welcome

ACTIVE CITIZENSHIP

Training by Jillian van Turnhout, @jillianvt

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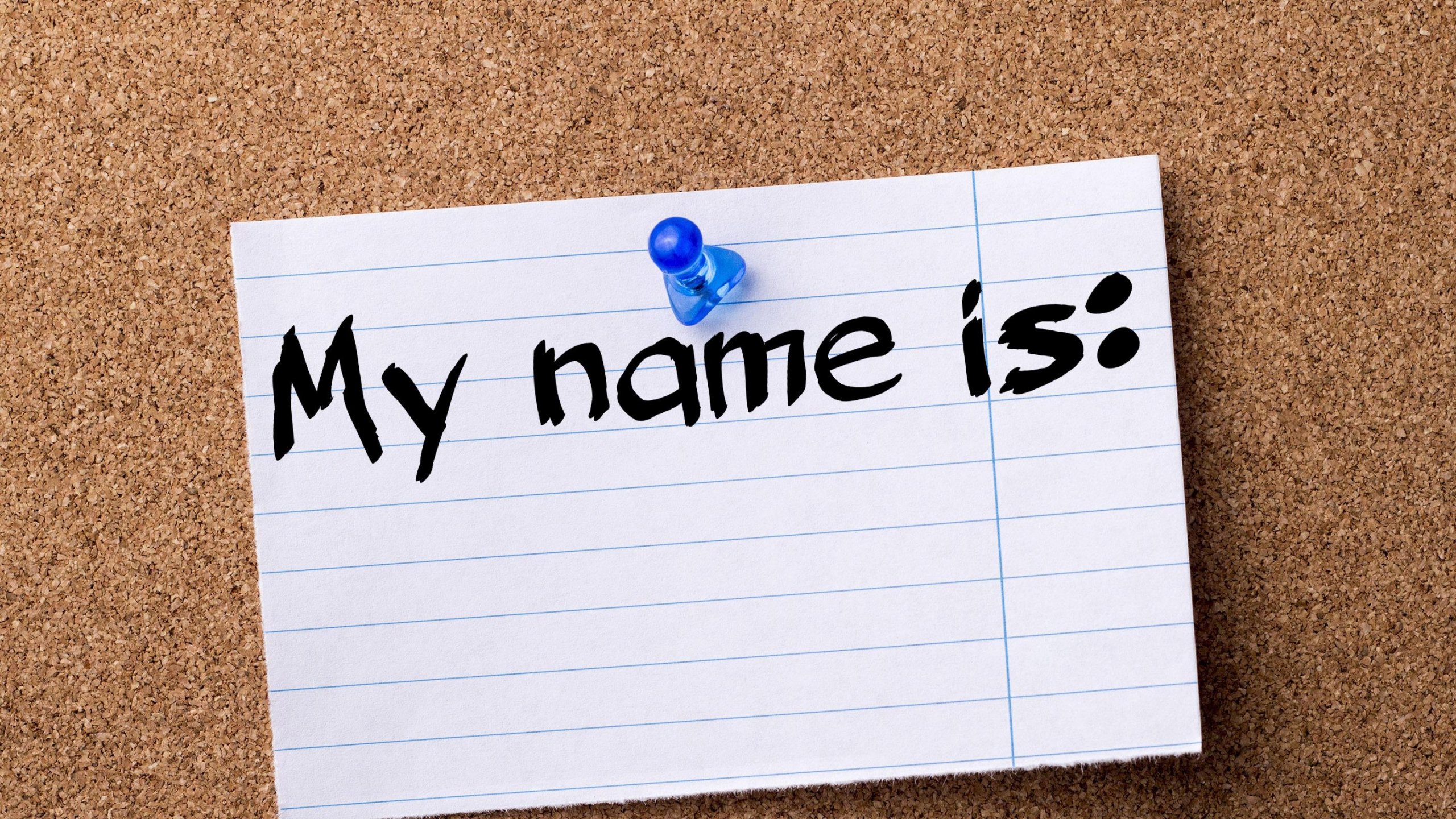
My name is:

AGENDA

- Welcome and Introductions
- Introduction to Training
- Active Citizenship
- Fingal PPN and Council
- Voting
- Empower
- Community Groups
- Recruitment and Retention
- Q&A

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FINGAL PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

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PPN???

