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**Building Connections Networking Event and Launch of the DLR PPN Strategic Plan 2024-2028**

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In keeping with the theme of dlr Festival of Inclusion 2024 – ‘Building Friendships in the Community’, DLR PPN and dlr County Council  hosted the ***Building Connections: Community Networking***on the 15th of May, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Park.

We were delighted to welcome more than 120 participants who explored the many social inclusion, community, older people’s, environmental, youth, disability, resident associations, sports & activities, migrant communities groups operating across Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown.  The event was officially opened by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Denis O’Callaghan, and also included the launch of our Five Year plan 2024-2028 by the DLR PPN Secretariat – please see the programme outline below. To read the DLR PPN Strategic Plan, [please click here.](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6BAoKdPM0LDRkfFTKnPN8_dF1muv_LR/view?usp=sharing)

**Featured initiatives, organisations and projects**:

**Funding**  
–  dlr County Council Community Grants information stand;  
– Dublin Rural Leader funding information stand.

**dlr County Council Initiatives**  
– Healthy Age-Friendly Homes Programme information stand;  
– dlr Sports Partnership information stand;  
– Community Climate Action initiatives information stand.

**Community organisations**  
– Adult Education Service South East information stand;  
– DLR Social Prescribing for Health & Wellbeing information stand;  
– dlr Integration Forum information stand;   – DLR Volunteer Centre information stand;  
– Women’s Collective DLR information stand;

 – DLR County Childcare;

– Family Resource Centres DLR information stand.

**DLR Public Participation Network**  
– A print-out of all our member groups in each electoral area were displayed;  
– DLR PPN Five Year Plan 2024-2028 information stand.

**Posters of member groups**  
**–**An A4 poster for the 35 DLR PPN member group who wished to be promoted.

On arrival, all participants received a ‘Networking Card’ and a pen at the door to encourage networking with each other and writing down contact details.

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| **The schedule for the evening included:**   * 7.00pm to 7.30pm – Arrival and networking * 7.05pm – Food served – selection of finger food, sandwiches, wraps, dessert, tea & coffee * 7.30 pm – 7.55pm – Speeches – Tony McCarthy, DLR PPN Secretariat member introduced the speakers:   + An Cathaoirleach, Cllr Dennis O’Callaghan   + Siobhan Nic Gaoithin, dlr Age-Friendly Programme Manager & Social Inclusion Officer   + Gavin Harte – DLR PPN Secretariat, Launch of the DLR PPN Strategic Plan 2024-2028   + Simone Sav – DLR PPN Network Manager * 7.55pm – 9.00pm – Networking time * 9.00pm – Close of evening |

This event was part of the dlr Festival of Inclusion 2024 and you can see the list of events [at this link](https://www.dlrcoco.ie/dlr-events/event/dlr-festival-inclusion-2024).

**To read the DLR PPN Strategic Plan 2024 -2028,** [**please click here.**](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1H6BAoKdPM0LDRkfFTKnPN8_dF1muv_LR/view)