Kildare Public Participation Network

Annual Report







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INTRODUCTION

2022 was an exciting, progressive and challenging year in Kildare Public Participation Network (Kildare PPN). It was a year that saw us return to inperson events, and what a pleasure it was to be back with, and alongside community groups from across all three pillars.

The work plan for 2022 was approved by the Secretariat and ratified by the Plenary on February 28th. We have achieved huge success, with a very ambitious and pro-active plan. We strengthened the capacity for decision making, improved inclusion and worked with all groups to fill gaps which they had identified.

A real focus in 2022 was to strengthen relationships with key stakeholders and we have made great progress. We developed our first strategic plan which will guide Kildare PPN for the next five years.

As we move into 2023, we look forward to increasing the number of inperson meetings and events with our members and colleagues.

We would like to acknowledge our funders, the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) and Kildare County Council (KCC), without whom we could not achieve the work we do with the groups in Kildare.

Throughout this report we will highlight the work undertaken to give a frank and honest overview to the Plenary, our funders and key stakeholders.



MISSION STATEMENT

Kildare Public Participation Network is the collective voice for all community and voluntary, environmental, and social inclusion organisations in Kildare, its purpose is to improve people's well-being by involving the community in local decision-making.

AIMS

- To facilitate and encourage public participation in local decision making
- To facilitate the representation of the Community and Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental groups onto decision making bodies
- To strengthen the capacity of organisations to contribute positively to the community

OBJECTIVES

- Encourage greater participation in public decision making which leads to more effective and better targeted policies and programmes at local level and where necessary at a regional and national level
- Develop alternative methods and models of working which seek to directly involve and empower groups and individuals within the community
- Support Kildare PPN
 Representatives in achieving the policy objective of Kildare PPN

OUR NETWORK

Membership

Kildare PPN is committed to support all Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental groups in Kildare. We are committed to strengthening the capacity for these groups through information sharing, capacity building and training. We will endeavour to strengthen key relationships to ensure that the voice of all groups in Kildare will have their voices heard, and through representation we will influence policy making for the greater good of all groups in the county.





543

Total Members in 2022



101

New member groups in 2022



Community & Voluntary

466



Environmental

26



Social Inclusion

51

SECRETARIAT

Kildare PPN is overseen by a Secretariat of 11 members. Two members are elected from each of the three Electoral Pillars and the remaining five members, one each from the five Municipal Districts (MD). The Secretariat is a flat structure (i.e. there are no elected officers).

The purpose of the Secretariat is to:

- Ensure the aims and objectives of the Kildare PPN Network are met
- Ensure that member groups are informed of developments relevant to their groups
- Represent member group' interests
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the plenary
- Support the coordinator to achieve the PPN's objectives through the implementation of the annual workplan.
- Develop Kildare PPN into an effective collective voice for community groups in Kildare
- Engage with and support the PPN Representatives
- Operate as defined under Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014

2022 Secretariat Members



Anne CroweSocial Inclusion



Liz Denieffe Naas MD



Anthony EganCommunity & Voluntary



P.J FaganSocial Inclusion



Cliona Kelliher
Environmental



Paul LeightonEnvironmental



Jill MulhernCommunity & Voluntary



Dermot O'Donnell Celbridge/Leixlip MD



Naomi Scott-Hayward Clane/Maynooth MD



Sarah Shakespeare Kildare/Newbridge MD

- James Cotter (community and voluntary) completed his term in February 2022
- Declan Nolan (Athy municipal district) completed his term in May 2022

REPRESENTATION

Local Community Development Committee

Representative	Pillar		
Anthony Egan	Community & Voluntary		
Dermot O'Donnell	Community & Voluntary		
Bob Quinn	Environmental		
Declan Nolan	Social Inclusion		
Sarah Shakespeare	Social Inclusion		

County Kildare Heritage Forum

Representative	Pillar
Patrick Byrne	Community & Voluntary
Brian McCabe	Community & Voluntary
Pat Pender	Environmental

Joint Policing Committee

Representative	Pillar					
Michael Corcoran	Community & Voluntary					
John Daly	Community & Voluntary					