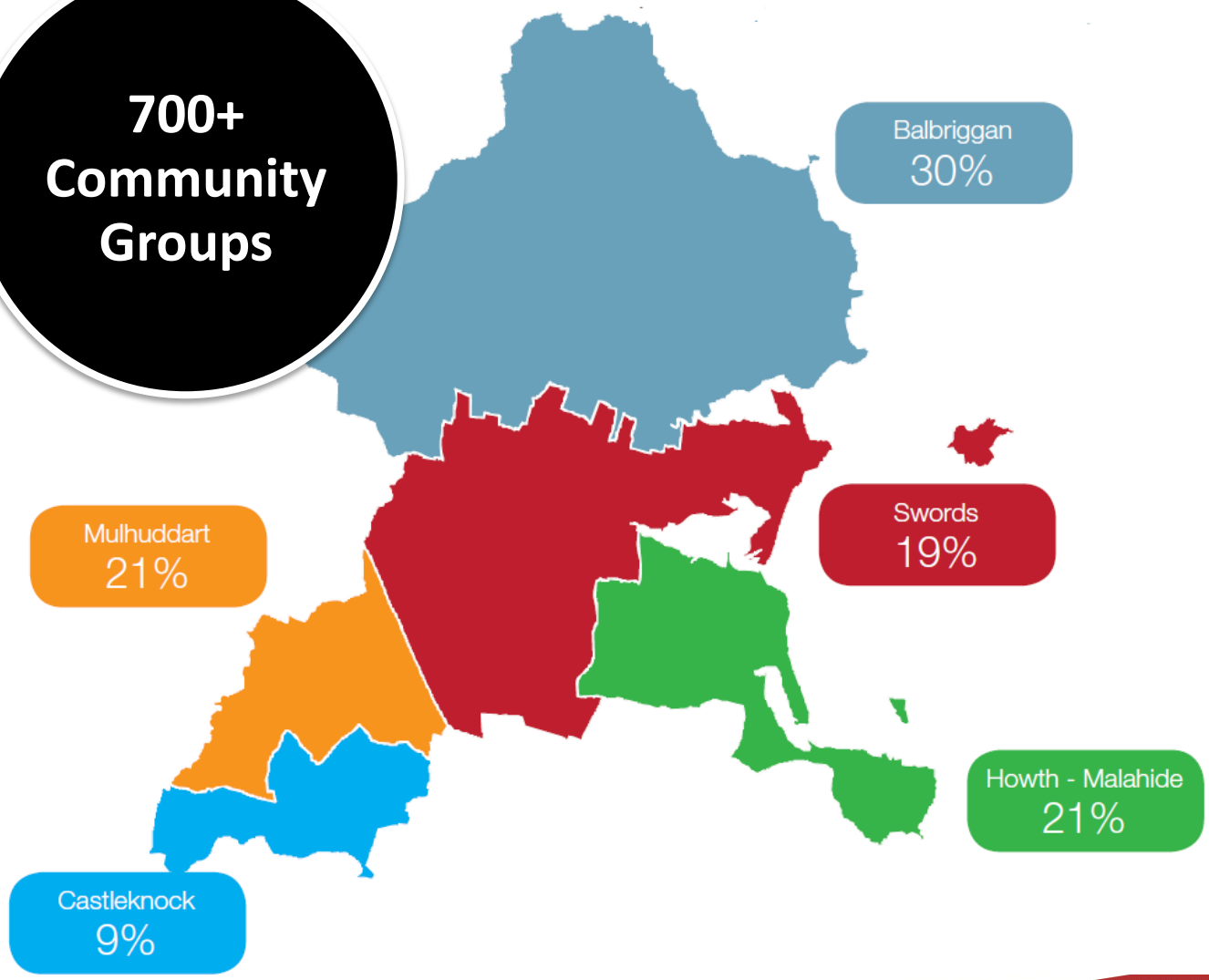
Fingal Public Participation Network

- Public Participation Network
  - A network of **community, voluntary**, **social inclusion** and **environmental** organisations.
  - 1 in each local authority area
- Over 12,000 registered **members groups** across Ireland
- Co-ordinate how communities are represented on Council committees.

