



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Public Participation Networks

Annual Report 2017



Community
Environment
Social Inclusion

Prepared by the
Department of Rural and Community Development
and the National PPN Advisory Group.
dracd.gov.ie

12,805
members
An increase of
21% on 2016



ENVIRONMENT
SOCIAL INCLUSION
COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTARY

882 PPN Reps on **382** Boards



Gender Balance

Creating Engaged Citizens



63 PPN
Written
Submissions
made on
national and
local policy



339
local
consultations
highlighted



Highlights of 2017




Communication

 **271** online newsletters

62 printed newsletters



 Over **30,000** emails sent

Over **19,000** 'likes'
on social media



Capacity Building



1,207
hours of training

340
training sessions

2,677
attendees

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Foreword by Seán Kyne, TD. Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment



I am delighted to publish this latest annual report on Public Participation Networks. Since my appointment as Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development I have met with several PPNs and have gained a deeper insight into the valuable work that the Networks undertake.

The PPNs complement the work of local councils and councillors with PPN representatives working alongside councillors and bringing new insights and experience. As a former member of Galway County Council our most effective and impactful work was that which had the greatest level of input by and engagement with the communities. Who better to know best for their communities than local people?

The essence of PPNs is evident from their title - Participation. The PPNs are facilitating participation and enabling engagement between government and communities like never before. The PPNs empower, enable and encourage people and communities to become involved, to have their say, to contribute, and to help shape the policies and programmes which impact on all of us.

In Ireland we are very fortunate to have a strong and vibrant community and voluntary sector with organisations in every community in every county. The PPNs facilitate new connections and interactions between these local organisations and local government.

The value of volunteering must also be remembered with over 880 PPN representatives working diligently for the good of their communities.

Cuireann na Líonraí Rannpháirtíochta Pobail le hobair na n-údarás áitiúil agus comhairleoirí le hionadaithe LRP ag déanamh oibre i dteannta a chéile chun léargais nua agus taithí a sholáthair. Déanann na LRP éascaíocht ar rannpháirtíocht agus idirghníomhaíocht idir an Rialtas agus na pobail. Cabhraíonn siad le polasaithe agus cláir a bhfuil tionchar acu orainn go léir a mhúnlú. Cé acu is fearr aird a thabhairt ar riachtanais pobal ná daoine áitiúla agus cé acu is fearr ionadaíocht a dhéanamh ar na daoine agus na pobail sin ná na LRP.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Seán Kyne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

Foreword by the Chairperson of the Public Participation Network (PPN) National Advisory Group

PPNs were set up to provide a mechanism by which citizens can have a greater say in local government decisions which affect their own communities. Each local authority area now has a PPN in place that allows the public to take an active role in relevant committees of the local authority. PPNs are now the “go to” organisation for all bodies in a county/city who wish to benefit from community and voluntary expertise at their table.

The primary function of the Advisory Group is to provide the necessary oversight, monitoring and evaluation of PPNs and to serve as the channel through which progress on the delivery of performance indicators will be collated and reported to the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The 2016 Annual Report contained a number of recommendations which the Advisory Group has progressed during 2017. Given the relative newness of the concept, a particular focus has been on emphasising the added value of the PPNs in the local decision making process. Significant progress was made in this area over the course of 2017 which is evidenced in the Report with 882 PPN representatives on 382 Boards. This work is continuing as the Advisory Group looks at measures to increase the visibility of PPNs at both local and national level.

Building the capacity of PPNs to better enable them to represent and respond to consultative processes in a structured and meaningful way was another key focus during 2017. 2,677 participants availed of training during the year from community development to understanding the local authority budget and planning processes. Continued support in this area will provide PPNs with additional capacity to continue to grow and participate in an informed and constructive manner to the local decision making process.

The first National PPN Conference was hosted by Sligo PPN in October 2017 with over 200 participants in attendance. This provided an invaluable networking for Resource Workers and PPN Secretariats to share experiences and to learn from one another. On behalf of the National Advisory Group, I would like to express appreciation of all the hard work put in by the PPN and others to make this conference the success it was. I am happy to report at this stage that arrangements are in hand for the holding of a Conference in 2018.

As the PPNs continue to grow and build capacity, new challenges are being presented – the role of the Advisory Group is to consider these, provide guidance and put in place supports. A key challenge for the Advisory Group will be in balancing what might be considered a local issue with that which might have national implications, while always respecting the independence of the PPN.

The Advisory Group will examine the key recommendations of this, the second Annual Report of PPNs, with a view to progressing the recommendations to the benefit of PPNs and building on the achievements of 2017.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the valuable input of Social Justice Ireland, Wicklow PPN and Fingal PPN in the preparation of this Report.



Ciara Bates, Chairperson, National PPN Advisory Group

Introduction

Democracy is based on active participation by citizens in public life. Every citizen should have the right to influence decision-making that affects them and the communities around them. Countries that encourage deliberative democracy and foster informed debate are more transparent, accountable and socially inclusive. Enhanced social dialogue, based on clear evidence and research, both qualitative and quantitative, leads to better decision making and allows citizens to take ownership and responsibility for policies created by local and national government. The Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were established following extensive work by the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government and developed in line with their recommendations.

Volunteer-led organisations make a significant contribution to the social, cultural, economic and environmental fabric of Ireland. Groups range from large sporting organisations and their individual clubs, to small entities like choirs or art collectives etc. Large or small, local or regional, all enhance the lives of their members and the communities which they serve. In addition, they have huge experience and expertise in the issues that directly affect people, communities and the environment in their areas of operation.

This report describes the activities of PPNs in 2017. It should be read in the context that for many PPNs, this was their first real year of operation, having come through the initial development phase.

Role of the National Advisory Group (NAG)

The report of the Working Group on Citizen Engagement with Local Government which was set up in September 2013 made recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision-making processes at local government level. The Working Group Report was published in February 2014.

That report outlined the ways in which structures and processes for securing the engagement of organised civil society with local government could be strengthened. To do this, the Report recommended that a Public Participation Network (PPN) be established in each local authority area to enable the public to take an active formal role in relevant policy making and oversight committees of the local authority.

The Working Group Report recommended that the work of PPNs should be monitored and evaluated regularly in line with best practice. The first National PPN Advisory Group was established in 2016 for this purpose and ran until September 2017.

A second National PPN Advisory Group, established immediately after the term of office of the first group ended, is fully representative of all stakeholders. The Group now includes one representative each from the Community and Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion sectors, three PPN Volunteers – one each representing the three different sectors, three PPN resource workers and two Local Authority staff (one at Director of Service level and one directly supporting a PPN). The Group is chaired by the Department of Rural and Community Development who also provide the secretariat services for the Group. Membership of the Advisory group is set out in Table 1.

