

DLR PPN 2017 Annual Report



DLR PPN
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
Public Participation Network



Introduction

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is an independent umbrella network of community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups active within the county.

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were established by the Irish Government under the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 to be the main link through which the Local Authority connects with these groups.

DLR PPN is governed by a voluntary board, the Secretariat, elected from the DLR PPN membership whose responsibility is to oversee the development of the network and ensure that the objectives of the PPN are carried out.

DLR PPN has one full-time staff member, Laura Howe, who manages the day-to-day running of the PPN. This April we welcomed Yvonne Lawlor, who will be supporting the administration side of DLR PPN on a part-time basis for the next year.

Government guidelines outline 3 main objectives for PPNs:

- Facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sectors on decision making bodies.
- Strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary groups

to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/ participate.

- Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

These government guidelines also specify a number of principles and values that PPNs are expected to operate by; they should be inclusive, participatory, independent, valuing of diversity, transparent and accountable.

As I hope this report demonstrates, 2017 was a busy year for DLR PPN.

- Laura Howe, DLR PPN manager



PPN Membership

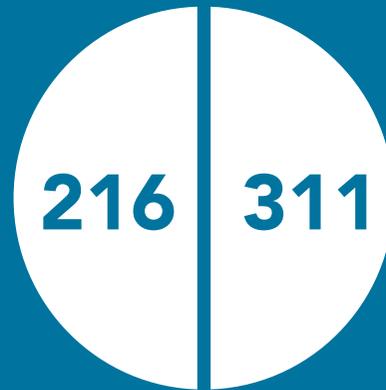
**2018
Membership**

430
organisations

Our growing membership

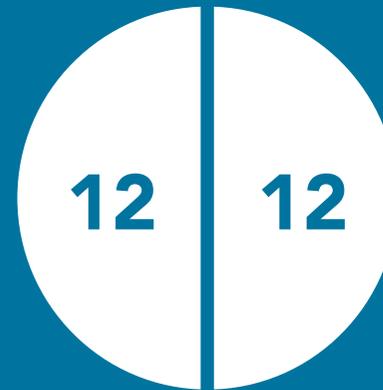
**Community
and Voluntary**

2016 ▶ 2017



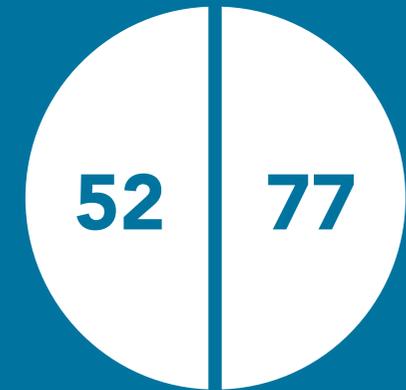
Environment

2016 ▶ 2017



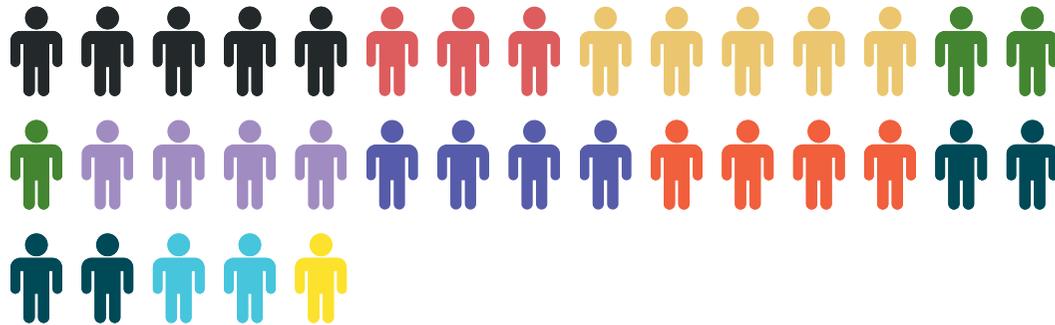
Social Inclusion

2016 ▶ 2017



Representation

DLR PPN has 34 representatives on 10 committees.



- Local Community Development Committee
- Economic Development and Enterprise SPC
- Community Development Culture & Ageing SPC
- Environment, Climate Change & Energy SPC
- Transportation & County-Wide Movement
- Social Housing SPC
- Planning SPC
- Joint Policing Committee
- Rural Task Force
- DLR Smart Dublin Advisory Committee

In 2017 2 new representatives were elected:

- Sharon Perry to the Local Community Development Committee
- Susan Whelan to the Social Housing Strategic Policy Committee

Consultations

We informed members about:

12

**national
consultations**

16

**local
consultations**

We consulted with member on:

- National Planning Framework - collaboration between the four Dublin PPNs
- Redesign of the Dublin Bus Network
- Rebuilding Ireland consultation
- Economic & Enterprise SPC - Town Twinning

Case Study: Dublin Bus Network Redesign

In May DLR PPN Representatives from the Transportation and County-Wide Movement SPC were invited to a workshop by BusConnects/The National Transport Authority.

