

Sligo Public Participation Network

Secretariat Meeting

24 January 2022, MT Virtual Meeting Room at 19:00 pm



Present:

Ms Pippa Black (PB)	Social Inclusion College
Mr Brendan Lynch (BL) Chair	Social Inclusion College
Mr Mark Kupczak (MK)	Ballymote - Tubbercurry MD
Mr Patrick Benson (Pat B)	Community & Voluntary College
Ms Jean Finnerty (JF)	Community & Voluntary College
Ms Lisa Moore (LM)	Borough District of Sligo MD
Mr Michael Bell (MB)	Environment College

In Attendance:

Ms Sarah Wetherald (SW)	Sligo PPN staff
Ms Emer McGrath (EM)	Sligo PPN staff

1. Welcome

All members of the Secretariat welcomed by the Chair Brendan Lynch.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Pat Benson proposed the minutes, seconded by Lisa Moore.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

No Matters arising

4. Operational Items

Sarah Wetherald provided an update on key operational items:

- **Training-** Reps Training with Social Justice Ireland starts on Tuesday 25th January 2022. There are a number of community focused training sessions also planned for Q1 including Health In the Community, Climate Action Training with Gavin Harte and Community Finance training with Anne Graham.
- **Chair for Secretariat Meetings-** Patricia Gardiner has resigned from the Secretariat and so will no longer be Chair. Brendan Lynch was the next in line to be the Chair, so his six-month term is now brought forward effective immediately.
- **PPN National Training-** SW made an official approach to the Department regarding the National PPN Training. SW advised that Sligo PPN are hosting our own local training and as a result, no Sligo PPN Representative will be attending the national training.
- **Annual Report-** Link to Annual Report was circulated to Secretariat members late 2021. The report for 2021 will be requested earlier this year so we will start to look at what needs to be gathered
ACTION: staff to circulate Annual Report template to Secretariat so we are all aware of the types of questions that will be asked.
- **Management Report to SCC-** SW has completed the Management report to SCC. This report is now cut down in size at the request of SCC. An LCDC report will be due soon.
- **Elections-** Due to PG resignation, there are now two seats to be filled on the Secretariat - Environment Rep and Sligo Drumcliff MD Rep. SJI will be asked of possible to record sessions for any new rep who comes in after the training takes place. Majority decision was to run elections as soon as possible, but with the caveat that we are confident at least one person will go forward for each seat.

ACTIONS:

- Jean to touch base with Paul Tolan and see if he knows of anyone who may be interested in the Sligo Drumcliff MD Rep role. Jean to also incorporate this into her membership review when speaking with groups.
- Each Secretariat member to reach out to member groups and see if they can identify someone who may be interested in either position.
- Emer/Sarah will get the survey monkey nominations forms ready to go so we can launch nomination process as soon as Secretariat give go-ahead
- Emer to distribute a list to the Secretariat members of all groups in the Sligo Drumcliff MD and include primary contact details

5. Promotion/Publicity

- Comms Strategy Meeting with Joanne Sweeney is taking place on the 3rd of Feb. The idea being that we will set out where our efforts are best placed and set out what our profile is at the minute.

ACTION:

- Emer to circulate the list of groups who took part in the Social Media Academy with Joanne Sweeney
- BL is now taking the lead on the PPN website Review and will be In touch shortly about how to progress this project
- JF is currently looking at the draft logo designs Jon Lomax provided
- Comms Sub group are looking into the possibility of developing a video for the PPN Website but that also can be shared with PPN Member groups.

6. Budget and Emerging Project Ideas

- MD Projects- no projects/events planned in either of the three MD areas to date. Decision made by Secretariat to start in Ballymote Tubbercurry MD and go from there. JF happy to support MK with this.
- Public Realm in Tubbercurry- Discussion around whether MK could sit on this or not.

ACTION:

- SW to keep an eye on this and come back with further information.
- PPN National Conference- Event is now cancelled due to Covid so €1500 which was allocated for the event is now put back into budget pool. There is a possibility of increasing MD event budget up to 3k per MD.
- Pat B raised River Basin Trust project idea. This could be funded either through MD fund or else Environment college fund. MB suggested we could run an information evening and get a guest speaker in to see if the interest is there.
- Environmental Action Academy- Sligo Environmental Network got the tender. They conducted focus groups, mentoring and also have produced a guide to support all PPN member groups. Sarah is also working with Yvonne Lang in IT Sligo regarding an application for diverse community in Sligo
- Age Friendly Alliance- Secretariat are happy to nominate two representatives to sit on the committee but have some concerns regarding developing the interest group and this needs further discussion. Support for the idea of instead establishing an access and inclusion group which could feed into a range of programmes and committees including Age Friendly, DCC, Autism Friendly etc but this would need more consideration and working up.

ACTIONS:

- SW to respond to Geraldine Timlin with this decision
- Alliance Representatives nomination process to be finalised by Secretariat. Decision whether to be run separately or as part of a bigger call with the 2 Secretariat seats

7. Community Health & Wellbeing

- Advised that key wellbeing documents are now on the website and a session was held with Harriet Emerson to introduce groups to the data and how they can use it.
- JF advised the ISPPC are awaiting updated data and once that is available, she can feed back this information

ACTION:

- Pat B to revisit previous proposal to engage a researcher on why there is such issues with accessibility to mental health services further

8. National Secretariat

- PB advised that the National Secretariat met last Thursday.
- Mazars review- this is currently with the Department awaiting sign off
- PB advised there have been some issues in Roscommon PPN and they have lost their Resource Worker and one Secretariat member as a result. National Secretariat have set up a subgroup to look at the lessons learned in Roscommon and especially look into what went wrong.

9. PPN Membership Review- Update on Jean's Project

- JF started PPN membership Review this week. JF personal situation has changed since she took on this project. She is now a staff member with foroige. JF is happy to continue and advised as the project continues, she may require additional help. A pilot interview was held with West Sligo FRC and this will be built on for future calls.

ACTION:

- SW to look into the option of people only being the primary contact for one PPN Member group. Jean advised this issue was raised about people receiving multiple emails from the PPN team, as they are the primary contacts for different groups.

10. Autism Friendly Status for Sligo Town

- PB spoke to the Secretariat about making an application to get Sligo Town an Autism Friendly Status. Application has to be in by the end of Feb and there is a huge amount of work involved. PB has spoke to Declan Bree who is the Chair of DCC and he is open to the idea. PB advised she would like to develop a neuro-diverse interest group first before bringing the idea before the DCC.
- LM happy to support PB with this project.

11. AOB

- JF proposed that BL be the Council Liaison Person as he has already built up such a good relationship with Martin Lydon and this was agreed by the Secretariat.
ACTION: BL to email Martin Lydon and progress matters about their next meeting
- Niamh Harkin from SCC will be also attending the SJI training
- Sligo Leader meeting with John Ferrick will take place on Monday 31st Jan. BL & MK will also attend.
- Sligo Live Invest Photo Opportunity- BL to attend
- Issue raised regarding the need for ratification of PPN representatives by SCC
- **ACTION:** SW to draft an outline of the issue to BL and he will submit to SCC on behalf of Secretariat seeking clarification on the issue

12. Next Meeting

- Decision made that the next Secretariat meeting will take place in 6 weeks' time. Date to be confirmed in due course.

Time Meeting Ended: 21:10 pm