



Clare PPN Plenary Meeting

Tuesday 8th December 2020, via Zoom

Attendance: 37

Apologies:

Facilitator: Mary O'Donoghue

Clare PPN Work Report & Finances for 2020

Presented by Sarah Ferrigan. Much praise all round.

Mary O'Donoghue: from relatively little income, Clare PPN gets great value, huge amount of work done.

Clare PPN Coordinator commended the huge effort and work of all those who participate in the PPN on a voluntary basis.

You can review Clare PPN's 2020 Work Report on our website here:

[Clare PPN 2020 Work Report as presented to plenary, December 8 2020 | Clare PPN](#)

Annual accounts will be posted on our website once finalised.

Vision for Community Wellbeing Statements:

Sarah Clancy introduced the draft Vision Statements for each Municipal District, which were written following a process including an online survey, Zoom workshops for each MD and input from Reps & Secretariat.

It was agreed that these draft statements will be posted on our website. Please have a read and let us know by 15th January if you have any comments or suggestions.

You can read Clare PPN Draft Community Wellbeing Visions Here:

[Draft Wellbeing Vision Statements for Clare and Municipal Districts | Clare PPN](#)

PPN User Handbook

Launched in November by Minister of State Joe O'Brien
All PPNs to be guided by this document.

You can review the new PPN User Handbook here
[79d48b54-0557-493e-9aa1-1d910364d41e.pdf \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/public/publications-and-statements/publication/79d48b54-0557-493e-9aa1-1d910364d41e.pdf)

You can read the national PPN 2019 annual report here
[gov.ie - Public Participation Network Annual Reports \(www.gov.ie\)](https://www.gov.ie/public/publications-and-statements/publication/gov.ie-Public-Participation-Network-Annual-Reports)

Priorities

Clare PPN wishes to prioritise the effectiveness of the Committees that its representative sit on for 2021. It is part of the core remit of PPNs to provide such representation from the C&V sector. Clare PPN staff and secretariat are concerned that the committees on which our representatives are sitting are not fulfilling their roles in the formation and discussion of policy and as such that representatives do not feel valued or effective. This is leading to difficulty in filling vacant representative roles.

*This was also evident nationally from the National PPN report 2019 which noted that 2/3 of vacant seats were uncontested in 2019 - meaning one candidate or fewer came forward for the role.

It was agreed that Clare PPN should raise this with the Local Authority again and request a response. It was noted that this problem exists on two levels

1. Administrative – there are several very straightforward changes (sufficient notice of meetings, timely circulation of documents and agendas, opportunities for PPN reps to contribute to forming the agendas and an agreed statement of outcome process at conclusion of each meeting) that can be made to the administration of meetings and we will request these again at the beginning of 2021.
2. Democratic: the processes used within local authorities to take on board and act on or put proposals from committees to the full council. This is something that will require an effort at a national level through the DCRD and the proposals for action below.

Actions:

1. Clare PPN staff will organise a meeting with LA PPN liaison Bernadette Haugh to review and agree 2021 work plan and will raise and seek to address the administrative issues at that meeting.
2. This problem was the subject of a recent meeting of PPN resource workers (NRN) from around Ireland. Most PPNs are experiencing similar difficulties in maintaining engagement with representatives acting on a voluntary basis to represent the PPN. It was proposed at the NRN that each PPN subject to agreement from members and secretariats would call

a meeting of their current and former representatives to discuss these issues in early 2021. This meeting would be followed by a national PPN representatives meeting to discuss strategies to address this issue.

Both of the above were agreed by members and secretariat and will be actioned by Clare PPN staff in 2021.

Other priorities mentioned:

- Priorities described in Wellbeing Vision Statements.
- County Development Plan Consultation.
- Brexit readiness of community groups.
- Lack of health services, including mental health.

You can email Clare PPN staff with further priorities you would like considered if yours have not been raised, or they can be raised at Clare PPN's quarter one plenary meeting 2021.

The Big Christmas Draw

First prize – €100 voucher for Hotel Doolin: Niall Burke, Doora Barefield GAA.
Second prize - €50 voucher for Rowan Tree cafe: Martin Tobin, Clare Leader Forum.

AOB

Elaine D'Alton: Invited members to attend Clare Women's Network's Event Silence + Voice – the online series: Speak Up Speak Out. Thursday, December 10th, 2:30pm - 5pm.

Link here for tickets:

[Silence + Voice Online Series - Speak Up Speak Out Tickets, Thu 10 Dec 2020 at 14:30 | Eventbrite](#)