

Special meeting of Kildare PPN Secretariat.

Friday 28th October at 11am via Zoom

Attendees: Anne Crowe (AC), Liz Denieffe (LD), Anthony Egan (AE), Grainne Fleming (GF), Cliona Kelliher (CK), Paul Leighton (PL), Dermot O'Donnell (DOD), Naomi Scott-Hayward, Facilitator(NSH).

Apologies: PJ Fagan (PJF), Jill Mulhern (JM), Sarah Shakespeare (SS).

Welcome and opening.

NSH opened this specially convened meeting, thanked everyone who could make it at short notice, and stated the purpose of the meeting to be as follows:

- To discuss a request received by Representative Bob Quinn (BQ) to review the decision of Kildare PPN Secretariat, that it does not permit a Rep to occupy two PPN seats and requesting that BQ choose between the LCDC seat and the Economic Development seat.
- Address the queries raised about the election procedures as we head into seven elections.

Elections

NSH requested a show of hands to quickly gauge where members stood at the outset. There was not full consensus, so the following discussion and decisions were made.

Discussion

- All agreed that it is reasonable for a party to ask for a Secretariat decision to be reviewed.
- All members agreed that the purpose of this meeting was to review the decision reached on 14th October, and that whatever the outcome, a formal response would be issued to the Rep today, in advance of the launch of elections next Tuesday 1st November.
- It was stated that the preference is always for the Secretariat to reach decision by consensus, but that when necessary a vote will take place.
- Clarity was sought on whether the Secretariat or the Plenary is the decision-making forum. It was confirmed that the Secretariat is the decision-making body, between Plenary meetings.
- Given the difficulty we have been experiencing in the recent past attracting candidates, some members suggested it might be necessary to permit a Rep to occupy two seats on a temporary basis. While some members felt the lack of candidates for seats represented "exceptional circumstances", there was not unanimous agreement on this.
- Concerns were raised that we don't have a definition of "temporary". It was agreed that it means until the next round of PPN elections, which should take place as soon as possible.
- A number of members restated that the handbook is clear that Reps should not occupy multiple seats. PPN is intended to have a broad representation, with as broad a swathe of

voices as possible. One Rep occupying multiple seats goes against that ethos. The exceptional circumstances, while open to interpretation, should be used infrequently and in unusual circumstances.

- Some members stated that, regardless of this discussion, as we will imminently run a round of elections, the Economic Development seat should be run with other seats as expected.
- A number of members agreed that no new information, which would provide grounds for a change in the original decision had been provided. The meeting on 14th October, was a valid meeting with a quorum. A considered and lengthy discussion had taken place and the Secretariat had reached a decision not to allow a Rep occupy two seats.
- A number of members felt the precedence of allowing a Rep to occupy two seats would be concerning, and the precedence of reversing decisions with no new information is also not ideal.

Decision & Action:

- It was unanimously agreed that the Secretariat would run all seven seats. In the event that the vacant seat on the Economic Development Enterprise and Planning SPC is not contested BQ may take it up until elections run again as early as possible in 2023.
- Action: NSH, CK, DOD and GF to draft formal response to that effect today.

Decision making by Secretariat

- It was agreed that decisions should be settled at monthly Secretariat meetings and that discussion by email between meetings should be avoided, unless absolutely necessary.
- It was agreed that to ensure that could happen, facilitators should work closely with the coordinator to ensure the meeting Agenda contains all significant agenda items.
- Meeting agendas and pre meeting documentations should, as much as possible, reflect the major issues to be discussed at the upcoming meetings. (E.g at the September Secretariat meeting the matter of approving 7 elections was not on the agenda in advance.)
- Members complemented GF on her excellent monthly reports, which aid meeting efficiency greatly. It was agreed that where they contain a significant item, that item might also merit a separate Agenda item.

The meeting came to an end before a discussion on election procedures could take place.

Next meeting: 14th November, 2022 @ 7pm by Zoom