
CLARE PPN DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN

2017 - 2021

WHO WE ARE

Clare PPN is a network open to community and voluntary groups based in the County.

The purpose of the PPN is to allow these groups to give input and have their voices heard within the formal decision making structures of Clare County Council. The PPN is now the main way that Clare County Council will connect with groups active in the county. Whenever the local authority needs people to participate in consultations or sit on the committees that form policies it will call on the PPN to select these people by holding elections from amongst its members.

It does not cost anything to register with the PPN and we encourage all eligible voluntary, community and environmental groups to join.

WHO WE ARE

The PPN has a group called a secretariat who manage its activities at County level. The members of this group are independent of the County Council and are elected by the members of the PPN. Every group that joins the PPN will have a vote and will be able to nominate candidates for these and other positions.

WHAT WE DO

What we do:

- We hold regular meetings and online consultations with our membership to discuss current and emerging issues, to share information and to make sure that a diverse range of views are heard.
- We elect representatives to sit on Local Government and other local and regional committees to represent our members' views on local matters.
- We work with Clare County Council and other agencies to assist with consultations on issues that affect the local area and its people, environment and economy,
- We formulate submissions and positions in response to strategic and policy matters which impact local communities when our members agree to or request this.
- Through our website, social media and online newsletters we help to keep Clare Communities informed of local issues, funding opportunities, consultations and events.
- Through training, outreach and networking we help to build the capacity of local community groups and organisations to participate effectively in local and national government policy making.
- We may commission or participate in research which aims to strengthen democratic participation by people resident in Clare.
- We work with other organisations and agencies at local regional and national level to promote participation by the diverse groups who make up the population of Clare.

Our Vision:

An inclusive County where the diverse communities and age groups who live here are valued and able participate fully in decisions that concern them. A County that takes progressive measures to tackle inequality, poverty and other forms of disadvantage. A County that protects its environment and countryside and where sustainable livelihoods are protected. A County that innovates and makes use of technology and economic opportunity for the benefit of its population. A county where everyone counts.

Our mission:

Clare PPN is determined to make sure that community groups can play an active role in the decisions made by Clare County Council for the county and all its people. Clare PPN will do its best to help the County Council understand and respond to the diverse needs, objectives and ways of working of community groups.

Our values:

The work of Clare PPN is underpinned by the core values of Participation, Inclusion, Diversity, Respect, Equality, Empowerment, Transparency, Accountability and Collaboration.

Clare PPN is committed to working from an inclusive, social justice and anti-racist perspective and will not collaborate with or admit any group which promotes the exclusion of, or demeans any other ethnicity, culture, belief or capacity.



Clare PPN Strategic goals

GOAL ONE: INFLUENCING POLICY AND LOCAL DECISION MAKING

To ensure that the voice, experience, expertise and needs of community groups are taken into account in decisions that affect the County.

1.1 Facilitate public participation in local decision and policy making.

1.2 Ensure that PPN plenaries are informed engaged and inclusive decision making structures.

1.3 Ensure that Clare PPN's processes are accountable and transparent.

GOAL TWO: BUILDING A STRONG MEMBERSHIP FOR CLARE PPN

To build a vibrant, inclusive membership base for Clare PPN.

2.1 Promote and market the PPN in the county and actively seek new members.

2.2 Work with member groups to pool knowledge and build capacity.

2.3 Clare PPN will act as a source of information and networking for community groups.

GOAL THREE: EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

To build strong effective relationships and partnerships with all stakeholders

3.1 Work in partnership with Clare County Council and other decision making bodies to encourage meaningful community engagement and participation.

3.2 Collaborate with community stakeholders, service providers, trade unions, representative organisations, businesses and educational institutions to build cohesive approaches to participation and pool knowledge and resources.

3.3 Support regional and national initiatives which promote or improve opportunities for participation.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT AND WELL RUN ORGANISATION

To work to best practice standards.

- 4.1 Ensure compliance with governance, legislative, and local and national budgetary requirements.
- 4.2 Ensure the ongoing professional development and well-being of PPN staff.
- 4.3 Develop procedures and practices to assist the PPN in its effectiveness for its members.



Actions

GOAL ONE: INFLUENCING POLICY AND LOCAL DECISION MAKING

Actions-

- Clare PPN will nominate representatives to sit on local authority and other local or regional decision making bodies in a transparent and democratic way.
- When required Clare PPN will work with Clare County Council to conduct community consultations in a meaningful way.
- Clare PPN will conduct plenary and policy meetings of its membership to consider and discuss matters which are important to them and assist the representatives in their work.
- Clare PPN's representatives will ensure that the diverse views of member groups are articulated or that policy positions agreed by the relevant members are presented.
- Clare PPN will provide training or other supports in line with available resources to our representatives to help them to fulfil their roles effectively.
- Clare PPN will hold regular meetings of the PPN secretariat to ensure the smooth running of the PPN between plenaries.

GOAL TWO: BUILDING A STRONG MEMBERSHIP FOR CLARE PPN

Actions:

- Clare PPN will run an outreach programme to grow our membership. This will include participating in other organisations events or attending community events in the county
- Clare PPN will create and provide quality user friendly information about what the PPN is and does and how people can become involved.
- Clare PPN will use its social media, website and newsletter as well as local media to keep members up to date with its activities and local issues.
- Clare PPN will develop training programmes/ materials for members on Local Government as well as in relation to policy issues.

GOAL THREE: EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION

Actions:

- Provide training and support to local policy and decision making agencies to build understanding of Clare PPN's role.
- To engage with key personnel in local decision making and policy forming structures to foster meaningful partnerships.
- Clare PPN will seek and avail of opportunities to collaborate with agencies working in the county on any projects that fall within its remit.
- Clare PPN will continue to develop partnership projects to promote participation and community engagement.
- Clare PPN will participate in research and consultations that fall within its goals.

GOAL 4: MAINTAIN AN EFFICIENT AND WELL RUN ORGANISATION

Actions:

- Maintain and if possible increase staffing levels to enable the growth and sustainability of Clare PPN
- Provide ongoing support and training to Clare PPN staff
- Produce an annual work programme and budget within the objectives of this strategic plan.
- Maintain flexibility in order to allow Clare PPN to take any opportunities to pioneer innovative approaches to the development or improvement of public participation in the County.
- Meet all financial and activity reporting requirements to the relevant government or Council departments.
- Produce an annual report which accurately reflects our progress, activities, achievements and challenges.
- Manage our budget in the best interests of our responsibilities and membership and seek to ensure the long term sustainability of the PPN.

ANNUAL PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE MONITORING:

Clare PPN develops a programme of work and a range of targets and performance indicators each year in line with its mandated responsibilities, available resources and the priorities of our member groups. We are committed to assessing and monitoring our progress both to measure our effectiveness and to identify areas in which we can improve.

OUTCOMES

By successfully implementing this strategy we will have achieved the following:

- Clare PPN will be the recognised mechanism for participation by community groups in local government processes.
- Clare PPN will have developed a strong working relationship with all departments in Clare County Council and there will be a widespread understanding of the role and function of the PPN.
- Clare PPN's members will through their representatives have a strong and protected voice in decision making bodies and boards in the County with.
- Our members will be well informed and motivated to participate in the PPN's activities.
- There will be effective processes and structures underpinning Clare PPN.
- Engaging with Clare PPN will contribute to the well-being of communities and groups in Clare.