

**Public Participation
Network Kildare**

Quarterly Report

Q1 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Aims and Objectives	4
Membership	5
Representation	6
Events	8
Building Capacity	9
Participation in Decision Making	10
Governance	11
Communications	12
Financial Report	13

INTRODUCTION

The first quarter of 2026 has been a busy period for Kildare Public Participation Network. Throughout January to March, we continued our work of supporting community groups, encouraging participation, and ensuring that local voices are represented across a wide range of decision-making structures.

This quarter also brought a change within our small team. Gráinne Fleming, who served as PPN Coordinator, finished working with Kildare PPN on 6th February 2026. We want to sincerely thank Gráinne for her dedication and the support she provided to our members during her time with us. Kildare PPN wishes her every success in the future. Following her departure, the PPN has been operating with the reduced capacity of one staff member. Recruitment for a new Coordinator will begin in April 2026.

This quarter Kildare PPN delivered key activities, including training sessions, Secretariat induction and community grant information events, while continuing to prioritise clear, timely communications. Regular updates through social media, e-bulletins and the website ensured members stayed informed on funding, consultations, training and local decision-making.

A considerable amount of preparation for the year also took place during this quarter. This included completing a number of required reports, finalising the annual budget, and developing an ambitious workplan to guide the PPN's activities for 2026. Much of this work will shape and support our efforts for the year ahead.

This report outlines the work carried out during Q1 2026.

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

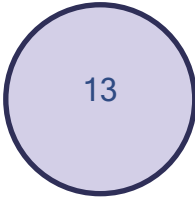
- ❖ Encourage greater participation in public decision making which leads to more effective and better targeted policies and programmes at local level and where necessary at a regional and national level
- ❖ Develop alternative methods and models of working which seek to directly involve and empower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



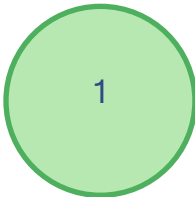
MEMBERSHIP

Kildare PPN's active membership between 1st January - 31st March 2026.

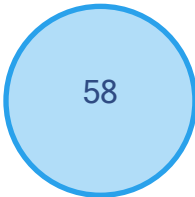
New Membership in Quarter 1



Social Inclusion

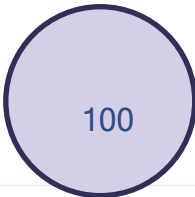


Environmental



Community & Voluntary

Total Membership as of March 2026



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	1
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
Drehid Liaison Committee	Community & Voluntary	2
Local Community Safety Partnership	Athy MD	1
Local Community Safety Partnership	Celbridge Leixlip MD	1
Local Community Safety Partnership	Clane Maynooth MD	1
Local Community Safety Partnership	Kildare Newbridge MD	1
Local Community Safety Partnership	Naas MD	1
Local Community Safety Partnership	Youth	1
	Total Seats	27

Kildare PPN Secretariat

Seat	Representative
Athy MD Seat	Vacant
Celbridge - Leixlip Seat	Dermot O'Donnell
Clane - Maynooth Seat	Stephanie Obijias
Kildare - Newbridge MD Seat	Evonne Boland
Naas MD Seat	Vacant
Community & Voluntary Seat	Vacant
Community & Voluntary Seat	Anthony Egan
Environmental Seat	Emer Conway
Environmental Seat	Michael Kenny
Social Inclusion Seat	Martin Kelly
Social Inclusion Seat	Vacant

