

**Public Participation  
Network Kildare**

**Quarterly Report**

**Q3 2025**

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# INTRODUCTION

This quarter has been a busy and productive time for Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN), with a strong focus on community engagement, capacity building, and collaboration across our member groups. Between July and September 2025, we continued to grow our network, support our representatives, and create meaningful opportunities for participation in local decision-making.

A number of key activities took place during this period, including our Advisory Group meetings, a training session for community organisations on financial management, and the hugely successful Social Inclusion Week 2025, which brought people and groups from all parts of the county together to celebrate inclusion and community spirit.

We were also delighted to be invited to the Oireachtas to speak to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development on our pre-budget submission.

As our membership continues to grow, we remain committed to supporting community and voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental groups across Kildare. Together, we are ensuring that the voices of local communities are heard, valued, and reflected in the decisions that shape our county.

# 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

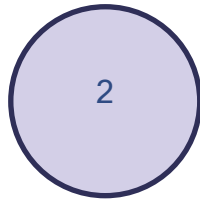
- ❖ Encourage greater participation in public decision making which leads to more effective and better targeted policies and programmes at local level and where necessary at a regional and national level
- ❖ Develop alternative methods and models of working which seek to directly involve and empower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



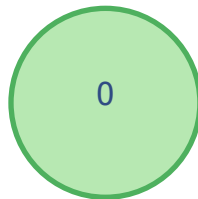
# MEMBERSHIP

Kildare PPN's active membership between 1<sup>st</sup> July - 30<sup>th</sup> Sept 2025.

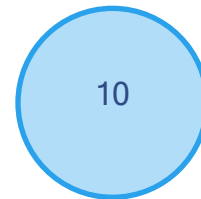
## New Membership in Quarter 3



Social Inclusion

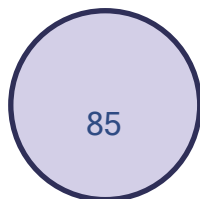


Environmental

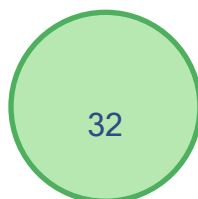


Community & Voluntary

## Total Membership as of September 2025



Social Inclusion



Environmental



Community & Voluntary

# 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
Environment Services & Water SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
*Environment Services & Water SPC	Environmental	V
Housing & Regeneration SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
*Housing & Regeneration SPC	Social Inclusion	V
Transport, Mobility & Open Spaces SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
Local Community, Cultural & Integration SPC	Environmental	1
Local Community, Cultural & Integration SPC	Community & Voluntary	1
Local Community, Cultural & Integration 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	V
Drehid Liaison Committee	Community & Voluntary	2
	<b>Total Representatives</b>	<b>22</b>

\*Vacant Seats = V

## Kildare PPN Secretariat

Seat	Representative
Athy MD Seat	Vacant
Celbridge - Leixlip Seat	Dermot O'Donnell
Clane - Maynooth Seat	Stephanie Obijias
Kildare - Newbridge MD Seat	Vacant
Naas MD Seat	Imelda Chalke
Community & Voluntary Seat	Linda Walsh
Community & Voluntary Seat	Anthony Egan
Environmental Seat	Vacant
Environmental Seat	Vacant
Social Inclusion Seat	Martin Kelly
Social Inclusion Seat	Anne Crowe

## Elections

### Representative Elections

Nomination opened on May 27<sup>th</sup> for our 2 vacant representative seats on the:

- Environment Services and Water SPC (Environmental Seat)
- Housing & Regeneration SPC (Community and Voluntary Seat)

### Secretariat

Martin Kelly joined the Secretariat in July holding the Social Inclusion seat.

# EVENTS

## Social Inclusion Week - Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> - 27<sup>th</sup>

County Kildare's ninth annual Social Inclusion Week took place from September 22nd-26th, 2025, celebrating the invaluable work of local organisations and community groups across the county. Organised by Kildare Public Participation Network in collaboration with County Kildare LEADER Partnership, the week highlighted the wide range of services and initiatives that support individuals and communities facing barriers such as poverty, unemployment, homelessness, disability, and migrant resettlement.



Across the five days, **23 events** were held in towns including Naas, Newbridge, Celbridge, Kildare, Athy, Leixlip and Maynooth, each promoting inclusion, connection, and community spirit. The week opened with a vibrant showcase at the Kildare Community Development Centre and featured standout events such as the *Around the World Dance Rap* in Kildare Town, the *Inclusive Arts and Crafts Exhibition* in Newbridge, and the *Social Inclusion Garden Party* hosted by Naas Community Men's Shed.

Social Inclusion Week once again provided a platform for collaboration, learning, and celebration—strengthening community ties and reaffirming Kildare's commitment to creating a welcoming, inclusive county for all.





# BUILDING CAPACITY

## Members Training

### **Navigating the Bank and Financial Institutions for Community Organisations - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**

In this quarter, Kildare PPN hosted an online training session titled “Navigating the Bank and Financial Institutions for Community Organisations.” The two-hour workshop was designed to support local community and voluntary groups in understanding the practical and legal aspects of managing their group’s finances.

Participants learned about setting up and maintaining bank or credit union accounts, the responsibilities of committee members and trustees, and key requirements under Anti-Money Laundering legislation. The session also covered how to identify a group’s *beneficial owners*—an important step in meeting compliance standards.

