



**February 2026**

## **Secretariat Minutes**

**Attendance:** Ruth, Michael Kealy, Rachel, Shoyna, Daniel, Mike, Eugene, Alan, Derry,

**Apologies:** Sharon, Kuldeep, Sean, Sangeeta, Charles

Quorum achieved

JJ facilitated

**Derry** took minutes

**Previous minutes approved:** Proposed: Michael Kealy Seconded: Alan Moore

No conflict of interests

No matters arising

**Correspondence:** Ruth to check with TCC around piggybacking on their HR section if the PPN has any issues arising, as Peninsula HR came back a bit above the PPN budget

**Secretariat Changes:** Alan, Derry & Michael are leaving with Eugene O'Meara joining the team

### **Finance:**

2025 Finances are to be done and sent to the Department along with the 2026 Workplan & the MOU 2026 & SLA by March 31st. The latter two were signed at the meeting. There is a new system of paying the wages being set up. Kay Cantwell, the PPN accountant will be able to upload a pay file when she receives the ID details for the digipass the AIB have allocated her.

**Coordinators Report:** as per report emailed.

Plenary date not decided. SHE 2029 Local Elections Guidebook county launch with the PPN is 22/05 in Thurles. There is funding for support with this through the Increased Participation project funded by CoCo and it fits well with other ongoing projects.

**Training and Funding:** Update on **SEAI**-community groups EMP: requesting a project time extension

Successful recent Fundraising webinar with over 30 attendees.

After some discussion, it was felt that the TCC funding €3000 shall be spent on strengthening reps. Mary McLoughney & Ruth to discuss possible opportunities.

**Staffing Update:** It was decided not to have any worker from the NTDC CE scheme, now that Ann Scanlon's contract has finished. This is due to the volume of work that Ruth has currently and the addition of managing the Community Mapping Project. The place will be kept open and it is hoped in the future to recruit again.

**Rep Update:** There is a regional PPN rep meeting in Cabragh with 9 PPNs involved on Sat 11<sup>th</sup> April. Up to 10 reps from each PPN can attend.

**Power of People and Place update:** Shoyna gave us an update. The TCC part of the team are Angela Sheehan 1 day a week and Elaine O'Driscoll 5 days to help move the project on from the TCC side.

Shoyna is finding the feedback is very positive about all the work that is done in the groups. Eugene has been through the survey process and found it very good and valuable as it made him think.

**Environmental news:** Alan attended the Q1 Environmental Groups Cabragh meeting. A PPN position paper on community anaerobic digesters is being formulated by the groups. Anne-Marie Fleming, TCC County Biodiversity Officer, attended about the update of the County Biodiversity Plan. In National Biodiversity Week, May 15<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> May, the climate coaches are looking at an MD-wide photographic biodiversity competition. Alan is happy to advise on this.

**National Workers Network:** It seems to be a difficult relationship with the Dept at the moment for the NWN. No Dept. staff turn up or even send a report to the meetings as in the past, Dept only held €4000 for the annual staff overnight forum. Last year they gave €14 000. This is now been passed on to the NWN NAC reps and our Charles to bring up at the meeting in May.

Ruth is on a NWN subgroup to compile a response document to the below par S3 Consultants report on Barriers to Participation in PPNs. S3 are based in Belfast. NI doesn't have PPNs and it was obvious the consultants were not understanding the PPN structure as they recommended that PPNs got specific groups up and running to work with eg Ex-offenders. The webinar for PPNs to hear about the results of the research, presentation and inability to discuss the document on the night was felt to be frustrating and inadequate and was hosted by the Dept.

**National Secretariat Network:** There is a meeting with the Director of the National Community Safety Office, Grainne Berrill, about the Local Community Safety Partnerships (LCSPs) with reps from the NWN and the NSN on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March online to look at the process of nominating the community reps for this new structure

**South East Regional PPN Network:** There will be a Secretariat/Rep networking event in Thurles Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> April/staff & secretariat training/regional training. There will be guest inputs on the day.