

Fingal Public Participation Network

Activity Report
June 2021 | Volume 10



Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall
Fingal County
Council



Message from the Secretariat

This issue of our Activity Report focuses on all the achievements of the PPN and our Linkage Groups so far this year. The PPN would like to express our appreciation to all our PPN members for your valuable contribution. We are grateful for all the dedication you bring to your roles as volunteers.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Fingal PPN transitioned fully to an online format. All meetings and linkage groups are now held online. Our members adapted impressively to this new online format.

Following the launch of the new PPN Handbook in November 2020, the Secretariat identified an opportunity to review the handbook and use this to inform a review of the PPN Strategic Plan. Fingal PPN setup a working group to oversee this review.

Fingal PPN were pleased to be able to support new and existing groups by securing appropriate Insurance to enable them to carry out their essential work in communities and maintain their services to those most in need.

As a PPN, we provide space for community groups to grow and develop through our training supports. This year we are running the PPN Spring/Summer Training Courses 2021.

Fingal PPN undertook its first re-registration process in September 2020. To date 430 groups are now re-registered with Fingal PPN.

On June 23rd this year we are delighted to host our Plenary. This will be the first year we will be holding online elections. We will be opening

our online elections at 9.00am on the 25th June and closing them at midnight the same day.

Looking ahead to the rest of this year the PPN will be productive and busy implementing the work plan.

Finally, we thank you for all your engagement and time this year and look forward to working with you throughout the rest of the year.

The PPN Secretariat –

Anthony Brennan, John Melvin, Michael Walsh, Todd Pocius, Angela Rogers, Siju Jose, Robert Loughlin and Hanumantha Rao Marapalli.

secretariat@fingalppn.ie

Current Secretariat Members

The Secretariat is the board of volunteers who look after the day to day running of the PPN. This includes developing, monitoring and implementing the Fingal PPN Strategic Plan and an annual work plan.



Anthony Brennan



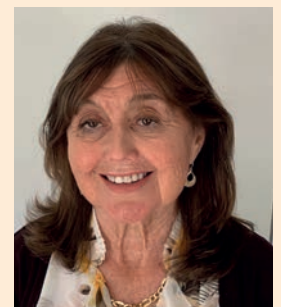
John Melvin



Michael Walsh



Todd Pocius



Angela Rogers



Siju Jose



Hanumantha Rao



Robert Loughlin

Meet the PPN Staff



- Laura Barton** PPN Resource Worker (Acting)
- Adam Rudden** PPN Support Worker
- Lisa Moran** PPN Registrations Officer

We work to empower the community to be represented in decision making processes that impact citizens through representation on Council committees, consultation processes, policy submissions and more

Retiring PPN Representatives

The PPN owes a sincere thank you to all the PPN Representatives and Secretariats who have served the PPN on various Fingal County Council Committees over the past 5 years. PPN Representatives are members of the community who volunteer their time to represent the views and matters of their PPN Linkage Group at a Strategic Policy Level.

PPN Representatives do this alongside their existing commitments with their PPN Member Organisation. Their contribution to the PPN in the early stages of its development is immeasurable – PPN Rep Reports, Linkage Groups, Policy Briefs, Training, reporting to the Plenary, and being the first people willing to take on the challenge of a new structure.

Thank you personally to our outgoing PPN Representatives and thank you to their nominating organisations. We hope many will stay involved in their respective Linkage Groups.

Anthony Brennan
Woodland Park
Residents Association
Secretariat & LCDC

Michael Walsh
Fingal Environmental
Network
Secretariat

Siju Jose
MIND
Ireland
Secretariat

Denise McDermott
Fingal Counselling
Service
Secretariat

Alice Davis
Balbriggan
Meals on Wheels
LCDC

Máire O'Brien
Fingal Environmental
Network
LCDC

Greg Farrell
St Margarets Concerned
Residents Group
Planning SPC

Memorandum of Understanding

The Memorandum of Understanding outlines the roles and responsibilities of Fingal County Council and Fingal Public Participation Network with regard to the delivery of the Public Participation structures and activities.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between Fingal County Council and Fingal Public Participation Network on 16th March 2021 by:

Chief Executive of Fingal County Council: AnnMarie Farrelly
PPN Secretariat: John Melvin
PPN Secretariat: Anthony Brennan

