

Public Participation Network (PPN)

- Galway County Council is required by legislation to establish a new framework for public engagement and participation which is called the **County Galway Public Participation Network (PPN)**.
- The PPN will be the main link through which the local authority connects with communities and is the official platform for representation on policy making boards and committees of the local authority.
- The PPN is comprised of a number of elements and will operate at County as well as Municipal District level. Its structures include the **Plenary** (made up of all groups at County/Municipal District level), the **Secretariat** (the administrative/coordinating body), the **Electoral Colleges** (Social Inclusion, Community & Voluntary and Environmental) and **Linkage Groups** (particular interest groups). Each of the groups/structures has an important role to play and are key to ensuring good citizen and community engagement.
- Public information sessions were organised in each Municipal District in September and October 2014 in advance of the Public Participation Network being established in County Galway to give groups & organisations opportunities to familiarise themselves with the PPN & to seek clarification on issues that were arising.
- Three hundred and eighty groups registered for the PPN in advance of the initial closing date & these groups have voting rights for various Galway County Council committees and sub structures where seats are required to be filled through the PPN.
- The eleven seats for the PPN Secretariat have now been filled after nominations were sought and subsequent ballots issued over November and December 2014. These seats are across the five Municipal Districts (one each) and two each from both the Community & Voluntary College, the Environment College and the Social Inclusion College.
- The PPN Secretariat had their inaugural meeting on Monday January 12th 2015.
- The SPC election process for 9 seats to be filled through the PPN commenced once the inaugural meeting of the PPN Secretariat took place. Part of this process involved establishing Linkage groups. Notification for selecting linkage groups was issued on Thursday January 15th 2015 while the nomination forms for the SPCs were issued during the week commencing Monday January 19th. Nominations for the SPCs closed on February 4th and ballots were issued by post to be returned by February 18th. The count took place on February 18th and the elected list has been issued to Council.
- The nomination and election process for the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) commenced in late January and the process was completed on foot of nominations for the 7 positions received by the closing date of February 6th 2015. The elected list has been issued to Council.