



Minutes

Tipperary PPN Secretariat Meeting

February 2024

Date: Thursday 22nd February 2024 **Time:** 6pm **Location:** TCEC and Zoom

Facilitator: Michael Kealy **Minutes:** Alan Moore

Present: (Zoom) Anne Williamson, Mike Edwards, Sean O'Farrell, Derry O'Donnell

In person: Alan Moore, Daniel Long, Niamh Ni Chuillin, Kuldeep Joshi, Michael Kealy, Charles Stanley Smith, JJ O'Sullivan.

Attending: Ruth Smith, Sharon Melbourne, Anne Scanlon

Apologies: Anne Williamson, Josephine O'Connor & Martins Punculis

Ann took minutes till Alan arrived.

Welcome and **apologies** given and a warm welcome back to Sean O'Farrell.

1. **Reminder** to state conflict of interest.
2. **Agreement** on draft agenda.
3. **Minutes** of previous meeting agreed.
4. **Finance meeting.** No meeting since January. Salaries went up due to change in USC. Sharon's contract renewed. Mary Ryan is dormant for 12 months due to health reasons. Kuldeep is going to be another authoriser on both accounts.

5. Coordinators Report: Ruth noted the recent registration of many new groups due to the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) grant application deadline, but of concern of these, only two new environmental groups. Catherine O'Toole (Environmental Pillar) has updated the form for registration which will facilitate groups to choose the Environmental Pillar. Also, if you are an IEN member group registering, you will automatically be enrolled as an environmental group.

5. **Plenary Planning.** Call out for volunteers to assist with this (April 11). Venue to be confirmed. Choice between Moyle Rovers sport hall near Clonmel and Golden GAA facility. Daniel, Alan, JJ and Michael will assist.
6. **Re registration 2024 process.** Sharon and Ruth doing planning on this. Dashboard training next Monday March 26th with Brigid for Ruth, Sharon and Ann. Mike Edwards to be included for further sessions.

Issue of dividing member groups into Full and Associate was debated at some length. (Ruth reports that Ciaran Lynch favours this). Question arises whether less active groups should be assigned Associate status, but difficulty in assessing this. Perhaps self-assessment by groups would work? Agreement that statutory groups/bodies should be automatically given Associate status. We will return to the issue in the future.

7. **PPN Workplan.** Work on this is ongoing and it will be part of the next Plenary ratifications.
8. **Training 2024.** We have submitted to National Lottery Funding for Community Wellbeing Training, also to Introduction to Sustainable Development Goals training and C.P.R..
9. **National Resource Workers Network.** Nothing new to report.
10. **SE Region PPN Network.** Nothing new to report.
11. **NAG news.** Charles reported that the SPC Review has been useful. Most problems arise from local authorities not adhering to guidelines. Very variable around the country, with Tipperary doing much better than average. The fact that PPN structure is under the DCRD is a difficulty, PPN's not seen as a priority. Niamh reports similar issues with poor adherence to guidelines, PPN's not being taken seriously at LA level. Charles will raise this, and the issue that the Roadmap is also being ignored at a NAG meeting later this week.
12. **National Secretariat Network.** No recent meeting. Last meeting Jan. 11th. Niamh will forward notes (past and future) to Ruth who will pass them on to all Secretariat members in due course. Next meeting mid-March.
13. **Environmental news.** A busy agenda. Upcoming meeting Saturday 2nd March and in attendance will be Anne Marie Fleming, newly appointed Biodiversity officer with TippCoCo, discussion of pesticide policy, planning for upcoming visit to Lisheen Bioeconomy Campus on Friday 15th March. Ruth noted that there will be another Community Climate Action funding round announced soon (current one closes 27th Feb).
14. **Rep Update.** The end of the current cycle of policy committees is upcoming with new reps to be elected. There will be a Rep Plenary meeting on 5th March 6-8.30pm.
15. **Funding Applications.** Ruth and Sharon have applied for a PA amplification system through LEP and TCC (with TPPN as partners) have also made a strong application to the Just Transition Funding for 2 workers, based in the PPN, on a three day week basis to carry out a detailed mapping exercise of all community activity in the county.
16. **Local/EU elections.** We await a date before launching online Q and A events in each MD for candidates. Daniel reported that South Tipp Macra is holding an EU Engagement event at Knockanrawley Resource Centre Sunday 25th Feb 2.30pm with a panel discussion and an opportunity to meet candidates. All welcome.
17. **AOB.** Debate took place as to whether we should exit Twitter/X or remain. The consensus is that we should remain on the basis that despite issues with admin of content, the platform is an important news source, and that the continued engagement of responsible groups may help balance the negativity of X.
18. With respect to Secretariat Input for the monthly Newsletter, Daniel will do March, Kuldeep will do April and Niamh will do May. Sharon gave deadline as early in the month.
19. Next meeting Thursday 28th March.