

Clare Public Participation Network Report July to September 2022

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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Clare Anti-Poverty Strategy launch day in Dublin

Introduction

Between a highly anticipated report launch and Clare’s inaugural Pride festival, this quarter saw the culmination of many months of preparatory work in two very successful events. There is more information on both of these below. The review of the national PPN structure is ongoing with the Mazars report currently being considered by all stakeholders. Meanwhile submissions into local policy and plans continue. We also held elections for representatives on the Local Community and Development Committee (LCDC) and for Secretariat membership and we are delighted to share their bios with you.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact 087 1617375 or sarah@clareppn.ie

PPN NEWS

5 Year Anti-Poverty Strategy Update

In September, a busload of Clare PPN members, staff and secretariat travelled from the Banner County to a hotel opposite the gates of Leinster House in Dublin to launch our groundbreaking report on poverty and social exclusion in Co Clare. The report raises some very serious issues for policymakers in Clare and nationally, and it received widespread coverage in national and Clare media including TV, radio and print. 'Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare', following nine months of research and planning. The national launch took place in Dublin, with the help of Sinead Gibney of the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, which funded the research. The event was attended by several Clare TDs and Senators, as well as by Joe O'Brien, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development. The report, which examines the causes of and policy responses to poverty in the county, was also raised in Dáil Éireann under Topical Issues.

The quality of the report and the impact it has had so far are the result not only of the excellent work of our lead researcher Dr Conor McCabe but also of the enormous dedication over many months of those member groups of Clare PPN's Social Inclusion college who came together to make this groundbreaking research happen. We have submitted the report to Clare County Council's review of the Rural Development Strategy and for our next steps we aim to present it to committees of the Council, host workshops about the report for Clare PPN reps and use it to inform our submissions and work on the forthcoming Local Economic and Community Plan. IHREC also invited Clare PPN's Coordinator to present on participatory research to this year's grant recipients on 27th September in Dublin.

You can download a PDF of the report here:

https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Clare_Anti_Poverty_Report_Sept2022_web.pdf

The Irish Examiner published an opinion piece by Clare PPN co-ordinator Sarah Clancy about the project, which you can read here:

<https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-40965605.html>



Two new PPN representatives on the Local Community Development Committee of Clare County Council

Clare PPN is delighted to announce two new Clare PPN representatives on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) following a call for nominations from our social inclusion and environmental member groups. We would like to extend our congratulations to them both and look forward to supporting their work on this important committee



Bridgie Casey is a member of the Traveller community, she is currently employed as Project Coordinator with Clare Travellers CDP. Previously, Bridgie was employed by CENA (Traveller led housing body). Bridgie has worked with Traveller organisations at local and national level. Bridgie is committed to working with and for her community to achieve positive outcomes.



Bridget strongly believes that our towns and countryside in Clare can be an even better place to live if we develop active travel and public transportation options, if we enhance biodiversity and access to nature and upgrade our housing efficiently. Public participation is the way we can achieve the best solutions, and they also reduce our carbon emissions and help us deal with the climate emergency. Bridget brings scientific training and broad experience to these issues – as a regulatory scientist with the European Chemical Agency (ECHA), as an environmental science and occupational hygiene consultant, and as product manager with air pollution instrumentation companies. She also holds a professional certificate in governance, and is a board member with the Ennis Book Club Festival and trustee of Clare Haven.

The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is comprised of Council Officials, Elected Councillors, and various business and community representatives. Among other things LCDC has the job of developing and overseeing the community elements of Clare County Council's 6 year-long Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP). This is an important committee for Clare PPN and its members and we have 5 seats on it. For more information go here: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/lcdc/>

New Environmental member of the Clare PPN Secretariat

Clare PPN is delighted to welcome Theresa O'Donohoe back onto the Clare PPN Secretariat following a call for nominations from environmental member groups. We would like to extend our congratulations to her and look forward to working with her again.



'I've been involved in environmental activism and policy making since 2007. I began to work collaboratively on sustainable community development when I discovered the Transition Network in 2007. I joined a local transition group and we basically went from turning sustainable development ideas into community projects. Some projects succeeded while others did not. I learned a LOT about community development and participation through training and experience. I noticed that many attempts to bring projects to life are blocked by bureaucracy resulting in fatigue and withdrawal by people from participating. Creative, insightful, brilliant people with amazing ideas are beaten down by the system. I've done the courses and it's really the government that gets in the way.

In 2009 I got involved with Laois County Development Board trying to reshape policy to appreciate public participation especially in the transition context. It turns out changing local policy isn't enough anyway. Very often the council staff will sit back and refuse to change until they get direction from central government. Effectively – even if they have all these insightful progressive policies that you worked for hours on submissions to infiltrate they will not act upon them unless they are forced to. Of course they need the resources too.

