

**Public Participation
Network Kildare**

Quarterly Report

Q1 2024

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INTRODUCTION

Our quarter commenced with a significant emphasis on community engagement and knowledge sharing. On February 12th, we reinforced our commitment to the Public Sector Duty of Care with an informative session led by Aiden Loyd, followed by a successful Plenary Meeting on February 24th, which convened over 60 participants at the Curragh Racecourse. This event served as a platform for networking, collaborative discussions, and the ratification of our ambitious 2024 work plan and budget. Key highlights included interactive workshops, engaging presentations, and invaluable insights from community stakeholders.

Empowerment through capacity building remains at the forefront of our mission. We initiated a series of training programmes aimed at enhancing the skills and effectiveness of our member groups. Noteworthy sessions included committee skills training, grants information evenings, and Canva training for social media. These initiatives attracted significant participation and received positive feedback, underscoring our commitment to fostering growth and development within our network.

In line with our commitment to effective communication, we continue to see growth across our social media platforms, expanding our reach and engagement with the community. We remain dedicated to leveraging communication channels to disseminate information, share updates, and foster dialogue.

During this quarter, the Secretariat continued their work in a bid to transition to a Company Limited by Guarantee. Further up-dates to the membership should be available in Q2.

In conclusion, the first quarter of 2024 has been marked by collaboration, and progress. As we navigate the evolving landscape of community engagement, we reaffirm our dedication to empowering our members, amplifying their voices, and driving positive change within the Kildare community.

Thank you for your continued support and participation in the Kildare Public Participation Network.

AIMS & OBJECTIVES

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

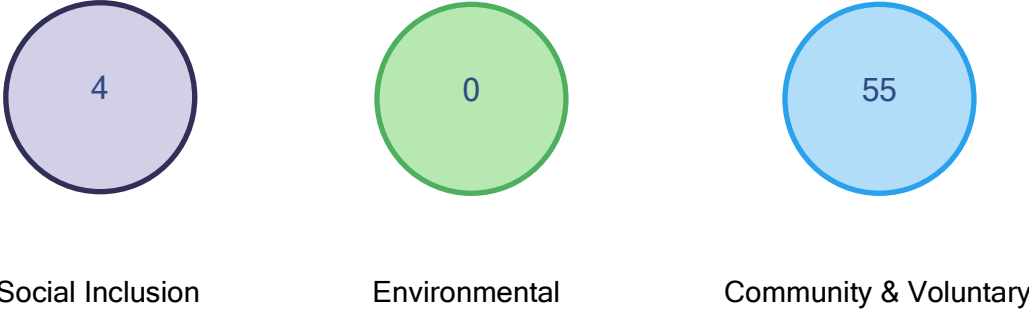
- ❖ Encourage greater participation in public decision making which leads to more effective and better targeted policies and programmes at local level and where necessary at a regional and national level
- ❖ Develop alternative methods and models of working which seek to directly involve and empower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



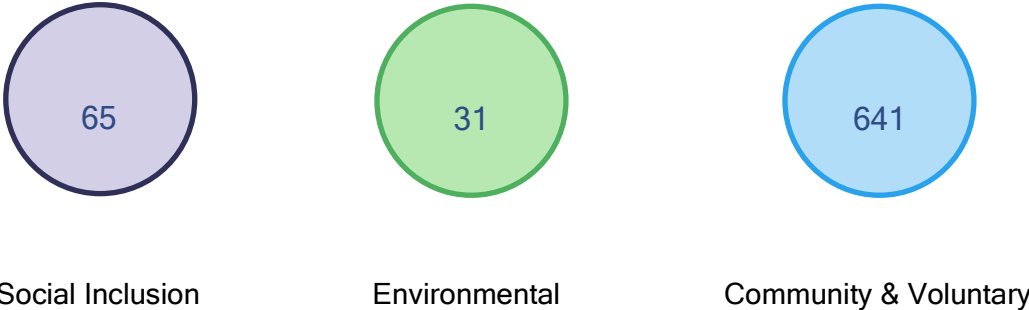
MEMBERSHIP

Kildare PPN’s active membership between 1st January - 31st March 2024.

