Sligo Public Participation Network

Secretariat Meeting

14 January 2020, Meeting Room 3, City Hall at 10am

Present:

Mr Michael Kirby Environment College

Mr Michael Bell (Chair) Environment College

Mr David Tuffy Ballymote - Tubbercurry MD

Ms Lisa Moore Borough District of Sligo MD

Mr Paul Tolan Sligo Drumcliff MD

Apologies:

Ms Ann Marie Snee Community & Voluntary College

Mr Patrick Benson Social Inclusion College

Absent:

Mr Gerry O’Connor Community & Voluntary College

Ms Ann Donegan Social Inclusion College

In Attendance:

Ms Sarah Wetherald Sligo County Council

Ms Emer McGrath Sligo County Council

1. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah welcomed new members of the Secretariat and each member introduced themselves.

1. Minutes of last meeting and matters arising

M Kirby proposed the minutes, seconded by P Tolan.

1. Matters Arising from Minutes

No matters arising.

1. Correspondence (Dept Circulars)

Communication received from Sligo Volunteer Centre looking for support regarding the National Volunteering Strategy and the public consultation which is taking place on Tuesday 21January, 10 am in the Northside Community Partnership. They asked Sligo PPN to promote the event and encourage people to attend. Currently Sligo Volunteer Centre is just hosting a daytime session, but they will consider running an evening session if there is demand. Sligo PPN will put a call out to all members to see what they want included in National Volunteering Strategy. Member groups can submit their own submission or if groups do not want to do this, PPN team will put the submission together.

A communication was also sent to all member groups with the new schedule for the newsletter. The communication provided the dates the information must be submitted by and what week the newsletter will be published. Reminder emails will be sent to member groups to remind them to submit material for newsletter.

1. Reps Training- Schedule and Content

Wednesday 29 January (morning session) was the most popular date and time selected for the reps training. PPN team are currently only running one reps training session, but will look to run an evening session in the future. If people are unable to attend the training session, Sarah will sit down one on one with those specific reps and go through the training material. Training will include the practicalities of the role, how to submit reps expenses, the reps charter and how reps can better network together. Once the first session is complete and feedback is received, we will identify what training material needs to be added. Council staff has being invited to the training session. It was decided not to invite elected members chairs, but we may look to invite them at a later date.

1. Report from AGM & 2020 Work Plan

Feedback sheet provided to secretariat members on issues that came up at the AGM that need improving in Sligo. This will help to develop the work plan. Funding seems to be the biggest issue and also the issue of people misunderstanding who deals with grants. PPN do not deal with grants. Although this is not a core role of PPN, because it came across so strongly at the AGM, PPN will look to run an event, possibly one in each municipal district on funding and help with filling out application forms. In the short term, it would be helpful if the same template can be used for different grants. In the long term, we may look to use Salesforce platform to see what grant each group has received. Sarah is currently in the process of doing a written guide for prepping of grants. This guide is to be sent to secretariat for review. The directory is now complete. Training will be taking place with the intercultural projects and Sarah has been invited to several conferences regarding the ongoing insurance cost issue. M Kirby suggested a public information event for community groups and members on something similar to the climate change event and also suggests Sligo County Council should look into the possibility of a Climate Change Officer. The train service in Sligo was also raised as an issue and we need to look to see how we can improve this. Secretariat to take time and think about additional things they want included in the work plan. Final Draft to be completed by the end of January.

1. Update Health and Wellbeing Vision

Val Robus is doing ongoing work around the health and wellbeing vision. There is a small budget of €500 for this project. So far PPN have talked to approximately 500 people and have feedback from events such as AGM, Sligo IT, Digital Skills Training and the Intercultural Project. Large scale workshop must take place in the first quarter of the year and will be taking place on 19 February and will be an evening session. An information piece will be communicated to all member groups in advance of the event in February regarding Health and Wellbeing Vision. Six Facilitators will be required for the event. Feedback that we have to date will be distributed to general election candidate so they are aware of the issues in Sligo. P Tolan and M Kirby volunteered to be facilitators.

1. Vacant Seats: SPC1 & NWRDATF

Heritage Forum and Place Names Committees are not up for election until 2021 so those elections will be held at AGM.

SPC1 Environment seat- Committee has not met yet and seat needs to be filled before the first meeting. PPN will get outline from SPC co-ordinator on what the role entails. Decision was made to go back out to the environment college first to see if we can get a nomination.

NWRDATF- 4 seats available, not 3. Decision was made to leave Gerry’s seat vacant until other seats on this committee are up and do full election. E- Voting can be used.

Age Friendly Alliance- Committee is being reformed and this will be open to Social Inclusion College.

IEC- Election likely to take place either in Dec 2020 or January 2021.

1. User Guide Review

PPN team will go through the draft copy and pick out what is missing and what needs to be added. It needs to include something for staff, reps and secretariat and member groups. Gerry is doing ongoing work on the user guide review with the National Secretariat.

1. Communications and Publications

Sligo PPN Leaflet is now printed and will be distributed to libraries and public places in the next few weeks. A number of other documents will be going to print in due course including- Get Funding Ready, Guide on hard to reach communities, work plan and newsletter. We will continue to use local media to promote PPN events. Decision to be made at the next secretariat meeting regarding Val and do we continue using her or not.

1. Budget

Aisling Smyth has confirmed she is happy for the under spend budget from 2019, to be used for projects in 2020. We just await sanction from the department to confirm they are happy for us to do also. A budget will be assigned to each college to host an event.

Awards night was discussed and we may look to host this event in November. There are other awards on in September/October so we can’t host our event during that time. Awards night will be held separate to the AGM. Secretariat to think about categories for the awards. It was agreed to continue to sponsor Streetfeast and Funding Digest. The issue of duplicate emails was brought up, but this is beyond our control due to Salesforce system.

1. AOB

Decision was made to raise the current mileage rates to the rates used by civil service. Issue of attendance at LCDC meetings was brought up. Sarah will send a copy of the Galway County Council reps charter to secretariat to review and we may include something similar in our reps charter regarding attendance. Secretariat to send official request to Margaret McConnell regarding attendance issue. Sarah has already flagged attendance issue and will send copies of correspondence to secretariat.

1. Next Meeting – To take place on 3 March 2020 at 10am. Location to be confirmed as Sligo LEO Enterprise Week is taking place that week and rooms are currently booked up. Chair of next meeting will be P Tolan.

Meeting concluded 12:15