

Minutes of representatives and secretariat meeting June 3rd 2020

Minutes of Clare PPN Reps meeting

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2020

Present: Damon Matthew Wise, Emma Karan, Eugene Cremins, Fionnuala Collins, George Atijohn, Hilary Tonge, James Giller, Mary Leahy, Mary O'Donoghue, Noel Kearney, Oonagh O'Dwyer, Padraic Hayes, Madeline McAleer, Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan, William Hederman

Apologies: Aisling Wheeler, Annie Wise, Elaine Dalton, Helen Liddy, Jean O'Keefe

Facilitated by: Sarah Ferrigan

Minutes: William Hederman

UPDATE FROM LAST MEETING

Suggestions on the Work Plan from the last meeting included: developing a Communications Strategy, both media and social media; encouraging people to support local businesses; encouraging people to protect bees and biodiversity.

UPDATES ON COUNTY COUNCIL, SPCs etc

County Council due to meet next Monday, 8th June, in Glór. SPCs due to start meeting in June. This week a call was also made for the LCDC to meet soon.

Several people said the PPN Reps had been ignored for the past three months. The Council has not involved the voice of the community during the pandemic, when in fact this is exactly when community's input is needed. Agreed that this should be raised, but noted that councillors are not necessarily the ones to target, as they may also be feeling left out.

UPDATE ON FINANCES & RESOURCES AVAILABLE

Sarah Ferrigan gave an update. Once running/fixed costs have been accounted for, we have approx €4,500, to spend mostly on 'Training & Development' and 'Projects & Events'. This is a low amount.

We have pre-paid €1,800 for training in three areas: Cultural Diversity & Anti-Racism; Local Government; Media. This can be online.

We also have paid for some venues for events. And for some transport with Clare Bus.

DISCUSSION ON WORK PLAN

Sarah Clancy: key ambitions are becoming more effective at having the views of community and voluntary sector taken on board at local authority level; and encouraging participation and a sense of ownership of the PPN among people in Clare.

Open discussion – suggestions were based mostly around:

1. i) mental health, especially due to effects of lockdown;
2. ii) supporting people to retrain, refocus careers, an ideas fair;
- iii) seminars / webinars

Noel: Can we include in PPN people with mental health difficulties? Also, we should tie in with Aoife Boland of AIRE Mid West/ HSE.

Sarah C: We can do events around mental health, but note that our role is to influence policy, not to provide service. We need to make sure mental health is considered in all relevant forums. Should we declare that we are a mental health friendly organisation?

Mary O'D: Suggests a poster and a spread in Clare Champion about all the orgs and agencies you can contact if you're feeling down.

Hilary: Good time to boost the PPN online, as everyone is at home and online. Boost posts. Perhaps a weekly training session; life coaching.

Damon: Disabled People need social events, some don't use social media very much.

Mary O'Donoghue: Points we are raising here should be expanded and input into Clare LECP (Local Economic and Community Plan), which is up for review soon, and other county-wide plans. Good opportunity to gather people's views.

Fionnuala Collins : suggests holding an online conference on belonging to a democracy, focusing on the need for open, transparent input and decision-making. Also, we should signpost about options for getting back into the community – classes, social interaction, which places offer counselling, community garden etc

James Giller: Good time to invite public to participate, like the 'What do we want?' submissions. Also, pandemic has highlighted discrimination. Ask Council to push for policies to prevent and lessen discrimination. And suggests training for use of online tools.

Madeline: A webinar on 'Where to post-Covid?', with follow-up events and trainings, with the PPN leading with the message that community representation needs to be very strong now at decision-making level.

AOB:

Madeline was contacted by a Colin McGann, who is making a documentary on people's experiences in Clare during COVID:

Please note that we have his contacts but don't want to share them online

<http://www.clare.fm/podcasts/new-documentary-tell-story-clare-covid/>

NEXT MEETING:

Monday 15th June, 2020 at 6:30pm

ENDS

Reps and Secretariat meeting, 15th June 2020

Present: Sarah C, Sarah F, Noel, Mary (with connection difficulty), Damon, Hilary, George, Padraic, Elaine, George, Fionnuala

Apologies: Anny, Oonagh, Madeline, James, Jean, Niamh, William

Absent: Helen, Emma, Eugene, Aisling

Facilitated by: Elaine D'Alton

Minutes by: Sarah F

CCC Forum

MOD: The Community Call Forum is fine for charitable feel-good actions but not the difficult stuff. Even so they have access to resources and can do things we can't while we have the knowledge of what is happening on the ground. Next meeting in early July?

CCC Rural Development

MOD: Is Rural Development Section coming to grips with its role? Are they planning on applying for LEADER funding especially now with rural development officers? Rural development is not the same

as community development. Community development is being done by FRCs etc. Where are our structures for community development?

LCDC

MOD: LCDC has worked well with the likes of LCETB. We are often repeating ourselves to be heard or are discussing something, trying to think of a solution and another agency has the solution or information already and we don't know about it. Hasn't 'met' except by email which is not good enough for decision making (community call fund was decided by email).

SC: Currently two vacancies, Environment (formerly Theresa O'Donoghue) and Social Inclusion (formerly Ann Marie Flanagan). More details about elections later.

HT: Hilary has been ratified and is to attend first LCDC meeting.

SC: Pencilled in for 1st July but we must push to have it earlier. Sarah F to contact Bernie.

Community Task Force

SC: Zoom meetings of the Clare Community Response Team to be monthly instead of weekly. The group has worked very well together and should continue as a Community Task Force. A pool of resources, expertise and people to support each other.

Economic Task Force

ED: The new Economic Task force was discussed in relation to the Economic Development SPC. Elaine was asked to do a social inclusion report for it by Liam Conneally.

Workplan

An adjusted workplan was requested by Dept and brought up for discussion at the last reps meeting. SC did a brief recap of the changes to the workplan (COVID Response Team work done from March until now and an estimate of future events) which will be sent to department tomorrow.

Elections

SC: 6 secretariat positions and 2 LCDC positions are up for election. Notices to be sent out by end of next week. Reps and Secretariat asked think about suitable candidates.

Events coming up

Anti-racism training sponsored by Clare PPN coming up on Thursday 18th June, Ready & Able Training with Clare Volunteer Centre on 25th June. Working Life training course beginning on 1st July.

ENDS