



# REPORT ON DLR PPN PLENARY MEETING NOV 9TH 2016

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## Table of contents

1. Introduction .....	3
2. DLR PPN Reps Meeting .....	3
3. World Café Workshop .....	4
3.1. Worksheet 1 .....	4
3.1.1. Outcome .....	5
3.2. Worksheet 2 .....	5
3.2.1. Outcomes .....	6
3.3. Worksheet 3 .....	6
3.3.1. Proposed practical actions:.....	7
4. Elections .....	8
5. News and other announcements .....	9
6. Feedback .....	9
7. Conclusion .....	11

# 1. Introduction

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network held its third plenary meeting of 2016 on the 9th of November in the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan. 58 members attended this meeting, not including those who dropped in to the meeting later from other meetings happening in the same venue, such as the Joint Policing Committee.

The agenda for the meeting was:

19.30	Welcome and overview of the evening
	Presentation from Laura Howe DLR PPN Manager
19.45	World cafe workshop
20.45	Groups report back from workshop
21.00	Elections
21.15	Open Floor – Q&A
21.25	News and Announcements
21.30	Feedback and close

Due to an overlap with the Joint Policing Committee the plenary meeting was asked to start at the later time of 7.45pm. This meant the open floor Q & A did not happen.

Attendees were given a pack that included information about:

- LEADER funding <http://www.dublinruralleader.ie/>
- The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office <http://watersandcommunities.ie/>  
Click [here](#) to see their flyer
- The DLR PPN [Member's Training Needs Survey](#)

While waiting for the plenary meeting to start attendees were invited to mark in local community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental projects and groups that they knew about, including themselves, on outline maps of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The purpose of this activity was to serve as an icebreaker as well as give DLR PPN the opportunity to identify potential groups they may not be aware of.

## 2. DLR PPN Reps Meeting

Prior to the plenary meeting a meeting for DLR PPN representatives was held with Network Manager Laura Howe. Topics discussed at this meeting included:

- How information from committee meetings is shared,
- Opportunities for PPN Reps to report on committee meetings – both written reports

and at plenary meetings. It was agreed that reps would trial using a report template.

- The availability of committee minutes and committee chairperson's reports on the DLRCOCO website. Council staff who joined the meeting said they would look into this issue and work with the PPN on clarifying this.
- PPN Reps' understanding of how they can engage with and contribute to committees and how the PPN can support this.

### **3. World Café Workshop**

The purpose of this workshop was to give members an opportunity to network and find out about each other's work. It was also an opportunity for members to discuss the remit and vision of the PPN and propose actions for DLR PPN to incorporate into its workplan.

Members took part in the World Cafe workshop working in groups of approximately 8 people. There were 7 groups in total. Each group were given 3 worksheets to complete as a way of guiding the discussion.

#### **3.1. Worksheet 1**

Members were asked to discuss the following aspects of DLR PPN's remit and rank them in order of importance from 1-8. Where groups were not able to do a full 1-8 ranking they were asked to choose their top 3.

- Enable and support PPN members in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown to participate in local authority committees and other policy making bodies through the election of PPN representatives
- Create linkage groups that ensure PPN representatives are aware of the views and concerns of PPN Members and PPN members are updated on the work of the boards and committees
- Support PPN members to identify issues of collective concern, to take action on these issues and influence local policy.
- Actively seek the inclusion of groups of people which may be marginalised and enable them to participate at local and county level.
- Deliver training that strengthens the ability of PPN members to make a positive contribution to the community
- Be an information hub for the PPN members in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (eg. website, newsletter)
- Create a vision for the well-being of current and future generations living in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown

- Create opportunities for networking and sharing learning between PPN members and between the PPN members and the local authority

### **3.1.1. Outcome**

The following actions were given the highest ranking:

- Support PPN members to identify issues of collective concern, to take action on these issues and influence local policy.
- Actively seek the inclusion of groups of people which may be marginalised and enable them to participate at local and county level.
- Create opportunities for networking and sharing learning between PPN members and between the PPN members and the local authority

The following actions were all equally ranked in fourth place:

- Enable and support PPN members in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown to participate in local authority committees and other policy making bodies through the election of PPN representatives
- Create linkage groups that ensure PPN representatives are aware of the views and concerns of PPN Members and PPN members are updated on the work of the boards and committees
- Be an information hub for the PPN members in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (eg. website, newsletter)
- Create a vision for the well-being of current and future generations living in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown

## **3.2. Worksheet 2**

In 2015 DLR PPN members were asked what their vision was for the PPN. Their answers were:

- Building community
- Strong relationships with and influence on the Council's decisions
- Strengthening Active Citizenship
- Strengthening Social Integration and equality
- Enhancing the environment
- Improving services and facilities
- Promoting an age friendly county

Members attending the plenary were asked if they still agreed with this vision and if they felt there was anything missing.