Secretariat resignations in Q1

- Imelda Chawke
- Anne Crowe



Evonne Boland
Kildare - Newbridge



Emer Conway
Environmental



Anthony Egan
Community/Voluntary



Martin Kelly
Social Inclusion



Michael Kenny
Environmental



Dermot O'Donnell
Celbridge - Leixlip



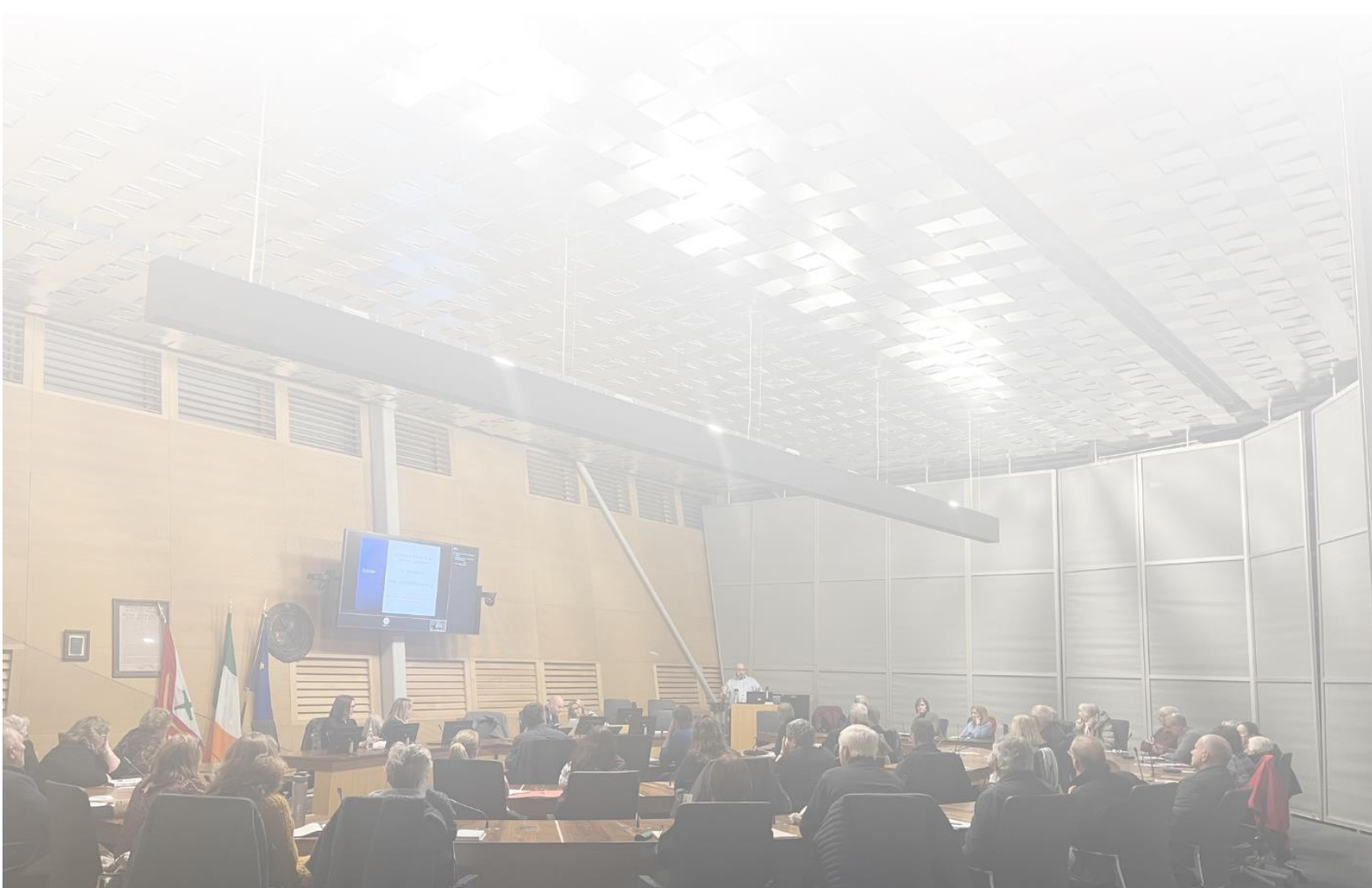
Stephanie Obijiaku
Clane Maynooth

EVENTS

Kildare County Council Community Grants Information Evening

Kildare PPN in collaboration with Kildare County Council hosted an annual Grants information evening on January 21st. This information evening saw 128 members join us online and in the council chamber. We would like to extend our sincere thanks to the grants team in the community section for working with us each year to deliver this essential session which is of huge benefit to our members.

As a follow on from the grants information evening, throughout February, community grants roadshows were held in each of the 5 Municipal Districts to assist member groups who needed additional support in completing grant application.