This left me with no choice but to infiltrate national policy. So I became involved with more and more national bodies in order to influence national policy so that local policy can be changed and resourced to accommodate the public's participation in our transition to a resilient, more sustainable society. Also nationally I have been on the steering group of the Environmental Pillar, the environmental social partner made up of Non-Governmental Organisations. I am involved with Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland where I coordinated the People's Energy Charter. I'm a member of Feasta, Foundation for the Economics of Sustainability and An Taisce's Climate Change Committee. These have given me an amazing insight into national policy making and governance first hand. I was also a member of the National Economic and Social Council and the National Advisory Groups on PPNs. I am currently a member of Extinction Rebellion and still involved with Transition Ireland and Northern Ireland. As well as catalysing Laois and Clare Environmental Networks I was a founding Secretariat member of Clare PPN and a cofounder of Futureproof Clare.'

WORK OVERVIEW

Administration:

- Management of finances, banking and invoices
- Processed wages
- Produced quarterly report
- Maintained membership register
- Maintained lobbying register
- Held 3 pre-meetings with reps
- Held new reps intro meeting
- Held 2 secretariat meetings
- Held plenary meeting
- Attended annual report steering group meeting
- Attended Roadmap steering group meeting
- Attended resource workers meeting
- Completed interim IHREC report
- Held elections for LCDC representative roles

Communications:

- 2 newsletters circulated by email and on social media
- Circulation of grants schemes and event notices
- Maintained website (newsletters, reps reports) and social media
- Radio interviews on Morning Ireland and Clare FM re: Anti-Poverty strategy
- Television interview on Virgin Media News re: Anti-Poverty strategy
- Full page interview for Clare Champion re: Clare Pride

Media mentions:

Clare PPN support of Mná ag Gáire: <https://clarechampion.ie/mna-some-place-of-welcome-for-everyone/>

IHREC report: <https://clarechampion.ie/one-in-six-clare-houses-empty-claims-report-on-social-exclusion/>

IHREC report: https://www.clare.fm/news/current_affairs/landmark-report-suggests-poverty-clare-systemic-housing-system-chaotic/

Clare Pride festival: <https://clarechampion.ie/pride-in-being-part-of-the-fabric-of-clare/>

Gender equality: <https://clareherald.com/news/events-promote-gender-equality-and-diversity-in-local-government-62802/>

Opinion piece: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-40965605.html>



Bangladeshi community casting ballots for national representatives

Submissions/public consultations this quarter:

- Mid-term review of the Traveller Accommodation Programme 2019-2024:
<https://clareppn.ie/clare-ppn-submission-to-mid-term-review-of-clare-traveller-accommodation-programme-2019-2024/>
- Clare Rural Development Strategy submission:
<https://clareppn.ie/clare-ppn-submission-to-clare-rural-development-strategy-2026/>
- Clare PPN Submission to the Mazars Structural Review.
- PPN staff submission to the Mazars Structural Review.
- Clare PPN pre-budget submission to DRCD in respect of funding.
- PPN staff submission to DRCD in respect of funding.

Outreach/Policy Work

- Liaised with GOSSH, CLDC, Quare Clare and Women's Collective Clare re Clare Pride
- Liaised with Clare Co. Co. on pilot community engagement project
- Liaised with HSE, CLDC & WC FRC on Traveller CDP steering group
- Attended two Traveller CDP Steering Group meetings
- Assisted Bangladeshi community with remote voting
- Held IHREC report briefing with councillors
- Held IHREC report briefing with stakeholders

Training/Events

- Attended Traveller Pride event as part of steering group
- Organised Clare Pride as part of steering group
- Launched IHREC funded report in Dublin
- Attended Climate Camp



EVENT REPORTS

Quare Clare Pride Festival

After a false start in 2021, Quare Clare Pride Festival finally happened in September of this year. A steering group made up of Clare PPN, GOSSH, CLDC, Women's Collective Clare and individual members of Quare Clare got together over the last year to put together the very first festival celebrating the lived experience of the LGBTQ+ community in the Banner County.

It started with a Queering the Green poetry evening with poets Sarah Clancy and Simon Costello reading poems from the recently published anthology of the same name. This event was supported through the Clare Arts Office Culture Night fund. A fantastic time was had the following day and night in Shannon. It started with the LGBTQ+ youth pride event where we collaborated with Clare Youth Service, the event featured a dance class and drag bingo. That evening, the grown ups were entertained till the small hours thanks to Bonnie Boux, Elle Uminati, Phil T Gorgeous, and DJ Olivia Chu

Also part of Quare Clare Pride is The Irish Names Quilt currently on display in Áras Contae an Chláir, Ennis, during opening hours 9am-5pm, Monday-Friday until the 22nd October. The Irish Names Quilt Exhibition was created to honour and remember those who died in Ireland from AIDS and HIV-related illnesses.

For more information on Quare Clare please visit the website <https://www.quareclare.ie/> or check out the Facebook and Twitter profiles.

Bangladeshi elections

The Bangladeshi community in Clare used the offices of Clare PPN on Sunday 11th September as a polling center for their elections for Clare representatives on the Bangladesh Association of Ireland. Best of luck to all the candidates.