New Membership in Quarter 1



Total Membership as of March 2024



REPRESENTATION

Representatives

Kildare PPN currently has representation on the following committees:

Committee	College	No.
Local Community Development Committee	Community/Voluntary	2
Local Community Development Committee	Social Inclusion	2
Local Community Development Committee	Environmental	1
Joint Policing Committee	Community & Voluntary	2
*Environment Services & Water SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
Environment Services & Water SPC	Environmental	1
Housing Strategic Policy Committee SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
*Housing Strategic Policy Committee SPC	Social Inclusion	1
*Transport Strategic Policy Committee	Community & Voluntary	1
*Local Community and Cultural SPC	Environmental	1
Local Community and Cultural SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
Local Community and Cultural SPC	Social Inclusion	1
Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	Social Inclusion	1
*Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	Environmental	1
Climate Action SPC	Environmental	1
Climate Action SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
County Kildare Heritage Forum	Community & Voluntary	2
County Kildare Heritage Forum	Environmental	1
Drehid Liaison Committee	Community & Voluntary	2
	Total Representatives	24

*Vacant Seats = 5

Kildare PPN Secretariat

Seat	Representative
Athy MD Seat	Evelyn O'Rourke
Celbridge - Leixlip Seat	Dermot O'Donnell
Clane - Maynooth Seat	Naomi Scott Hayward
Kildare - Newbridge MD Seat	Vacant
Naas MD Seat	Liz Denieffe
Community & Voluntary Seat	Linda Walsh
Community & Voluntary Seat	Anthony Egan
Environmental Seat	Vacant
Environmental Seat	Paul Leighton
Social Inclusion Seat	P.J. Fagan
Social Inclusion Seat	Anne Crowe



Anne Crowe
Social Inclusion



Liz Denieffe
Naas MD



Anthony Egan
Community/Voluntary



P.J. Fagan
Social Inclusion



Paul Leighton
Environmental



Evelyn O'Rourke
Athy MD



Dermot O'Donnell
Celbridge/Leixlip MD



Naomi Scott-Hayward
Clane/Maynooth MD



Linda Walsh
Community/Voluntary

EVENTS

Plenary Meeting - February 24th 2024

On Saturday, February 24, the Kildare Public Participation Network hosted a successful Plenary meeting at the Curragh Racecourse, bringing together over 60 participants. The event aimed to foster community engagement, networking, and collaborative discussions among member groups.

The day started with a networking breakfast, providing attendees with the opportunity to interact with various community support information stands including BHP Insurance, Kildare Sustainable Energy Community Mentor, Clann Credo Community Finance, ALONE, and the Irish Prison Service.

Evelyn O'Rourke, Kildare PPN facilitator, formally opened the meeting, extending a warm welcome to all participants.

Grainne Fleming, Coordinator of Kildare PPN, presented an ambitious work plan for 2024, highlighting key initiatives such as the 'Let's Talk' training initiative, Climate Action Weekend, Social Inclusion Week, and actions aimed at strengthening participation and decision-making. The 2024 workplan and budget were subsequently ratified. Additionally, three recently elected Secretariat/PPN representatives were ratified: Linda Walsh (Secretariat), Liz Denieffe (LCDC), and Michael Kenny (LCDC).

Participants then engaged in a workshop titled 'Having Your Voice Heard,' where they identified processes to support PPN representatives and established a roadmap for member organisations to provide input to elected representatives. Key themes that emerged during the feedback session included utilising technology throughout the process, the importance of a two-way flow of communication (feedforward and feedback), and the potential benefits of grouping by specific areas of interest.

Evan Arkwright, the manager at the Curragh Racecourse then addressed members and talked about the importance of community engagement and the initiatives he and his team have put in place to support the community and voluntary sector in Kildare, including the Brigid 1500 celebrations and the collaboration with Nua Healthcare where the theme of their St Patrick's

festival racing day will highlight the link between the benefits of physical activity to good mental health. Attendees were then treated to a behind the scenes tour of the Grandstand. We were delighted to collaborate with Evan and his team and look forward to continued collaboration in the future.

It was a great meeting for fostering community engagement, collaboration, and setting the stage for impactful initiatives in 2024.





Public Sector Duty of Care February 12th

Kildare PPN were delighted to welcome Aiden Loyd to deliver an update and information briefing to members of KPPN. This was a very informative session and a follow up to the first session which was held in 2023.

BUILDING CAPACITY

Members Training

Committee Skills and Running Effective Meetings



Wednesday 21st of February saw us launch the first of our training programmes for member groups. This in-person session was held in Kildare County Council offices and was delivered by Carmichael. We are delighted to say that it was fully booked, with seventeen members in attendance and we had great engagement on the day.

Community Grants Information evening



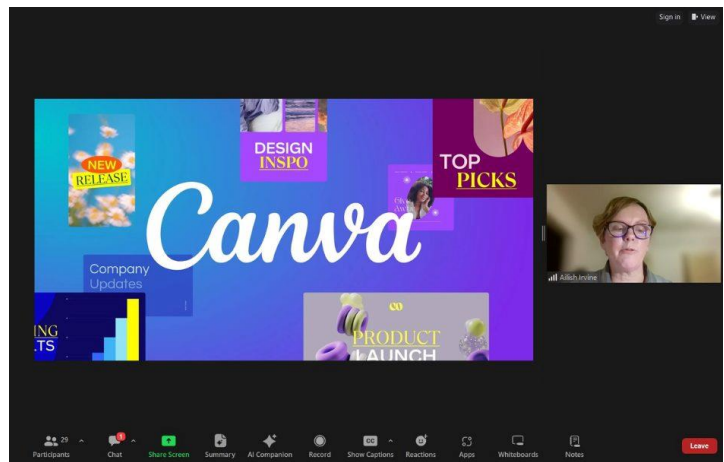
On the evening of Wednesday 21st February, we collaborated with Kildare County Council to deliver a grants information evening, this was hosted in the Council Chamber. Members had an option to attend in-person or on-line and we had one hundred and forty-one (141) in attendance. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the grants team in the community section for delivering this session. It was very well received by members.