### 3.2.1. Outcomes

Some tables amended the 2015 vision for the PPN as follows:

Building community:

- Building an inclusive community
- Building an active network of communities
- Building healthy communities

Strong relationships with and influence on the Council's decisions:

- Effective relationships with and real influence on the Council's decisions

Improving services and facilities:

- Ensuring services and facilities are accessible for all.

Promoting an age friendly county:

- Promoting an age-friendly and secure county

In response to the question 'what is missing from this vision?':

- Autism-friendly
- Disability friendly
- Creating safe and confident communities
- Enterprise/economic development
- Focus on diversity and inclusion
- Youth focus
- Future planning/ continuous review
- Better communications with the council
- Duplication of services
- Culture, arts & heritage
- Community resilience
- Climate change

### 3.3. Worksheet 3

Based on discussions from activities 1 and 2, members were asked to propose practical actions that DLR PPN could incorporate into its workplan.

These actions can be categorised into 6 headings, with some actions falling across 2 headings:

- Communications
- Networking and sharing information
- Supporting members to take action
- Planning

- Relationship building
- Training and capacity building

### 3.3.1. Proposed practical actions:

Category	Action
Communications	Better communications on work of committees from reps
Communications	Online forum for members to raise issues, read about other's issues and link up.
Communications	Improve website to ensure the network can communicate effectively
Networking and sharing info	Examples of experience of other members
Networking and sharing info	More opportunities to share info, experience and ideas between groups
Networking and sharing info	Establish pillar group meetings as a priority
Networking and sharing info	Establish linkage groups
Networking and sharing info	Promote connections within pillars and between pillars.
Networking and sharing info	Bring together sports clubs who are PPN members who want to focus more on ladies sport, re. government policy and participation.
Networking and sharing info	Similar interest groups share ideas and issues at next plenary
Networking and sharing info	Networking among groups to assist each other
Networking and sharing info /Communications	Actively seek contributions from groups for the Ezine sharing their experience.
Networking and sharing info /Communications	Create a database of network members to promote networking opportunities - ie ask members for permission to publish contact details for members and give links to websites of local groups.
Planning	Appraisal of what is coming up (Longer term council planning rather than jumping priorities based on central government money availability)

Supporting members to take action	Ask council to have disability proofing of policy
Supporting members to take action	Secure lock-ups for equipment for organisations
Supporting members to take action	Community alert to tie in with Ageing guidelines - how to set this up?
Supporting members to take action	Urban planting and community gardens
Relationship building	Each secretariat member to take responsibility for 25 member groups, based on thematic issues and liaise with them, invite them to meetings, events etc and identify issues.
Relationship building	Regular meetings between PPN secretariat and the council on key issues and concerns identified by groups
Relationship building	More around engaging young people with active citizenship - a 'Junior PPN along the lines of the Junior Chamber
Training and capacity building	Training around grant issues
Training and capacity building	Run a workshop/forum on County Development plan
Training and capacity building	Offer training/information to community groups on the PPN, on newsletters/information sharing, and governance.
Training and capacity building	Provide guidance and training on corporate governance and assist adhoc groups to develop a constitution and governance handbook.
Training and capacity building	Help and guidelines on applying for grants

## 4. Elections

Nominations had been sought from PPN member groups from the Environmental Pillar for a representative to sit on the Community Development, Culture and Ageing Strategic Policy Committee. One nomination was received but this was subsequently withdrawn, resulting in no appointment of a PPN representative to this SPC.



Nominations had been sought from PPN member groups for a representative to sit on the Smart Dublin Advisory Network. One nomination was received, nominating Michael O'Brien from Cabinteely and District Resident's Association. As this position was uncontested Michael was confirmed as DLR PPN's Smart Dublin Advisory Network representative.

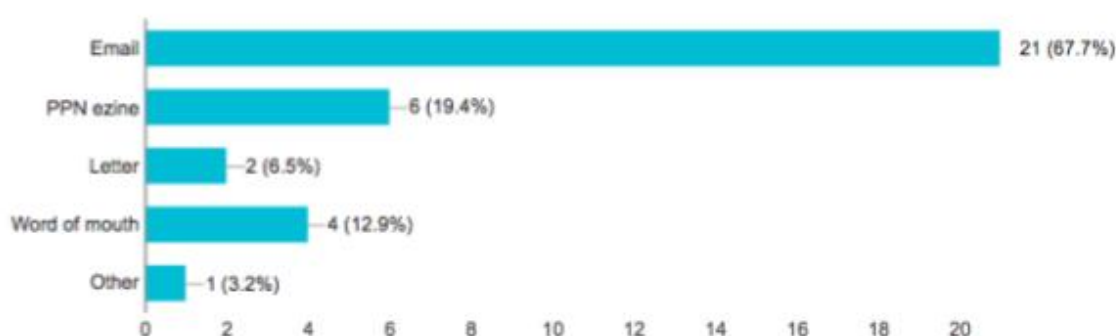
## 5. News and other announcements

Attendees attention was drawn to the information contained within their packs relating to LEADER funding, upcoming training and the DLR PPN training survey. Attendees were also able to highlight any upcoming events they were holding.

