

# Fingal Public Participation Network

Activity Report  
November 2020 | Volume 9



Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



# Message from the Secretariat

As we come towards the end of 2020, this issue of our Activity Report focuses on the achievements of the PPN and our Linkage Groups throughout the year.

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, the April Plenary meeting was unable to proceed but we are delighted to be in a position to host our November plenary, albeit in a new format for all involved.

Fingal PPN members contributed hugely to their communities in the early stages of the Covid-19 Pandemic and really highlighted their invaluable contribution to society as a whole and continue to do so while the country navigates its way through this pandemic. 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 funds to deliver their services to those most in need.

Throughout September and October, Fingal PPN undertook our first re-registration process of all Fingal PPN member groups to help us target our supports to our members in Fingal. If you haven't re-registered, make sure to get in touch so that you continue to be able to attend training, access voting rights and participate in Plenaries and Linkage Group meetings.

While Covid-19 temporarily halted some of the work of our Linkage Groups, September saw the transition of these meetings into a pilot online format. While the initial pilot was successful, we will continue to strive to make this new format as open and inclusive as possible to ensure that all interested groups can attend. New representative roles for Fingal PPN linkage groups include two roles on the Fingal Heritage Forum to oversee the new Heritage Strategy for Fingal. As well as this, the Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise

Linkage Group members inputted into a subgroup that has led on the development the Fingal Inclusion Week for the second year running.

Looking ahead to 2021, we expect another busy and productive year for Fingal PPN. Our 35 PPN Representatives will continue to be immersed in their roles on various Strategic Policy Committees, the Local Community Development Committee, the Joint Policing Committee, the Fingal Sports Partnership and, for the first time, the Fingal Heritage Forum. Their commitment to representing the community is appreciated more than ever.

Finally, we thank you, our membership, for your on-going support and participation and look forward to continued engagement into the future.

**The PPN Secretariat**  
[secretariat@fingalppn.ie](mailto:secretariat@fingalppn.ie)

## Current Secretariat Members

The Secretariat is the board of volunteers who look after the day to day running of the PPN.



Anthony Brennan



Denise McDermott



Hanumantha Rao



Michael Walsh



Siju Jose



Claire Ann Ferry  
 Retired July 2020



Ema Idowu



John Melvin



Mary Harford

# Updates on November 2019 Plenary Motions

## Update on Motion to explore the establishment of local area PPNs

The National Guidelines for PPNs provides for the establishment of 'sub PPNs' in defined geographical areas in Counties that do not have Municipal Districts. This provision has not been activated in Fingal PPN to date.

The setting up of area based PPNs would have to be approached sensitively to ensure that existing area organisations such as community councils, community associations, etc. are not encroached or threatened by the setup of a local area PPN. If Fingal PPN were to proceed with the establishment of a local area PPN, the local area based PPN should:

- Operate as per the PPN User Guide and Fingal PPN constitution.
- Have reporting structures to the Secretariat and Plenary.
- Not undermine the existing roles of PPN Linkage Groups, the Plenary or the Secretariat.

## Recommended Action:

Progress on the proposed pilot of a local area based PPN in the Lusk area to take place in 2020 was impacted by several factors including staff resources and Covid-19. A recent meeting of Fingal PPN Secretariat approved the establishment of a sub-committee to explore this pilot project further in early 2021.

## Training and Workshops

In the summer of 2020, Fingal PPN organised seven workshops on the following topics: Implementing Regulator's Charities Governance Code, Volunteer Management, Using Zoom Effectively, GDPR, Cyber Security Issues & Covid-19 and Media Relations Training. Over 120 PPN members benefitted from this training and the resources are available on our website: [www.fingalppn.ie/training/](http://www.fingalppn.ie/training/).

Our autumn calendar of training included three workshops on 'Making Effective Use of Zoom' to assist PPN members with transitioning many of their supports and services online as a result of Covid-19.

