



Tipperary Public Participation Network

Secretariat meeting

Minutes

Thursday January 23rd 2025

In attendance: Michael Kealy, Charles Stanley Smith, Daniel Long, Ruth Smith, Sharon Melbourne and Ann Scanlon.

On Line: Alan Moore, Sean O'Farrell, Kuldeep Joshi, Niamh Ní Chillín and Sangeeta Molloy.

Apologies: Anne Williamson, JJ O'Sullivan, Derry O'Donnell, Mike Edwards and Martins Punculis.

Facilitator: Michael Kealy **Minute Taker** Seán O'Farrell

Conflict of Interest: None

Agenda: All agreed

Minutes: Approved and ratified. Proposed by Charles Stanley Smith and seconded by Michael Kealy.

Correspondence:

There was correspondence from Leitrim PPN (Co. Co. hosted) regarding the National PPN Implementation Road Map and its roll out. An action plan and a review of structures was also mentioned. Fiona Crotty was sent this but knows nothing about this for Tipperary. Ruth will resend the National Road Map as requested by Seán.

Finance Meeting: Michael Kealy presented the Financial Balances as recorded at the last Finance sub-group meeting on 14/01/2025. The Bank Statements had been reconciled and the 2024 Returns agreed and signed. The 4th Quarter figures are to be released. Sharon's Annual increment was approved.

Coordinators Report:

Ruth gave the members her report. Fiona Crotty has to drop the TPPN due to new duties. Mary McLoughlin is to replace her as County Council staff member who liaises with the TPPN. This follows the loss of Margo Hayes from the County Council PPN Support Team too.

Ruth's report outlined meetings attended, workshops organised and facilitated. Ruth updated the members on the Collaborative Mapping Project, with Tipperary County Council, which will

involve Healthy Ireland and an Outreach Community Worker employed with the TPPN for one year, as well as a CoCo staff member in South Tipp & one in North Tipp for some part of their week's work. There will be two MDs surveyed provisionally, namely Thurles and Carrick-on-Suir. The County Council will provide iPads and phone. The Support worker will spend three days of the week out in the field mapping facilities and needs etc. May work a half day on Social Media for TPPN as well as a day in the office, scheduling appointments to meet groups to complete the survey. The candidate hopefully will be a Graduate with a community background. Fiona hopes this will be in place by the end of the next quarter. The Job Spec will have to be drawn up first.

Ruth outlined a second project to develop/enhance women's involvement in participation in local decision-making. The aim is to have diverse representation and broad social inclusion.

Ruth asked do we want a subgroup for each project or all projects? The members agreed to set up a subgroup to support and guide these projects. Daniel Long and Michael Kealy volunteered for these two project subgroups.

Community & Voluntary Rep call for Thurles MD is closed.

In terms of Strategic Policy Committee representation, Eoin Wolohan is a PPN Social Inclusion Rep on an SPC, now finished with LCDC, but the members agreed that he can also be a PPN Rep on the North Tipperary Development Company Board, as it is an independent company with no links to the County Council. Due process has to be followed as requested by Daniel Long. Ruth said this will be noted in the TPPN Annual Report 2024 and all Secretariat members agreed.

The Work Plan: Ruth will meet with J.J. O'Sullivan and Charles Stanley Smith to develop the work plan on Tuesday February 11th, 2025.

Ruth updated the members on re-registrations and the use of Salesforce. Re-registration is on-going.

Ruth and the members discussed Training Needs, and the following were suggested: CPR, IT Skills, Wellbeing, Environment and Community Building. Ruth will send out a Needs analysis for Training Programmes. Funding opportunities were discussed. The National Lottery fund could possibly be used for training in Grant Application Writing. LEADER Training Funding was applied for in December 2024. With respect to the Community Festival Grant we can only apply for Category One. Ruth will submit this application, before deadline.

The TPPN Vision Review was the next item discussed. The option of having a County Event to revise the Wellbeing document was considered. Charles will support Ruth in progressing this initiative as part of the Community Wellbeing Sub-group.

Ruth provided an update on the Rep vacancies and Rep calls. Mike is on this subgroup.

Tipperary Sports Partnership have a vacancy for the Disability Sports Rep. With respect to the SPC's, there is one Environmental seat vacancy and four Social Inclusion ones. Ruth said a new rep call will be put out for these vacancies. Also, we are still short 2 Secretariat Reps in the Nenagh MD, these vacancies being Community & Voluntary and Environment.

Plenary Planning was the next topic. The Plenary is planned for Thursday March 6th. Venue to be in North Tipperary. The main focus will be on the Work Plan, MOU and Ratification of Reps. Alan and Derry will be members of this Subgroup.

Ruth is facilitating at the next Environmental Q1 meeting in Cabragh Wetlands on Saturday January 25th. Biomethane, Climate Coaches and the Circular Economy are some of the topics on the agenda. We have a budget of €3,000 from CoCo to meet with the CCCs in the 5MDs. The plan is to engage and re-energise the CCCs.

The PPN National Advisory Group (NAG):

Charles has a meeting next Friday of the Roadmap Committee.

Training needs of SPC members was identified as worth providing.

National Secretariat Network:

Niamh reported back from the last meeting. She mentioned the National Civic Forum, the National PPN Roadmap and cross-border initiatives. Niamh will send on her notes from the last meeting.

A.O.B.

Margo Hayes is leaving at the end of the month. The members acknowledged the great contributions that Margo made towards advancing the TPPN mission and vision. Ruth suggested a gentle informal farewell to take place in Clerihan, Wednesday February 5th at 7 p.m. All members agreed to this farewell get-together. Apologies from Seán and Alan who cannot attend due to other commitments.

Charles requested that we delete Twitter/X and all members agreed.

Next Meeting:

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