

Draft Minutes of Clare PPN Secretariat Meeting 8th October 2019

Attendance: Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan, Sue Considine, Mary O Donoghoe, George Atijohn, Marie Therese Carroll, Padriac Hayes, Damon Matthew Wise & Fionnuala Collins

1. Minutes of previous meeting

- a. Minutes proposed and seconded by Mary O Donoghue and George Atijohn

2. Attendance discussed

- a. Discussion around non- attendance of representatives at meetings in relation to appointment of new representatives.

Agreed to stick to current policy of writing (email) to members who have missed more than 2 consecutive meetings. They would be asked to stand down in accordance with Clare PPN code of conduct. It was stressed that everyone on Sec understands the strains and stresses on people making voluntary efforts for their communities but that there is also a need for Clare PPN to ensure its groups are represented at meeting.

3. Work update

- a. Update on the Clare PPN work provided by the Co-ordinator -as detailed in quarterly report which was accepted and will be available on www.clareppn.ie

4. Finances update

- a. Financial report presented by the Office and Communications Manager was approved and accepted.
- b. Budget to end of year signed for forwarding to Monica Meehan Clare Co Co.

5. SPC elections

- a. SPC elections had taken place and needed to be ratified. There were 11 candidates nominated for 11 positions. Whilst in some cases there were two candidates for one seat and none for another –these were resolved as they fell within the same college and so by discussion and agreement each seat had one person nominated.

6. National Conference October 2019

- a. Update regarding 2 day National PPN Conference to be held 10th and 11th October 2019. Agreed that five from Clare PPN would attend with accommodation and travel being covered from PPN budget.

7. Climate Adaptation Strategy

- a. Clare PPN Climate Adaptation Strategy submission compiled by 27 environmental groups in the county was handed over to Clare County Council by young activists from Fridays for Future. The Draft Climate Adaptation Strategy was adopted on 16th September by Clare County Council without any amendments related to the public consultation. One of the recommendations submitted by the Clare PPN was for the formation of an SPC for Climate Change and Biodiversity. The County Council have decided not to set up separate committee for Climate Change this has not been adopted and instead Climate Change and Biodiversity has been split between two existing SPCs, Economic Development SPC and Physical Development SPC. It was suggested that an unequal relationship existed between Clare PPN and Clare County Council, because Clare PPN was not managing to impact on Council policies – with this being one example.

Agreed that a registered letter to be sent to the County Council officer Leonard Cleary, copied to Pat Dowling, requesting a meeting with the Clare PPN Secretariat, outlining our concerns within the next six weeks. Concerns were the ability to affect decision making, the lack of understanding of the role of the PPN, stressing the desire to maintain a good working relationship between the Clare PPN and the Clare County Council.

8. LTACC

- a. Letter received from Clare County Council suggesting that the Clare PPN should arrange to nominate a named person to LTACC – Clare PPN has not previously organised the nominations of representatives of Traveller community onto this committee

Brief discussion on Clare PPNs submission to the Draft Scheme for SPCs in which Clare PPN requested that the LTACC would be made an SPC and given the same status. It was agreed that we would continue to support Travellers who wish to attend and participate in the LTACC as we have done to date, but that we are not currently resourced to carry out the role of nominating Travellers particularly because we do not have a good representation of Travellers and Traveller groups in our membership. Secretariat agreed that our current focus on outreach to the Traveller community should be prioritised and that participation on the LTACC may be premature. Secretariat noted that the current situation for the Travelling community in Clare is poor with many experiencing extreme disadvantage, accommodation issues, employment issues, mental health issues are prevalent with recent suicides having affected the whole community.

9. Plans for Training Reps and Secretariat

- a. Equality Training for LCDC and induction for new representatives was planned along with an introduction to intercultural awareness, racism and secretariat training for new members. This would be advertised and open to all members but particularly targeted at representatives. All new representatives have been advised that they will be required to attend training.

Clare PPN need to prepare a Community Well-being statement and it was proposed that this should be done in each municipal district and that it can be linked with media/social media training in order to encourage participation. There were concerns about community consultation fatigue and so having this consultation embedded in something groups would wish to be part of was thought to be advantageous.

AOB:

Fionnuala Collins agreed to become a director of CLG and signatory of bank account. Mary O'Donoghue has agreed to become a signatory of the bank account.

New Secretariat member elections to take place before year end.

Meeting/ Strategy Planning session for 2020 to be scheduled before year end.

Meeting Concluded