The training provided a valuable opportunity for community members to build confidence in managing their organisation’s finances and to ensure good governance practices are followed. Feedback from participants was very positive, with many noting that the information shared will help simplify day-to-day financial management within their groups.



# PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

## Kildare PPN Addresses Oireachtas Committee on Funding and Future of Community Engagement

On July 16th, Kildare Public Participation Network (PPN) had the honour of addressing the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development. Representing over 830 community groups across the county, Coordinator Gráinne Fleming delivered a strong message: while our network has grown in size and responsibility, the supports we receive have not kept pace.



Gráinne shared that since January, Kildare PPN has welcomed 149 new groups, highlighting the growing appetite for civic involvement in our rapidly expanding county. Yet despite this growth, our core funding has remained largely unchanged since 2016, even as inflation and service demands increase.

The message was clear: we are proud of our achievements, but we're stretched to capacity. Gráinne outlined the need for proper staff recognition, longer-term funding models, additional supports for PPN Representatives and urgent clarification on financial policies that impact leave entitlements.



This was an important opportunity to make our members' voices heard at the highest level. Our presentation aimed to secure greater investment in community engagement, digital inclusion, and volunteer support, so that we can continue to be a strong, effective voice for Kildare's community sector.

Our pre-budget submission was sent to the Minister for consideration.

### Advisory Group Meetings – September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

All three Kildare PPN Advisory groups, (Community and Voluntary, Environmental and Social Inclusion) met in the Osprey hotel on the evening of September 3<sup>rd</sup> to discuss and progress the priorities of members and to establish facilitators for each pillar moving forward. We would like to thank members who volunteered for these roles and indeed all members for their input on the evening.



During the session, members engaged in structured discussions to:

- Review existing priorities and identify key focus areas, including proposals for new priorities where relevant.
- Refine their group's "ask" before submitting it to the appropriate PPN Representative, whose details were displayed for clarity.
- Nominate a facilitator for their advisory group (preferably a non-representative member).
- Explore how best to sustain collaboration through future meetings and other communication channels.

These discussions marked an important step in strengthening member engagement and ensuring that each advisory group continues to work effectively on behalf of its pillar within the wider PPN structure.

Each advisory group have undertaken a number of tasks with additional meetings to be scheduled in the coming months.

### **Submissions & Contributions**

- The County Kildare Heritage Plan 2025 - 2031
- The Litter Management Plan 2025 - 2027
- Local Democracy Taskforce
- Strategy to Support Community and Voluntary Sector
- Review of the Implementation of the Kildare Integration Strategy 2020-2026
- Pre-budget submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Social Protection, Rural and Community Development.

### **Meetings**

- PPN Workers meeting x 2
- Staff Liaison Meeting x 1
- Secretariat Meeting x 3
- Social Inclusion Week x 2
- County Kildare LEADER Partnership x 1
- Finance sub-committee x 1
- MRPPN x1
- Building Community Resilience for Times of Emergency

# GOVERNANCE

## Annual Report

The 2024 Annual Report returns for the Department of Rural and Community Development was completed and submitted to the Department in July.

## Hosting Transition

No progress to report.

## 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:



*4% Increase in Followers*  
*731 Followers*



*2% Increase in Followers*  
*2,730 Followers*



6 e-Bulletins were sent in Q3 of 2025 via Salesforce containing information on, grant opportunities, public meetings, public consultations, training, and anything that may be beneficial to our member groups. All our eBulletins can be accessed on our website [here](#).



# FINANCIAL REPORT JANUARY - SEPT 2025

Income	Amount
DRCDC Core Funding	€74,840.00
DRCDC Support Worker Funding	€25,700.00
Local Authority Core Funding	€30,000.00
Local Authority Support Worker Funding	€5,000.00
Local Authority Additional Funding	€5,000.00
<b>Total Income 2025</b>	<b>€140,540.00</b>

Expenditure	2025 Spend to Date
Salary Resource Worker incl. PRSI	€35,266.50
· Travel & Subsistence Resource Worker	€785.75
Secretariat Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	€331.43
PPN Representatives Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	€0.00
Rent and Rates	€0.00
Hosting Fee	€0.00
Postage / Telephone	€102.00
Online Communication tools (e.g online meeting software, survey software)	€1,156.65
Office Supplies/Stationery/Printing	€318.00
Light and Heat	€0.00
Insurance	€528.46
Bank Charges	€0.00
Auditing, Accountancy, HR & Professional Fees (e.g Financial and Legal Fees)	€0.00
Equipment for PPN	€0.00
Membership of external orgs/ workshops & conferences attended by PPN	€0.00
Website	€1,180.80
Projects/Activities /Events sponsored by PPN	€1,599.83
IT/Server Support & Maintenance	€0.00
Training & Development	€2,100.00
Marketing and Promotion of PPN	€0.00
Plenary Costs (including Room Hire /Refreshments)	€1,963.36
Meeting Expenses	€1,861.00
General Maintenance – cleaning, waste etc.	€0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>€47,193.78</b>

<b>PPN Support Worker Budget</b>	
Salary Support Worker Inc PRSI	€25,582.89
Travel and Subsistence	€230.48
Associated Costs	€0.00
<b>Total Support Woker Budget</b>	<b>€25,813.37</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€73,007.15</b>