Introduction

Table 1: Membership of the National Advisory Group

Name	Representing
Ciara Bates	Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)
Catherine Lane, Women's Council of Ireland	Community and Voluntary Sector
Dr Seán Healy, S.M.A. Social Justice Ireland	Social Inclusion Sector
Michael Ewing, Environmental Pillar	Environmental Sector
Jamie Moore, Fingal PPN	Resource Workers
Helen Howes, Wicklow PPN	Resource Workers
Annette Barr Jordan, Westmeath PPN	Resource Workers
Aileen Eglinton, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown PPN	Volunteer Representatives – Community and Voluntary Sector
David Collins, Galway County PPN	Volunteer Representatives – Social Inclusion Sector
Sadhbh O'Neill, Kilkenny PPN	Volunteer Representatives – Environment Sector
Donal Brennan, Laois County Council	Local Authorities
Dymphna Farrell, Dublin City Council	Local Authorities

Along with its monitoring role, the Advisory Group is also charged with advising and supporting the Department of Rural and Community Development to develop the PPNs. This is being achieved through the development of key performance indicators for PPNs and local authorities in conjunction with the Department. This Annual Report, which gives an overview of the work done by PPNs in 2017 was developed by the National PPN Advisory Group for completion by PPNs and Local Authorities.

Methodology

In early 2018, a consultation template was devised and agreed by the National Advisory Group and circulated to all PPNs for completion. The completed templates were collated in a database for analysis purposes.

Of the 31 PPNs, 29 reports were returned in full. The outstanding reports are from Limerick and South Dublin. The data in this report reflects that received from those counties which submitted returns. Where possible, comparable data from 2016 is included.

Glossary of Terms

There are a broad range of definitions covering the nature and scope of public participation and local government. Some of these are explained below:

Advisory Group	The National PPN Advisory Group (see also NAG).
Associate Members	Groups that do not fulfil the full criteria for membership of the PPN.
Community	Refers to a place (such as a neighbourhood or wider area), identity (such as belonging to an ethnic group), or interest (such as a commitment in common with others, for example, disability rights).
DoS	Director of Services (Local Authority).
Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government	Oversees the operation and development of the local government system and provides the policy framework within which local authorities work and deliver services to the communities that they represent and serve. From July 2017, the policy framework regarding LCDCs, LECs and PPNs transferred from the Department of Housing, Planning & Local Government to the Department of Rural & Community Development. Article 28A of the Irish Constitution recognises the role of local government in providing a forum for the democratic representation of communities and in exercising and performing powers conferred by law.
The Elected Council	The policy making forum of the local authority; the municipal district members act as a decision-making sub-formation of the overall council in respect of their municipal district area. Elected Councils (operating at local authority or municipal district level) exercise 'reserved functions' defined in law across a range of legislation. The day-to-day management of a local authority is carried out by the executive, i.e. the full-time officials led by the chief executive. The chief executive has a duty to advise and assist the Elected Council in the exercise of their functions.
JPC	(Joint Policing Committee) A Local Authority Committee comprised of councillors, TDs, Senators, the Gardaí and external stakeholders such as PPNs which makes policy proposals on policing issues. Section 36 of the Garda Síochána Act provided for the establishment of JPC's in each Local Authority administrative area and as part of the Local Government structures.
LAGS	Funding is delivered through Local Action Groups (LAGs) through which LEADER funding is delivered.
LCDC	(Local Community Development Committee) A Local Authority Committee with public and private members which oversees community development programmes in an area including LEADER and SICAP. PPNs typically have 5 members on that committee. The aim of LCDC's is to develop, coordinate and implement coherent and integrated approach to local and community development.

Glossary of Terms

LEADER	A funding programme delivered via the LCDC, which aims to support economic social and environmental development of rural areas. LEADER is a programme that supports both private enterprise and community groups in delivering projects aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and encouraging the diversification of economic activity in rural areas.
Linkage Group	A group of PPN stakeholders in a particular issue who meet to make policy recommendations and work closely with a PPN representative on a relevant Board or Committee.
Local Authorities (LA)	City or County Councils. Play a key role in supporting economic development and enterprise at a local level. Local Government support on the ground is critical to the success of many initiatives which drive local communities. These range from local festivals and events; design of streetscapes and village renewal schemes; support for micro-enterprises, business parks and incubation units; involvement in energy efficiency projects; promotion of rural broadband; planning for major investments in the green economy.
Local Development Companies (LDC)	Organisations with a remit to support economic and social development in their catchment area. LDCs are typically contracted to deliver programmes such as the Rural Development Programme (LEADER), Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and Tús.
Local Government Reform Act 2014	Provides for a range of changes to the organisation and work of local authorities. Among other things, it provides for the amalgamation of a number of local authorities; the abolition of town councils; the abolition of city and county development boards; the establishment of local community development committees and it provides for a range of changes to the functions carried out by local authorities. Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 commenced on 1 June 2014, it provides the legislative basis which gives effect to the Framework for Public Participation and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs).
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding (agreement between LA and PPN).
Municipal District (MD)	A subdivision of a Local Authority area. Councillors meet at Municipal District level as well as in full council. MDs were established following the reform of Local Government Act in 2014.
(n=XX)	Denotes number e.g. number of replies, number who answered question.
NAG	The National PPN Advisory Group.
Not for profit organisations	Organisations whose objective is to return any surplus income generated back into the organisation and not pay a dividend to shareholders. It includes a vast range of organisations from very small groups with no income to large charities.

Glossary of Terms

Plenary	All the member groups in a PPN. The Plenary is the ultimate decision making body of the PPN.
PPN Budget	The annual amount a PPN has available to it, derived from DRCD, LA & other sources.
Salesforce	A data and information management system that is common to all PPNs. The system itself allows PPNs to capture and manage information regarding individuals, store details on organisations and community and network groups, manage funding from organisations, manage campaigns such as email communications, generate custom reports and much more.
SICAP	(Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme) is designed to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality. Each SICAP provider works with both individuals and community groups in a city / county or subdivision thereof, with a focus on people experiencing disadvantage and areas which are designated disadvantaged.
SLA	Service Level Agreement (generally between PPN and service provider).
Social Inclusion	Activity centred on working to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty or in unemployment using community development approaches to build sustainable communities, where the values of equality and inclusion are promoted and human rights are respected.
SPC	(Strategic Policy Committee) Local authority committees in city and county councils whose membership includes Elected Councillors, representatives of business, farming interests, environmental/conservation groups, trade unions and community and voluntary members. It is the task of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), as committees of the council, to advise and assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy. They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services. The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages.
Sustainable Development	Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.
Thematic Group	A group of PPN stakeholders working on a cross-cutting policy theme, e.g. disability, social inclusion, sustainability.
Tús	A community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed people.
User Guide	A composite set of Guidelines and advice issued in 2016 to assist PPNs and other stakeholders.




