

Sligo Public Participation Network

Secretariat Meeting

16 June 2020, Zoom Virtual Meeting Room at 10am



Present:

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| Mr Michael Kirby | Environment College |
| Mr Gerry O'Connor | Community & Voluntary College |
| Mr Patrick Benson | Social Inclusion College |
| Ms Ann Donegan (Chair) | Social Inclusion College |

Absent:

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| 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 |

In Attendance:

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| Ms Sarah Wetherald | Sligo PPN |
| Ms Emer McGrath | Sligo County Council |

1. Welcome

All members of the Secretariat welcomed by the Chair Ann Donegan.

2. Minutes of last meeting

Gerry O'Connor proposed the minutes, seconded by Pat Benson.

3. Matters Arising from Minutes

- Issue of attendance at meetings was brought up. MK proposed that we change the time for our next Secretariat meeting due to a number of Secretariat Members been unable to attend daytime meetings.
AD proposed that we try a social distance meeting and we could possibly use the Council Chamber as it can cater for large number of people.
ACTION: Sarah to speak with Jimmy and see if this is an option, and possibly ITSligo
- Issue of Support Worker Contract: Sarah confirmed, as requested at the last Secretariat meeting, she had looked into the number of staff that have come and gone since Sligo PPN was established. Between End of 2014 and early 2018 seven staff were assigned to PPN.
At the NAG meeting, the issue of support worker funding was raised and, while nothing can be officially in writing, they are confident that Support Worker Funding will be mainstreamed in line with Resource Worker funding as long as PPN's are around.
ACTION: Emer to email HR and Margaret McConnell seeking an update on her contract.
- Donation of €500 worth of Lidl vouchers was handed over to Sligo Leader who distributed the food to those in need and was again reiterated at the Community Response Forum,

that this was a once off support. PPN were officially thanked at the Sligo Community Response Forum

4. Correspondence (Dept Circulars)

- 2019 PPN Annual Report is submitted and we await a response from the Dept.
- 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

- Community Mapping piece is still in operation on the Sligo PPN Website. There will be a full page spread in the local papers thanking those who signed up to be a part of the community response group and all groups will be listed. Business map is still on the Sligo PPN Website, however due to the vast reopening of businesses, it is proving very difficult to keep it updated. We decided to add a note to the business page advising people of the above and directing them to Sligo BID & Sligo Chamber for more info.
- Sarah has raised the issue with the Community Response Forum with regard to maintaining the database of emergency response groups as the immediate crisis eases.
ACTION : PPN to write to all emergency response groups and ask if they are happy to remain listed
- Sarah working with SVC & Sligo Leader on an action plan for groups and community centre reopening. This will include Sligo Leader running training programmes, work on PPE Equipment and they will also be looking at the issue of insurance as that has come up as a major concern from the survey responses. They may also look at possible funding. AD raised the issue of collating what community centres need. They had an issue where the grass needed cutting at their centre, but as the CE Workers were not allowed back, they had nobody to do the job and could not get someone in. One on one mentoring and risk assessment for centres is needed.
- PB raised the issue of voluntary groups depending on fundraising and local groups will not be able to continue running the activities they were doing, due to no funding. Groups need to look at alternative ways of raising money. It was identified that this was a possible training programme PPN and Leader could look at.
- Health & Wellbeing piece needs to be utilised to capture peoples thoughts post covid. Different events can affect people's opinions on H&W and we need to establish has their opinions changed as a result of Covid-19.
- MK proposed that we utilise print media and do a survey on how we can improve and what we want the community of tomorrow to look like. We need to be asking questions like "what have they liked about the last three months and what they don't want to happen again".
- PB raised the issue of mental health services. We need to be looking at the effect this has had on those people. Healthy Ireland & the Dept done a survey on this and can we link our survey in with this.
- GOC advised that SCC Covid Response Forum will be reviewing their actions and responses to this pandemic and seeing what learnings we can take from it. The Wellbeing section on SCC website continues to be updated regularly.

6. Update on Outstanding Actions & Ideas for Discussion & Input from Secretariat

- MK advised that there has been a development in response to the Safer Streets Submission- Sligo BID proposal and mobility plan. Although this is progress, it does not look at rural areas.
- Issue of speed limits was discussed and we need to be more conscious of people walking and cycling on our roads. PB asked for more information on what is the process for deciding the speed limit on a certain road and what criteria is used.

ACTION: PB to send on wording with this request and PPN staff will forward it to the relevant person in SCC for response

- National review of all SPC schemes ongoing at the moment. Sarah has sent in to Dept of Housing the local submissions we made calling for more inclusiveness of community participation. SPC's have had no meetings to date. There is a requirement for them to meet a certain amount of times a year but these are unprecedented times. LCDC and council meetings have resumed so we need confirmation on when SPC meetings will resume.

Action: Sarah to check with reps to see if they have received any communication from their SPC Chair and to write to Chairs encouraging them to connect with community reps.

- Acknowledgement emails to be sent to new Cathaoirleach Dara Mulvey on new position and that we look forward to working with him.

7. Resource & Support Worker Role

- Discussed above under Point 3- Matters arising from minutes.

8. Budget- Update- Awards Event & Carry Over

- No communication from Dept regarding whether we will be getting full Resource Working Funding due to the fact that Sarah only works three days. If Dept allow for a carryover of funding into 2021 due to the pandemic, the budget must be used up by the end of 2021. No further carryover will be allowed.

ACTION: Secretariat to consider and put forward any idea/initiatives that have on how they want the budget used to allow PPN staff to develop a plan and timeline for spends

- Campaign recognising the volunteer response is in progress and a mini site is currently being constructed by Format.ie
- PB raised the issue of keeping the volume of traffic down post covid-19 and whether we could look at doing a cycling campaign. Idea was proposed of using Ocean FM to highlight the issue due to their wide listenership.

9. AOB

- Capturing the Contribution of the Community and Voluntary Sector under Covid-19- ITSligo Survey. Sarah again reiterated what a valuable piece of research this is and the they need 1000 responses minimum. GOC advised the he circulated to National PPNs. GAA received 1600 responses to their survey so we need to utilise our contacts.

ACTION: Link to the survey to be re-circulated again and Secretariat to try and push.

10. Next Meeting

The next secretariat meeting will take place in Mid July and will be an evening meeting to accommodate members of the Secretariat who are working during the day. Date to be confirmed.

Meeting Concluded: 11:50