Further workshops and supports were organised on the following topics:

**Biodiversity Action  
Plan Workshop**

**Building Resilient  
Communities:  
The SDG's as  
a Roadmap to  
Recovery Post  
Covid-19**

**Alcohol & Older  
People, for those  
working with older  
people or those who  
would like to know  
more about alcohol  
and older people**

**How to Make  
Your Community  
More Sustainable  
– Information on  
Sustainable Energy  
Communities  
Programme**

If you have any ideas of Training you think should be organised for PPN Members, let us know by dropping an email to [info@fingalppn.ie](mailto:info@fingalppn.ie).

# Fingal PPN Response to Covid-19

## Coordination of Volunteer Groups

Fingal PPN again collaborated with Fingal County Council's Community Department to co-ordinate local volunteer groups to set up appropriate supports in their local areas. Groups from all across Fingal, some new groups and other existing groups, were established to help their community to deal with the Covid-19 emergency. Fingal PPN along with Fingal's Community Development Officers were on hand at all times for advice and support to these groups during a time when most groups were diversifying into new areas to respond to local need. Fingal PPN were delighted to become involved in Fingal's Community Call Forum and supporting Helpline whereby Community staff worked with volunteer groups via the PPN to support people in the community. Fingal PPN established an interactive map of PPN groups involved in the Covid Response on the Fingal PPN website to signpost members of the public who were in need of assistance. Fingal PPN also gave advice and support to groups who wished to avail of the Fingal 2020 COVID Emergency Funding Scheme.

## Insurance for PPN Members

Fingal PPN organised an appropriate insurance policy through BHP Insurance to Fingal PPN members. This insurance was offered free of charge for volunteer groups who had no insurance or whose insurance company did not insure them for the expansion of their volunteering activities in response to Covid-19. This was a huge asset to PPN groups and reassured both those responding to Covid-19 through their voluntary efforts and the general public that the appropriate safeguarding measures were in place.



## #CoronavirusSolidarity Diary of Good News Stories

Fingal PPN along with Fingal County Council documented a diary of volunteering stories on the Fingal PPN website to capture the level of support and care that was demonstrated through the early stages of the pandemic and continues to be shown around Fingal. There are over 100 stories in this diary and such is the level of positivity that this diary brings to the local community, it is anticipated that Fingal PPN will continue to document these in a "good news diary" for all PPN community groups and members going forward. A copy of the #CoronavirusSolidarity diary has been sent to the Archive Section of Fingal County Council in order to record these stories for future generations.



# Information Sharing & Collaboration with Age Friendly Fingal

Fingal PPN became the information hub throughout the first stage of the Covid-19 pandemic. Community groups and individuals were able to rely on the information being circulated by Fingal PPN as being factual, accurate and up to date. In addition, Fingal PPN collaborated with Age Friendly Fingal to issue daily emails in the form of an easy to read newsletter. Social media posts were updated regularly and the Fingal PPN website had a highlighted section for Covid-19 news and information and assisted in distributing Cocooning Activity Books which were an initiative of the Community Department in Fingal County Council.

## Fingal PPN Finance Update

### 2020 Expenditure to Date

Overall expenditure for 2020 was impacted by Covid-19. There was considerable underspend in some areas of the budget for 2020 but all budgets have been retained for 2021.

### 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 is proposing 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. The PPN budget is split between fixed costs and program costs which are demonstrated in the table below.

Type	Item	2020 Budgeted	2020 Expenditure (23 October)	2021 Proposed	Note
<b>Administrative / Fixed Costs</b> ▶ (No effect on program budget)	Staff Salary	90,000	67,785.39	91,000	
	Staff Travel & Subsistence	4,500	143.32	3,000	Due to Covid-19, meetings were transitioned online
	Staff Training	1,000	0	1,000	Impacted by Covid-19
	FCC Annual Hosting Charge	7,000	5,833	7,000	
<b>Program Costs</b> ▶	Website / IT	2,500	5,851.50	5,000	Transitioned supports online as a result of Covid-19
	Design and Print	11,250	2,093.15	11,000	Impacted by Covid-19
	Plenary Costs	5,000	1,510.35	5,000	Reduced costs due to virtual nature of meetings
	Meeting Room Hire	3,000	399.05	3,000	Direct Result of Covid-19
	Consultancy / Training / Research	10,250	4,660	10,000	
	Access and Participation	5,000	2,500	5,000	
	Linkage Groups	5,000	704.10	5,000	
	Secretariat / Rep Training	3,000	1,500	2,000	
	Fingal Integration Forum	20,000	17,290.90	–	
<b>Total</b>		<b>168,500*</b>	<b>110,270.76</b>	<b>148,000</b>	

\* Actual Budget approved in 2020: €144,400

# PPN Progress and Achievements 2020

## FUNDING

### Fingal Inclusion Week

- Over 35 virtual events
- Training to support virtual content creation
- Equipment Packs for PPN Members

### LCDC

- 5 PPN Representatives on this committee
- 1 PPN Representation on Fingal LCDC Healthy Ireland Committee
- CEP Grants for PPN Members to be awarded in November

### Africa Day

- Virtual Africa Day Events due to Covid-19
- Contributions from nine PPN member groups and the Mayor of Fingal

### Communities4Environment

- 9 projects awarded x €2,000 prizes for PPN Members

### Fingal Community Response to COVID-19 Funding scheme

- 122 successful projects
- €119,029 in grants approved for PPN members

**These initiatives were delivered in Partnership with Fingal County Council and the Local Community Development Committee.**

## POLICY AND PROGRAMME INPUT

- Coastal Defence Proposals for Portrane & Rush
- Consultation on General Scheme of the Housing and Planning and Development Bill 2019
- Dart West Expansion Plan
- Donabate Urban Framework Plan
- Draft National Volunteering Strategy
- Draft Polling Scheme 2020
- Draft Local Area Plan for Kellystown, Dublin 15
- Fingal County Council Biodiversity Action Plan
- Fingal Heritage Plan
- Kellystown Road – Non-statutory Public Engagement
- National Annual Report on PPNs
- PPN User Guide
- Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy
- The Forest of Fingal, A Tree Strategy for Fingal

# PPN WORK PLAN

## Covid-19 Insurance for PPN Members

- Insurance Policy to support Covid-19 Response
- 12 groups covered
- 0 insurance claims
- Ensured delivery of services to those most in need
- Safeguarding of community and voluntary sector at a vulnerable time

## Fingal Community Directory Re-Registration Project

- 350+ PPN Members
- PPN Number
- Social Media Information

## Linkage Groups

- 15 Linkage Group Meetings by end 2020
- 5 Linkage Group Facilitators

## PPN Representatives

- 13 Strategic Policy Committee Representatives
- 6 Joint Policing Committee Representatives
- 9 Secretariat Members
- 5 LCDC Representatives
- 1 Fingal Sports Partnership Representatives
- 2 Fingal Heritage Forum Representatives

# 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 are overseeing this work on behalf of Fingal PPN.

Voice

Participation

Equal Access

Networking

## Aims and Objectives

The consultants will support, guide and mentor the Forum in progressing as a strong, vibrant, inclusive and dynamic group that is proactive in advocacy, representation, engagement and the provision of civic leadership whose efforts will contribute to the attainment of a more intercultural Fingal.

## Training & Capacity Building Programme Content

- Running meetings
- Effective decision making
- Principles and practices in community development
- Democracy in Ireland – how our State operates
- Representative and participative democracy
- Integration and Inclusion

This programme will conclude with all stakeholders being invited to input into preparing a proposed workplan for the Forum for 2021. More information on the workplan and the priority areas will be available in December.

Further information on Fingal Integration Forum will be made available in full at <https://fingalppn.ie/fingal-integration-forum/>



**16-21 NOVEMBER 2020**



[www.fingalinclusionweek.ie](http://www.fingalinclusionweek.ie)  [#fingalinclusionweek](https://twitter.com/fingalinclusionweek)

An initiative of Fingal County Council and Fingal Public Participation Network

## About Fingal Inclusion Week

Fingal Inclusion Week 2020 is an initiative led by Fingal County Council and Fingal Public Participation Network (PPN).

Over 35 virtual events will take place across the County of Fingal from Monday 16th November to Saturday 21st November. All Fingal Inclusion Week events are free to attend and open to everyone.

### Fingal Inclusion Week aims to:

Highlight the positive work that communities, agencies and other organisations are involved in to reduce social exclusion and poverty in Fingal.

Raise awareness of the barriers experienced by citizens of Fingal that lead to social exclusion.

Promote an understanding of inclusion in Fingal and celebrate diversity across the county.

## Fingal Inclusion Week Steering Committee

The organisation of Fingal Inclusion Week is overseen by a steering committee of PPN Members supported by officials from Fingal County Council and Fingal PPN. Members of the Steering Committee include representatives of Balbriggan Women's Development Group, Lusk Community Council, Mount Eustace Tyrrelstown Residents' Association, Naul Community Council and TU Dublin.

## How do I get involved in Fingal Inclusion Week?

It is easy! It is easy. Log onto <https://fingalppn.ie/fingalinclusionweek/> to see all the events scheduled from 16th - 21st November. You will also find further details on each event as well as instructions on how you can book into these virtual events.



## DIVERSITY AWARENESS, INTERCULTURAL COMPETENCY & ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP

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- Explore the concept of culture & how it impacts our perception of the world
  - Learn more about unconscious biases, prejudices and stereotypes
  - Understand the power dynamics between majority & minority groups
  - Learn how to react when you witness a racist incident according to the 'Ethical Witnessing' framework
- 

Zoom  
Thursday 19th November  
7pm- 8.30pm  
Contact [ppn@fingal.ie](mailto:ppn@fingal.ie) to  
book your free place



Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development



**Fingal  
Public  
Participation  
Network**

Learn to better  
develop an Annual  
Report

# COMMUNICATING YOUR CAUSE TRAINING

Monday 16th  
November 2020

7pm – 8.30pm  
Zoom

Book by emailing  
[ppn@fingal.ie](mailto:ppn@fingal.ie)



Understand more  
about defining  
outcomes & outputs  
& how each may be  
monitored & why  
both matter

Become more  
knowledgeable  
about how to use  
free graphics  
applications to  
improve visual  
communications  
online & in reports

Learn new ideas  
for promoting your  
community group  
or organisation  
externally



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

Comhairle Contae  
Fhine Gall  
Fingal County  
Council



# Linkage Group Update

While Covid-19 impacted the work of the Linkage Groups early in 2020, they are now fully operational online with committed members, facilitators and a dedicated staff support for their functions. Linkage Groups are valuable networks for PPN members to meet, discuss issues and plan advocacy efforts.



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

<b>Meetings this year</b>	6th February 2020, 24th September 2020 (2)
<b>Update</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fingal Festival of Voices presented at February meeting of Linkage Group with regard to the event</li> <li>• Presentation from NotSoDifferent also took place at the February Meeting</li> <li>• Linkage Group members joined a subgroup working as Steering Committee on Fingal Inclusion Week 2020 following a presentation from FCC Community Office</li> <li>• Transitioned Linkage Group meetings to Online Zoom meetings from September with the support of the linkage group facilitators</li> </ul>

**Remaining Meetings This Year** 26th November 2020

### Facilitator



**Denise McDermott,**  
socialruraleconomic@fingalppn.ie

### PPN Representatives

#### Local Community Development Committee:



**Alice Davis,**  
alice@fingalppn.ie



**Anthony Brennan,**  
anthony@fingalppn.ie



**Geraldine Rooney,**  
geraldine@fingalppn.ie



**Máire O'Brien,**  
maire@fingalppn.ie



**Roger Blackburn**  
roger@fingalppn.ie

#### Economic, Enterprise and Tourism Development Strategic Policy Committee:



**Kesava Gollapalli,**  
kesava@fingalppn.ie



**David Normoyle,**  
david@fingalppn.ie

## Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group

Meetings this year

20th February 2020, 17th September 2020 (2)

Update

- Biodiversity Action Plan workshop held on February 20th
- SEAI Sustainable Energy Communities to present at October Meeting of Linkage Group
- Successful nomination of Rep to the Fingal Heritage Forum to represent natural heritage interests within the county.
- Transitioned Linkage Group meetings to Online Zoom meetings from September with the support of the linkage group facilitators

Remaining Meetings This Year

29th October 2020

**Facilitator**



**Charles Sargent,**  
climatechangeenvironment  
@fingalppn.ie

**PPN Representatives**

**Water and Environment Strategic Policy Committee:**



**Seán Barry,**  
sean@fingalppn.ie



**Edward Stevenson,**  
edward@fingalppn.ie

**Fingal Heritage Forum**

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



**Brian Arnold,**  
brian@fingalppn.ie



**Thomas Murphy,**  
thomas@fingalppn.ie

## Community Safety, Crime and Policing Linkage Group

Meetings this year

11th February 2020, 1st September 2020

Update

- Continued engagement with the JPC
- Ensuring Joint Policing Committee priorities continue on the agenda.
- Garda reform remains high on the agenda of this group.
- Transitioned Linkage Group meetings to Online Zoom meetings from September with the support of the linkage group facilitators

Remaining Meetings This Year

17th November 2020

**Facilitator**



**TBC at November Meeting,**  
communitysafety@fingalppn.ie

**PPN Representatives**

**Joint Policing Committee:**



**Aisling Kelly,**  
aisling@fingalppn.ie



**Jossy Akwuobi,**  
jossy@fingalppn.ie



**Myles Caulfield,**  
myles@fingalppn.ie



**Pat Doyle,**  
pat@fingalppn.ie



**Ray Smyth,**  
ray@fingalppn.ie



**Tom O'Brien,**  
tom@fingalppn.ie

**1 Vacancy to be filled at November meeting**

## Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Linkage Group

Meetings this year	30th January 2020, 10th September 2020 (2)
Update	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Presentation from Fingal Festival of Arts</li> <li>• SPC elections were held in January</li> <li>• Nominations sought for Fingal Heritage Forum Rep and successful in approving one rep to bring forward built heritage issues to this Forum.</li> <li>• Transitioned Linkage Group meetings to Online Zoom meetings from September with the support of the linkage group facilitators</li> </ul>
Remaining Meetings This Year	3rd November 2020

### Facilitator



**Heidi Bedell,**  
artscommunitysport@fingalppn.ie

### PPN Representatives

#### Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Strategic Policy Committee:



**Abi Wise,**  
abi@fingalppn.ie



**Vacancy,**  
Social Inclusion



**Vacancy,**  
Environment

#### Fingal Sports Partnership Committee:



**Carl Cautley,**  
carl@fingalppn.ie

#### Fingal Heritage Forum

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



**Brian Arnold,**  
brian@fingalppn.ie



**Thomas Murphy,**  
thomas@fingalppn.ie

## Interested in joining a Linkage Group?

Attend any of the upcoming meetings.

Meetings take place at 7pm via Zoom. Sign up by emailing [ppn@fingal.ie](mailto:ppn@fingal.ie)

17th November

Climate Change,  
Environment and Water

19th November

Housing, Planning and  
Transport

26th November

Social Inclusion, Rural  
Development, Youth and  
Enterprise

## Transport, Planning and Housing Linkage Group

### Meetings this year

23rd January 2020, 3rd September 2020 (2)

### Update

- Received written reply from FCC Housing Department on vacant houses
- Nominations to relevant SPCs and Disability Steering Group
- Issued correspondence on behalf of the linkage group in relation to the Dart West Expansion plan and received acknowledgement of receipt of correspondence.
- BusConnects to remain on future agendas for updates.
- Transitioned Linkage Group meetings to Online Zoom meetings from September with the support of the linkage group facilitators

### Remaining Meetings This Year

19th November 2020

#### Facilitator



TBC at November Meeting,  
housingplanningtransport@fingalppn.ie

#### PPN Representatives

##### Transport Strategic Policy Committee:



**Doreen Keaney,**  
doreen@fingalppn.ie



**Raymond Ryan,**  
ray@fingalppn.ie

##### Housing Strategic Policy Committee:



**Dayakar Reddy Komirelly,**  
dayakar@fingalppn.ie



**Michela Benassi,**  
(retired Summer 2020)  
michela@fingalppn.ie

##### Planning Strategic Policy Committee:



**Greg Farrell,**  
greg@fingalppn.ie



**Kieran O'Neill,**  
kieran@fingalppn.ie

## Contact the PPN

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

#### Call, Message or WhatsApp

087 096 2549

**Email** [info@fingalppn.ie](mailto:info@fingalppn.ie)

/FingalPPN

@FingalPPN

[www.fingalppn.ie](http://www.fingalppn.ie)

Secretariat: [secretariat@fingalppn.ie](mailto:secretariat@fingalppn.ie)

Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports Linkage Group: [artscommunitysport@fingalppn.ie](mailto:artscommunitysport@fingalppn.ie)

Climate Change, Environment and Water Linkage Group: [climatechangeenvironment@fingalppn.ie](mailto:climatechangeenvironment@fingalppn.ie)

Community Safety Linkage Group: [communitysafety@fingalppn.ie](mailto:communitysafety@fingalppn.ie)

Planning, Transport and Housing Linkage Group: [planningtransporthousing@fingalppn.ie](mailto:planningtransporthousing@fingalppn.ie)

Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise Linkage Group: [socialruraleconomic@fingalppn.ie](mailto:socialruraleconomic@fingalppn.ie)

# National News

## PPN Secretariat Network

Tony Brennan continues as our representative on the network for Secretariats that has been established at National level. Tony is committed to representing Fingal PPN at the networks meetings as they move online.

## National PPN Conference 2020

The National PPN Conference due to have been held in October 2020, being hosted by County Wicklow PPN and Wicklow County Council, has now been rescheduled. The decision was taken following a meeting between the Department and the National PPN Advisory Group.

It will now be held on Thursday 13th & Friday 14th May 2021 in the Arklow Bay Conference & Leisure Hotel, Sea Road, Arklow, County Wicklow.

This will be the fourth National PPN Conference hosted by a PPN in partnership with their Local Authority. The Annual Conference is a means to showcase the operation of PPNs in practice and highlight best practice experiences. It makes for an ideal setting to hear of the achievements of PPNs within their respective counties in partnership with stakeholders and an ideal occasion for local authorities to demonstrate their commitment and support of the Network and the fundamental principles behind Citizen Engagement.

This Conference will again provide an invaluable networking opportunity for Resource Workers, PPN Secretariats, local authority staff, elected representatives and others to share experiences and to learn from one another. It will also provide an opportunity for the National PPN Advisory Group and the Department to interact with all stakeholders and advise of the latest developments in relation to PPNs.

We will be in touch with all Fingal PPN Representatives closer to the time to inform them of the new arrangements.

## PPN Annual Report

The National PPN Annual Report is now complete. Publicity and online event to be arranged for 19th November 2020.

## Review of PPN User Guide

The review of the PPN User Guide is completed and is scheduled to be launched on 19th November 2020.

## Full Review of PPNs

A structural review of PPNs is going out to tender.