



## County Longford PPN Municipal District Meeting Ballymahon MD held on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 via MS Teams

On 19<sup>th</sup> May 2021 the Public Participation Network held their County Longford PPN Ballymahon Municipal District Plenary meeting via MS Teams. The meeting was chaired by Francesca Pawelczyk, PPN Secretariat member who welcomed PPN members and guest speakers to the meeting.

**Siobhán Cronogue, Development Officer, Longford PPN** presented an update to the meeting on the County Longford PPN Workplan for 2021.

Siobhán reported that since the March County Plenary meeting the 2020 Income and Expenditure for the PPN was submitted to the Dept of Rural & Community Development.

The Dept has issued an Annual Report template to be completed and signed off by Secretariat by 14<sup>th</sup> June. Submission of this Annual Report enables the PPN to drawdown funds for year 2021.

Siobhán reported that PPN Reps continue to attend meetings within the Council and outside agencies and that Siobhán continues to represent the PPN on the Age Friendly Alliance Committee and the Intercultural Agency Committee.

Siobhán reported that since it had not been possible to hold PPN Representative elections in person during Covid restrictions the Secretariat has agreed to use a blended approach to voting i.e. by email, post and phone calls to seek nominations from members. Currently there are 3 vacancies on the LCDC committee and 1 vacancy on the Secretariat.

Siobhán reported that Barbara Heslin Director of Services, Community & Enterprise LCC, Ciaran Murphy, SEO as well as Siobhán and the Secretariat are to meet the Dept. of Justice in relation to piloting a new Joint Policing Committee to be called the 'Local Community Safety Partnership'. The PPN will be heavily involved in this committee and will be seeking nominations for Reps to participate in this partnership. Siobhán requested that all PPN 'persons of contact' to pass information on Rep elections on to all group members.

Siobhán reported that there will be training for Reps going forward: Committee Skills Training, Freedom of Information Training, How to prepare an effective submission and Confident Speaking for Reps.

Siobhán updated the meeting on the Minority Womens Group which is a collaboration between PPN, Longford Womens Link, Lus na Greine and Bridgeways Family Resource Centre – women from 9 communities are helping to integrate and establish social connections.

Siobhán continues to represent PPN on the Community Response Forum with the aim of all agencies involved to share information to deliver best service in the county. This Forum is to continue post Covid.

Guest speakers at the meeting included:

**Catherine O’Toole, Irish Environmental Agency**

Catherine presented an overview of Environmental Networks in the country. One of the drivers behind them is to share information. The local environmental network groups are independent voluntary groups whose aim is to connect, communicate and collaborate. The Irish Environmental Network has been in existence for the past 20 years. They have a double-pronged approach – grass roots to create action, also to get involved in policy through the PPN.

A copy of Catherine O’Toole’s presentation can be viewed [here](#)

**Christine Collins, Broadband Digital Officer, Longford County Council**

Christine explained details of the National Broadband Plan which includes a €32m broadband fibre infrastructure investment in County Longford. There are 3 broadband areas in the county - Amber, Blue and Light blue. An Eircode can be entered on [www.nbi.ie](http://www.nbi.ie) to find out which band a particular location is situated.

Full details of the Christine’s presentation on this initiative can be viewed [here](#)

**Clare McEnroe, Grow Remote, Longford**

Clare explained the origins of Grow Remote, what it is involved in today and explained how to navigate the features of the Grow Remote website.

Full details of Clare’s presentation may be viewed [here](#)

**Conclusion**

The meeting concluded with a raffle and the winners were: 1<sup>st</sup> prize Longford Environmental Alliance, 2<sup>nd</sup> prize Abbeyshrule Cistercian Abbey Preservation Society and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize Ardagh Preservation Society. Siobhán congratulated the prize winners and thank everyone for attending the meeting.

**A link to a recording of the meeting can be accessed [here](#)**

