

Clare Public Participation Network Report January to March 2023

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

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INTRODUCTION

PPNs are enjoying a boost in profile after the Launch of the PPN Awareness Campaign which urges community groups to get involved with their local PPNs in order to have their say in local government matters. Collaboration is at the heart of our work so in addition to this core work, Clare PPN was delighted to retain the expertise of TASC for a project that seeks to enshrine socio-economic rights and just transition principles into the upcoming LECP. More on there below, in addition to event and training reports,

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



L-R: Clare PPN Co-ordinator Sarah Clancy, Minister Joe O'Brien and Clare PPN Secretariat member Elaine D'Alton at the launch of the PPN national awareness campaign in February

picture courtesy of gov.ie

PPN NEWS

Launch of the PPN National Awareness Campaign



Minister Joe O'Brien with representatives from Longford PPN, Clare PPN and Galway City Community Network

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development, Charities and Integration, Joe O'Brien, launched a new national awareness campaign to encourage community groups to join their local Public Participation Networks (PPN). Co-ordinator Sarah Clancy and Secretariat member Elaine D'Alton attended to represent Clare PPN which was one of three PPNs highlighted for its work; in particular, working with Travellers, people with disabilities, women, migrants and many other disadvantaged groups to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare. This strategy brought to light information about poverty in Clare that had not previously been available but can now be used to make better decisions about Clare's future

Public Participation Networks allow local authorities to connect with community groups around the country and give people a greater say in local government decisions that affect their communities. Each county and city in Ireland has its own PPN and more than 18,000 community and voluntary groups are currently members.

LECP Research and training pilot project on Just Transition and Socio-Economic Rights in Clare

Clare PPN is delighted to be part of the development of an innovative pilot project that seeks to enshrine Socio Economic Rights and Just Transition Principles in County Clare's Local Economic and Community Plan. This project has received funding from Pobal under its' pilot project scheme to support engagement with marginalised communities in planning and decision making processes.

Clare PPN designed and circulated a tender for the project. The tenders received were jointly assessed by Clare PPN, Women's Collective Clare, LCETB and Clare Traveller CDP. Following this deliberation TASC – (Thinktank for Action on Social Change) was chosen and has agreed to work with staff and members of Clare PPN to:

- build on the data gathering that started with *'Towards an Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare'* published last year by Dr. Conor McCabe
- to deliver an introductory training programme explaining Socio Economic Rights and Just Transition Principles in Clare
- to ascertain stakeholders views and suggestions on enshrining socio economic rights and just transition principles within policy in County Clare (in particular within Clare's Local Economic and Community Plan)
- and through Clare PPN steering group and staff, to collaborate with Clare County Council's Economic Development Strategic Policy Committee, Local Community Development Committee, and LECP Consultant team to share learning and expertise.



COMHAIRLE CONTAE AN CHLÁIR
CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Economic Development SPC

For more information on the LECP, please visit: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/lecp/>

To view slides on the Clare PPN project background and timeline, visit: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/LECP-project-presentation.pdf>

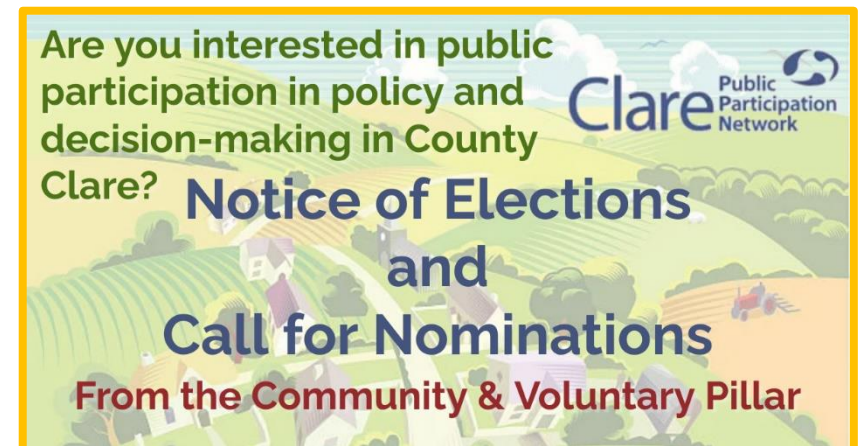
WORK OVERVIEW

Administration:

- Routine management of finances, banking and invoices
- Processed wages and Revenue returns
- Renewed Revenue security certificate
- Renewed SMTP and website SSL security certificates
- Renewed PPN insurance
- Renewed C&V insurance for PPN members
- Commenced re-registration of membership
- Held new members' meeting
- Maintained lobbying register
- Held 6 pre-meetings with reps
- Held online reps training
- Updated and circulated reps policy documents
- Held elections for reps
- Held information meeting with new reps
- Held 3 secretariat meetings
- Held elections for secretariat roles
- Attended two resource workers meetings
- Budget, workplan and SLA/MOU approved by Clare County Council
- Quarterly report submitted to Clare County Council
- 2022 Financial return and supporting documents submitted to Department