Kildare County Council Strategic Policy Committee's

Committee	Representative	Pillar	
Economic Development Enterprise & Planning	Evonne Boland *	Environmental	
Economic Development Enterprise & Planning	Majella O'Keeffe	Social Inclusion	
Environmental Services & Water	Emer Conway	Environmental	
Environmental Services & Water	Padraic O'Luanaigh *	Community & Voluntary	
Housing	Tom O'Malley	Community & Voluntary	
Housing	John McLoughlin	Social Inclusion	
Local Community & Cultural	Vivienne Kelly-Keane	Community & Voluntary	
Local Community & Cultural	Lorraine Benson Environmental		
Local Community & Cultural	P.J. Fagan Social Inclusion		
Transportation, Safety & Emergency Services	Gerry Dornan Community & Volu		
Climate Action	Ali Sheridan * Ursula King Environmental		
Climate Action	Dr. Judith Browne *	Community & Voluntary	

^{*} Representatives that retired from their position during 2022

Representative Network

A Representative's Network continued throughout 2022 to give Kildare PPN Representatives an opportunity to meet, network and share information with each other. A highlight of 2022 was the event "Working together for Public Participation" which was a collaboration between Kildare PPN and KCC.

Linkage Groups

Linkage/Thematic groups are the way that PPN member groups can have a real input into policy in their area of operation. They bring together organisations with a common interest to discuss their views and interests in a specific policy area linked to a committee or board with PPN representation.

In 2022 the Secretariat approved a subcommittee to work on the development of linkage groups adding an extra two linkage/thematic groups; Community Culture and Heritage and Economic and Planning to our three existing linkage groups. The development of linkage/thematic groups will be a key focus in 2023.



Climate Action



Community,
Culture & Heritage



Economic & Planning



Housing



Transport

Staff



Grainne Fleming Coordinator



Grace Clarke Support Worker



Working Together for Public Participation

This event was a first of its kind, with Kildare PPN collaborating with KCC to further strengthen public participation through capacity building. It brought together KCC, elected members and staff, with Kildare PPN Representatives, Secretariat and staff members.

Susanne Rogers of Social Justice Ireland provided an overview of the PPN's including their legislative remit, and the roles and responsibilities of Representatives with the PPN.

Susan Bookle, LCDC coordinator presented on the processes and procedures of statutory committees, discussing the requirements for Representatives to have real input into meetings, therefore improving engagement for better outcomes.

A questions and answer session then followed with Susanne Rogers, Susan Bookle and Paula O'Brien, SEO of the community department in KCC.

PRESENTATION TO STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES

During 2022, Kildare PPN presented to three of the Strategic Policy committees within KCC outlining the role of the PPN and the value of the PPN Representative including:

- Climate Action Strategic Policy Committee
- Housing Strategic Policy Committee
- Community and Cultural Strategic Policy Committee

Feature on Kildare PPN - The Pulse

In the December edition of the Pulse Newsletter, Kildare County Councils internal newsletter the PPN was featured. This was a fantastic opportunity for us to highlight the work we do and the impact we have for community groups in Kildare. Readership figures for this edition exceeded 519.





conducted to identify the training needs of our members. A total of eight training modules were delivered with a total of 158 member groups attending.

2022 Autumn/Winter Training Modules

- "Let's Unpack" conflict management
- Writing successful submissions
- The charities governance code
- KCC grant information evening
- Using the Sustainable Development Goals for action
- Sustainability doing more with less
- Sustainable gardening and community groups
- Community Leadership new landscape, new perspective

- Flat structure training
- Sustainable Development Goals

Secretariat Training

- Human Resource Training
- Flat structure training

Kildare County Council **Staff Training**

Grainne Fleming, Coordinator for Kildare PPN delivered training to seventeen members of staff in KCC who were partaking in the Local Government studies degree, outlining the role and remit of Kildare PPN. This was an extremely engaging and informative session and one which was very worthwhile.



Clane/Maynooth MD Meeting

The MD meeting of 2022 took place at the North Kildare sports centre in Kilcock on Wednesday 29th June. It was a great opportunity for member organisations to meet with the MD representative Naomi Scott Hayward and to network with other groups in the area. It was well attended with several member organisations promoting their programmes. We would like to thank Mairead McHale from Maynooth Autism Friendly Town and Emer Conway from Sustainable Energy Communities who both spoke on the night.



The Annual Report for 2021 was launched during the Claine-Maynooth MD meeting in June. The report highlights the work undertaken and the progress achieved by Kildare PPN during 2021.





Kildare Volunteers Awards

The Volunteer awards were held in the Keadeen Hotel in Newbridge on May 19th and hosted by KCC in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development and Volunteer Ireland. Two members of the Secretariat, Naomi Scott Hayward and Jill Mulhern represented Kildare PPN. It was a great night held to recognise the amazing work of volunteers in the county.

Women's Health Fair and Seminar - International Women's Day

In celebration of International Women's Day, the community section in KCC hosted a Women's Health Fair and Seminar on the 9th of March in Newbridge Town Hall. The event was opened by Minister for Health Stephen Donnelly.

We were delighted to be invited to attend and to operate an information stand for the Kildare PPN, where members of our Secretariat promoted the work we do.

The Local Economic & Community Plan and the Public Sector Duty - an opportunity for the PPN to advance human rights and equality issues

Held in July, this meeting gave Kildare PPN members the opportunity to gain and share knowledge on the Local Economic Community Plan and the Public Sector Duty and to consider how best the PPN can influence the LECP in setting its goals and strategies.

Midlands Regional PPN

The Midlands Regional PPN meeting was hosted by Kildare PPN in June. This was attended by fourteen members from Laois, Meath, Westmeath, Offaly and Kildare. These meetings focus on sharing information, collaboration and Networking.

Findings from Outdoor Teen Facility Consultation in Celbridge

On the 9th of November, Kildare PPN hosted an online event for KCC to facilitate a presentation on the findings from the Outdoor Teen Facility consultation for our member groups and members of the community in Celbridge.









Kildare PPN Climate Action weekend took place between Friday 9th and Sunday 11th of September. Fifteen different events took place throughout the weekend covering topics such as Climate Action and Health, Psychology and the Climate Crisis, Farming for Nature, Energy and Sustainability.

The weekend succeeded in sharing knowledge with over 250 participants, and resulted in educating, and inspiring Climate Action in our communities. It was a great success and has become a very well supported event in the Kildare calendar.







County Kildare Social Inclusion Week is an annual event which has been running since 2017, catering for the needs of many in the community. It is a fun packed, educational, and insightful week. This year thirteen events took place, with opportunities for community and voluntary groups, services, and educators from right across the county to showcase the work they do.

We were privileged to collaborate with County Kildare LEADER Partnership, the Family Resource Centres and the Leixlip Community Centre. The Kildare (GAA) senior manager Glen Ryan opened the week in Teach Dara, Kildare town, delivering an inspiring speech about the positive impact of the GAA in terms of social inclusion.







February Plenary

Kildare PPN's first Plenary meeting of the year took place on the 28th of February and was held online via Zoom. Eighteen (18) member groups were in attendance on the night.

Ian Russell, former chair of Kildare Volunteer Centre, was the guest speaker for the meeting, Ian discussed and highlighted the power of volunteering.

The Plenary were presented with an overview of Kildare PPN's activities during 2021, the proposed 2022 Work Plan, the proposed Budget for 2022 and all new policies that were developed since our last Plenary meeting.

The Secretariat launched the 2022 elections, giving an overview to the Plenary of the vacant positions on both the Secretariat and Representative seats.

The draft framework for the Strategic Plan 2022-2026 was presented and a consultation window was launched to gather further feedback from the Plenary on the framework.

November Plenary

The second Plenary of 2022 was held in the Osprey hotel in Naas on November 21st. It was the first in-person Plenary for three years and it was a real pleasure to be able to meet with the members and have real engagement on the night. The guest speaker for the evening was Dr Rory Hearne, author and assistant Professor in Maynooth University. Rory spoke about the demos' civil 'Hope in society, empowering citizens & achieving change for social and environmental justice. We were also delighted to have Paula O'Brien, Senior Executive Officer of the community department in KCC in attendance. Paula introduced herself to our members and highlighted the importance of the PPN.