To inform our representatives DLR PPN asked members to share their experience and knowledge of the bus routes that affect people living in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. 94 members responded. A report was compiled from the responses and shared with our representatives.

In June DLR PPN supported its members to take part in the BusConnects online consultation, including sharing printed copies of the consultation, collecting the completed surveys and inputting them online.

DLR PPN sent updates to those who responded about the plans to privatise some of the bus routes in DLR.

Currently awaiting news from the National Transport Authority on the next stage of the Dublin Bus Network Redesign.





Events

2 Plenary meetings

April 2017

56 attended

Presentations from:

- Michael O'Brien, Dancing at the Crossroads festival, Cabinteely
- Mary Ruane, DLRCC, Local Community Development Committee & The Communities Facilities Grants

Ratification of the 2017 Workplan

October 2017

51 attended

Presentations from:

- DLR Comhairle na nÓg
- Dun Laoghaire and Ballinteer Men's Sheds

Ratification of DLR PPN Election Policy and Expenses Policy

Feedback indicates that the main reasons why members attended the Plenary is to

- network with other members
- to pick up information
- to support the PPN
- to be updated on the work of the PPN.

1 Workshop for members of the Social Inclusion Pillar

April 2017

31 attended

2 meetings for DLR PPN Reps

1 Social Housing Interest group meeting

August 2017

18 attended.

Presentations from:

- the Chair of the Social Housing SPC
- a staff member of DLRCC's Housing Department

Election of new DLR PPN representative to the Social Housing SPC.

Collaboration for Change

Seminar on citizen participation in the co-design of public services and spaces with Urbact CHANGE project.

November 2017

45 attended

Presentations from:

- Dr. Simon O'Rafferty, EPA, Co-designing Public Services
- Shane Waring, Dublin City Council, DCC Beta
- Rebecca Blake, Irish Architecture Foundation, Ballyfermot Play and Skate Park
- Cllr. Guss O'Connell, South Dublin County Council, 300K Have Your Say - Participatory Budgeting

Training

51

**responses to
member training
needs survey**

72

**attendees at our
training**

We have delivered training on the following topics

- **How Local Government Works**
- **Influencing the Policies and Practices of Local Government**
- **Digital Communications for Beginners**
- **Developing an Effective Online Communications Strategy for your Organisation**
- **Get Ready for General Data Protection Regulation**
- **Community Development (in collaboration with Southside Partnership)**
- **Garda Vetting Training (in collaboration with DLR Volunteer Centre)**

Communications

DLR PPN Ezine:

9 ezines were produced in 2017. **495 subscribers** at the end of 2017, up from 378 at the start of 2017. In 2017 the DLR PPN ezine was **opened and read by 1,215 people**.

Email:

In 2017 DLR PPN sent over **15,000 individual emails** to its members. Of these, **3900 were to inform members about DLRCC events, funding and consultations**.

Website:

58 posts were made on the dlrppn.ie website in 2017, **13 of these specifically related to PPN activities** and 6 were relating to DLRCC grants and events. In 2017 **dlrppn.ie had 3,286 visitors from Ireland**.

Facebook:

DLR PPN's Facebook page has **402 likes** and followers grew by 52 in 2017. **185 posts** were made on the page, **25 relating to PPN activities** and **23 relating to DLRCC funding, events and other activities**.

Twitter:

DLR PPN's Twitter has **396 followers** and this **increased by 161** in 2017.

Print:

An information leaflet about DLR PPN was produced and distributed to members, at events, public libraries, County Hall among others.

Collaboration

In 2017 we worked with

- The Public Participation Networks of Dublin City, South Dublin County, Fingal, Cork City and Offaly
- DLR Comhairle na nÓg
- DLR Local Community Development Committee
- The Local Authority Waters and Communities Office
- DLR Children and Young People's Services Committee
- Dublin Rural LEADER

We participated in:

- The DLR Festival of Inclusion
- The Wheel's National Conference
- The Urbact CHANGE project
- PPN regional meetings
- DLRCC's Community Grant information sessions
- The National PPN Conference