Glossary of Terms

Volunteer-led organisations	Organisations which are governed by a group of volunteers acting as a committee, board or other structure. They may also have paid staff who act on behalf of the Board.
Well-being	Describes a community whose basic needs are met, where people have a sense of purpose and feel able to achieve important goals, to participate in society and to live the lives they value and have reason to value.
Working Group	The Working Group on Citizen Engagement. This group was set up in September 2013. Its role was to make recommendations on more extensive and diverse input by citizens into the decision making at local government level. The Report of the Working Group was published on 28 February 2014.
Worker	Resource Worker.

Section 1: Membership

Membership of the PPNs have increased by 21% since 2016, and now extends to 12,805 members (including Associate Members) across the 29 PPNs for which returns were received. Community and Voluntary organisations continue to account for the majority of members (79%), followed by Social Inclusion organisations (18%) and Environmental Organisations (3%). Table 2 below provides a breakdown of full Membership by type of organisation and shows the comparative increase in each area over 2016.

Table 2: Composition of PPN membership 2016 and 2017*

College	2016 (n=31)	2016 (n=28)	2017 (n=29)	% total 2017	% increase over 2016
 Community and Voluntary	9301	8188	9947	79	21
 Environmental	396	342	393	3	15
 Social Inclusion	2265	1876	2274	18	21
Total	11962	10406	12614	100	21

* Based on 29 Returns. Excludes Associate Members.

Overall 10 PPNs offered an associate membership, generally for organisations which did not meet the full membership criteria, but who wished to be involved and receive information. In total, PPNs had 157 Community and Voluntary Associate Members, 11 Environmental Associate Members, and 23 Social Inclusion Associate Members.

Full re-registration was carried out by 13 PPNs, while the remainder updated members contact details as changes were notified to them. A number of PPNs noted that an add-on for Salesforce which would automate re-registration was expected in 2018, and this was much anticipated. While most PPNs were aware of, or did not dispute, the need to re-register annually, a small number (n=5) reported a two year re-registration cycle.



Section 2: Representation and Decision Making

Consultations

PPNs publicised 339 local consultations and 270¹ national consultations to their members via e-bulletins, social media, website etc. A sample of the range of consultations is shown in Table 3. PPNs directly attended 77 consultation events², and were represented by the Resource Worker at 74. In addition, they made 63 written submissions. PPNs also carried out 118 consultations with their own members on a variety of topics.

For the PPNs and their member groups to be able to input to local consultations, it is essential that the Local Authorities (LAs) provide them with the relevant information, in a timely way to facilitate input from the PPN. In 2017, 18 PPNs stated that they always received this information, while five usually received it, and in six the information flow was not as reliable. However, it must be noted that 11 PPNs considered that they did not usually receive information with adequate time for them to disseminate it to members and for members to respond, meaning that even where the Local Authority is engaging with PPNs in respect of consultations and submissions, this engagement may not allow for meaningful participation by the PPN.

When asked how participation in consultations could be improved the key themes raised were:

- Department to lead on a concrete strategy for consultation and engagement, to be implemented via the City and County Management Association (CCMA). 2 PPNs have produced guidelines which could be used as a base.
- Information being provided directly to the PPN from all departments of the Local Authority.
- Information about National Consultations should be sent directly to PPNs.
- Adequate time allotted for consultation (ideally 2 months), and consultations should not be run when traditionally most people are on holiday i.e. Christmas, Easter and Summer.
- Plain English used in consultations.
- Better feedback mechanisms to communities who make a submission, including regular feedback between PPN and LA management, including notifications of the outcomes of consultations.
- Capacity Building for PPN members to use consultation opportunities effectively.
- Greater support from the body running the consultation to ensure that participation is meaningful.
- Implement the Department of Public Expenditure & Reform's Consultation Principles and Guidance (November 2016) at local and national government level.



1 Note: An individual consultation may be shared by a number of PPNs. Thus this figure is not the number of national consultations which took place in 2017.

2 Note: This does include member groups attending in their own right as a result of receiving information from the PPN.

Table 3: A sample of the consultations promoted by PPNs in 2017

National Consultations Promoted

- Action Plan on Housing
- Biodiversity Plan
- Charities Regulator Consultation on Charities Governance
- Citizens' Assembly Climate Change consultation
- Climate Action Strategy
- Connecting for Life
- Decade of Centenary Commemorations
- Developing the potential of social enterprise in Ireland-online consultation
- Housing (various)
- HSE Your Voice Matters Consultation
- Ireland 2040 National Planning Framework
- Local County Development Committee review by Department of Rural and Community Development
- Multi-Modal Transport
- National Action Plan for Social Inclusion
- National Draft River Basin Management Plan
- National Women's Strategy
- Nitrates Action Programme
- Our Public Service 2020 Consultation
- Public Library Strategy 2018-2022
- Regional consultation on government plans on poverty and social exclusion
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Plan (SICAP) Pobal consultation
- Social Enterprise Policy and Implementation Roadmap
- Water Framework Directive

Local Consultations

Across many counties

- Age Friendly
- Brexit (Border counties)
- Creative Ireland strategy - Local implementation
- Local Authority Corporate Plan
- Local Authorities Water and Communities Office
- LEADER
- Library Strategy
- Local Area Plans
- Park plans
- Planning submissions
- Play Policy
- Property tax consultations
- Public Policing Consultation
- River Basin Management

Specific Local Initiatives

- Carrickmacross Walking & Cycling
- Community Park
- Cork Dashboard Project
- Cork Docklands Area Plan Consultation
- Design Dublin St Regeneration Scheme
- Dublin Bus Network Redesign Workshop
- Kells -Solving our own problems
- Greenway development
- Local Waste Survey
- Longford Nua App
- Navan 2030
- Portlaoise Public Realm
- Region Drug & Alcohol Task Force
- Suicide Prevention
- Tipperary Digital Strategy
- Town Peace Campus
- Traffic changes
- URBACT Local Group

Representation on Decision Making Bodies

The election of representatives to various decision making and advisory bodies on behalf of the Community, Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion sectors is one of the core functions of PPNs.

The number and gender breakdown of representatives in 2017 is shown in Table 4.

