

SLIGO PPN SECRETARIAT
MEETING MONDAY APRIL 8TH (ONLINE)
DRAFT MINUTES

Attendees: Brendan, Mark, Michael, Pippa, Aisling Joan, Pat (Chair) RW: Sarah

The Chair welcomed all attendees. The minutes of the March meeting were agreed. That meeting had focussed exclusively on the 2024 Workplan. Thus the Minutes are in effect the workplan.

Workplan 2024: The Secretariat discussed agreed 2024 projects expenditure, timelines and lead-out liaison person for the various projects in the Workplan. Each action was discussed and endorsed for budget and progress.

Completed Projects: Q1

The Carmichael Centre Community Training Programme has been very successful with an uptake of 47 participants.

The Election-Ready event held in collaboration with Sligo FRC was also a success. Council Staff were in attendance. The CE enquired of Pat if Councillors attended, and Pat will inform him that they didn't.

Other completed projects are Dream for the Land, Launch of the Sligo Tree Trail, a Rainwater harvesting information session and a Community Gardening Workshop, the latter 2 with Power to Change. The Fair Seas event has also been completed. Members remarked on the full attendance and the positive feedback. Michael and Sarah were complimented for organising. Phase 2 of the Community Training Programme has also been completed.

The DPO Network Development has received the amount allocated. Sarah asked if the organisation was likely to need further support and Mark said he would raise the question at an upcoming meeting.

Update on Q 2 and 3 Projects:

The Community Events calendar is scheduled for completion Q 2.

A volunteer led access audit in collaboration with Sligo BID, ATU and Sligo DPO will take place over April and May. Brendan McCormack

Q2/3 continued: Website: The Secretariat has already committed to ongoing work on the PPN website. In recognition that this is too much work for the RW to take on on top of other duties, a tender will issue in early April. Work will also continue on the Interactive Map of Community Organisations. This would be more user-friendly than a directory and enable newcomers to connect into their community and find

organisations of interest to them. It can also be of use to the business community who have employees moving west and want to connect with their local community.

Sligo Rivers Trust are to hold a networking event for groups outside of Sligo town. Pat highlighted that national funding has become available for Rivers Trusts and LAWPRO has launched funding to support groups with administrative costs. Pat is the liaison person.

A tender has been prepared for the agreed training of community groups in inclusion, cultural awareness and equality by DPO members. Mark Pippa and Aisling involved. This is a unique and innovative project that puts DPO at the heart of training/awareness raising among organisations.

PPN Podcast: Sarah will arrange to meet with Sheila Scanlon who proposed this idea at the Plenary. Joan is Secretariat link

Power to Change: A Water Awareness event is provisionally scheduled for 4th May subject to agreement from the Parks' Dept. Joan reported it wasn't possible to tie in this event with the Queen Maeve Square Festival as she had originally envisaged but Power to Change has offered to lead on it and Joan has been liaising with Yvonne and with Clodagh of Medbh's Dragon Warriors. The Event will comprise Awareness Posters for the public on land and the various sustainable water bodies on the river around the Boat Pier. The event will feature a childrens section introducing them to the concept of water awareness and quality and also a colouring competition.

Power to Change is running and filming Climate Education Clubs in schools based on the SDG workbook. PTC is also holding a woodland workshop in Letterfrack on May 9th and a 'how to grow a native woodland' session on 30th April in Anaghmore. They will be doing a call-out to groups for a new phase of engagement with their work shortly. Sarah is due to meet with Yvonne shortly and will report to Secretariat on all events.

Community Space Inventory: The initial survey has been conducted but some venues have not yet responded. The question of whether Hubs could be used as Community Spaces was raised. They are not at capacity for remote working. There is a lot of work involved in profiling potential community spaces and it will be necessary to engage a facilitator to conduct visits across the county to all the proposed venues to profile them and audit for accessibility. This will go out to tender with the hope that somebody will be engaged to do the profiling early summer. The Budget will depend on the number of centres who register. A question was asked about whether the council has a list of community spaces since it would have a record of grant applications for building and refurbishment. However it does not appear that a comprehensive list exists.

Street Feast will take place on weekend of May 25th Sligo PPN will do promotion for the event encouraging groups to sign up.