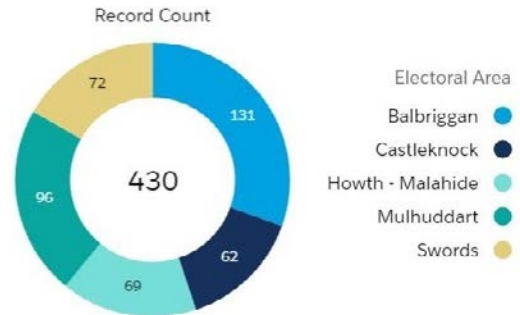


Fingal PPN Membership Re-Registrations

Fingal PPN is required by PPN National Guidelines to re-register member groups every two years to ensure that member's information is up to date.

Fingal undertook its first re-registration process in September 2020. To date, 430 groups are now re-registered with Fingal PPN.

Report: Organisations with Re-Registrations Group Re-registration



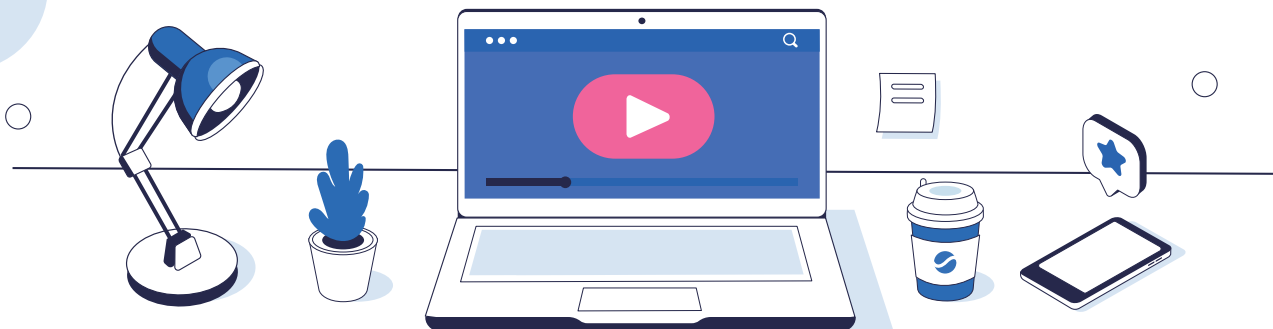
PPN Online Courses

As a Public Participation Network, we provide space for community groups to grow and develop through our training supports. This year we are running the PPN Spring/Summer Training Courses 2021.

Running an Effective Meeting
9th June 2021

Using Social Media to promote your organisation
16th June 2021

Grant Writing Tips and Tricks
30th June 2021



Linkage Group Update

Linkage Groups are at the core of the work of the PPN. They are the main vehicles through which the PPN advocates for the Community. Each Linkage Group has a facilitator who manages meetings and the work plan of each group. Linkage Groups nominate representation onto various Fingal County Council committees and facilitate feedback to and from these committees. Linkage Groups also engage in their own right with relevant council departments, and other agencies who have responsibility for issues outside the remit of the council.



Community Safety, Crime and Policing Linkage Group

Meetings this year	9th February, 22nd April and 15th June
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitted a Property Marking Machine proposal to the Joint Policing Committee on 5th March 2021.
Remaining Meetings This Year	31st August and 16th November.

Facilitator



Samantha Dooley,
communitysafety@fingalppn.ie

PPN Representatives

Joint Policing Committee:



Aisling Kelly,
Social Sisters



Jossy Akwuobi,
Wisdom Learning Centre



Myles Caulfield,
Rivervalley and Rathingle Residents
Association



Pat Doyle,
Bath Road Lambeecher Estate Tenants
Association



Ray Smyth,
Briarswood Huntstown Lawn and
Woodlands Residents Association



Tom O'Brien,
St George's Church of Ireland Youth
Group








Angela Rogers,
Blanchardstown Village Tidy Towns

Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise and Tourism Linkage Group

Meetings this year	4th February 2021 and 29th April 2021
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkage Group submitted two motions to the Economic, Enterprise & Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee on 18th March 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Remote Working Community Hubs ☆ Review of Vocational and Educational Campuses based in Fingal
Remaining Meetings This Year	To be confirmed
<p>Facilitator</p>  <p>Vacant</p>	<p>PPN Representatives</p> <p>Local Community Development Committee: 5 LCDC Vacancies to be filled at Plenary</p> <p>Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Kesava Gollapalli, Fingal Ethnic Network</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>David Normoyle, Mount Eustace Residents Association</p> </div> </div>

Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group

Meetings this year	11th February 2021 and 13th April 2021
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linkage Group submitted to the The Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal on 25th March 2021. Linkage Group submitted motion to Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment Strategic Policy Committee on 23rd March 2021. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ☆ Protection and conservation of hedgerows As part of the National Dialogue on Climate Action, the Linkage Group members hosted and moderated the Fingal PPN Climate Conversation Workshop which took place on 7th April 2021.
Remaining Meetings This Year	To be Confirmed
<p>Facilitator</p>  <p>Charles Sargent, Howth/Sutton Community Council</p>	<p>PPN Representatives</p> <p>Water and Environment Strategic Policy Committee:</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Seán Barry, Balbriggan Tidy Towns</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Edward Stevenson, Swords Woodland Association</p> </div> </div> <p>Fingal Heritage Forum (both reps to work together on behalf of built and natural heritage representation)</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;"> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Brian Arnold, Lusk Community Council</p> </div> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p>Thomas Murphy, Rolestown and Oldtown Historical Association</p> </div> </div>

Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Linkage Group

Meetings this year

28th January 2021 and 1st April 2021

Update

- Linkage Group contacted Fingal Events Department requesting that Fingal light up Fingal buildings green for St. Patrick's Day on 01st February 2021
- Linkage Group submitted motion to Community Development, Heritage Culture & Creativity Strategic Policy Committee on 24th March 2021.
 - ☆ Provision of Meeting Rooms

Remaining Meetings This Year

To be Confirmed

Facilitator



Heidi Bedell,

artscommunitysport@fingalppn.ie

PPN Representatives

Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Strategic Policy Committee:



Abi Wise,

Children4WorldChildren.ie



Liz Madden,

Castlegrange Residents Association



Hiwa Wahab,

Kurdish Art Nergz Group Ireland

Fingal Sports Partnership Committee:



Vacant

Fingal Heritage Forum

(both reps to work together on behalf of built and natural heritage representation)



Brian Arnold,

Lusk Community Council



Thomas Murphy,

Rolestown and Oldtown Historical Association

Free Insurance for Covid-19 Volunteers

Fingal PPN have sourced an Insurance policy for new groups set up to cover the fantastic work carried out by the volunteers involved in response to Covid-19.

This Insurance policy will be provided free of charge to the volunteer groups involved in the Covid-19 Community Call.

This Insurance is offered to volunteer groups registered with Fingal PPN for Covid-19 specific volunteering work who currently have no Insurance for this type of voluntary work or whose current Insurance provider does not cover them for this element of volunteering. This is a huge asset to the groups.

This Insurance is provided by BHP Insurance



Transport, Planning and Housing Linkage Group

Meetings this year

21st January 2021 and 15th April 2021

Update

- Motion: Submitted to Transport & Infrastructure Management Strategic Policy Committee on 23rd November 2020
 - ☆ Bike gutters for public stairways
- Linkage Group made Submission to Fingal Planning and Strategic infrastructure Department Re: Application F20A/0668 on Noise Quota system- Dublin airport on 29th January 2021.

Remaining Meetings This Year

To be Confirmed

Facilitator



Olanike Adesemowo,
The Bold Woman Association

PPN Representatives

Transport Strategic Policy Committee:



Doreen Keaney,
Rathbeale Residents Association



Raymond Ryan,
Skerries Cycling Initiative

Housing Strategic Policy Committee:



Dayakar Reddy Komirelly,
CICI



Oghenetano John Uwhumiakpor,,
Nigerian Balbriggan Forum

Planning Strategic Policy Committee:



Vacant,
Planning SPC



Kieran O'Neill,
Dublin 15 Community Council

Contact the PPN

Fingal PPN,
Fingal County Council, Civic Offices,
Grove Road, Blanchardstown, Dublin 15

Call, Message or WhatsApp

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Secretariat: secretariat@fingalppn.ie

Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Linkage Group: artscommunitysport@fingalppn.ie

Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group: climatechangeenvironment@fingalppn.ie

Community Safety Linkage Group: communitysafety@fingalppn.ie

Planning, Transport and Housing Linkage Group: planningtransporthousing@fingalppn.ie

Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise Linkage Group: socialruraleconomic@fingalppn.ie

Information

The PPN acts as an information hub, keeping the community informed of relevant local issues, news, events, resources and supports. We do this through a monthly e-newsletter, bi-annual activity report and the maintenance of our website and social media pages.