Table 4: Participation of PPN representatives on Boards and Committees	
	2017 (n=29)
No. of Boards with PPN Representation	382
No. of Representatives	882
Female	409
Male	473
Proportion Female:Male	46:54
No. of new reps elected	178
Female	75
Male	103
Proportion Female:Male	42:58
Proportion of seats contested	43%
No. of Vacant seats	59
No. of reps retired	89

17 PPNS reported having an individual represented on more than one board or committee, with a total of 31 individuals reported. Of those, 15 reported that lack of availability of volunteers to attend boards and committees posed a problem, two PPNS reported that they were addressing the issue in 2018.

As can be seen from Table 4 above, overall the average board representation is gender-balanced, however it is interesting to note that there was a smaller proportion of female PPN representatives recruited to boards in 2017. A list of some of the main boards on which PPNs had representation is in Table 5 (page 15).



Impacts by PPNs on Decision making

Of the 29 responding PPNs, 26 gave at least one example of an impact made by PPN representatives in their city/county. A number of examples are included below, however there are many more that are currently in process:-

- Significant input by PPN members on LCDC to the new **SICAP** programme, identifying emerging target groups and areas. For example “In late 2016 the PPN made a submission to the LCDC in relation to SICAP. Part of the submission highlighted the difficulties faced by Somali programme refugee families re- settled in the area. [Following this]Collaboration took place and funding accessed to help support the Somali families.” *[sic]*
- Significant input to the structure of **the LEADER programme** including “Adding Social Inclusion and Environmental Criteria and scores to the evaluation sheets for all projects”, “Proposal to change the closed call system which has now been implemented by central Government”, “Online Form applications for Leader funding. One member suggested that an App giving instructions would be very useful. Like what currently exists for Passports” which is currently being considered.
- Revision of **Community Grant schemes** following submissions by PPN reps on Strategic Policy Committees and LCDC to make the schemes more user friendly and better targeted. PPNs also actively promoted these schemes leading to better take up.
- Making proposals on **draft byelaws** on issues including Parks, Beaches, Open Spaces, Busking, Street Trading, Waste Management etc which are in the process of being accepted.
- Highlighting **transport issues** and proposing new routes and route changes e.g. “Case put forward for town bus service in Carlow town, PPN Rep along with Director of Services persuaded National Transport Authority and have agreed in principle”, “New routes proposed by PPN reps in Tipperary now in place”
- Active part of decision making group for very successful **European Year of Volunteering**
- Highlighting issues of **access for people with disabilities** with the outcome that “3 Mobility Audits carried out in conjunction with Council Engineer, Access Officer, PPN Development officer Reps from Older Persons Council and PPN Disability reps in Oct/ Nov 2017”
- Prioritising and inputting to the **Joint Policing Committee (JPC) strategy**, including “PPN Reps put significant pressure on JPC to produce a six year strategy through numerous submissions to the JPC and meetings with the JPC Steering Committee.”
- Proposing establishing and then participating in JPC subgroups on various issues “Sub-groups were set up on the subjects of: Policing Communities; tackling Crime in Rural Areas; Tackling Drugs – supply reduction; Communications”
- **Budgeting:** “A submissions document is prepared each year in the two municipal districts by the PPN groups for consideration for inclusion and implementation by the MD budgets each year. Many of the actions submitted have been funded over the last 2 years.”
- Improvement of disability parking bays and badges were made following consultation with one PPN.

Section 2: Representation and Decision Making



Table 5: A sample of Boards and Committees on which PPNs have representation

Local Authority-led Committees	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Age Friendly County → Children's and Young Peoples Services Committee, CYPSC → Comhairle na nOg → County Tourism Board → Heritage Forum → Joint Policing Committee → Local Community Development Committee → SICAP Sub Group of LCDC → Sports Partnership → Strategic Policy Committees (at least 4 in each LA) → Traveller Accommodation Committee → Urbact Local Groups 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> → County Childcare Committee → Local Link → PEACE → Traveller Movement → Youth Forum → LEADER Evaluation Committee → Regional Drug and Alcohol Task Force → Older Persons Council → Local Development Partnership → Volunteer Centre → Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) → Disability Forum → Connecting for Life

Supports for PPN Representatives

Of course, representatives do not work in isolation and a number of supports are put in place to enable them to represent the PPN effectively. Table 6 shows the types of supports.

Table 6: Support Structures for PPN Representatives*		
A. Structure / Support	No. of PPNS	Comment
Linkage Groups	24	121 Linkage groups have been established of which 72 are considered active.
Thematic or Activity Networks (specific purpose, i.e. Disability Network, Social Inclusion Network, and so on)	14	48 Thematic Groups have been established of which 29 are considered active. Disability is the most frequent theme identified.
Representatives Charter	22	
Training for PPN Representatives	20	
Training for Linkage Groups	9	
Meeting Feedback Forms Completed by Representatives	18	
Local PPN Reps Network	13	
One to One Support	19	
Local Authority / Committee Host	13	

*Based on 29 returns

Both Linkage and Thematic Groups communicate primarily through email and the PPN newsletter. Seven PPNs reported that meetings were organised for their Linkage Groups and three reported that communication was via a Resource Worker. One PPN reported that its Linkage Groups acted as Thematic Groups. Participation in both Linkage Groups and Thematic Groups was a concern expressed for those PPNs whose participation on these groups was felt to be lacking.

Section 3: Communications and Promotion

Creating a strong communications link between the PPN and its members, the Local Authority and other stakeholders is a critical role. In 2017, PPNs developed their communications activities, to increase awareness of the organisation right across the community. E-newsletters or briefings were the main mode of communication with an estimated over 30,000 emails and 271 electronic newsletters being sent in 2017. Fifteen PPNs use a Local Authority email address, 8 use their own domain and the remainder use Gmail. Most PPNs reported sending out information monthly or fortnightly. 16 PPNs also communicate through printed newsletters, with 62 reported as being issued in 2017. The content included PPN Events and activities, PPN Vacancies, Member Group Activities, PPN Representative Reports, Funding Information, Consultation notifications and so on.

Other forms of communication and promotion include holding PPN roadshows around the area (12 PPNs), or collaborating with other agencies and attending their events (23 PPNs). Nineteen used local radio to promote the PPN, and 18 worked with the Library service or the Volunteer Centre. Twenty six PPNs also purchased promotional materials such as pull-up banners, information leaflets, posters, folders, pens, keyrings, mugs etc.



Salesforce usage

Salesforce is used as the primary mechanism to manage the membership database and communications in 21 PPNs (see Table 6 for breakdown). In one it is used occasionally. 6 use alternative methods e.g. Excel, SurveyMonkey, Mailchimp, Wuffoo etc. In light of their experience in 2017, many PPNs sought further training on Salesforce in 2018. As is evident from Table 7 below, the software is not being used to its full capacity in most PPNs.