Intercultural events aimed at increasing diversity within the PPN have been approved but not planned as yet. Pippa is liaison person. She envisages a

Gathering//Celebration event to enable groups such as the Cameroonian group for example to make connections.

Launch of Housing Papers: There was a discussion around whether there was a benefit in launching the papers prior to the Local Election or waiting until the new council was in place. There could for example be a soft launch before the election and a more formal launch for the new Council in conjunction perhaps with the training for the new Reps. Pippa pointed out that the Housing SPC has already had its final meeting and they have received each paper as it became available. Having the main launch in the autumn was agreed

The Campaign to highlight the impact of the high cost of insurance on the community and voluntary sector will go ahead in June in collaboration with the Alliance for Insurance Reform.

Q 4: Events scheduled to date for this quarter are –

Peace Plus intends to run a Repair Café project in 2025. As a trial for this a Pilot Repair Café event in collaboration between Sligo PPN and Peace Plus will take place in September.

Training for SPC members by Brian Harvey. The roll-out of this local training will depend on whether National Training is on offer as an alternative. It would be important for all SPC members to attend, not just PPN Reps as the other members need to understand the role of the PPN.

2024 PPN Plenary proposed for October.

This concluded the workplan update.

Budget 2023 and 2024 for DRCD return. The Budget as prepared by the SW is to be submitted to DRCD. The proposed budget for 24 and MOU has already been submitted. Highlighted that the budget is difficult to manage as no PPN staff have ever been trained in Agresso which is the SCC software used, despite numerous requests for training. Also the reporting in Agresso does not align with the reporting requirements from DRCD.

The meeting was presented with a detailed report on the responsibilities, tasks and commitments undertaken by the Resource Worker and the Support Worker

Elections 2024: 16 Reps will be needed to populate the various committees, 10 for the SPCs and 6 for the other committees (LCDC, Age Friendly, Biodiversity working group, Secretariat) . A National Review of SPCs is ongoing. There was a discussion on the need for SPC Reps to report promptly on the outcome of meetings and on decisions reached. It should be impressed on Reps that this is a function of the role.

Pat asked if the JPCs were going to continue or be replaced by the new Community Safety Councils. He has an issue with the fact the Carraroe Text alert system is not

working. Councillors do seem to receive the information from the Garda as they post about it on SM but the community doesn't receive it.

There was also a discussion about the LCDC Environment Seat vacancy for which there have been no takers. The choices appear to be to allow an existing Rep to occupy the seat on a temporary basis or to nominate a past member of Comhairle na nÓg. There was a discussion about the small pool of Environment Reps who are available to the narrowness of the criteria for membership as set by the IEN.

Update on National Activity: Joan has received the minutes of the March National Secretariat Network meeting and will circulate them. She was unable to participate due to Wi-Fi issues on the train. The next meeting of the network is on May 9th. Sarah reported from discussions among the national RW network that there are a number of PPNs without a full complement of Reps. Sarah will be attending the national RW conference on the 25th and 26th April in Trim.

Hosting: The Board of the Teeling Centre discussed the proposal to host Sligo PPN but they have decided it is not possible to take on the wages aspect of the criteria. This means it looks like we have reached the end of the road in regard to hosting.

Staff Leave: Sarah outlined Lisa would like to take parental leave each Monday from June- Sept. She also outlined she would be looking to take a block across July/August. This was approved by the Secretariat after signing off on the workplan which allows for this and with the ongoing acknowledgement that, as previously, Sarah will support on any emerging issues that require immediate attendance. Sarah has outlined she will find out any requirements from SCC and DRCD that may arise across this timeframe and will ensure they are responded to.

AOB: Pat expressed his dissatisfaction with the response of the CE to a query as to why Active Travel appeared to be prioritised over Public Transport in the County Development Plan. The response came in the CE's report on the Draft Plan where in response to a submission he stated AT is being prioritised because funding is available. Pat stated the CDP should be based on what is good for Sligo, not to meet the requirements of funding streams.

There is a call out for Ambassadors to promote the Sustainable development Goals – this was circulated by the PPN.

The meeting concluded at

The next meeting will take place late May – a doodle poll will be circulated.