan King (Interim)</i>	<i>Community & Voluntary</i>
<i>Thomas Cullen</i>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
<i>Noel Stacey (Interim)</i>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
<i>Ann Lacey (Interim)</i>	<i>Social Inclusion</i>
<i>Vacant</i>	<i>Environment</i>

One third of the Secretariat is replaced each year as per our Secretariat Replacement Policy. Therefore there will be an opportunity to get involved in the Secretariat in 2019 if you are interested in doing so. Nominations will be sought in March.

Training & Capacity Building

One of the core functions of Wexford PPN is to help groups in achieving their objectives, by further developing themselves, through access to conferences, training, mentoring, networking, seminars etc.

During 2018 Wexford PPN ran a range of training sessions for members including sessions on the following topics:

- Committee Skills & Managing Meetings Better
- Safeguarding
- Garda Vetting
- GDPR
- Digital Fundraising
- Overview of the Governance Code
- Writing a Press Releases
- Risk Management
- Writing a Winning Grant Application
- Building Sustainable Communities
- Basic First Aid



Derek O'Reilly, Carmichael Ireland delivering Committee Skills & Managing Meetings Better in Oylegate Community Centre

Wexford PPN also supported members to attend a number of conferences and seminars with reports back to the PPPN Membership for shared learning. Events attended included;

- Community Connect Conference, Kilkenny
- Wheel Summit, Dublin
- TCD , Symposium on, Disability; Political Representation and Activism
- Seminar “Spaces for Change? The Practice and Policy of Community Participation in Local Governance in Ireland”
- ‘Are We There Yet?’ Wexford Local Development Community Event.



Clare Ryan, Wexford Local Development



John Farrelly, Charity Regulator at Community Connect Conference

Wexford PPN engaged JE Warren Consulting to conduct a series of Training Needs Assessment Workshops in September 2018. The feedback from these workshops will guide the courses and opportunities provided to Wexford PPN members in 2019

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

Other Events

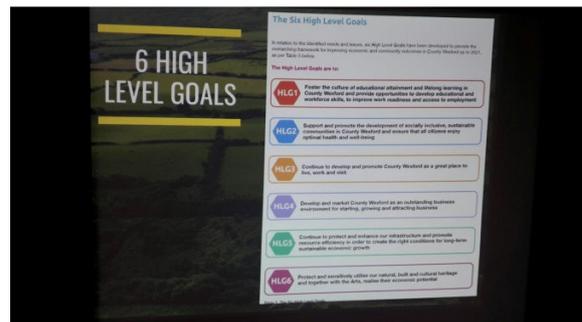
Wexford PPN ran a couple of public events in 2018 also which were of interest to members and the broader public.

Sustainable Development Goals



Following on from specific events for members earlier in the year Wexford PPN collaborated with Irish Environmental Network to provide an open Workshop on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their relevance for Wexford. This workshop attracted a mix of attendees from sustainability practitioners, PPN members, Local Authority officials and local

Councillors. The event highlighted the importance of the SDGs for Wexford across all aspects of our lives and for the six high level goals of our Wexford Plan - the Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)



Wexford LECP High Level Goals



SDG Workshop Participants



SDG Workshop Materials

Befriending Services

**Public Information Meeting
Befriending Services**
Brought to you by ALONE & Wexford PPN



Befriending provides companionship to people who are socially isolated through a weekly volunteer visit or call.

**Riverside Park Hotel, Enniscorthy
Monday 22nd October, 7-8.30 pm**

Loneliness and isolation is one of the topics being raised by PPN Representatives at the Local Community Development Committee.

We already have one member group Rosslare Befrienders, who do wonderful work Befriending in Wexford. However, we wanted to increase awareness of the opportunity and so collaborated with Alone to bring information to Wexford communities and individuals.



Caroline and Maoiliosa from ALONE Ireland positively reported that they have got some new Wexford volunteers from the event!

Thanks also to Rosslare Befriender who attended on the night to give first hand feedback on running such a service.

Are there other events you would like Wexford PPN to organise? Get in touch and let us know.

Information Bulletins

Our information Bulletins are by far one of the most popular parts of the membership benefit we provide. However, we know from engaging with some in communities that the bulletins are not always shared with all members of a particular group. Do you have any suggestions to help us overcome this?

Some members have set up an email address that automatically re-sends to all club members. Others have their members like our facebook page. Do you 'like' us?



Our facebook page is

<https://www.facebook.com/CoWexfordPPN>

Please like, share and spread the word!

Working Collaboratively

During 2018 Wexford PPN aimed to work collaboratively with a range of organisations both across the county and nationally. Below are some examples of collaboration in 2018.

Disability Strategy Implementation Plan

Wexford PPN collaborated with the Access Office at Wexford County Council, on an Information Morning on Wexford County Council's Disability Strategy Implementation Plan in July. This meeting informed of activities past, present and potential initiatives as part of WCC disability strategy. The Disability Strategy Implementation Plan is a working document reviewed and updated annually, which sets out a prioritised work programme based on actions and recommendations of the Audits of all public buildings, parks, amenities and open spaces within Wexford County Council.



Attendees at the Information Morning on Wexford County Council's Disability Strategy Implementation Plan

Regional Tobacco Free Positive Message Campaign

Wexford PPN Collaborated with Wexford LCDC to engage communities to participate in this stencil campaign with many members taking up the opportunity.



Community Resilience

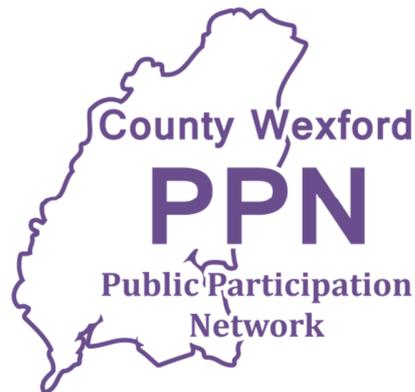
Wexford PPN is one of the partners in the Community Resilience Steering Group which involves a range of partners including such The Gardaí, HSE, The Fire Service, The Civil Defence, IFA, & GAA.



One of the tasks completed by this group was a series of community meetings to begin planning for the unexpected at a community level. Further activity is expected in 2019.

Thank You

from



- *If you represented us*
- *If you volunteered to help out at an event*
- *If you helped to tidy up after a meeting*
- *If you told us about a new funding source*
- *If you shared our posts or information bulletin*
- *If you promoted us to others*
- *If you offered to help other members*

Or if you helped in any other way during 2018



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