



**Fingal Public Participation Network – Plenary – 21st May 2016 – 9.30 to 1.30 –
RIASC Centre Swords**

Minutes

There were 54 members present – representing 41 community groups – see of list attendees at the end of the minutes (Appendix 1)

The following was the Agenda for the session.

- Registration
- Welcome
- Open address - Mayor of Fingal Cllr David O'Connor
- Minutes of last Plenary – 25th April 2015
- Fingal PPN Secretariat Report – Kieran O'Neill
- Group discussion re Constitution and Work Plan
- Information Expo
- Key note Speaker – Seamus McAleavey
- Workshops –
- Feedback from workshops
- Closing Comments
- Lunch

Opening Address:

Sinead Wiley A/Resource Worker welcomed those present and invited the Mayor of FCC Cllr David O'Connor to formally open the event.

Minutes of last Plenary:

The Minutes of the last Plenary – 25th April 2015 – were read and passed
Proposed: Mr Pat Murphy
Seconded: Mr Gregg Farrell

Secretariat Report:

Kieran O'Neill representing the Secretariat gave the following presentation: (see appendix 1)

Kieran on behalf of the Secretariat thanked The Community Department of Fingal County Council for their support and Ann and Sinead for their work over the past year.

Discussion around Constitution and Work plan:

The Plenary was invited to have a discussion in groups and feedback on the Constitution and Work plan – the following is the feedback received in no particular order:

- Concern expressed re 'Travellers' being named as a group for inclusion – suggest either remove it or name other excluded groups
- Discussion re the alternating of venues for meetings – if venues need to alternate why is it only between Dublin 15 and Swords – leave out these locations or include other areas as well.
- Every 2nd Plenary meeting should be specifically to give the opportunity for groups to network – the Agenda would reflect this and contain little else.
- Under 3.3 Communication – being accessible – should include online/website
- No reference to Finance – how decisions re finance and spending are made
- How is effectiveness measured – particularly the effectiveness of the Plenary – is there a guarantee that decisions taken at the Plenary are carried out?
- Resource Workers: confusion re where this is at – how much of the funding is for salaries etc.
- Finance – how do we get a picture of Policy and Finance – this is in relation specifically to the Fingal County Council Committees (SPCs) – need to understand the 'macro' finance allocation within FCC.
- There needs to be more Linkage Groups – an LCDC (Local Community Development Committee) and as the Arts and Community brief is so broad – perhaps this Linkage group could be divided by interest.
- Lack of participation in Linkage groups and the PPN as a whole
- Maybe Linkage Groups should be combined
- Lack of Knowledge
- Communication through FCC – need more
- Funding – need to know where the FCC funding is going – if projects etc. are to be evaluated effectively.
- Constitution is a working document – will move and change as we develop –
- We need to have Standing Orders – how the Plenary works etc.
- Membership of PPN – needs to be more inclusive
- Ballot by post for positions is open to abuse
- The Constitution reads more like a Report
- More detail is needed around Policies and Procedures
- 5.7 is repetitious – see 1.46
- 5.4. – needs clarification around decision process

- Change to the Constitution should be at the Plenary
- Constitution needs to define the stepping down and election of new members to the Secretariat
- The Constitution should be about aims/aspirations/election/amendments
- In the Work plan – training should be a big issue.

Information Expo:

The Plenary was invited to visit the information stands around the room – groups represented were:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| - New Communities Partnership | - | Fingal Volunteer Centre |
| - Nth Fingal Transport Initiative | - | SICAP |
| - FCC Community Development Office | - | FCC Sports Office |
| - FCC Arts Office | - | LECP |
| - LCDC info | - | Arts & Community SPC Info |
| - Economic Dev SPC | - | Water and Environment SPC Info |
| - Housing SPC Info | - | Transportation SPC Info |
| - Joint Policing Committee Info | - | Planning SPC Info |

Website:

There was a demonstration of the new Fingal PPN Website and what it might look like.

Key Note Speaker:

The keynote speaker for the morning was Seamus McAleavey – Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

Seamus spoke about the building of social capital and local democracy in Northern Ireland and outlined the value to community groups of networking and sharing ideas.