Members

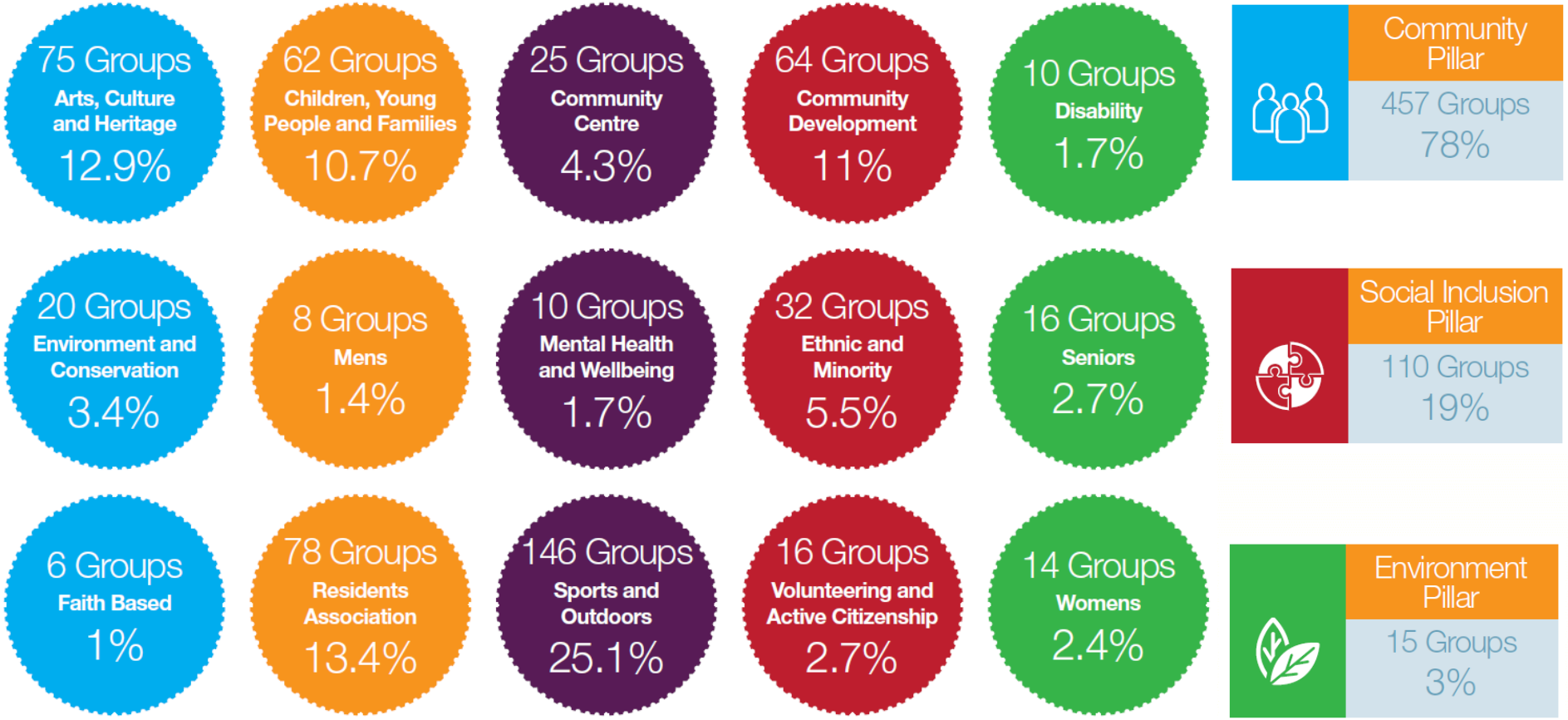
Fingal Public Participation Network

700+ Community Groups



Our Members

Fingal Public Participation Network



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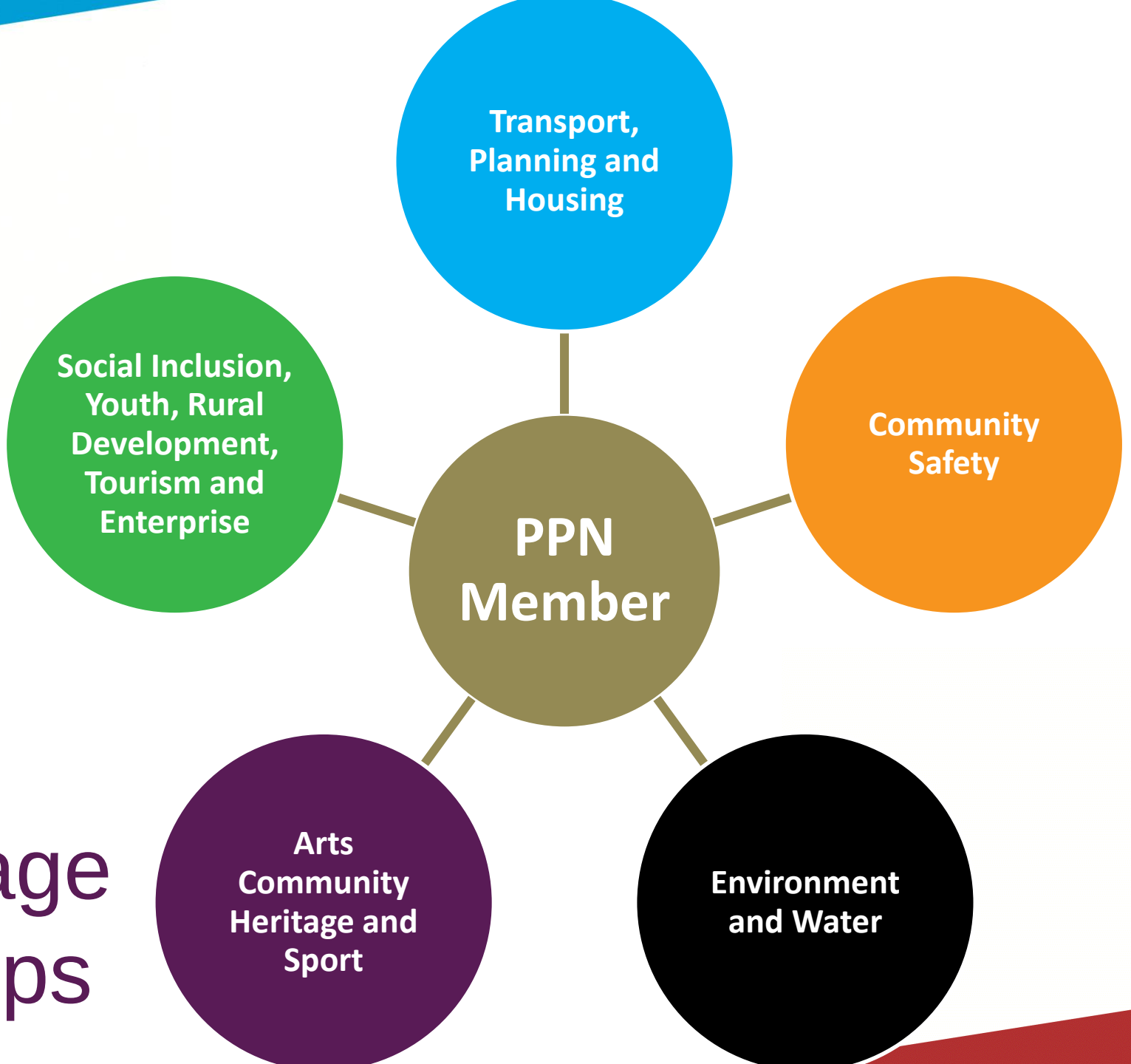
PPN Linkage Groups



Linkage Groups

Fingal Public Participation Network

- **Led** by a volunteer **Facilitator**
