



# **Public Participation Network Meath**

**Report on Plenary of Meath PPN**

**26<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

**RST Centre – Skyrne GFC**

1. **Chair of the Plenary:** Andy Ogle, NE-DATF, Social Inclusion Pillar
2. **Agenda:** circulated before event



### 3. Registration and Welcome

At the Plenary of Meath PPN, held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2024 in the RST Centre at Skyrne GFC, 37 people were in attendance, representing 39 different groups from across the Meath PPN network. **See Appendix 1.**

### 4. Opening

Vice Chair of Meath PPN, Andy Ogle, expressed best wishes to Chair Brian Sullivan who could not attend due to illness, before thanking everyone for coming and went through housekeeping and the agenda for the evening.

## 5. Meath PPN

The Vice Chair introduced the Secretariat including two new members and thanked Willie John Creedon who stepped down during the summer. He then outlined for attendees what had been achieved since the last Plenary.

This included the development of a 'Grants Calendar' detailing the most relevant and reoccurring grants with approximate dates that they are issued. This calendar will be sent to all registered groups early in the New Year.

The continued regular updates from the Staff via fortnightly newsletter, website updates on 'News' section and through social media.

Networking and enabling groups to meet and discuss best practice, issues and solutions they may be having, is regularly flagged by members as being of great benefit to them. To this end Meath PPN organised a number of facilitated workshops, grant information sessions and day trips, to encourage this conversation but also provide information to the groups.

Some of these included an information session on the Community Centres Investment Fund, Climate Action grants, a site visit to Dunsany Nature Reserve and 4 county tour around Lough Sheelin, where groups could meet other volunteers from neighbouring county PPNs.

The Vice-Chair finished by outlining the Staff's continued work in developing strategic working relationships with many other community focussed organisations. These include Healthy Meath, Comhairle na nÓg, Meath Local Sports Partnership and the GAA Healthy Club Coordinators across the County.

## 6. Presentations

The next section of the evening focused on two presentations from different departments and organisations:

*Jamie Moore, Facilitator for Meath PPN Linkage Groups ([Presentation Here](#))*

Jamie outlined the work done so far in developing linkage groups, mapping each one to a various SPC and how different member groups can interact with each.

PPN representatives take the information from the linkage and use this to support their position on the relevant SPC.

Jamie discussed how the linkage groups would continue to grow in the next year and work towards their individual work plans. The nominations for the PPN representative roles were then presented to the Plenary with it being noted there is one vacancy for a Community and Voluntary rep on the Housing and Integration SPC. Now nomination was forthcoming from the floor, so the PPN will continue to seek a member to fill this role.

*Fionn Murray & Nicky McDonnell, Louie & Frankie Book and Journal project*  
([Presentation Here](#))

Fionn Murray talked about how the partnership with Meath PPN has opened up many collaborations and opportunities for the Louie and Frankie book project. Among them are the Irish language editions and future development of a Ukrainian edition.

Fionn has also just released a Journal which is aimed at teenagers, with prompts and quotes to inspire them in creatively working through issues. Nicky outlined how the PPN developed the project alongside Fionn and was able to leverage the connections within the network to enable Louie and Frankie to reach as broad an audience as possible.

*Alison Lynch, Healthy Meath Coordinator – CommUnity Connect* ([Presentation Here](#))

Alison Lynch soft launched the CommUnity Connect project, a joint collaboration between Healthy Meath and Healthy Louth. Alison outlined the consultation and drafting process that led to the creation of the CommUnity Connect Resource Pack. She explained how the community based positive mental health project is comprised of four components:

- The Resource Pack
- The Network of Community Groups
- The Community Connect Champions
- Louth and Meath Wellbeing Maps

Alison informed the Plenary about she was seeking ‘champions’ for Meath who would become a local gatekeeper of the resources and be able to disseminate information to other community groups. If anyone was interested in signing up or finding out more they could ask Alison questions at her stand in the main hall.

## **7. Linkage Group Round Tables**

Following the presentations, members were invited to a series of round table discussion, based loosely on the linkage in development so far. 15 minutes would be given for discussion at each table topic before participants could move to another table to join the discussion there. If the wee particularly interested in the topic at one table, the option at that table was also given. Table topics were:

- Social Inclusion, Housing, Rural & Youth Affairs
- Climate Action, Planning, Transport & Water
- Community, Culture, Gaeltacht, & Sport

Each table was led by 2 Secretariat members with one acting as a facilitator and the other note taking. These notes were then gathered together and will be brought to the relevant linkage groups at the next round of meetings in the New Year.

## **8. Networking**

Following light refreshments, groups were invited to network amongst each other. This has been a key component missing from PPN events. Peer led and shared learning is vital to the continuous improvement of community provided services across the county.

PPN groups were reminded to explore the Louie and Frankie books with Fionn and sign up with Alison for the Healthy Meath CommUnity Connect project.

All presenters had tables available for attendees to gather further information or ask specific questions.

Vice Chair, Andy Ogle, thanked everyone for attending before holding the raffle for a selection of prizes following which everyone was wished a happy and healthy Christmas and safe journey home.

## Appendix 1 – List of Groups in Attendance:

Clonee Tidy Towns	Bohermeen Active Retirement
Moynalty Steam Threshing	Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns
Ardcath Clonalvy Revival	Kilskyre Pride of Place
Old Mill Estate	Kentstown ICA
Ballinlough GFC	Mornington Tidy Towns
Beechmount Residents Association	Na Fianna CLG GAA
Broomfield District Residents Association	Summerhill CE Scheme
Chestnut Grove Residents Association	North East Sand Sculptures
Meath East Community Association	Girley Bog Meitheal
Kells Family Resource Centre	Ratoath Men's Shed
Ratoath Tennis Club	Meath Womens Refuge
Inland Waterways Ireland	Sick of Plastic Trim
Dunshaughlin GAA CLG	Dunshaughlin Historical Society
Dunboyne Men's Shed	Meath Council of Trade Unions
Dunboyne Tidy Towns	NERD&AT
RST Community Centre	Moynalty Community Council
Skyrne GFC	Gardening Dynamic
Kiltale Hurling Club	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Tara Athletics Club	Kentstown Tidy Towns
Boardsmill GAA	Trim Family Resource Centre

## Photos



Meath PPN Plenary celebrating 10 years of PPN's in Ireland