Fingal PPN Finance Update

2021 Expenditure to Date

Overall expenditure to date was impacted by Covid-19. The PPN Budget is split between fixed costs and program costs which are demonstrated in the table below.

2021 Proposed Budget

Each PPN in Ireland receives a core budget of €80,000 and can avail of an additional €30,700 for additional staffing – a total of €110,700. The Secretariat has proposed a budget of €148,000 for 2021, securing an additional allocation of funding from Fingal County Council which is a significant endorsement of the work of the PPN.

Type	Item	2021 Proposed	2021 Expenditure To Date	Note
Administrative / Fixed Costs ▶	Staff Salary	91,000.00	27,144.43	
	Staff Travel & Subsistence	3,000.00	0.00	Due to Covid-19, meetings were transitioned online
	Staff Training	1,000.00	0.00	Impacted by Covid-19
	FCC Annual Hosting Charge	7,000.00	7,000.00	
Program Costs ▶	Website / IT	5,000.00	1,850.00	
	Design and Print	11,000.00	688.80	
	Plenary Costs	5,000.00	807.20	
	Meeting Room Hire	3,000.00	0.00	Impacted by Covid-19
	Consultancy / Training / Research	10,000.00	1,650.00	
	Access and Participation	5,000.00	0.00	Impacted by Covid-19
	Linkage Groups	5,000.00	0.00	Impacted by Covid-19
	Secretariat / Rep Training	2,000.00	0.00	Impacted by Covid-19
Total		148,000	39,140	

National Public Participation Handbook Review

As many PPN members will be aware, in November 2020, the Department of Rural and Community Development launched the Public Participation Networks Handbook. This Handbook was written following extensive consultation to review the original Public Participation Networks User Guide, which was last updated in May 2017. Fingal PPN contributed to this review through the PPN National Advisory Group, the PPN Secretariat Network and the PPN Workers Network. The Handbook provides a range of guidance, support and, where necessary, clarity, for everyone involved with, or interested in, the PPNs. It also sets out mandatory requirements for PPNs to adhere to. The handbook sets out additional best practice based on experience from PPNs in all 31 Local Authority areas.

Aside from outlining practical measures for PPNs to implement and consider implementing, the handbook provides an overview of the various PPN structures and associated stakeholders.

Much of the guidance and templates in the handbook aligns with that submitted by Fingal PPN when the call for input issued in 2019.

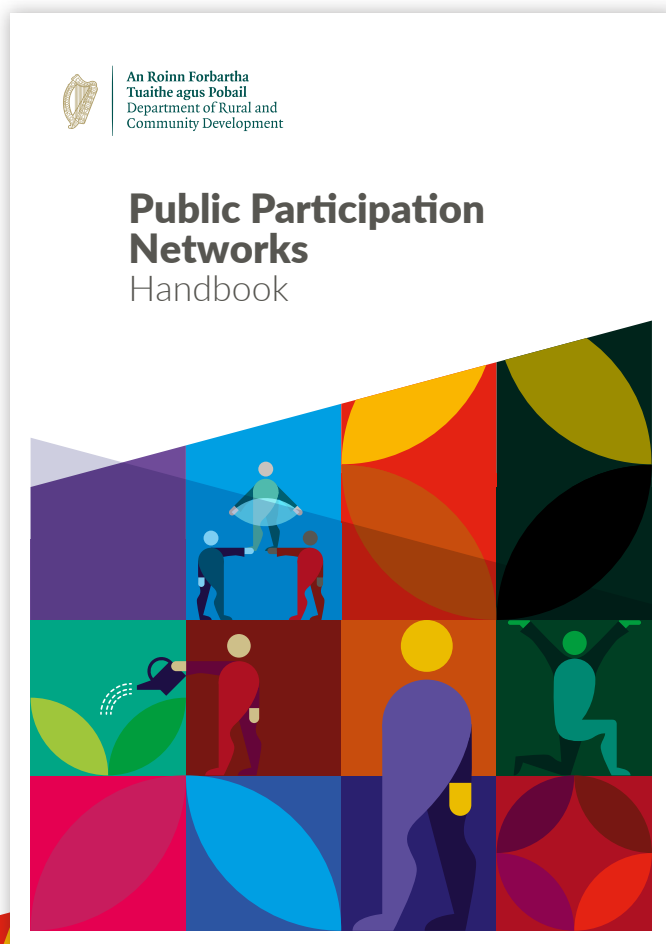
Fingal PPN is required to align our operations to the handbook. To do this, the Secretariat setup a working group and engaged consultancy support to do this. The working group have produced a report and set of recommendations for consideration by the PPN Plenary. Should the Plenary choose to accept the report and recommendations, actioning these would bring the PPN into full compliance with the handbook.