Workshops:

The Plenary broke into 7 workshops (the Transport workshop was combined with the Planning one due to the Representative being ill) the workshops were invited to identify key issues for the reps and the Linkage to work on for the coming year – feedback from the workshops is below:

Arts Culture and Community – key issues

- Communication – email is not working – maybe use phone/post
- Clarity of process – funding/services provided
- Websites – single point of contact needed/information hub/clear information
- Registration Process – Update/relevance/lack of understanding/review of existing membership

Water and Environment – key issues

- Information sharing

- Linkage Group development
- Funding
- Effective participation in decision making
- Communication between members
- Develop an appropriate Action Plan

Economic, Enterprise and Tourism – Key issues

- Develop a tourist to include (1) map of key towns in Fingal - especially new areas that have expanded over the years (2) Signposting of key tourist landmarks, (3) Package Tourism on key themes i.e. Heritage trails, Churches of Fingal, History and Castles, Walking and Cycling trails
- Transport is a key driver of economic growth therefore we need a sufficient transport system and links between towns in Fingal (Swords & Blanchardstown, IT Blanchardstown & other Fingal Towns)
- FCC need to lobby for their share of Government investment for Transport – invest in transport needs to match investment in built environment
- Agreement that towns in Fingal should provide sufficient employment, housing and services therefore areas will become more sustainable. Examples of such areas are Swords with the Airport and Industrial Estates
- Consideration to be given to building residential estates near/ close by commercial hubs – people can live near work and reduce travel time
- Swords is expected to expand further – we need to expand services in this areas to include third level college (or sufficient links to IT Blanchardstown), Health Care facility, community facility

Housing – Key issues

- Banks repossessing
- Tenure of those on RAS Housing Scheme – needs extending
- Venture Capitalism – needs to be controlled – more social housing needs to be built.
- Develop Modular Housing – housing should be based on community/tenant need and should be appropriate (e.g. suitable for those with disabilities)
- Housing on a National level – incentives for living outside Dublin.

Planning and Transport – key issues

Planning:

- Planning for sufficient school places for our growing population.
- Procedure for Planning evaluation of 3rd party submissions – request documented consideration for all issues raised when granting permission.
- Planning Enforcement, feedback that groups not happy with level of support when residents raise concerns.

Transport:

- adequate charging points for electric cars
- increase in cost of transport – trains costs

- need to increase the accessibility of public transport – more routes needed – particularly between places in Fingal

In general concern expressed around communication within the FPPN – more than the one contact person needs to be receiving the information.

Community Policing – Key issues

- Issue of Community Gardaí being taken away from their post/duties when there is another issue or other work needs doing –
- Community Policing should be a priority – the shortage needs to be addressed
- Communication – Gardaí should communicate and engage with community groups – build up a relationship
- More awareness needs to be created in the community around the fact that a Joint Policing Committee exists.

Local Community Development Committee: Key Issues

- Linkage Groups too large – suggest breaking them down into three strands – Com/Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environment
- Community Centres – Community Centres should set up a network, so they can learn from and support each other, and look out from centres to help the develop Community
- Community Centre to be built in Meakstown, management committee to work from Community Development principles
- Communication - Inwardly and outwardly, need to be able to contact groups in linkage groups for information purposes need to find a way to do this.
- Clean up in area - Meakstown need council to do a general regular clean up in the area
- Lack of Volunteers participating at various levels of the F.P.P.N

Members were requested to complete surveys in their pack to help inform the work of the secretariat specifically