Social media - Canva Training

Wednesday 28th February saw us deliver Canva training for use on social media to member groups. This training was delivered by Ailish Irvine, and the objective was to build capacity for member groups who wished to promote their causes and groups across all platforms. It was an extremely well

received training module and the feedback from member groups was excellent. Thirty groups attended on the night and we look forward to delivering an advanced session in April.



Staff Training

HR Duo - Time Management

GDPR

Salesforce

Secretariat Training

HR Workshop - The Wheel's PPN Supports Programme (1 member)

PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Secretariat Elections

Following a call for Secretariat nominations on March 1st, it was disappointing to see that no nominations were received.

County Kildare Heritage Forum

Kildare PPN issued a call out for nominations for 3 community representative positions on the County Kildare Heritage Forum. The closing date for nominations is the 8th of April 2024.

Surveys

- The Wheel - Experience of Regulatory Requirements
- The Wheel Annual Policies Survey
- The Kildare Library Development Plan 2024-2028

Input

Kildare PPN fed into the draft implementation plan for the Kildare Local Economic Development Plan 2024 - 2029.

Meetings

- PPN Workers meeting x 2
- Representatives meeting x 1
- Kildare Integration Strategy steering committee x 1
- Staff Liaison Meeting x 2
- Finance sub-committee x 3
- Secretariat meeting x 3
- Midlands Regional Meeting x1
- Staff meeting - CKLP x 1
- KCC Climate Action Team x2

GOVERNANCE

Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement

The Memorandum of Understanding and the Service Level agreement for Q1 2024 has been signed by all parties (Kildare County Council, County Kildare LEADER Partnership and Kildare PPN) and submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Documentation Ratified

The draft 2024 workplan and 2024 budget has been ratified by the Plenary and available on the [Kildare PPN website](#)

Returns to the Department of Rural and Community Development

Kildare PPN's income and expenditure report for 2023, along with all supporting documentation for funding for 2024 including our workplan and budget for the year was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development following ratification at our Plenary in February.

2023 Annual Report

We were delighted to launch our 2023 Annual Report in January, highlighting the work undertaken and achievements of Kildare Public Participation Network throughout the year.

Hosting Transition

The Secretariat continue to work in a bid to transition to a company Limited by Guarantee. Further up-dates to the membership should be available in Q2.

Meeting Minutes

All Secretariat meeting minutes are available on the Kildare PPN website.

Reports

All quarterly reports, including the quarterly financial reports are available to view on the Kildare PPN website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Social Media

In this quarter, Kildare PPN's social media saw the following growth:



7% Increase in Followers
567 Followers



6% Increase in Followers
2335 Followers



1% Increase in Followers
738 Followers



8 e-Bulletins were sent in Q1 of 2024 via Salesforce containing information on, grant opportunities, public meetings, public consultations, training, and anything that may be beneficial to our member groups.

FINANCIAL REPORT – JAN - MARCH 2024

Income	Amount
DRCD Total Funding (Includes support worker funding)	€85,700.00
Local Authority Core Funding	€30,000.00
Local Authority Support Worker Funding	€5,000.00
Total Income 2024	€120,700.00

Expenditure	Spend to Date
Salary Resource Worker incl. PRSI	€13,224.96
· Travel & Subsistence Resource Worker	€207.39
Secretariat Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	
PPN Representatives Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	
Hosting Fee	€750.00
Postage / Telephone	€102.00
Online Communication tools (e.g online meeting software, survey software)	€423.74
Office Supplies/Stationery/Printing	
Light and Heat	
Insurance	€528.46
Bank Charges	
Auditing, Accountancy, HR & Professional Fees (e.g Financial and Legal Fees)	
Equipment for PPN	
Membership of external orgs/ workshops & conferences attended by PPN	
Website	€1,180.80
Projects/Activities /Events sponsored by PPN	
IT/Server Support & Maintenance	
Training & Development	€1,150.00
Marketing and Promotion of PPN	
Plenary Costs (including Room Hire /Refreshments)	€283.96
General Maintenance – cleaning, waste etc.	
Total Expenditure	€17,851.31

PPN Support Worker Budget	
Salary Support Worker Inc PRSI	€9,593.40
Travel and Subsistence	€88.64
Total Support Woker Budget	€9,682.04
Total	€27,533.35