BUILDING CAPACITY

Members Training

Let's Talk AGM's and Committee Meetings

The session focused on building confidence in running AGMs and committee meetings, providing participants with the opportunity to learn alongside fellow community groups. It connected the practical requirements of AGM and committee procedures with the guidance set out in each group's constitution.

Content covered included meeting formats, meeting purpose, and the development of draft agendas. The session concluded with an open discussion where attendees explored common day-to-day challenges faced in their governance roles.

10 member groups attended.

Secretariat Training

Secretariat Induction

Secretariat training took place on the 8th of January for three new members on the Secretariat. This including an overview of the Secretariat's key responsibilities, how it operates, and its role in representing and supporting our member groups.



PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Advisory Groups

The Environmental Advisory Group met during the quarter to consider priorities for the year ahead and to agree topics for future discussion. As part of this, the group reviewed the results of the recent survey and identified a key priority to be brought forward through the PPN representatives to the relevant Strategic Policy Committees (Planning and Climate Action) at the next suitable opportunity.

Meetings

Secretariat Meetings x3

Plenary sub-group meeting x1

PPN Staff Meeting x2

CLG / Staff Liaison x5



GOVERNANCE

Kildare PPN Hosting Arrangement

The Kildare PPN CLG took over the hosting responsibilities for from County Kildare LEADER Partnership for Kildare PPN on the 9th of February.

Memorandum of Understanding and Service Level Agreement

The Memorandum of Understanding and the Service Level Agreement was signed for 2026.

Returns to the Department of Rural and Community Development

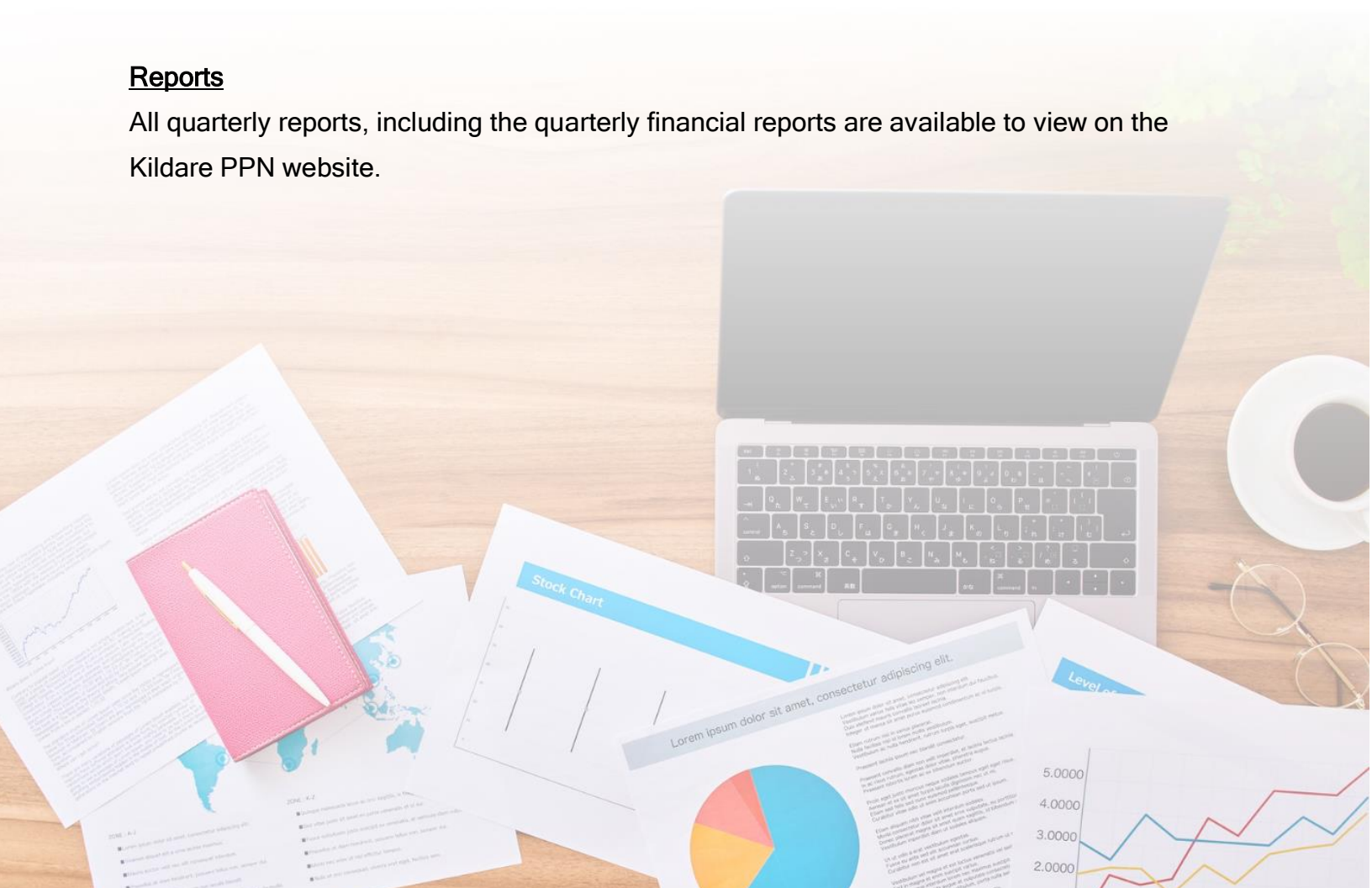
Kildare PPN's income and expenditure report for 2025, along with all supporting documentation for funding for 2026 including the workplan and budget for the year was returned to the Department of Rural and Community Development. They will go to the next Plenary meeting for ratification.