Lexicon Studio, 1st November 2017

URBACT
Driving change for
better cities

CHANGE!
A network of experts in
urban regeneration

DLR PPN
Dorset Local Partnership
Public Participation Network

supported by

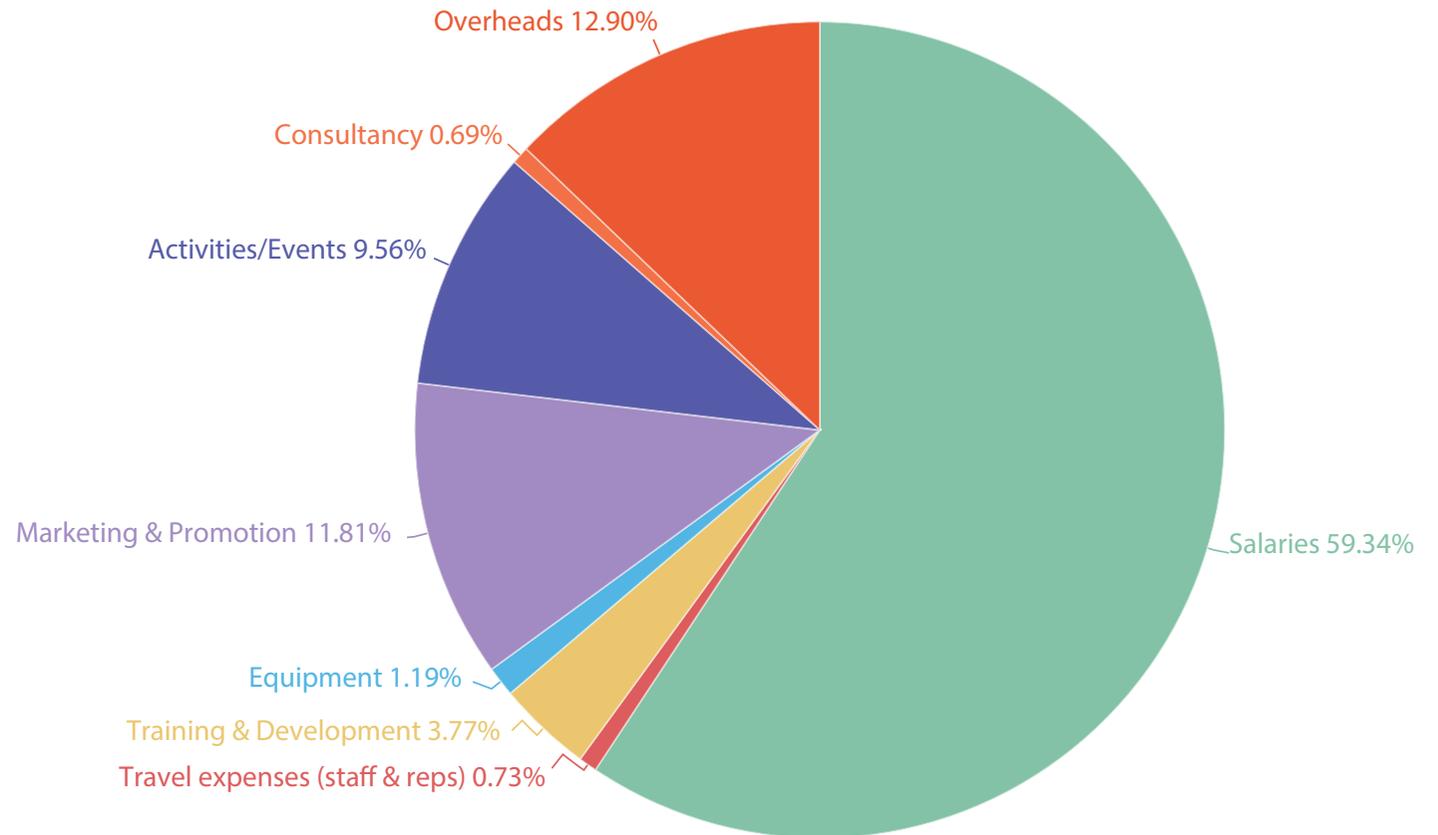
dlr
Dorset Local Partnership
Dorset County Council



Expenditure

DLR PPN receives an annual budget of €80,000 of which €30,000 from Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and €50,000 from the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Total expenditure in 2017 was €76,378.85



Reflections on 2017 workplan

DLR PPN's 2017 workplan aimed to build a solid foundation for the PPN to enable it to progress and grow.

It was an ambitious workplan of 38 planned actions, activities or outputs grouped under 5 key objectives compiled from the government guidelines for PPNs, the DLR Local Economic and Community Plan and priority actions identified by DLR PPN members.

28 of these actions were achieved, 7 were partially achieved, 3 were not achieved.

Key challenges in the 2017 Workplan:

Create induction pack for PPN Reps/ Reps charter - Work started on this in 2017 but was not finished. Following meetings with DLR PPN reps this action has been amended to Create a protocol for all of the local authority's committees/decision making bodies with PPN representatives that will enable the representatives to engage fully.

Create an information pack about the PPN for members - This action has been carried forward into the 2018 workplan

Distribute at least 1 ezine a month

- This was not always possible due to time constraints - 9 ezines were produced in total in 2017

Submit quarterly financial and progress reports to DLRCC and meet to discuss progress on workplan

- Quarterly financial reports were submitted but only one progress report.

Develop a Wellbeing Statement - The toolkit for the Wellbeing Statement is still being developed and piloted

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