Table 7: Salesforce Usage

Functions	Always	Sometimes	Occasionally	Never
Primary Database	21	0	1	5
Members Profiles (Member information)	19	1	2	5
Registering Members Directly from Website	14	0	1	10
Mass Email	17	1	2	6
Sending E-Bulletins / Newsletters	13	0	1	10
Mass Texting	12	0	2	11
Tracking attendance at...				
<i>Plenary Meetings</i>	2	0	0	21
<i>Linkage Groups</i>	2	1	1	18
<i>Secretariat Meetings</i>	4	1	3	15
<i>PPN Organised Training</i>	2	2	2	17
Calendar	1	0	0	22
Dashboards	1	4	3	15
Running reports on...				
<i>Full Membership numbers</i>	16	1	1	7
<i>Electoral Area or MD membership numbers</i>	14	1	1	8
<i>Membership by Pillar</i>	16	2	1	7
<i>Membership by Cause</i>	4	2	2	15
<i>Bounced Emails</i>	5	3	4	11
<i>Email open rates</i>	3	5	3	12
<i>Active Members and Inactive Members</i>	7	2	3	12
<i>Structure of groups</i>	2	1	2	17
Track participation in consultations	0	1	2	19
Other	0	0	0	6
<i>Examples of "Other"</i> Use of Wuffoo; Excel and SurveyMonkey are used to manage databases. Outlook and MailChimp are used to send and manage emails.				

Website Functionality

28 PPNs now have an active website, which is used as an information source for groups and other stakeholders. These 28 PPNs are using their own domain name e.g. www.countyppn.ie, with one using a Local Authority site. Social Media is also popular with 26 PPNs using Facebook (total 13,190 likes) and 20 using Twitter (total 5,853 followers). Table 8 provides a breakdown of the website functionality reported by PPNs.

Table 8: Website Functionality

Functions	No. of PPNs
List/Database of registered members	26
Minutes / Reports of Secretariat Meetings	10
Minutes / Reports of Plenary Meetings	13
Minutes / Reports of Linkage Group Meetings	13
PPN Representative Reports	16
PPN Newsletters	21
Advertising Member Events / News	24
Up to date list of all PPN Representatives	25
Adopted PPN Policies	18
Adopted PPN Budgets / Accounts	7
Other	10 – photo gallery, contact details / forms, animated explanation of PPNs, National Guidelines, local news



Section 4: Capacity Building

Capacity building is key for PPNs and their member groups, developing the skills and capacity of individuals and groups, their representatives and other external stakeholders. All PPNs who provided returns were engaged in some form of training or capacity building in 2017. This is summarised in Table 9. Many programmes were a collaboration with other groups such as local partnerships, ETB, Volunteer Centres, Volunteer Information Services, Local Authority etc. The main areas of training included:

- Awareness Raising (Disability, Social Exclusion, etc.)
- Basic Accounts and Financial Management
- Community Development
- Garda Vetting
- General Data Protection Regulations
- Induction and Training for PPN Representatives
- Influencing Policy
- Leadership and Governance
- Planning and Sustainable Development
- Secretariat Induction and training including Salesforce
- Setting up a New Community Group
- Social Media for Communities
- Understanding the LA Budget and Local Plans
- Volunteer Management



Table 9: Training and Capacity Building activities of PPNs in 2017

No. of Training programmes	168
No. of Training Sessions	340
No. of Training Hours delivered	1,207
No. of attendees	2,677

Note: A training programme may run over a number of sessions, or be repeated in a number of locations

Note: An individual may attend more than one training session or event

Partnerships for Training

As referenced earlier, many PPNs collaborate in delivering training and supports to members. In this regard, partnerships were formed with City and County Development Partnerships, Volunteer Centres, SICAP, other PPNs, local Community Action Networks, Universities and Institutes of Technology, Partnerships, and community organisations on specific areas within their remit (e.g. equality, Children's First Guidelines etc.).

Section 5:

Management, Administration and Finance

The administration of the PPN is overseen by a voluntary Secretariat drawn from the membership. This body reports to the Plenary of the PPN, which should meet at least twice every year. PPNs may also meet on a Municipal District or other local level. The Secretariat also manages the resource worker and workplan.

In 2017, 300 people (182 men and 118 women) served on the 29 Secretariats and there were 51 vacancies. Secretariats met on average slightly less than 10 times per PPN during the year, with 70% attendance, and most PPNs operated subgroups for Finance, HR and Governance and these met in addition to the main meetings.

The term of the Secretariat is not consistent across PPNs, however in general it spans across 2 (n=2), 3(n=9), 4 (n=1) or 5 years (n=12). Three PPNs reported that the term was in line with the term of the current council management, while 1 PPN reported that it was in the process of drafting Terms of Reference and a further PPN reported that one-third of its Secretariat membership retires at each AGM.

The majority (n=27) of respondents advised that they have a rotating facilitator / chair for Secretariat meetings, while 2 reported that this was not the case, with one confirming that a Chairperson had been appointed. Roles within the Secretariat rotate in 7 PPNs, with the remaining respondents reporting that there are fixed committees and structures within the Secretariat. 26 PPNs reported a flat, consensus-driven, decision-making structure, with three reporting that this was done 'where possible'.

The majority (n=27) of PPNs made minutes available automatically, with the remaining 2 reporting that minutes were available on request.

Of the 24 PPNs who reported having sub-groups of the Secretariat, these subgroups included Finance, Staff Liaison, HR, and Website.

A Memorandum of Understanding is in place for 26 PPNs and for those operating through a host organisation, 10 PPNs reported having a Service Level Agreement in place.

Meetings

Overall a total of 59 Plenary Meetings were held in 2017 across the 29 PPNs who reported, with an additional 76 Municipal District meetings, 161 Linkage Group meetings and 43 other meetings (thematic groups, local areas etc).



Worker Resources and Recruitment

In terms of Resource Workers, 25 PPNs had a full time Resource Worker, three had two part time workers, and one did not appoint a worker until November 2017. Seven PPNs had an administrator on a part time basis. In general, extra staff were employed on a part time, short term contract. Nine PPNs received ad hoc support from volunteers, scheme workers (CE, Tús), agency or from Local Authority staff. 13 PPNs recruited staff in 2017.

12 PPNs recruited Resource Workers or other staff in 2017. Of these, 10 recruited Resource Workers, one recruited a freelance contractor to provide administrative support on a part-time basis, and one reported recruiting a Coordinator, Administrator and Outreach Worker.