Outreach/Policy Work

- Managed Refugee Fund (Mná ag Gaire, Respond and individual projects)
- Presented Clare PPN LECP project to Clare and Tipperary County Council
- Attended two annual report steering group meetings
- Attended two Roadmap steering group meetings
- Attended Far Right Observatory workshop
- Attended Ukrainian Response Forum meeting



ABOVE: Posters for recent PPN elections

- Attended Training Needs Research Project focus group
- Continued to liaise with Pobal & Clare Co. Co. on pilot community engagement project
- Designed and circulated tender for the pilot community engagement project
- Scored tenders, then chose and met with consultant for pilot community engagement
- Liaised with HSE, CLDC & WC FRC on Traveller CDP steering group
- Use of premises for CATU, Clare Leader Forum and Quare Clare meetings
- Liaised with Volunteer Centre Clare re: Community Recognition Fund
- Attended Women's Collective Clare & Clare Traveller CDP's IWD event
- Assisted in shortlisting for Clare Traveller CDP recruitment
- Liaised with Quare Clare re: steering group meeting and events and invoices
- Clare PPN and Women's Collective Clare co-sponsored a bus to the Mid-West Hospital Campaign march



Signs for Mid-West Hospital campaign

TRAINING & EVENTS

Banner-making

Clare PPN and Women Collective Clare hosted a successful banner making day in advance of the #IrelandForAll March in. Dublin



New reps training

Clare PPN ran elections across all pillars and held a training event over Zoom for the successful candidates. We will have new reps profiles in our next quarterly report. Training slides available here: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/PPN-training-slides-2023.pdf>



Information session on refugees and asylum seekers with Bulelani Mfaco of MASI

Following the upswing in right-wing action against refugees and migrants, Clare PPN ran an information session for community groups and activists to dispel the myths being propagated online. Following a factual presentation, Bulelani Mfaco of MASI took questions. It was a very well attended event which was difficult to bring to a close due to the interested participation. Training slides available here: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Refugees-and-International-Protection-Applicants-Final-Version.pdf>

Media training on anti-racism for Community Groups

In addition to the online Zoom with MASI, another training was held in person on media training in relation to anti-racist activism. Groups from all over Clare came together to learn about press releases & radio interviews and it was put to use through various role-playing activities (*see Noirin Lynch and William Hederman in photo*)

Governance training with Clare Leader Forum

Online training with Clare Leader Forum re; trustee roles and responsibilities and general CLG queries

SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS

- Clare Public Participation Network Submission to Clare County Council in respect of amendments to the Draft Clare County Development Plan 2023-2029

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/Clare-PPN-Submission-in-respect-of-Amendments-to-the-Draft-County-Development-Plan-January-2023.pdf>

ENGAGEMENT

Membership by college:

Clare PPN currently has 389 member groups:

Community and Voluntary College	310
Environmental College	21
Social Inclusion College	58

Social Media:

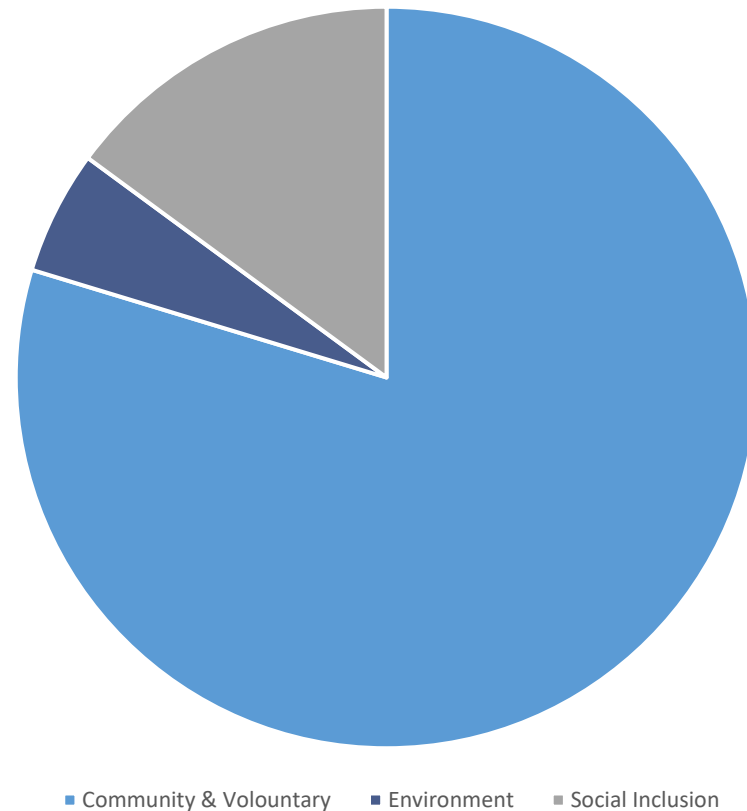
Twitter followers	1,620
Facebook followers	2,301