An information evening on the Handbook Review was held on 19 May 2021 to support informing members of the handbook review report ahead of the Plenary meeting.

Additionally, the review of the handbook is informing the review of the PPN Strategic Plan where some handbook requirements or recommendations may require longer term strategic implementation.

Handbook Working Group

Fingal PPN setup a working group to oversee review of the PPN Handbook. The working group originally consisted of representatives of the Secretariat (John Melvin and Todd Pocius), Linkage Group Facilitators (Denise McDermott), PPN Representatives (Alice Davis), PPN Staff (Laura Barton) and Fingal County Council (Sinead Wiley). The working group commenced work on the PPN Handbook Review in January 2021. Todd Pocius and Sinead Wiley stepped down from the working group in April 2021 due to unrelated commitments. The working group completed its work in relation to the review in May 2021.



Fingal PPN Strategic Plan 2018 – 2021

In 2018, the Fingal PPN Secretariat presented a strategic plan for the period 2018 to 2021. The plan set out the next phase of development for the PPN in Fingal with over 300 member organisations of the PPN engaging in the process.

The PPN Strategic Plan was due for review in early 2020. Due to resource constraints and the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic, this was postponed.

The PPN has an obligation to promote and facilitate meaningful citizen participation and engagement in local decision-making structures. The PPN's commitment to this is reflected in their overall Strategic Goal, which is:

That Fingal PPN is an integral and respected local decision-making partner and network. It is engaged and pro-actively consulted in the development of all Fingal economic, social, community and infrastructural policies. Its members are well supported and aware of their ability to make a difference for their community.

The working group setup to review the PPN Handbook has now got a follow on task of reviewing the Strategic Plan. Angela Rogers replaced Todd Pocius and Olanike Adesemowo replaced Denise McDermott as members of the working group.

Following the Plenary meeting, an information evening on the strategic plan will be held on 5th July 2021.



PPN Vision, Values and Principles



Vision

The Vision of the Fingal Public Participation Network is to 'act as the voice of the Community in Fingal and to influence improved decision making in the county'.



Values

The Fingal PPN is underpinned by the values of:

- Inclusiveness and Participation
- Independence and Diversity
- Accountability and Transparency



Principles

Fingal PPN operates under the principles of:

- **Clarity** – of role and structure
- **Commitment** – to our members and the integrity of the organisation
- **Communications** – to be in a clear, concise, simple and timely manner
- **Consistency** – of service and a clear mechanism of two-way engagement

Fingal Integration Forum

Following the Open Meeting of Fingal Integration Forum in November 2019, work on establishing Fingal Integration Forum was stalled by Covid-19. This work recommenced in September 2020 with a robust training, capacity building and development programme designed to be delivered from early October to December 2020. Consultants Breandan O’Caoimh and Kathy Walsh were overseeing this work on behalf of Fingal PPN.

Voice

Participation

Equal Access

Networking

Update on Work done during Jan/Feb

Fingal Integration Forum met on 27 January 2021. Election of Officers took place.

- Joint Chairs: Lawrence Carvalho and Nike Adesemowo
- Joint PROs: Mojisola Mabogaje and Susuana O.M Olatunji Komolafe
- Joint Secretaries: Ann Mulligan and Hanumantha Rao Marepalli
- Joint Treasurers: Helen Keng Mobit and Patricia O’Reilly

Fingal Integration Forum Handover to Fingal County Council

FCC Community Office has now employed a Senior Community Officer to implement the Integration.

Fingal County Council has appointed Valerie McAllorum Byrne as Integration Officer, highlighting its commitment to inclusivity and progress throughout Fingal’s communities.

Valerie has been involved in the development of the new Fingal Integration Forum and has recently completed a review of Fingal County Council’s policies, in conjunction with the Immigrant Council of Ireland (ICI), to ensure that they were aligned on equality and human rights to the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission’s (IHREC) public sector duty guidelines.