The recruitment processes in 8 PPNs were open applications, 1 post was advertised internally in the Local Authority first, and three staff were recruited directly by the Local Authority. The recruitment processes were conducted either by the PPN directly through their Secretariat or Resource Worker (n=6) or with the support of the Local Authority (n=6). Where reported, staff of the PPNs are employed either by the PPN directly (n=2), particularly where the PPN is a company limited by guarantee (CLG), the Local Authority (n=12), the local development company (n=1), Travellers' Group (n=1) or Volunteer Centre (n=1).

Where reported, 13 PPNs reported having staff located in Local Authority office, 3 were accommodated by the host organisation, 4 are based in rented offices, and 2 reported being accommodated in separate offices annexed to the local authority.

Interagency Collaboration

In response to being asked how the PPN collaborated with other agencies, all 29 respondents reported some collaboration. This took the form of local initiatives, LCDCs, Comhairle na nÓg, plenary sessions with Local Authorities, and local and regional steering committees.

Social Inclusion

All 29 respondents also engage in social inclusion activities, particularly the goals outlined in the Local Economic Community Plans (LECP), and through the use of Plain English, providing optional transport for PPN members who cannot travel to plenary meetings, conducting workshops on the LECP plans for members, the results of which are sent to management, one PPN reported holding a 'Social Inclusion Week' and consultation with PPN members on issues that affected them.

Structure

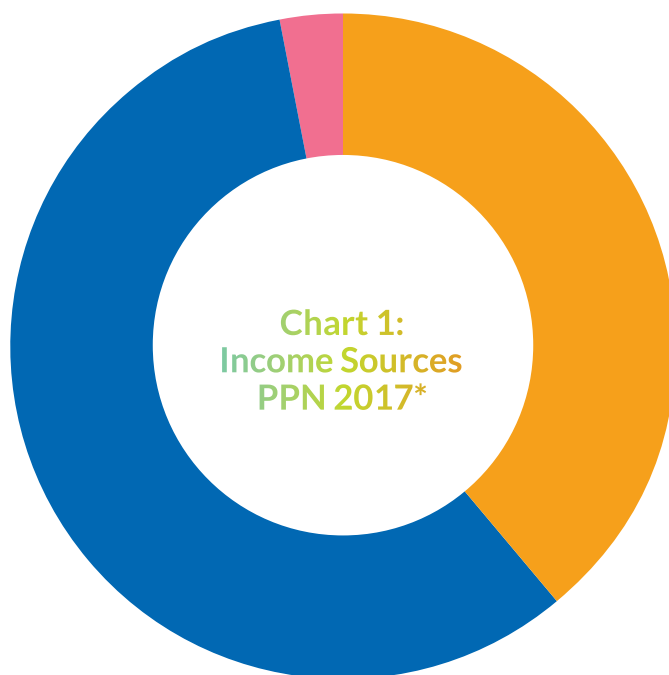
21 PPNs reported being hosted by the Local Authority, 3 were registered companies limited by guarantee and 5 were hosted by local non-governmental organisations such as a Local Development Company, Volunteer Centre or Traveller development group.

Funding

The funding for PPNs is split between Local Authorities (3/8ths) and the Department (5/8ths). Some PPNs reported having a slight surplus above €80,000 received in core funding (see Chart 1).

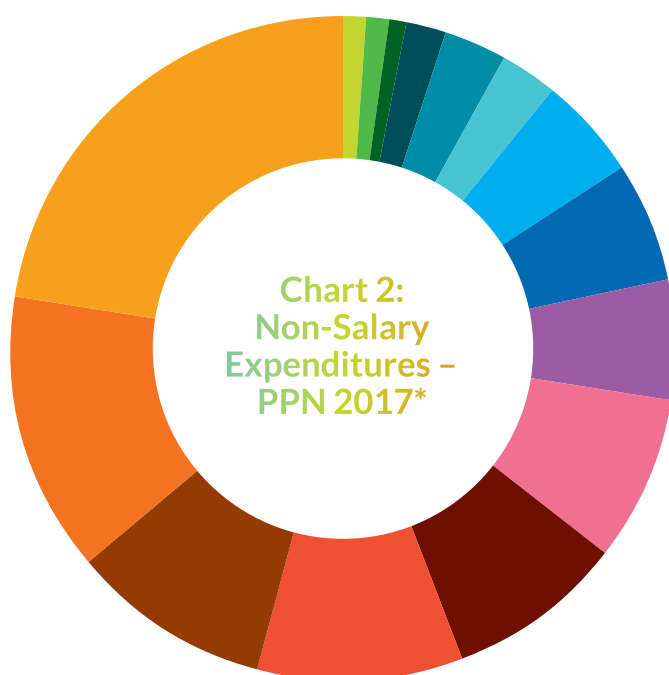
Section 5:
Management, Administration and Finance

Income LA	39%
Income Dept	58%
Income Other	3%



In terms of Budget Spend, 3 PPN spent less than €70,000, due to not having a worker in place for part of the year, 9 spent between €70,000 – €80,000, 10 spent between €80,000 – €83,000 while the remainder had higher expenditure, generally because they gained extra funds for a specific project. The main item of expenditure was salary (64%). Non-salary expenditures (excl. Travel and Subsistence) are set out in Chart 2. Marketing expenditure accounts for almost a quarter of all non-salary expenditures, followed by Training at 14%.

Marketing	23%
Training	14%
Rent	10%
Rooms	10%
Projects	9%
Consultants	8%
Office supplies	6%
Plenary	6%
Website	5%



Audit	3%
Equipment	3%
Post and phone	2%
Insurance	1%
IT	1%
Other	1%
Light and heat	0%
Bank charges	0%
Membership	0%

*Based on 29 Returns

Reimbursement of PPN Representative Expenses

Of the 26 respondents who provided responses in respect of the expenses of PPN members who sit on Local Authority Boards or Committees, the reimbursement of expenses associated with this representation comes from either the core PPN budget (n=14), the Local Authority (n=8) or both (n=4) (depending on the Board or Committee concerned). In respect of non-PPN Boards and Committees, those who responded reported that these expenses are either reimbursed by the host organisation (n=15), or the PPN directly (n=6).

Host Organisation Fees

Of the PPNs who reported paying a fee to a host organisation (n=11), the amount of this fee depended on the nature of the contract in place between the host and the PPN. 4 PPNs reported an annual fee (€2,000 - €4,500, with one paying both an administration fee and an annual charge), and the remainder being based on a percentage of administration or salary costs.

Management of Finances

The PPN budget is either transferred in its entirety to a PPN bank account managed by the Secretariat (n=4), partly to a PPN bank account managed by the Secretariat (n=5), managed in the Local Authority (n=19) or the host / LCDC organisation (n=3). Of those who responded to the question of how much money was in the PPN account (n=2), this ranged from €3,000 to €53,000. For those PPNs whose budget is managed in a Local Authority, expenditures are either approved by the Secretariat either at each meeting in a dedicated 'Finance' section or on foot of a prepared budget / finance report, or notified to the Secretariat by the Resource Worker who is authorised to approve expenditures.

PPN expenditure decisions are taken in the following ways (see Table 10).

Initiative	Number of PPNs	Comment
Secretariat	28	Either on the basis of an approved budget, within an annual budget process or for expenditures over a certain threshold.
Resource Worker	15	Either for day to day expenditure items or up to a certain threshold.
Local Authority	4	Either in respect of staff support, or as agreed under the MOU.
Other	3	A combination of Secretariat, Local Authority and host.

The PPN budget process is as agreed within the existing MOU, the majority are then managed / signed off by the Secretariat. Where the budget is managed at Local Authority level, this is in compliance with the Local Authority's own financial systems.

PPN Policies and Procedures

A number of policies and procedures have been put in place to ensure good governance across the PPN network (see Table 11).

Table 11: Policies and Procedures	
Policy / Procedure	Number of PPNs
Constitution	17
Terms of Reference for:	
Secretariat	23
Subgroups (of Secretariat)	8
Linkage Groups	11
Plenary	13
Representative Charter	21
Expenses Policy	24
Dignity for All	10
Grievance / Conflict Procedure	12
Access Policy	4
HR Procedure	9
Induction Programme for new Representatives	11
Procurement Procedure	9
Staff Recruitment Procedure	8
Staff Development Procedure	6
PPN Rep Reporting Templates	20
Glossary of Terms for Member Groups	14
Health and Safety Policy	11
Other	5 – adopted Local Authority policies

National and Regional Networking

In addition to training and events, PPNs are also engaged in National and Regional Networking, a breakdown of these are set out in Table 12.

Table 12: National and Regional Networking Events*

Initiative	Number	Comment
National PPN Conference	25	
Regional Social Justice Ireland Meetings	26	
National PPN Resource Workers Network	28	
Ploughing Championship (PPN Stall)	13	
The Wheel Conference (PPN Stall / Masterclass)	9	
Locally Organised Regional PPN Networks	16	
Other	8	National Advisory Groups, local festivals and community events, informal regional cooperative events.

*Based on 29 returns



Section 6: Work of the Local Authority

In addition to the provision of funding, discussed in the previous section, the Local Authority also has a key role in the development of the PPN. It must support the PPN to be an independent, effective voice of the Community, Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental sectors in policy development. It is also meant to report to Government on the operation of the PPN, and is the conduit through which finance comes from Government to the PPN.

To enable this to happen, Local Authorities have a number of different mechanisms which can be used to support the PPN in its work (Table 13).

Table 13: Support Mechanisms for PPN in the Local Authority*

Support Mechanism	Number
Active Memorandum of Understanding in Place for 2017.	26
Memorandum of Understanding Reviewed in 2017	20
Assist, where appropriate, the PPN in achieving its Work Plan	27
Supported the PPN to be active Actors in the LECP	24
Cross-departmental participation in PPN Events	25
Involvement of Local Authority PPN Contact Person in PPN	27
Provided additional core funding to the PPN to support its work (additional to the €80,000)	12
Provided additional funding for specific PPN projects	6
Specific campaigns to promote the work of the PPN within the local authority	20
Making LA grants conditional on PPN membership	13 mandatory 14 advised

*Based on 29 returns.

Section 6: Work of the Local Authority

Local Authorities were asked what further supports could be provided by the Department for the development of PPNs. The main issues raised were:

Extra administration resources for the PPN

“Additional funding to augment staffing resources. The current workload and expectations from the Department are difficult to achieve within existing complement. Travel alone in large rural counties takes up a significant amount of time.”

National Information Packs / Training Material to be used to promote awareness of the PPN throughout the LA.

“We would welcome annual training from the Department of Rural and Community Development for officer level staff, in particular those of whom are to work in close collaboration with the resource worker and broader PPN to support the work programme.

A deeper understanding of the rationale and objective behind the PPN structure, as well as the optimum operation of the networks, would be useful to equip these Council staff in communicating the role of the networks to colleagues and elected representatives. Local authorities have a depth of experience working with communities, the third sector and marginalised groups, and some PPN specific training could help to focus this expertise through collaborations and support for the PPN work programme.”

National Awareness Campaign for PPNs

Support volunteers in their role in PPNs

More capacity training for both PPN members and LA staff on the purpose of PPNs as this has a tendency to slide into service provision and event organising rather than support the community to represent well and effectively.

Seeking guidance from the Department regarding the ‘Framework for Public Participation’ which the Local Government Act 2014 states Local Authorities are to adopt

Specific acknowledgement of the unique needs of Gaeltacht areas and Irish Speaking communities. No provision is currently made in this structure of processes for election of PPN Reps in Gaeltacht communities. There should be specifically Irish speaking representatives.

Take on a leadership and co-ordination role for consistency.

Build an effective regional and national structure

Local Authority Consultations

Local Authorities were asked to provide details of consultations, and in particular those sent to PPNs, details set out in Table 14.

Consultations	Number
Local Authority Public Consultations in 2017	819
Notifications of Consultations sent to PPNs in 2017	558
Local Authority Consultations carried out via PPNs as the main vehicle in 2017	34
Consultation Workshops jointly hosted by the PPN and the Local Authority in 2017	20

Induction of PPN Representatives by Local Authorities

When asked what induction Local Authorities provided to PPN Representatives outside of that provided by the PPN itself, 15 respondents reported that some induction was provided by the Local Authority concerned. This ranged from a full induction programme induction, to induction for LCDC representatives only to briefings on request. Of the 14 Local Authorities who reported this was not being done at present, one reported that induction was conducted by the Department of Rural and Community Development and 5 reported either intending to develop induction packs or requesting that a standardised induction pack be introduced.

Training provision by Local Authorities

Similar to the findings in respect of induction above, 15 Local Authority respondents reported that some training was provided to PPNs in 2017, taking the form of lunchtime talks, informal briefings to structured training sessions. 14 Local Authorities reported as not having provided any training to PPNs during this period.

Section 7: Recommendations

PPNs and their LAs were jointly asked to make three recommendations on what is required to further progress the PPNs. The five main recommendations are:

01

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.

