



Minutes Secretariat Meeting

Wednesday 21st July 2021

Venue: Via Zoom @ 6.00pm

Facilitator: Sean O'Farrell

Minute taker: Mary Ryan

Secretariat members present: Mary Ryan, Charles Stanley Smith, Sean O'Farrell, Mike Edwards & Michael Kealy

Department Staff attending: Elaine Jennings DRCD

Apologies: Anne Williamson, JJ O'Sullivan, Derry O'Donnell & Helen Butler

In attendance: Ruth Smith and Sharon Melbourne

Conflicts of Interest None

Agenda and A.O.B. Agreed

Minutes of June secretariat meeting were proposed by Mike Edwards and seconded by Charles Stanley Smith.

There were no **matters arising** that were not agenda items later.

Correspondence from Fiona Crotty was received on information on LGBTQ and Child and Youth Empowerment guide from Youthwork Ireland.

Directors Update

Charles reported on the AGM in September and the addition of 2 new directors to replace Ruth Smith.

Finance Sub Group Update

In the Operations bank account €13,964.00 credit plus in the Company account €25,856.00 as of 15th July 2021.

The grant from Leader re: a new website is expected. All paperwork done from the PPN.

Ruth Smith is to be added as a signatory to the bank account and she undertook to visit the bank.

It was noted that returns to the Local Authority have to be formalised every 3 months and the report put up on the website. There is to be no fundraising in the PPN and a cap on individual events spend is now €4000.

Co-ordinator's Report

The coordinators report was emailed to us and discussed at the meeting.

It was noted that the Roma people are a marginalised group. An all-county migrant forum has been set up by the LA.

Our Rural Future Strategy 2021-2025 is a 5-year plan on sustainable development for rural Ireland. There will be meetings in the MDs to feed into this.

We need a 3- or 5- year strategic plan for the PPN to ensure the direction of the organisation. Information on Leader funding will be sought.

It was felt that expertise should be brought in with food and biodiversity training, someone like Harriet is a good idea, that was accepted by the secretariat.

The NAG have training by Mazars and it is hoped to establish focus groups and the draft will be brought back for discussion later to the secretariat.

National Secretariat

Charles said that a review of the structure of PPN's was in progress and that a questionnaire had been sent out to PPN's. He suggested that Tipperary PPN answer the questionnaire with input from Secretariat members

Rep Vacancies

Vacancies on the LCDC: a rep. Call has gone out for ppn members - 2 seats required for the Environment pillar and also Community & Voluntary and 1 for Social Inclusion.

Elections and an induction session should be in place in time for the LCDC September meeting.

Dept Input

Elaine Jennings from DRCD did an update on national news and information. She asked for ideas and feedback to the following email address: ppn@drcd.gov.ie

The Rural Strategy 2021-2025 work programme is on the website and the report will be ready the autumn.

She reported that training for PPN's re: climate change is hopefully in the pipeline in September, under the themes of:

1. Stakeholders
2. Internal procedures of PPN
3. Internal procedures of LA re: budgets and effective participation.

Collective submissions on the structural review of the PPN pilot are accepted at the moment and up until November 2021.

Teambuilding

The team building event will take place on Thursday 26th August and will consist of a walk recently developed within the county, followed by a meal at an hotel. Former PPN coordinator, Avril Wilson has been invited to attend the meal.

The date of our next secretariat meeting will be **Thursday 23rd September 2021 @ 6pm**

It will be in person at TCEC.