

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, March 26th, 2015

Venue: Community Enterprise & Economic Development Office, Galway City

Time: 7:30p.m – 10:30pm.

Present: Aingeal Ní Chonghaile (Connemara Environment Education & Cultural Centre), Karen Mannion (Pobal Mám Ean Teo), Sandra Shattock (Clifden Tidy towns), Marian Brady (An Taisce), J.P. Canney (Action Tuam Ltd), Vincent Lyons (Claregalway Development Assoc), Josephine Gardiner (Ardrahan Community Games) and Dan Dowling (Ballinasloe Training For Employment), Tom Madden (Ballinasloe Training For Employment).

Apologies: David Collins (Centre for Education & Development), Jean Mullan (Paving the Way)

In Attendance: Alan Farrell (Senior Executive Officer of Community, Enterprise & Economic Development), 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 and hoped that the PPN would be good to serve the people of Galway.

Introductions

Each member of the Secretariat committee introduced themselves and named the group(s) that they are members of.

Role of the PPN Secretariat

Vincent Lyons provided the opening perspective as to where things are from the Secretariat viewpoint.

Alan Farrell then outlined the PPN role and vision for the future and that the PPN is part of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 that enables Local Authorities to take all appropriate steps to consult with and promote effective participation of local communities in Local Government. He emphasised the potential of the PPN and suggested that the Secretariat will have a lead role in its roll out and development. He explained that that the

Secretariat will be the administrative arm of the PPN, it will co-ordinate the activities of the PPN, communicate with the PPN members and prioritise issues that need to be aired.

He also said that will work to achieve its goals and bring in the history of the Community Forum to aid in the process.

Alan informed the group that the Secretariat is a flat structure and will meet at least 4 times a year.

Operating rules for Secretariat

Alan Farrell referenced the structures under which the PPN will operate noting how they can influence policy, influence decisions and access information. The various Departmental circulars were circulated to Secretariat members.

Upcoming Elections onto Council Committees

Alan informed the group that the next election that has to be conducted is the election of community representation onto the Galway County Council's for the LCDC and the GSP. It was agreed by the members of the Secretariat that the postal vote was the most accountable and transparent process of election.

Karen Mannion said that there should be more time running up to the election process, to give groups a chance to meet and decide who they put forward.

Election Process

It was agreed by the members of the Secretariat that the postal vote was the most accountable and transparent process of election and that the 'first past the post' voting method would continue to be used.

A.O.B.

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

The issue of a training support for the Secretariat and PPN members on various policy committees was raised. It was agreed to hold a half day workshop in relation to this with details to be agreed in due course.

It was proposed that Dan Dowling and Vincent Lyons would support the Community, Enterprise & Economic Development Unit in organising the Community Conference to be held in late May 2015.

Rita Cunnane who was the Support worker for the Community Forum will be providing support to the work of the Secretariat. Rita Cunnane is on a RSS which is administered by Galway Rural Development.

A request to the PPN, for community representatives through the Community & Voluntary College to join the forthcoming delegation to the European Commission on Monday, 13th April 2015 from 11.00 am to 1.00 pm was made by the County Secretary for Galway County Council. This request was in relation to consider the application of Article 6.4 of the Habitats Directive to the original route of the Galway City Outer Bypass. It was agreed that a list of PPN registered groups along or near the route would be drawn up and an email sent to these groups. Ideally the aim would be to have one representative each from both sides of the Corrib. It was then agreed then that the email would seek one person and that the PPN

elected representative on the Roads, Transportation and Marine SPC Tom Madden would be the other representative.

Calendar of meeting dates for 2015

Not agreed on the night

Date of next meeting: Not Decided

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