- **Network** of community groups with common interests
- Operate **Independently**
  - Report to the PPN Secretariat (board)
- Small fund for **Action Based Projects**

Overall strategic goal:

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.

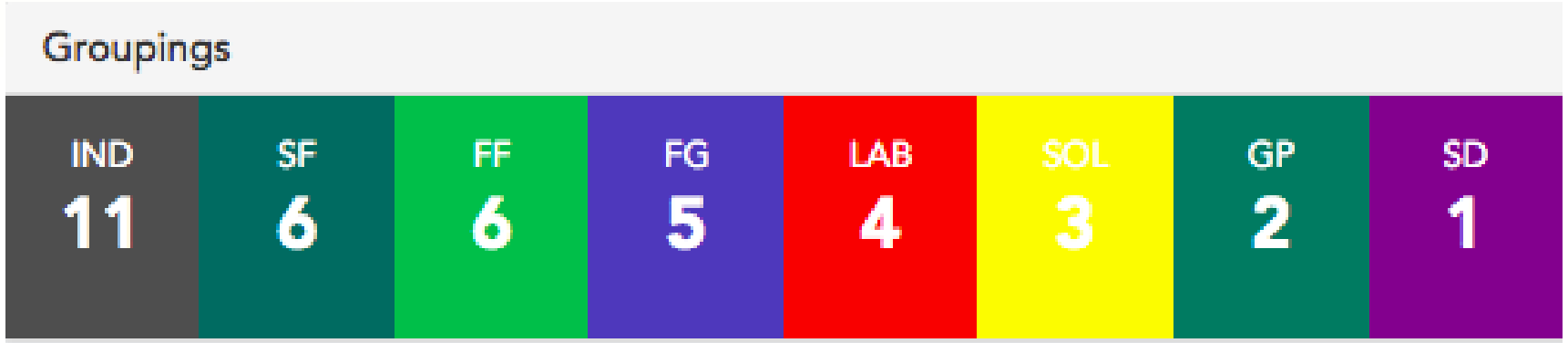
Its members are well **supported** and aware of their **ability** to make a **difference** for their community.

