

Sligo Public Participation Network

Secretariat Meeting

14 July 2020, Zoom Virtual Meeting Room at 6pm



Present:

Mr Michael Kirby	Environment College
Mr Gerry O'Connor	Community & Voluntary College
Mr Patrick Benson	Social Inclusion College
Ms Ann Donegan	Social Inclusion College
Mr Michael Bell	Environment College
Ms Lisa Moore	Borough District of Sligo MD
Mr Paul Tolan	Sligo Drumcliff MD
Ms Ann Marie Snee	Community & Voluntary College
Mr David Tuffy	Ballymote - Tubbercurry MD

Absent:

Ms Sarah Wetherald	Sligo PPN
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In Attendance:

Ms Emer McGrath	Sligo County Council
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1. Welcome

All members of the Secretariat welcomed by the Chair Emer McGrath.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Michael Kirby proposed the minutes, seconded by Ann Donegan.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

No Matters Arising.

4. Correspondence (Dept Circulars)

- 2019 PPN Annual Report is submitted and we await a response from the Dept. They have confirmed that they have received the report and it is currently being reviewed.
- Dates for next year's National PPN Conference have been released and it will take place in Arklow on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th May 2021. Secretariat members asked to put the date in their diaries.
- CLAR funding Announcement- might be applicable to C&V Groups like Meals on Wheels etc and applications must be in by 28th August 2020.
- PPN's have been asked to complete a new report on how PPN's plan to operate in 2020 and have been asked to report on what core activities on Covid activities will be taking place.

5. Covid 19- Update on PPN Activities

- PPN team are starting to return to the office in City Hall on a one day a week basis and this will gradually increase over the coming months.

- Sligo Community- what do we want our community to look like post Covid Survey-responses received and currently being reviewed.
- Thank you Piece due to be in next week's Sligo Weekender. It will be a full one page spread and will list every group that signed up to be part of the Community Response Group. We will also be including a piece at the bottom of the spread which will launch the Step Up For Sligo Campaign and will recognise volunteer effort throughout Covid 19.
- Social Inclusion Booklet is going to print and an e-reader copy of this booklet will be made available on the PPN Website.
- Community Response Group- Email sent to all groups after the last meeting to confirm that all groups were happy to remain on the list in case we would need to call upon them again. All groups happy to remain on the list.
- Sligo County Council Community Response Forum is meeting for the last time this Friday 17th July 2020. A review will be taking place on how the forum worked overall, how it could be improved and whether it should be kept going or not. Sarah & GOC are both on the forum. Sarah representing Sligo PPN and GOC representing GAA. The helpline is still active 9-5 seven days a week but this may be reduced to five days going forward, due to a low number of calls being received. It was highlighted that all agencies responded extremely well included An Post & An Garda Siochana.
PB asked will somebody be documenting the lessons learned for the future from the Forum and it was confirmed SCC Forum will be doing this. GOC to ask for this document to be made available for PPN Circulation.

6. Update on Outstanding Actions

- PB has sent on wording regarding the issue of speed limits and is looking for clarification on what is the process for deciding the speed limit on a certain road.
ACTION: PPN team to follow up on this and get clarification for Secretariat.
- SPC Meetings: Email issued to all reps following our last meeting to see if they received any communication from SPC Chairs regarding meetings. Reps all confirmed they had received no correspondence. PPN issued email to all SPC Chairs encouraging them to arrange a meeting. SPC 1 is meeting Thursday 16th July 2020.
- Acknowledgement email received from Cllr. Mulvey and Cllr. Walsh in relation to emails sent regarding their new positions.

7. Ideas for Discussion & Input from Secretariat/ Plans going forward

A number of suggestions were put forward including:

- Promotion of Sligo PPN through a social media programme/campaign and print media.
- Campaign for Speed.
- Art piece/Wall Mural for healthcare Workers to show our appreciation for all their efforts.
- Ask PPN membership for any ideas they may have.
- Information forum event for older people. Give these people the chance to get out safely and chat with other people about their experience during Covid-19 and what concerns they have. Older people need reassurance and help on how to integrate back into the community after Covid -19. Ideally this event would be held in the afternoon. Possibly run this event in conjunction like the Streetfeast event where we could provide funding to groups in certain areas to run the event.
- Virtual Awards Programme at the end of the year to recognise our member groups efforts during Covid-19

- Oral/Written history collection of how people coped during Covid-19. Kids Own Publishing is based in Sligo and MK will make contact with them to see if they would be interested in getting involved. Gather the history of this period in Co. Sligo
- Invest in supports for the communities for the next time something like Covid-19 comes along. For example Text Alert, Upgrading Website, Commission Videos on what to do etc.
- Issue small grants to small groups in partnership with SCC & Sports Partnership to encourage groups to organise events in their areas walks etc.
- Transport issue- can we provide groups with some funding to help them with transport needs as a result of buses reducing the number of people they can accommodate onboard.
- PPE Equipment- Can we help our member groups get essential PPE Equipment.

ACTION: to progress for the next meeting priced proposals for PPN-related promotional activities and other ideas presented.

8. Resource & Support Worker Role

- Support Worker Contract extended until 7th September 2020. This is the third extension of the Support Worker Contract in a ten month period. Two further permanent members of staff are due back in September so await update on whether they are returning or not.
- GOC advised he will look into the issue under the National Review and look at how staff is assigned to PPN.
- Matter discussed of whether PPN was better as stand alone or along with SCC and it was agreed PPN is better to stay with SCC.
- Resource Worker Contract: Situation remains the same. If Sarah wants her contract changed to five days, she would need to re-interview for the position.

9. Budget- Update- Awards Event & Carry Over

- Carryover of 16k from last year confirmed by SCC.
- No further correspondence from Dept on whether we will be allowed carryover their funding into 2021.
- Budget Update to be issued to Secretariat for review.

10. AOB

- Capturing the Contribution of the Community and Voluntary Sector under Covid-19- ITSligo Survey. Emer again reiterated what a valuable piece of research this is and the they need 1000 responses minimum.
ACTION: Link to the survey to be re-circulated again and Secretariat to try and push.
- Secretariat confirmed they are happy to continue with evening meets going forward as there was a full attendance but asked that the meeting be at 7pm next time.
- Paul Tolan to be Chair of Next Meeting.

11. Next Meeting

The next secretariat meeting will take place once Sarah returns from sick leave. Date to be confirmed.

Meeting Concluded: 19:00