



Tipperary Public Participation Network

Secretariat meeting

Minutes

Thursday February 20th, 2025

In attendance: Michael Kealy, Charles Stanley Smith, Anne Williamson, Mike Edwards, Sangeeta Molloy, JJ O'Sullivan, Fiona Crotty, Mary McLoughney, Ruth Smith and Ann Scanlon.

On Line: Daniel Long, Alan Moore, Niamh Ní Chillín and Sharon Melbourne.

Apologies: Kuldeep Joshi, Derry O'Donnell, Seán O'Farrell and Martins Punculis.

Facilitator: Michael Kealy **Minute Taker:** Anne Williamson

Ruth called for new Facilitator and Minute Taker. **Facilitator:** Anne Williamson **Minute Taker:** Mike Edwards

Ruth welcomed Mary McLoughney and Fiona Crotty on behalf of the Tipperary PPN.

Conflict of Interest: None

Agenda: All agreed

Minutes: Approved and ratified. Proposed by Charles Stanley Smith and seconded by Mike Edwards.

Matters Arising: None

Correspondence: All documents received. Letter to be signed for TTCU

Finance: No queries

Coordinators Report: Ruth noted the report was only up to Feb. 20th.

Workplan 2025: Ruth will be meeting with Charles and JJ next Tuesday February 25th to work on the Workplan as it is on-going.

Training & Funding 2025: Everyone had the Training Needs Analysis and this showed Funding Workshop, Grant Writing, Digital Skills, CPR and Mindfulness as the most in demand.

Neil Dennehy is designing a new Mindfulness Course.

Ciarán will cover Governance.

AI – Fiona said she would check with TUS to see if the students can tutor. This AI initiative is a new partnership between Tipperary Co. Co. and TUS.

We are applying for a new laptop for Ann and a new PC for Sharon through LEP grant scheme. Ruth is submitting application.

Ruth attended training by the Irish Council of Civil Liberties in Carlow. This was specifically for PPN's.

There was a brief discussion on Lobbying and Niamh to check this at the next National Secretariat Network meeting. Alan enquired if other PPN groups were registered for Lobbying. **Lobbying to be included in next month's Agenda.**

Rep Update: Ruth is working with Ger Walsh on the SPC's work programmes. Ger is very good and very open. Still negotiations to do. Ruth pointed out that it is only a 1-year programme for Reps to know what they are doing from year to year, even though it is a 5 yr Workplan. Deadline for Rep nominations is Tuesday February 25th. No nominations to date for the Housing SPC and Social Inclusion Community and Rural Development SPC SI reps.

Plenary Planning: Invite going out on Newsletter next week. Sharon will send out an individual invite next Monday with the Agenda. The Plenary will take place on Thursday March 6th in Loughmore Community Hall, 18.00 – 20.30. The Cottage Tea Rooms (Mary Fogarty) will supply the food. Mary will also give a short presentation on the projects they are currently working on. We will divide into Pillars for networking. There will be 2 Community & Voluntary groups due to numbers. This will require strong Facilitators. The focus of the group discussions will be Energy & Storms. Mike to check Emergency Response Plans. Fiona offered to check the Wexford response to Emergency Issues. It was agreed that we need a co-ordinated response to storm crisis like COVID. The number of stalls will depend on the size of the hall. The Plenary Subgroup will view venue next Wednesday Feb 25th to plan layout, break out areas, kitchen and will meet with Mary to decide on the Refreshments. We will need Secretariat help with Parking, Vote Counters, Minutes, Facilitators and kitchen. There will be 2 Presentations. Annemarie Fleming on 'Green Spaces' and Fiona Crotty on 'Power of People & Place' Mapping Project.

Power of People & Place Mapping Project: Fiona explained that the survey will incorporate 1,756 members, (Residents Assocs. & Graveyard Committees will not be included). The survey aims to assess the social capacity of the groups and if they want to be part of a community response. There will be an analysis of the physical infrastructure e.g. Recycling, Kitchen, Toilets, Energy Requirements, Video Conferencing etc. Also, capacity and training needs. Identify gaps e.g. Funding. A resource pack will be given to each group. The survey will roll out in Carrick-on-Suir MD and Thurles MD first. Will start in Ballingarry as there are enough groups there. The duration is estimated to be 18 months. A lot of pre-engagement work to be done but Fiona hopes to start engagement by the end of Q1. This project will be launched at the Plenary and followed by a post and media campaign. Fiona said it is a very positive piece of work, the Co. Co. and TPPN in partnership. Charles volunteered to help with survey questions and offered Fiona the 3D printer that this venture will require.

Environmental News: Ruth confirmed there are 5 MD Community Climate Coach meetings coming up. Ruth will speak with Davey to organise these.

The PPN National Advisory Group (NAG): Charles said meetings have been postponed.

National Secretariat Network: Next meeting March? Niamh to confirm.

National Workers Network: Ruth will develop a working relationship with Gerry Buttimer the new TD.

A.O.B.

Ruth and Sharon will attend the Eirgrid Community Energy Event next Wednesday March 5th in Halla Na Féile, Cashel, 18.30 – 20.00.

Mary McLoughney said she was looking forward to her new partnership with TPPN and also the Mapping Project.

Sangeeta very kindly provided food once the meeting was adjourned.

The next Secretariat meeting was scheduled for Thursday March 20th at 6 p.m.