

# Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí Chontae na Gaillimhe



Galway County  
Public  
Participation  
Network



Ag obair le chéile - ag múnlú ár todhchaí | Working together - shaping our future

## Galway County Public Participation Network Minutes of the PPN Secretariat

**Date:** Thursday, June 25th, 2015

**Venue:** Community Enterprise & Economic Development Office, Galway City

**Time:** 7:30p.m – 9:30pm.

**Present:** Aingeal Ní Chonghaile (Connemara Environment Education & Cultural Centre), Sandra Shattock (Clifden Tidy Towns), Marian Brady (An Taisce), J.P. Canney (Action Tuam Ltd), Vincent Lyons (Claregalway Development Assoc), Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Training For Employment), Jean Mullan (Paving the Way), Tom Madden (Ballinasloe Training For Employment).

**Apologies:** Josephine Gardiner (Ardrahan Community Games), Karen Mannion (Pobal Mám Ean Teo)

**In Attendance:** Kieran Coyne (Community, Enterprise & Economic Unit Officer) and Caroline Power (Community, Enterprise & Economic Unit Intern)

### **Welcome**

Vincent Lyons, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked all for coming.

### **Minutes of March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting and Matters Arising**

The minutes were proposed by Jarlath Canney and seconded by Tom Madden.

### **Discussion of Reps holding more than two positions on Committees.**

There was a long discussion in relation to this issue. The conversation was prefaced by the view that given the PPN Secretariat has no rules, standing orders or a constitution it is difficult to invoke procedures as they arise. The discussion outlined the reasoning for putting forward the proposal to restrict a PPN nominated representative from holding more than two positions on policy committees and representative bodies. Two of the PPN Secretariat members Dan Dowling and Tom Madden currently fall into the category of holding more than two positions at the same time. Although unrelated but not mutually exclusive to the general conversation Jarlath Canney asked Dan Dowling about potential conflict issues in relation to his representation on both GRD and the LCDC. Dan did not provide an answer and felt that it was not relevant to the PPN meeting. Kieran Coyne

suggested said that it was only PPN issues that a representative had to address in the context of PPN meetings. Tom Madden suggested that Jarlath was only asking a question that was communicated to him by a PPN registered group from the Tuam Municipal District. It was agreed that for Galway County Council policy committees and representative bodies that the two position rule should only be implemented for elections concerning the next local election period for the following reasons;

- Representatives were nominated and elected in good faith based on an agreed process
- In the nomination form guidance it was stated as a proposal but not an instruction
- It was not clearly specified when this was put out initially (after the Secretariat, SPC and JPC elections but before the recent LCDC election) that the Secretariat was considered to a representative body or policy committee

From the representatives present a vote was taken and the following was the result in relation to leaving the two position rule until the next local election period;

For	7
Against	0
Abstention	1

From here on it was agreed that if any position becomes vacant where relevant all groups registered with the PPN by the date the election is called will be eligible nominate for that position. Moreover it was agreed that fresh election for vacant positions will be conducted and the original October 2014 registration deadline becomes null and void.

#### **Training event for representatives elected through the PPN process**

Based on some previous informal conversation it was agreed that a training event (half day workshop) will take place in September 2015 to firstly look at what is expected of them as representatives, secondly to give a sense of the items that will be tabled for discussion at policy committees that they are elected onto and thirdly assist them through the PPN process in two communicating with PPN registered groups.

Consultation will take place with the Secretariat in finalising the date, time, venue and itinerary for the event.

#### **Secretariat access to the PPN database**

A number of PPN Secretariat members have requested access to contact details for groups contained in the body of registered groups that they represent be it municipal district or electoral college. Kieran Coyne said that the data protection situation would have to be clarified and that he would liaise with the nominated data protection officer in Galway County Council on this issue.

#### **Resources – Departmental Update**

Kieran Coyne provided an update in this regard. He said that nationally the Department will be providing €2.48 million nationally to support the work of PPNs. The individual PPN breakdown has to be communicated but it involve a matching funding requirement from each Local authority.

### **Administrative support and resources for the Secretariat**

Vincent Lyons informed the meeting that currently the Secretariat have applied to GRD for resource support with a work programme to be defined.

On a related matter it was queried whether the recent Dormant Accounts funding announcement be looked at for possible resources.

### **Issues that have arisen concerning the PPN nomination and election processes**

Kieran Coyne outlined a number of issues that arose in the course of various PPN related elections since late 2014. These included translation issues including cost involved, using the first past the post voting method instead of PR-STV, email issues and where responsibility lies once it is clear that the email has left the PPN and no delivery failure was returned.

### **A.O.B.**

It was agreed that all PPN registered groups would be communicated with on the recent LCDC election results and that Kieran Coyne would draft a paragraph which would act as a holding situation until plenary meetings were called later in the year in the various municipal Districts.

**Date of next meeting:** Not Decided