- Promote understanding and importance of the role of PPN within the LA structures with an emphasis being put on facilitating the involvement of PPN Representatives.
- National publicity campaign coupled with local publicity campaigns on the relevance and role of the PPN. All to be supported by the Department.

02

Extra resources for the PPN, with an emphasis on additional staff for both administrative and development roles.

- Administrative support for PPN Resource Worker. There is very little time for the Resource Worker to carry out the developmental work that is needed to develop the capacity of member groups.
- A second development worker is required to make the PPN really work to its potential
- Extra funding for PPNs with Gaeltachts & islands re translation and other costs.
- Recognition of the diversity of PPN i.e. urban & rural.

03

Improved support / recognition from the LA for the work of the PPNs

04

Review of the PPN Guidelines and Structures

- Review the structure and operations of linkage groups.
- Review the flat structure.
- Review SPC Structures to improve their impact.

05

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.

Training Needs

Local Authorities

In terms of training needs for Local Authorities, the main area identified was awareness of the PPN and its operation. Training was recommended for both elected members and LA staff in “*the value and importance of the PPN structure and the value of the participation and contribution of PPN representatives*”. This training could be delivered internally or externally. It was also recommended that PPN awareness be built into national training for LA management and elected members.

In addition, PPN could play a formal role in training and awareness-raising on community development/ social inclusion issues affecting local areas, local community groups, disadvantaged communities, people with disabilities etc for the full membership of SPCs, LCDCs and other interagency bodies.

PPNs

When asked about training for PPNs the main areas identified were

Local Government Structures

Understanding Local Government and its committees, how it works, how it makes policy and decisions.

Effective Representation

How PPN representatives can increase their impact, develop and bring forward policy proposals etc. How they can work effectively with each other and develop Linkage Groups. Making effective submissions to consultations etc.

Understanding PPN Structures

Understanding the role of the different structures within the PPN e.g. Secretariat, Plenary, Linkage Groups, Representatives and how they work together. This training can be both as an induction for new members and a refresher for more established members.

Governance for Secretariats

Including HR, Finances, Reporting, Data Protection, Conflict Resolution etc.

Wellbeing Statement

Developing and Using

Organisation Skills for Members

Including governance, communication, child protection and handling volunteers within an organisation, committee training/good meeting etiquette/time management

Salesforce Training

For workers and others using the database

Effective Communications

both within the PPN and raising awareness of PPN in the LA and wider community.

Section 7: Recommendations

Finally respondents were asked what would facilitate better participation of the PPN in policy and decision making, moving towards a partnership approach? Responses were divided between actions that could be carried out by the Local Authority, and those that were the remit of the PPN. Proposals stressed the need for general awareness training for LA staff and elected members on the role of the PPN. Others requested improved communications between LA Committees and the PPN including a protocol for feedback from SPCs to PPNs in relation to:

- PPN members inputs to policy development,
- use of more “Plain English”,
- parity of esteem for PPN representatives
- the LA to provide briefings for PPN Representatives on the consultations, strategies and initiatives being discussed by committees.

Galway City PPN referred to their “Guidelines for Successful Community Engagement” as having key recommendations in this area.

For PPNs the key issues were:

- increased staff to enable the resource worker to support PPN representatives better,
- training in understanding local government, policy issues and advocacy skills for representatives,
- improved participation in Linkage and Thematic groups.

Some final detailed comments encapsulates many of the issues raised:

Chairpersons of Committees and Structures ensure equality of opinion – Reps can sometimes feel that the opinions of Chairs and elected members are given precedence/value over other sectors.

Ensure good fit between each PPN rep and the work/responsibilities of corresponding Committee/ Structure- Important to ensure nominated PPN reps do not have a conflict of interest and also, where relevant, are willing and are comfortable with participating in difficult or contentious decision-making e.g. the LCDC is a very senior structure which has to make serious and impactful decisions.

Tool to track and measure impact – Tracking the journey of PPN participation, PPN inputs and PPN submissions and the level of impact these have on outcomes is needed. We would suggest that an online tool be developed at national level to assist all PPNs in this endeavour. This should be tied-in with suggestion above in relation to Local Authority regulations.

Appendix 1

Contact Details for PPNs

PPN	Email	Website
Carlow	carlowppn@carlowcoco.ie	www.carlowppn.ie
Cavan	cavanppn@gmail.com	www.cavancommunity.ie
Clare	admin@clareppn.ie	www.clareppn.ie
Cork City	corkcity@ppn.ie	cork.ppn.ie
Cork County	ppn@corkcoco.ie	www.corkcountyppn.com
Donegal	mary.clyde@donegalcoco.ie	www.donegalcoco.ie/community/supportingcommunities/donegalpublicparticipationnetworkppn/
Dublin City	ppn@dublincity.ie	www.dublincityppn.ie
Dun Laoghaire / Rathdown	enquiries@dlrppn.ie	www.dlrppn.ie
Fingal	ppn@fingal.ie	www.fingalppn.ie
Galway City	info@galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie	www.galwaycitycommunitynetwork.ie
Galway County	resourceworker@galwaycountyppn.ie	www.galwaycountyppn.ie
Kerry	ppn@kerrycoco.ie	www.kerryppn.ie
Kildare	kildareppn@gmail.com	www.kildareppn.ie
Kilkenny	ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie	www.kilkennyppn.ie
Laois	ppn@laoiscoco.ie ;	www.laoisppn.ie
Leitrim	info@leitrimppn.ie	www.leitrimppn.ie
Limerick	N/A	www.limerickppn.ie
Longford	ppn@longfordcoco.ie	www.longfordppn.ie
Louth	louthppn@louthcoco.ie	www.louthppn.ie
Mayo	office@mayoppn.net	www.mayoppn.net
Meath	meathppn@meathcoco.ie	www.meathppn.ie
Monaghan	ppn@monaghancoco.ie	www.ppnmonaghan.ie
Offaly	info@offalyppn.ie	www.offalyppn.ie
Roscommon	info@roscommonppn.ie	www.roscommonppn.ie/
Sligo	ppn@sligococo.ie	www.sligoppn.com/
South Dublin	N/A	www.sdcpn.ie/
Tipperary	ppntipperary@gmail.com	www.ppntipperary.org/
Waterford	mtobin@waterfordcouncil.ie / jhawkes@waterfordcouncil.ie	www.waterfordppn.ie
Westmeath	info@westmeathppn.ie	www.westmeathppn.ie/
Wexford	wexfordppn@wexfordcoco.ie	www.wexfordppn.ie
Wicklow	countywicklowppn@gmail.com	www.countywicklowppn.ie/