9pm Friday, 23rd September
Mna ag Gaire
Tracklands Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare

Queering the Green

BOOK LAUNCH

Join Quare Clare on Culture Night 2022 to launch this collection of post-2000 queer Irish poetry with readings from Sarah Clancy, Liz Quirke and Simon Costello

CLARE PRIDE 2022
BRÍO AN CHLÁIR

QUARE CLARE
LGBTQ+ CLARE

COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

ENGAGEMENT

Membership by college:

Clare PPN currently has 360 member groups:	
Community and Voluntary College	286
Environmental College	19
Social Inclusion College	55

Social Media:

Twitter followers	1,604
Facebook followers	2,301

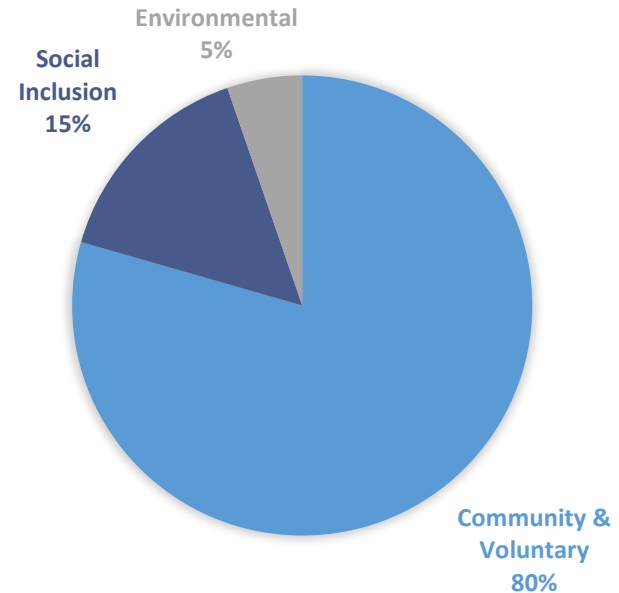


<https://twitter.com/home>



<https://www.facebook.com/clareppn/>

MEMBERSHIP



CONTACT US

Sarah Clancy - Coordinator	sarah@clareppn.ie
Sarah Ferrigan	admin@clareppn.ie
Willian Hederman	newsletter@clareppn.ie

Phone number: 087 1617375

Website: www.clareppn.ie

Appendix One:

Clare PPN mass communications with members – July to September 2022

Date	Subject line	Recipients	Reason
04/07/2022	Secretariat meeting change of date - PLEASE RESPOND	Secretariat	Meeting notice
07/07/2022	Invitation Clare PPN Plenary Meeting in person July 13th 7pm Clougleigh Community Centre Ennis	All contacts	Meeting notice
20/07/2022	Notice of election for Shannon Municipal District Secretariat position	Shannon MD	Notice of election
20/07/2022	NOTICE OF ELECTIONS for two Environmental Pillar representative roles	Env. Pillar	Notice of election
20/07/2022	NOTICE OF ELECTION: Social Inclusion representative on the Local Community Development	Social Inclusion Pillar	Notice of election
20/07/2022	Online plenary follow up meeting - Thursday, 28th July 7pm	All contacts	Meeting notice
26/07/2022	Reminder of Clare PPN Elections and Online Plenary Meeting on July 28th at 7pm	All contacts	Meeting notice
28/07/2022	July newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
08/08/2022	Heritage Week Light Pollution Webinar	Env. Pillar	Event notice
31/08/2022	PPN representatives meeting	Reps	Meeting notice
01/09/2022	Clare launch of Anti-Poverty Strategy report - 15th Sept, 7pm-8pm	All contacts	Event notice
05/09/2022	Reps meeting THURSDAY 8th September	Reps	Meeting notice
08/09/2022	Link for reps meeting tonight 7pm	Reps	Meeting notice
28/09/2022	Request for expressions of interest in being on the Government's SPC review Panel	Reps	Request for participation
29/09/2022	September newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter

Appendix Two:

Clare PPN income & expenditure – July to September 2022

Financial report

Wages	24,773.21
Travel and expenses	-
Rent and Rates	500.00
Telephone and postage	280.03
Printing & Office	-
Online communications	51.63
Heat & Light	-
Insurance	60.00
Bank charges	90.45
Auditing	2,152.50
Equipment	-
Marketing, promo, advertising	46.74
Projects & events	7,136.31
Plenary costs	92.54
Meeting expenses	21.73
Maintenance	41.79
	<hr/>
	35,246.93



Traveller Pride Awards

Clare PPN is a steering group member of Clare Traveller CDP



Anti-Poverty Strategy Launch at Buswell's Hotel, Dublin on 20th September 2022

(l-r) Chief Commissioner Sinead Gibney of IHREC, Mary O'Donoghue of West Clare FRC, Bridgie Casey of Clare Traveller CDP, Conor McCabe chief researcher and Padraic Hayes of Clare Leader Forum