Summary

1 PARTICIPATION IN DECISION MAKING

Representation

Since the last plenary in October 2014 a total of 44 PPN reps have been nominated onto the following committees:

1. Economic Development & Enterprise Strategic Policy Committee (3 seats)
2. Environment and Water Services Strategic Policy Committee (2 seats)
3. Housing & Disability Steering Group (2 seats)
4. Housing, Community and Culture Strategic Policy Committee (3 seats)
5. Planning & Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee (2 seats)
6. Roads and Transportation Strategic Policy Committee (2 seats)
7. South East Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force (2 seats)
8. South Tipperary Development Company (2 seats)
9. South Tipperary Suicide Prevention Planning Group (1 seat)
10. Tipperary Children & Young People’s Services Committee (3 seats)
11. Tipperary District Joint Policing Committee (4 seats)
12. Tipperary Education Board (ETB) Further Education & Training Sub Committee (1 seat)
13. Tipperary Energy Agency (1 seat)
14. Tipperary Local and Community Development Committee (4 seats)
15. Tipperary Sports Partnership (7 seats)
16. Tipperary Transport Coordination Unit (5 seats)

Guidelines

To facilitate this process a number of guiding documents have been produced around how we do this and the rules/ responsibilities for these representatives, which include: Guidelines for Nominations; Election Procedures (‘Steps for Reps’); and a Representatives Charter. These documents will be asked for ratification at the plenary in February 2016.

Linkage Groups

Each of these reps/ committees has a ‘Linkage Group’ attached to it. Some of these linkage groups have met in 2015. But many have yet to meet and a schedule for this two-way communication will be facilitated by the Reps with support from the Development Officer.
throughout 2016. For many reps the plenary meeting in February will be the first occasion which they can sign people up to their linkage group.

**Consultations**

The PPN has been involved in many consultations over the past year including the LECP – co-facilitating consultation with youth groups at Comhairle na nOg, attending all consultation events, and commenting on behalf of the PPN on the strategy. Other consultations that the PPN have publicized to the network through the newsletter throughout the year include:

- New Strategic Tourism Plan for Tipperary (Dec 2015)
- Flood Mapping Consultation (Dec 2015)
- Local Economic and Community Plan (Nov 2015)
- R498 Latteragh Realignment Public Consultation (Nov 2015)
- Variation No. 2 of the North Tipperary County Development Plan 2010 and Variation No. 2 of the South Tipperary County Development Plan 2009 (Nov 2015)
- Organisational Review of An Bord Pleanála (Nov 2015)
- Public consultation on Principles to guide public engagement on policy and services development (Oct 2015)
- LEADER Programme for Tipperary needs your views (Sep 2015)
- Have your say on the national broadband plan (Sep 2015)
- Rural Development Programme Consultation (Aug 2015)
- County Development Plan – Variation 2 (July 2015)
- Gridlink (Pylons) (May 2015)
- Taking Charge of Estates - Emly, Borrisoleigh, Nenagh, Ballina (April 2015)
- Ireland 2016 and centenary commemorations 2015 – 2023 (March 2015)
- Suir Draft Flood Maps – Tipperary Town / Ardfinnan (March 2015)
- Draft Strategy for Local and Community Development (March 2015)

**Municipal District Meetings**

In 2015 there were 2 Municipal District (MD) Meetings in each of the 5 Municipal Districts: Nenagh; Templemore-Thurles; Clonmel; Cashel-Tipperary; Carrick-On-Suir. At these meetings the PPN Secretariat Reps for those areas with the PPN Development Officer asked about what the needs are in those areas, especially in relation to improving the wellbeing for this and future generations. This will inform future MD meetings and the beginning of a wellbeing statement for that district. Members were also informed about what the PPN’s does and its 3 main aims:

1. Participation in decision making
2. Strengthen the capacity of the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside / participate
3. Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion and community & voluntary groups and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

2. **Strengthen the capacity of the environmental, social inclusion and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside / participate.**

**Establishing Training Needs**

At the Municipal District Meetings mentioned above an evaluation form asking for training needs and giving a set of options including:

- Community finance
- Committee skills
- Managing Volunteers
- Local Government Reform

All of these training options were popular. Other suggestions were around insurance, legal and compliance issues, funding, grants, governance/charities act training etc.

**Municipal District PPN**

PPN MD Members were also asked via the raffle tickets what they would like from their Municipal District PPN, answers included:

- Continue to inform us of activities in the district and inform us of grant aids available and provide useful links with groups if requested
- Support with community fundraising
- To keep our club informed of grants available to sports centres
- Continue to inform us of activities within the district. Direct and provide access to grant availability. Facilitate access to relevant officers, departments in the local authority
- Help us to network better with other community and Voluntary Organisations
- Facilitate greater engagement in the decision making process with the district
- Help organisations in the area to share resources (human and facilities etc)
- Keep us informed of local events, funding and training etc.
- Have new innovative ways to write local groups for the betterment of the wider area
- Organise an information day on Grants/Monies available to community enterprises
- Help combine with similar groups to protect and enhance wildlife in Tipperary
- Bring more local support and awareness to the tidy towns cause.
- Provide greater awareness of PPN Particularly in rural areas. This would encourage more participation. We need to stem the apathy. Encourage participation. Will benefit the wider society.
• Increased access to and provision of mental health services for young people in Tipperary. Increased access to employment/Training for young people in Tipperary
• Ensure that activities and services are accessible to people with disabilities living in the community. Hear their needs and express them.
• We are concerned with the environment we would like the PPN to back environmental issues on the agenda.
• Keep us informed regarding local planning and activities.

In 2016 Tipperary PPN will organise training and Municipal District Meetings in partnership with the County Council, Leader Companies, Volunteer Centre, Education Providers and other partners and stakeholders, aiming to address these needs.

3 PROVIDE INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY GROUPS AND ACT AS A HUB AROUND WHICH INFORMATION IS DISTRIBUTED AND RECEIVED

Database
Currently Tipperary PPN manages a database of 950 members from the Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental sectors from each of the Municipal Districts in the County.

Newsletter
A bi-weekly newsletter including information relevant to members is compiled and sent via email to all in the database. This includes information on:

• PPN News
• Consultations/ Conferences
• Funding / Resources
• Programmes/ Projects/ Competitions
• Events / Training
• Other events/ activities

The newsletter is a means of two-way communication; members can send in information to send out in the newsletter to all members via the PPN Development Officer. The PPN is currently looking into other methods of communication to broaden the methods for this two-way communication.

Meetings
The Municipal District Meetings are another way in which this two-way communication is facilitated. The agendas of which will be further developed with the MD PPN Members input, involving Local Authority members, elected officials and other committee reps and organisations operating in the three sectors.