A workshop was held with our member groups to consult on the workplan for 2023. This interactive exercise was well received and a great opportunity for members to really have their say in the planning for 2023.

The launch of the Kildare PPN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026 was a highlight of the evening. This strategy will guide the priorities, vision and workplans of Kildare PPN in the years to come. It will ensure that the voices of all voluntary groups in Kildare are heard and that we will increase our influence in policy decisions at local government level.

We were delighted to be joined by a number of community support organisations who were in attendance on the night to speak to our members about what supports they have on offer, including: Kildare Volunteer Centre, Community Finance Ireland, BHP Insurance, Sustainable Energy Community Mentor and ALONE.

It was a fantastic evening, and we look forward to more in-person events in 2023.







PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING



Submission to the Kildare County Development Plan 2023 - 2029

In April, Kildare PPN held a facilitated workshop online for our member organisations to give them the opportunity to feed into Kildare PPN's submission to the draft Kildare County Development Plan (CDP). Caroline O'Donnell, senior executive planner with KCC gave PPN members an overview of the draft plan, and gave participants the opportunity to ask any questions about the CDP.

For PPN members who were unable to attend the workshop, their input was collected via email and an online form. This feedback was then collated to form Kildare PPN's submission which can be viewed on the Kildare PPN website.

2022 Climate Conversations

The Climate Conversations are a part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action (NDCA), to empower everyone in society to help the Government codesign the annual Climate Action Plan. Kildare PPN Climate Conversation took place on the 20th of June and was facilitated by Cliona Kelliher, environmental Representative on the Secretariat.

The notes and feedback from the Climate Conversations were submitted to the Department of Environment, Climate and Communications, to build on the 2021 findings to track progress and identify regional barriers, along with understanding what could drive further behavioural change amongst the population now and in the future.

Kildare Digital Strategy

Kildare PPN held an online focus group with our member organisations facilitated by Nollaig McGuinness of PNG Consult on the 9th of May. This focus group was held as part of the development of KCC's new Digital Strategy, to discuss the opportunities and the challenges that digital technology local presents for communities and how the new strategy can respond to these. Following this, Kildare PPN made a submission highlighting the importance education, diaital of poverty, sustainability, and accessibility.

Kildare Age Friendly Strategy

Kildare PPN collaborated with Nollaig McGuinness of PNG Consult for the Age Friendly Strategy on Sept 8th. We discussed the challenges, concerns, and issues facing Older People and what priorities and actions should be included in the strategy.

Community Support Survey

In collaboration with KCC, Kildare PPN carried out a survey with member groups to determine if the Covid-19 pandemic has had a negative impact on volunteer retention / recruitment in community and volunteer groups in Kildare. If so, this will help to identify any specific supports needed by KCC to ensure that all groups can continue to operate effectively into the future.

Healthy Kildare Plan Consultation

In early February Kildare PPN attended an online focus group to feed into the development of the Healthy Kildare Plan.

Internal Consultations with our Plenary (Member Organisations)

As part of our commitment to achieve full inclusion and ensure that the Plenary as the key decision makers are acknowledged and respected, Kildare PPN consulted on a regular basis to ensure we are meeting the needs of all member groups.