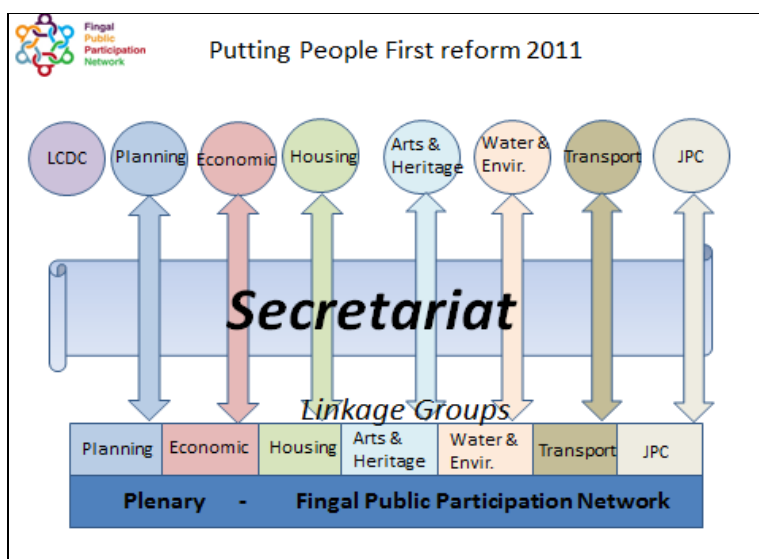
Training Audit carried out

Evaluation of the Plenary Event

The Plenary closed with a few comments from the floor.

Appendix 1 List Member Attending

Appendix 2 Secretariat Report





Our role in the Secretariat is to :

- Facilitate the implementation of the decisions of the Plenary
- Ensure the proper functioning of the Public Participation Network in between Plenaries
- Coordinate activities of Public Participation Network
- Communicate with all members and in this process disseminate information.

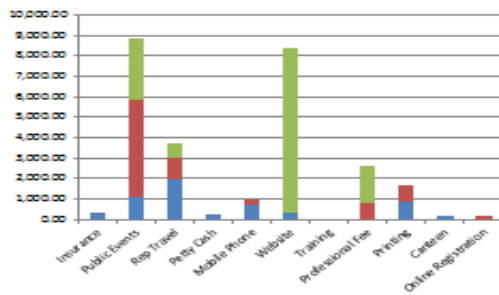
Over the last year we have focused on:

- getting the Public Participation Network up and running,
 - understanding the legislation,
 - developing a program of work and
 - procedures to make the network effective.
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- No elections this year due to resignations & new members.



Funding

- The Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government (DECLG) allocate €50,000 to each PPN so long as the Local Authority contributes an additional €30,000 to support the operation and development of the PPN.
- FPPN budget is allocated across Staffing, Training, Community Events, Printing and Publicity material



Activities

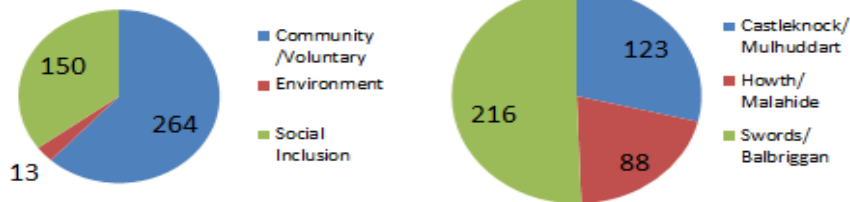
- FPPN Vision Statement, Goals and Work-plan
- FPPN Memorandum of Understanding
- Communications
 - logo
 - Website
- Training for FPPN Representative
- Fingal Wellbeing Statement



Key Achievements to date

- ✓ 20 Secretariat meetings & 10 working group meetings held
- ✓ 23 Representatives elected to Committees (SPCs/LCDC/JPC)
- ✓ FPPN represented at 1 National Forum and 2 Regional Meetings
- ✓ 5 Representatives replaced on decision making committees (due to resignation etc.)
- ✓ 2 Plenaries held
- ✓ 20 Linkage Group Meetings organised
- ✓ 45 decision making committees meetings/ subgroups attended by the Representatives
- ✓ 6 FPPN Representative support meetings

427 groups registered



Decision Making Committee	Representative
Economic and Enterprise Development Strategic Policy Committee	Okezie Emuaga 1 vacant position
Housing Strategic Policy Committee	Odran Reid Freda Hughes
Community Arts and Heritage Strategic Policy Committee	Lorcan Blake 1 vacant position
Planning and Strategic Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee	Kieran O'Neill Gregg Farrell
Water and Environment Strategic Policy Committee	Charles Sargent Angela O'Flynn Bury
Transportation SPC Strategic Policy Committee	Bob Laird Raymond Ryan
Joint Policing Committee	Kenneth Lindsay, Myles Caulfield, Jossy Akwuobi, Ray Smyth Eamon Price, 2 vacant position
Local Community Development Committee	Máire O'Brien, Alice Davis Tony Brennan, Jeff Murphy Adaku Ezeudo