Other Networks

- Fingal Ethnic Network
  - info@fingalethnicnetwork.ie
- Fingal Environmental Network
  - fingalenvnet@gmail.com
- Fingal Senior Citizens Forum
  - Referral through ppn@fingal.ie
- Fingal Disability Network
  - fingaldisabilitynetwork@gmail.com
- Fingal Community Facilities Network
  - Referral through ppn@fingal.ie

Councillors

- 40 in Fingal on 5 Year Terms



- Budget
  - €237 million (Current Exp.)
  - €502 million (3 Year Capital Exp.)
- Local Elections May 2019

EMPOWER

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Reflection

Community Group

Highlights And Frustrations

WHAT DID OUR GROUP CONTRIBUTE?

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WHAT DO WE NEED IN 2019?

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT

Can you explain what your Community Group does in an elevator pitch?

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BEFORE YOU RECRUIT

- Why do you want volunteers
- What they will be doing (develop a simple 'role' description for each different volunteering role)
- What type of people you are looking for (develop a short person specification for each role)
- If and how you will select/screen potential volunteers
- How you will support them once they start volunteering with you

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RECRUITMENT MESSAGE

What social or other need is the organisation trying to tackle?

Can the voluntary work offered help to meet this need/solve this problem?

What does the voluntary work consist of?

Allay any fears that the potential volunteer may have ('I wouldn't be able to do that', 'why would they want me?' etc)

Outline the benefits to the potential volunteer of working with you (new friends, training, making a difference, getting work experience, etc)

How can the potential volunteer find out more; what is the next step they should take?

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CLARITY OF ASK

Volunteers need 4 key pieces of information

- When will they be needed?
- What will they be doing?
- How long a commitment is it?
- Who will provide mentoring and support?

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HOW TO RECRUIT

There is no one correct technique; creativity is the key and the limit is your imagination.

The type of person you are looking for will inform what the appropriate recruitment medium is.

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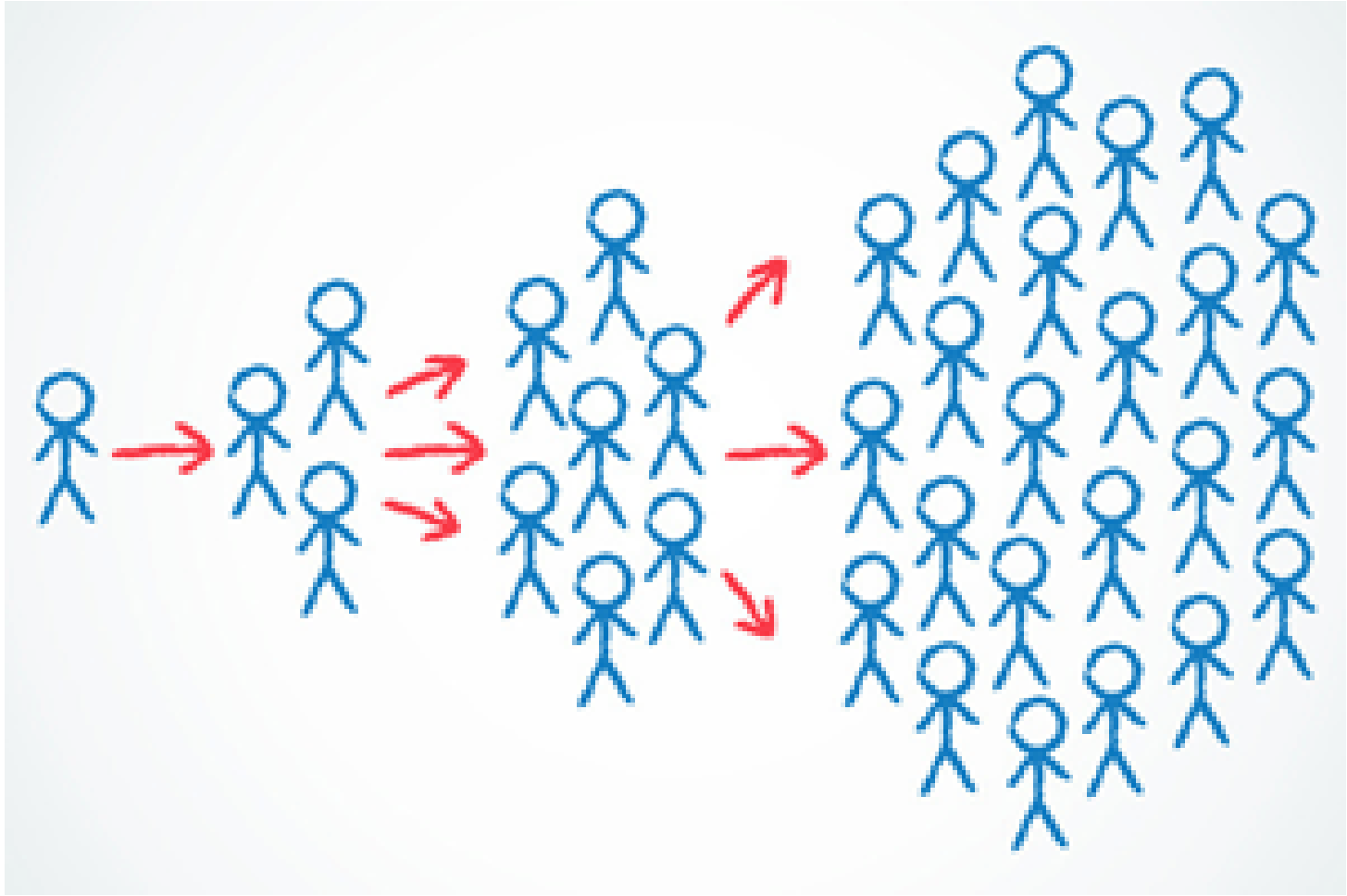
WORD OF MOUTH



ADVERTISE

- Local Press
- Community bulletins or noticeboards
- Flyers to hand out at local events
- Leaflets for community halls, schools, creches, your local doctors surgery
- School/Parish newsletter
- Local social media groups or websites
- Volunteer fairs
- A stand in supermarket/credit union
- www.volunteer.ie

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PERSONAL APPROACH

This has been proven to be the most effective way to recruit.

What could your group do?

- Coffee morning
- Local events
- Places where parents/adults have to wait

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RECRUIT CAREFULLY

When you've designed your volunteer opportunities, target the appropriate audiences to recruit those who are truly interested in the project.

Understand the characteristics of your existing team, and recruit volunteers to mirror this team.

Be honest about the workload and time commitment involved in the project.

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SCREENING PROCESS

Do you have a selection and screening process?

Screening and interviewing potential volunteers facilitates their commitment to the organisation or to the project at hand. It shows potential volunteers that you take both the project and their time seriously. Screening also gives you an opportunity to match qualifications and skills with your needs and the needs of your volunteers.

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RETENTION

Challenges of being a volunteer?

- Costs involved
- Childcare
- Flexibility around the type of work
- Balancing with other commitments

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RECOGNITION

Recognition shows that your organisation values volunteer support. They also provide a motivation for continuing commitment from your volunteers. Recognition should be both formal and informal.

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HOW CAN YOU RECOGNISE YOUR VOLUNTEERS

- Thank you note
- Article to acknowledge contribution
- Make a presentation
- Nominate for awards
- Remember their birthday
- Send a thank you message
- Play a request on the radio

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Volunteers don't get paid, not because they're worthless, but because they're priceless.
Sherry Anderson

Local and European Elections - Ireland Friday 24 May 2019

Who can vote in what?

- **Irish citizens**
  - every election and referendum
- **British citizens**
  - Dáil, European and local elections
- **Other EU citizens**
  - European and local elections
- **Non-EU citizens**
  - local elections only

What are the forms?

- **RFA 1:** Register of Electors

- **RFA 2:** Supplementary Register
  - You can register to vote upto 14 working days (incl. Saturdays) before the day of the election.

- **RFA 3:** Change of Address
  - Change of Address, you must already be registered

Postal Vote

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- **PV 2:** Post Vote
  - For people who won't make it to the polling station
  - You receive your vote 10 – 14 days before the election
  - A member of the Gardaí must confirm your identity before you post your vote.
  - You must post your vote at least 3 days before the polling date

CheckTheRegister.ie

Managed Volunteer
Citizen Governor
Consulted Citizen / View-Giver
Active Citizen
Community Activist
Good Neighbour
Community Group Member

QUESTIONS
ANSWERS

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