

Wednesday 11th October, 2023

Dear Member,

As you might know, since Kildare PPN was established, we have been hosted by County Kildare LEADER Partnership (CKLP).

As our host, CKLP have managed the HR and processing of payroll for our two PPN staff members and provided invaluable partnership in the evolution of Kildare PPN over the years.

At the beginning of this year, the Board of CKLP informed the Secretariat, that they would no longer be in a position to host Kildare PPN and that we would need a new hosting arrangement from 2024. Since Kildare PPN came into existence CKLP, its Board and its General Manager Pat Leogue have been generous and supportive partners and now is a good time for Kildare PPN to review our hosting model.

What hosting options are available to PPNs?

There are three hosting options available to Kildare PPN once our current arrangement ends:

1. To set up an independent entity (or CLG) to host Kildare PPN
2. To find a new host in the community, voluntary or environment sector to replace the role played by CKLP to date *or*
3. To ask our local authority, Kildare County Council, to host Kildare PPN.

We have enclosed an overview of these options with this letter. On **Wednesday 25th October at 4.00pm** the Department of Rural and Community Development will host an online seminar for all PPN's outlining the three options above. The webinar will be recorded and shared afterwards on the gov.ie website.

It is important to note that regardless of which arrangement is chosen, it will have no effect on the delivery of our work programme, the day to day running of Kildare PPN or the experience of member groups.

What hosting arrangement should Kildare PPN choose?

The key decision-making body of each PPN is its Plenary, that is, all the member groups in the PPN. If you have received this email, your organisation is a member of Kildare PPN and has a vote in this important decision. The Plenary delegates the administrative and day-to-day functions of the PPN to the PPN Secretariat.

Over the last six months, the Secretariat, on behalf of all member groups, has undertaken an extensive period of research to explore and more fully understand the three available options and what they each would mean for the future of Kildare PPN. Our research included a number of information gathering sessions, and considered the views and experiences of a range of stakeholders including other PPN's around Ireland, the National Secretariat, CKLP,

Kildare County Council, The Wheel and their partner Adare HR, and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

We did this work with a view to making a strong recommendation to the Plenary (the full membership) on which hosting arrangement we believe is the best choice for Kildare PPN, now and into the future.

As a result of this process the Secretariat of Kildare PPN is recommending to the Plenary that we set up an independent entity, or Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG), to host Kildare PPN. This new entity, will act as host of Kildare PPN going forward, effectively replacing the function that has to date been carried out by CKLP.

As stated, this change would not affect the delivery of our work programme or the experience of member groups. Also as already stated, the final decision sits with the member groups and if you have received this email, your organisation is a member of Kildare PPN and has a vote in this decision.

Key next steps in this critical step for Kildare PPN:

- **Wednesday 25th October, 7pm: Online Briefing Session.** The Secretariat will present the details of hosting options available and the reasons we believe establishing a CLG is the best option for the independence and future of Kildare PPN. This Zoom call is open to *members of Kildare PPN only* and all are encouraged to attend. (Please note this Kildare PPN session is separate and complimentary to the Department session that afternoon.)
- **Wednesday 1st November, 7pm: Plenary Meeting in the Osprey Hotel.** At our second Plenary of 2023, we will again share the details of the hosting options. Those in attendance on the evening, will be invited to vote on this important matter. Only one appointed person will be able to vote on behalf of their member group or organisation.
- **Online voting:** In order to make this process as inclusive as possible, we are also working towards an option for online voting.
- **Results:** The result of the vote will be available by close of business Friday the 3rd of November.
- **Independent Oversight:** The voting process will be overseen by a representative of the PPN National Secretariat.

Reminder and clarification: There is only one vote per member organisation.

This is an important decision for the future of Kildare PPN. Your support and engagement is deeply appreciated.

If you have any queries about this matter or any of the details in this communication, please don't hesitate to contact admin@kildareppn.ie and we will be glad to answer any questions you might have.

With best wishes

Kildare PPN Secretariat

Members of Kildare PPN Secretariat are as follows:

Anne Crowe, Social Inclusion

Liz Denieffe, Naas MD (Facilitator)

Anthony Egan, Community/Voluntary

P J Fagan, Social Inclusion

Paul Leighton, Environmental

Dermot O'Donnell, Celbridge/Leixlip MD

Evelyn O'Rourke, Athy MD

Naomi Scott-Hayward, Clane/Maynooth
MD