<https://twitter.com/home>



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



COMMUNICATIONS

- Circulation of grants schemes and event notices
- Maintained website (newsletters, reps reports) and social media
- Radio interview on Radio Corca Baiscinn re: Community Recognition Fund
- Press release, 'Far-right groups offer us nothing': <https://clareppn.ie/far-right-groups-offer-us-nothing-we-must-refuse-pit-those-with-least-power-against-each-other/>
- Produced an election promo video 'What do reps do?': <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Clare-PPN-reps.mp4>
- January newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/01/jan-2023-newsletter.pdf>
- February newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/feb-2023-newsletter.pdf>
- March newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/newsletter-march-2023.pdf>

PHOTOS OF VARIOUS MEETINGS/EVENTS AT PPN OFFICE



L-R: CATU Clare Training Event, Quare Clare Steering Group Meeting, Clare Leader Forum Strategy Day

Ní neart go cur le chéile

Appendix One:

Clare PPN mass communications with members – January to March 2023

Date	Subject line	Recipients	Reason
12th January	Online meeting for all Clare PPN Reps	All Reps	Meeting
16th January	TWO major funding initiatives for community groups & organisations in	All contacts	Funding notice
17th January	Final Clare PPN quarterly work report 2022	All contacts	Circulation of report
17th January	Reminder - Doodle poll for online Reps meeting	All Reps	Meeting
26th January	Meeting for all Clare PPN Reps: 7pm on Tues 31st January	All Reps	Meeting
26th January	January 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
30th January	Reminder & Zoom link – Reps meeting 7pm tomorrow, Tues 31st Jan	All Reps	Meeting
2nd February	12.9 million for Clare – Community Recognition Fund 2023	All contacts	Funding notice
3rd February	Representatives' meeting follow up	Reps	Updated policy
7th February	EV expenses rates	Reps	Updated policy
10th February	Application now OPEN - Clare Community Recognition Fund	All contacts	Funding notice
16th February	Meeting for new members of Clare PPN, Tues 28 Feb @ 7pm	All members	Meeting
22nd February	Clare PPN re-registration – response required	All member	Re-registration
22nd February	Feb 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
28th February	Meeting for new members, 7pm this evening, Tuesday 28th Feb	All members	Meeting
6th March	Would you like to help run Clare PPN? Killaloe MD Election notice	Killaloe MD	Election notice
6th March	Would you like to help run Clare PPN? Shannon MD Election notice	Shannon MD	Election notice
6th March	Notice of elections for social inclusion representative roles	Social Inclusion Pillar	Election notice
6th March	Notice of elections for environmental representative roles	Environmental Pillar	Election notice
6th March	Notice of elections for community & voluntary representative roles	Community &	Election notice
9th March	Please reply if you'd like to remain a member of Clare PPN	All member	Re-registration
15th March	A REMINDER: Community & Voluntary Pillar representative elections	C&V Pillar	Elections
15th March	A REMINDER: Environmental Pillar representative elections.	Env Pillar	Elections
15th March	A REMINDER: Social Inclusion Pillar representative elections	Soc Inclusion Pillar	Elections
15th March	A REMINDER: Killaloe MD secretariat member elections	Killaloe MD	Elections
15th March	A REMINDER: Shannon MD secretariat member elections	Shannon MD	Elections
23rd March	March 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
29th March	New Feedback form	Reps	Updated policy
30th March	Clare Just Transition and Socio Economic Rights Project Request for	Social Inclusion Pillar	LECP project
30th March	Clare Just Transition and Socio Economic Rights Project Request for	Environmental Pillar	LECP project

Appendix Two:

Clare PPN income & expenditure – January to March 2023

Financial report

Wages	23,407.14
Travel and expenses	200.00
Rent and Rates	-
Telephone and postage	238.93
Printing & Office	243.54
Online communications	339.97
Heat & Light	104.95
Insurance	1,046.63
Bank charges	84.42
IT	99.00
Website	147.48
Marketing, promo, advertising	-
Projects & events	1,818.90
Plenary costs	-
Meeting expenses	217.13
Maintenance	44.62
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	27,992.71
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Contact us

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