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

Communications continued to play an important role in supporting member engagement this quarter. Kildare PPN focused on providing clear, timely information through social media, e-bulletins and the website to ensure that member groups had access to updates on funding, consultations, training opportunities and events, as well as information relevant to their participation in local decision-making.

Social Media

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



2.5% Increase in Followers
771 Followers



8% Increase in Followers
2,866 Followers



2,700
Website Users



6 e-Bulletins were sent in Q1 of 2026 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 2026

Q1 Finance Report		
Potential Income		
	Amount	
DRCDC Core Funding	€100,540.00	
Local Authority Core Funding	€30,000.00	
Local Authority Support Worker Funding	€5,000.00	
Local Authority Additional Funding	€5,000.00	
Total Income 2025	€140,540.00	
Expenditure		
	Budgeted	Expenditure
Salary Resource Worker incl. PRSI and Pension	€56,395.08	€9,399.18
· Travel & Subsistence Resource Worker	€1,500.00	€168.47
Secretariat Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	€1,800.00	€45.80
PPN Representatives Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	€1,000.00	€0.00
Rent and Rates	€0.00	€0.00
Hosting Fee	€704.00	€0.00
Postage / Telephone	€1,000.00	€0.00
Online Communication tools (e.g online meeting software, survey software)	€1,600.00	€393.35
Office Supplies/Stationery/Printing	€1,500.00	€227.31
Light and Heat	€0.00	€0.00
Insurance	€528.46	€524.23
Bank Charges	€0.00	€0.00
Auditing, Accountancy, HR & Professional Fees (e.g Financial and Legal Fees)	€3,000.00	€0.00
Equipment for PPN	€157.00	€0.00
Membership of external orgs/ workshops & conferences attended by PPN	€150.00	€0.00
Website	€1,180.80	€1,180.80
Projects/Activities /Events sponsored by PPN	€3,500.00	€0.00
IT/Server Support & Maintenance	€60.00	€0.00
Training & Development	€5,500.00	€0.00
Marketing and Promotion of PPN	€0.00	€90.00
Plenary Costs (including Room Hire /Refreshments)	€3,500.00	€0.00
Meeting Expenses	€5,000.00	€320.16
General Maintenance – cleaning, waste etc.	€0.00	€0.00
Contingency Fund	€0.00	€8,000.00
CLG Costs	€10,376.00	€3,075.00
Total	€98,451.34	€23,424.30
PPN Support Worker Budget		
Salary Support Worker Inc PRSI and Pension	€41,688.32	€10,786.63
Travel and Subsistence	€400.00	€25.33
Associated Costs	€0.00	€0.00
Total Support Worker Budget	€42,088.32	€10,811.96
Total		€34,236.26