Kildare PPN Strategic Plan 2022 – 2026



Training Needs Analysis



Kildare PPN Workplan

COMMUNICATION



Email Newsletters

24 e-Bulletins sent



2022 Website Statistics

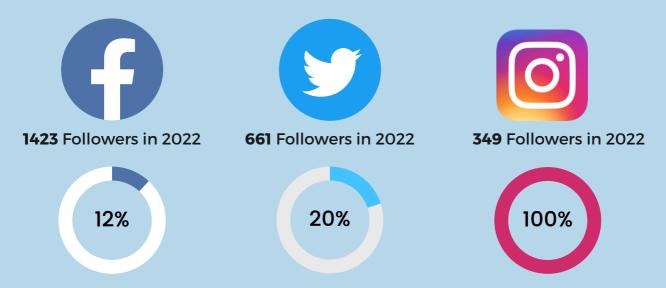


📫 2704 Unique Users

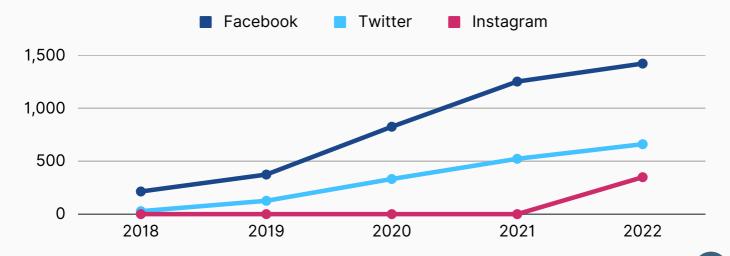


10,790 Page Views

Social Media



% Increase in followers in 2022





New Policies

· Communication policy

MOU and SLA

The 2022 Memorandum of Understanding with KCC along with the Service Level agreement with Kildare County Council and County Kildare LEADER Partnership was signed in January 2022. These documents are available on the Kildare PPN website under the Governance section.

Sub-Committees

- The Finance sub-committee
- The Staff Liaison sub-committee
- The Policy sub-committee
- The Linkage/Thematic sub-committee

Transparency

To ensure full transparency, the following documents are available for public viewing on the PPN website:

- Secretariat meeting minutes
- Plenary meeting minutes
- Kildare PPN Income & Expenditure Reports
- Kildare PPN Quarterly Reports
- Kildare Annual Reports
- Kildare Strategic Plan 2022 2026
- Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement



Name	J	F	М	А	М	J	J	S	0	N	D
Anne Crowe	Y	Y	Y	Z	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ
Liz Denieffe	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ
Anthony Egan				Y	Y	Z	Y	Z	Y	Y	Υ
P.J. Fagan	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Υ
Cliona Kelliher	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	Z	Z	Y	Y	Y	Y
Paul Leighton				Y	Z	Z	Y	Z	Z		
Jill Mulhern				Y	Y	Y	Y	Z	Y	Y	Y
Dermot O'Donnell	Y	Y	Y	Z	Z	Υ	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y
Naomi Scott-Hayward	Υ	Y	Υ	Y	Υ	Υ	Z	Y	Z	Y	Ν
Sarah Shakespeare	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ	Υ	N	Υ	Υ	Υ

ADMINISTRATION



2022 Work Plan

The Kildare PPN Work Plan for 2022 was approved by the Secretariat and ratified by the Plenary on February 28th, outlining our main aims and objectives for the year. You can view a copy of Kildare PPN's 2022 Work Plan on the website.



Income and Expenditure

Kildare PPN's Income and Expenditure Report for 2022 can be accessed on the PPN website under the 'Our Governance' section.



Audit

Kildare PPN were chosen as one of the PPN's to undergo an external audit in 2022 with the Department of Rural and Community Development auditors (Pobal). We got full clearance with no actions required.

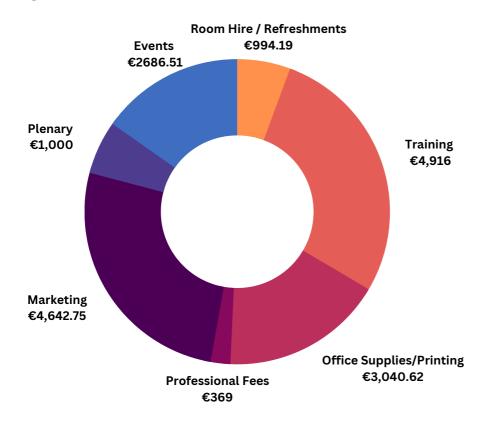


Re-registration Process

A full re-registration of all Kildare PPN member groups was undertaken in 2022 to ensure that the data we hold is up to date and accurate. A total of 401 organisations re-registered in 2022.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Programme Costs



Operational Costs

Operational Costs	Amount
Salaries & Employer PRSI	€84,363
Insurance	€528.46
Hosting (Administration) Fee	€3,000
Communitcations/IT Subscriptions	€1,216.05
Website	€1,306.88
Misc / Expenses	€832.64
Phone	€400
Wheel Membership	€150



Community & Culture, Level 7, Áras Chill Dara, Devoy Park, Naas, Co. Kildare











