

## **Clare PPN Secretariat Meeting minutes**

Wednesday, 3rd November, 2021

### **Present:**

Sarah Clancy  
Sarah Ferrigan  
Dermot Hayes  
Padraic Hayes  
William Hederman  
Monica McKenna  
Mary O'Donoghue  
Tracy Watson  
Damon Matthew Wise Âû

### **Apologies:**

Elaine D'Alton

### **Agenda**

1. Work and Finances Update
2. Elections update
3. New circulars from Department
4. Response from Ann Reynolds re Reps issue at SPCs
5. Secretariat to continue meeting on Wednesdays?
6. Dates, time & plan for December plenary
7. Plan for Strategic Planning Day on 4th Dec
8. AOB

### **Minutes of last meeting:**

Proposed Dermot, seconded Damon. Approved.

### **Work and Finances Update**

Have surplus of approx €2,300 for rest of year.

If we have extra funding, agreed that we would contract William to do extra hours.

- Mazaars Review - not yet known when the report will be available.
- Next relevant meeting is 23rd Nov.

- Pride: Disappointingly, we postponed Clare Pride festival due to change in Covid restrictions and concerns about spreading Covid. Sponsors will be still on board for rescheduled event. We'll be in better shape to organise youth aspect of event.
- Zapatista Visit: Inspiring, uplifting. Good turnout.
- Will run a webinar with Macra na Feirme before Xmas - young farmers to talk about their experiences.
- 3rd December - Clare Leader Forum virtual concert at 7pm to mark Disability Day.

### **3. New circulars from Department**

Independent PPNs told that they won't get any extra funding to pay maternity leave. Rules such as this are a barrier to diversity.

Agreed to raise this with Dept.

"That it would be impossible to meet equality legislation. We would be happy to work with you to explore possible solutions."

- Likelihood of an audit by the Dept in 2022. (We are already audited in the usual way as part of our tax compliance).
- "Furthering social inclusion" has been left out - this was in the initial PPN remit. Agreed to raise that with Dept.
- Seem to be saying PPNs who are CLGs (e.g. this PPN) can carry over some funds to next year.

### **4. Response from Ann Reynolds re Reps issue at SPCs**

Disappointing response but the promise of review is welcome. We need to prepare before review meeting.

She flagged that there is a provision for AOB. Our Reps can raise this, if chair does not provide an AOB.

We would like to have a timeline for the review.

Then we will participate in review.

Will have a Reps meeting before the Review.

### **5. Secretariat to continue meeting on Wednesdays?**

Wednesdays are difficult for Fionnuala. However, other days not good for the group.

Agreed to stick with Wed but switch to 7:30pm.

## **6. Dates, time & plan for December plenary**

8th December.

Agreed to invite Joe O'Brien, junior minister at Dept of Comm & Rural Development.

## **7. Plan for Strategic Planning Day on 4th Dec**

This event will go ahead, at Clare PPN offices.

## **8. AOB**

- There is disability funding available for Clare that Council is not applying for. Will find out how to apply; contact department and ask how we might do this.
- Will get a farewell gift for Kay.
- Sarah C to write to Fionnuala about her role on national PPN secretariat body.
- We are to continue to meet monthly.
- And to say we've updated terms of reference for the Secretariat. Aside from exceptional circumstances ... should be 8 out of 11 meetings per year. And that Secretariat members should attend a minimum of two plenaries.

ENDS