


Date: Saturday 25th May 2017

Secretariat Members Present: (To be filled by Corena Ward/Secretariat)

Apologies: Andy Griffin

Minute Taker: Sara Mc Donnell, Tipperary PPN Volunteer

10.30 am Mary Ryan opened the proceedings. Welcomes all speakers and goes through the agenda of the day and introduces the first speaker Denis Floyd.

10.40am **First speaker: Denis Floyd of Birdhill Tidy Towns Committee**

Denis explains the importance of hard work, community participation and environmental protection. He gives a short presentation of pictures of different tidy town initiatives undertaken in Birdhill.

11.00 am **Questions for Denis Floyd:**

Member (unknown) Question: What would you recommend to help others plan their tidy towns?

Response: In Birdhill's first year they hired an outside consultant to help get the tidy towns up and running. As the consultant was expensive the committee planned it themselves the following years with the help of North Tipperary Leader Partnership and Tipperary County Council.

Member (unknown) Question: Can other groups come to meet and consult with Birdhill Tidy Towns Committee?

Response: Denis welcomed other groups to meet with and get advice from Birdhill Tidy Towns Committee.

11.10 am **Second Speaker: Ann Phelan of the Waters and Communities Office**

Covers Carlow, Kilkenny, Waterford and Wexford and is in the process of getting involved in Tipperary. Speaks of how heritage plays a vital role in shaping a community. She says the science and data was there so projects were set up to raise awareness and get the information to people.

They will be holding a series of public meeting in order to get the community involved in the water framework directives and produce guidance, liaise with regulatory authorities and bring groups together to help each other.

11.20 am **Questions for Ann Phelan**

Member (Clare Cashman): What are the Local Authorities doing to hold the EPA to account?

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Corena responds: The Secretariat must have a consensus and signs off the letters 'The Secretariat'. His query is to be put on the agenda for the next Plenary as it is not on this one.

Mike Responds: He wants a copy of the minutes of the last two secretariat meetings.

Question from member (unknown): From the three pillars do you just choose one pillar?

Corena answers: Yes, you must choose your main remit.

12.30 pm

Item 1 on the Agenda

Approving the Constitution

Corena Ward & Ciaran Lynch (LIT) talk on the Constitution of Tipperary PPN

Corena goes through the consultations steps (making TPPN a Company Limited by Guarantee) and Ciaran answers any questions members have about the constitution.

Discussion

Member Clare Cashman Question: Are we going to register with the CRA (Charity Regulatory Authority)

Ciaran responds that the constitution was written under the 2014 Companies Act to satisfy both the charity regulator & the revenue (clarity got on both when drawing up the constitution).Ciaran said there was a non- technical summary of the constitution so people could understand what it entails on a practical sense.

Clare Cashman Question: Are the PPN disbanded from EU funding because of the flat structure?

Ciaran: For most EU funding you need a statutory structure. It is difficult to be validated by the EU for certain programmes because of the PPN structure it is more complex to operate in a non- corporate structure.

12.50

Corena goes through the main objectives of the constitution and calls on members to approve it.

Vote Count:

33 Approve

0 Don't approve

1.00pm

Break for Lunch & Networking

1.45pm

Richard introduces the two member speakers
1. Paul Keating, Youth Work Tipperary

Ruth Smith (TPPN Secretariat) Question: what is the oversight structure?

Sinead summarises

- Work Plan
- Financial management framework
- Make sure it is broadly represented(i.e equal representation)
- Have quality reports

Discussion ensued –

Member Clare Cashman says the department identified deficiencies (transparency etc) and says she finds that 'disrespectful'.

Sinead Carr responds saying there is a template and requirement that principles are set out when funding is given.

Clare – does not agree that the council should dictate which community pillar the PPN members are in and asks if there is a lack of trust.

Sinead disagreed saying that trust is built up once a functioning PPN is up and running – the work of the CoCo is to develop trust so that in a few years time finances will be issued. She said it is good governance procedures and that often there are personality conflicts while things are being shaped and not to see the council as an enemy.

Sinead summarised saying the council want to work in...

- Clarity of responsibilities
- Reducing space for conflict
- Promoting diversity

Clare Cashman said she would be willing to meet once a year to discuss the MOU. The Secretariat - to come up with a draft document and send it to Clare.

Mary(TPPN Secretariat) queried the funding the PPN are receiving from the CoCo
Sinead: The PPN are getting €80,000 – €30,000(Local Authority), €50,000 (Department).

Decision to be made on changing the wording of the document –

Sinead Carr agreed on changing the wording to 'In agreement with the PPN'.

Question from Mike (Suir Valley Environmental Group) on the signing of documents and if the Secretariat is accountable.

Sinead responds that any member of the PPN on a Local Authority(LCDC) is indemnified but members of the Secretariat are not and that any other Board of Directors need to ensure they are indemnified.

Mary(TPPN Secretariat) queried if she had indemnification

Sinead – The insurance is for the PPN but not BOM insurance.

In Summary: The Local Authority is covered but the Secretariat is not.

14.55

Sinead commends Corena Ward on her work and finishes.