## 6. Feedback

Attendees of the plenary were asked to give feedback on this plenary meeting using a paper form included in the information packs. Of the 58 who attended, 32 completed the form.

### Question 1: How did you hear about this plenary meeting?



- 21 heard about the plenary by email, indicating that email is the most successful communication method for inviting people to the plenary meetings.

### Question 2: Why did you decide to attend this plenary meeting?

The top reasons why people attended were to network and meet other organisations, to find out more about the PPN and to participate and be involved.

### Question 3: How did you benefit from this meeting?

By far the most common answer was regarding the opportunity to network with other organisations, learn about their work and share information.

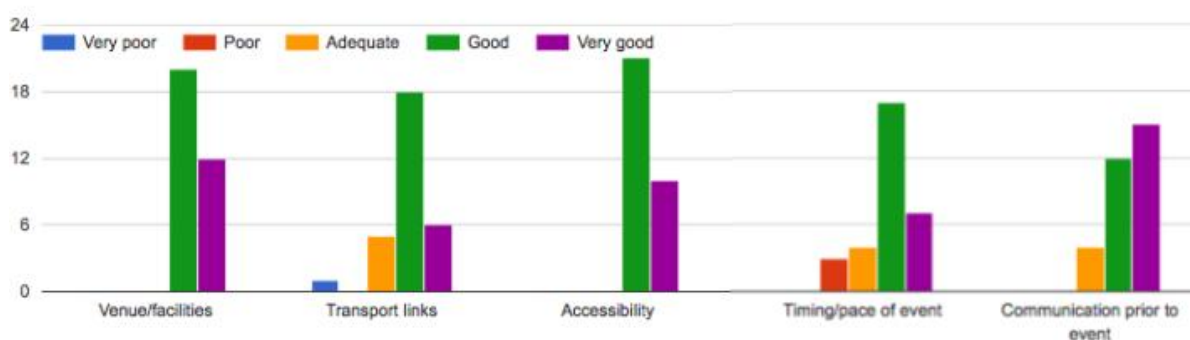
### Question 4: How do you think the plenary meeting could be improved?

Very varied response to this question - answers related to the planning of the event and more timely and in-depth communication beforehand, more time for discussion and feedback, greater opportunities to find out about other groups, better explanations of activities and the work of the PPN.

**Question 5: If you would like there to be speakers at future PPN events what topics would you be interested in hearing about?**

- How to protect environment
- How to promote more sustainable policies in DLRCOCO with regard to the environment
- Planning Process - overall and local
- Sharing experience and lessons from other PPNs
- How to provide affordable housing
- Grant schemes
- Integration of Ethnic Minority Within the DLR
- Couple of community projects that were/were not successful and what worked/didn't work for them - 5-0 mins so people can relate and come away motivated if projects were not successful for them
- Security/Safety
- How PPN can influence local authority decisions
- Increase community participation, allow time to share ideas
- Seldom heard groups (Carers, Disability, Travellers etc)
- Relevant reps from the County Council giving presentations on various services and accessing them
- Genuine Garda involvement
- How to encourage community spirit
- How to provide more housing for people with intellectual disabilities. Appalling record of staff funding by Dept. of Health/HSE. How to improve this?
- Social issues
- How to protect community

**Question 6: Please rate the following:**



Feedback was largely positive for all the categories - Venue/facilities, Transport links, Accessibility, Timing/pace of event and Communication prior to event. A few attendees were dissatisfied with the timing/pace of the event; this could be because the event had to be postponed for 15 minutes to accommodate the JPC meeting. A few were also dissatisfied with transport links to the venue.

**Question 7: Do you have any other feedback to add?**

- Give longer notice
- Start meetings on time
- Send out newsletters or emails more regularly
- It was very informative
- I thought it worked very well
- Great forum for sharing ideas
- Great event

## **7. Conclusion**

Overall feedback from the event was very positive. Attendees enjoyed the opportunity to learn about other groups active in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown and enjoyed the format of the meeting. The main criticism was timekeeping and a need for more forward planning and advance notice. Though attendees were happy to get the opportunity to talk to each other, future plenaries must not be 'taking shops' and action and advancement of the aims of DLR PPN should be demonstrated.