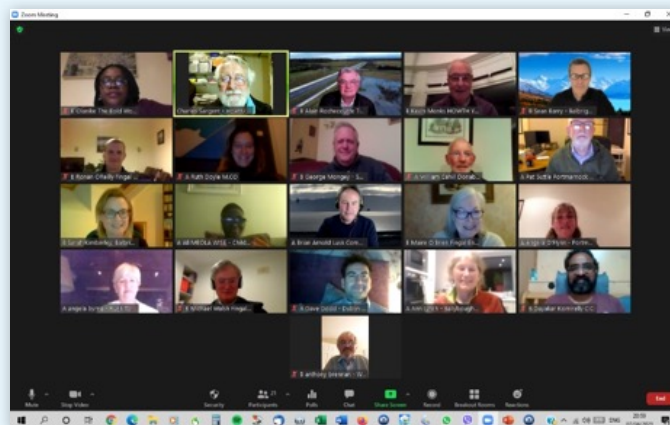
Valerie has worked in Community Development for more than 25 years, and has worked with the Fingal Community Development Office in the areas of Social Inclusion, Community Development, Capital and Strategic Projects for the last 18 years.

Valerie stated “The appointment of an Integration Officer because it reinforces the commitment of the council to promoting integration across the county and to respond to the challenges and opportunities posed by the changing population which it serves.”



Fingal PPN Climate Conversation Workshop

The National Dialogue on Climate Action invited PPN Networks across Ireland to host online 'Climate Conversations'. The purpose of these virtual workshops was to help inform aspects of 2019 Climate Action Plan, capture ideas on how best to implement existing visions for Community Wellbeing, and act as available source of information to assist in shaping the types of projects and initiatives to be supported by the Climate Action Fund.

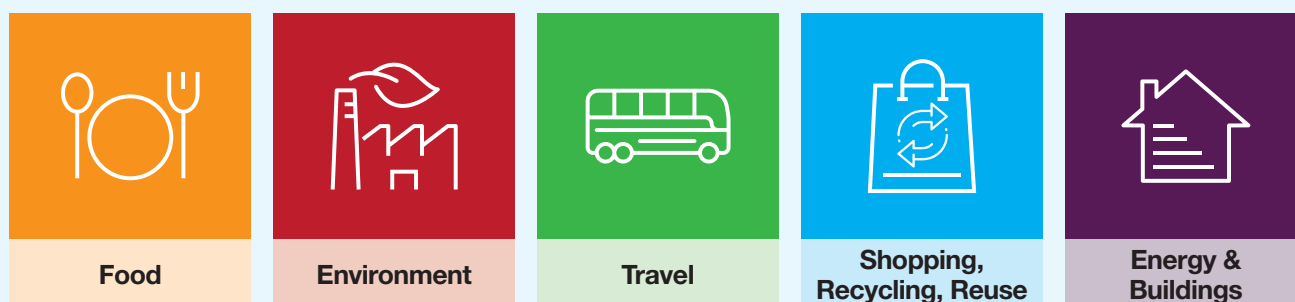


The Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group took the lead on this "Climate Conversation" initiative. Five members of this Linkage Group trained as moderators for the event: Angela Byrne, Brian Arnold, Charles Sargent, Maire O'Brien and Sarah Kimberley.

The Climate Conversation Workshop took place on 7th April 2021. Nineteen PPN Groups participated in the event:

- Balbriggan Tidy Towns
- Ballyboughal Hedgerow Society
- Children4worldchildren
- CICI - Confederation of Indian Communities in Ireland
- Donabate/Portrane Active Age for All
- Fingal Environmental Network
- Howth Yacht Club
- Howth/Sutton Community Council
- Lusk Community Council
- Portmarnock Beach Clean Coast
- Portmarnock Community Association
- Portmarnock Sustainable Energy Community
- Portmarnock Tidy Towns
- Rush Tourism
- Sustainable Skerries
- Swords Tidy Towns
- The Bold Woman Association
- The Links Residents Association Donabate/Portrane
- Woodland Park Residents Association

Themes discussed in the conversation covered the five topics



In addition to these topics, the group also offer recommendations for the design of the Climate Action Fund and broader suggestions for the Climate Action Plan.

The group recorded the work/recommendations of the Climate Conversation Workshop in a report that was submitted to Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications.