



**Fingal
Public
Participation
Network**

Minutes

Linkage Group Name	Transport Housing & Planning
Venue	County Hall, Swords.
Date of Meeting	21 st November 2019
Attendees	Kathleen McCann, Doreen Keaney, Kieran O'Neill, Greg Farrell, Aneta Laska, Tony Brennan, Charles Sargent, Dayakar Komirelly, Ray Ryan, Michaela Benasi, Niall O'Reilly, Ray Smyth, George Mongey
In attendance	Jamie Moore (PPN) Jenny Foley (PPN) Loretta Hennessy (FCC) Justin O'Brien (Consultant)

1. Open, Welcome, Minutes and Matters Arising

Kathleen opened the meeting and conducted a round of minutes. The Agenda was slightly updated

- The presentation from Matthew McAleese, Director of Planning FCC was postponed, Matthew sends his apologies and will attend a future meeting, date to be determined.
- Loretta Hennessy, Housing Department will give a talk on the steering group currently being set up and is looking for representation from the PPN on the Disability Steering Group - for Housing people with a disability
- Bus Connects (to be on every Agenda going forward)

The minutes were proposed and seconded.

An enquiry on query from last minutes raised with Housing Department regarding vacant houses:

Reply from Housing Department:

Apologies for the delay in replying to your email below. I discussed with Margaret Geraghty, Director of Housing a possible presentation on Council owned vacant properties boarded up to the PPN. There are not that many vacant council owned properties boarded up. All our vacant council properties are currently undergoing repairs to bring them back into use.

Margaret is inclined to keep any presentation more towards our existing Vacant Homes process. This process involves citizens reporting vacant properties to the Council and we will investigate why it is vacant and encourage the owners, if we can make contact with them, to return the property to use and discuss possible solutions.

There is a small percentage of vacant private houses in Fingal for various different reasons, E.g. the owner may perhaps be in a nursing home or long term care, a house undergoing renovations, a house in probate. However, there is a general conscious at national level that there are not many private vacant properties in the Fingal region and that we would be one of the lowest in the country. This is due to the high asset value of a property in Dublin and there is no economic sense to keep a property vacant. There is a higher percentage of vacant houses down the country where rents and prices would be lower.

2. Discussion with Justin O'Brien, Consultant engaged by FCC for Equality Action Plan

Justin O'Brien, Consultant has been engaged by FCC to assist in the preparation of the Equality Action Plan. Part of this process involves meeting with Staff/ various Stakeholders and Service Users. Justin outlined the Equality Action Plan and asked for the groups opinions regarding the area of access to social housing and homeless services. He is writing a report on policy and procedures that need to be improved for EA Citizens and Non EA Citizens. A discussion took place with the group:

Is this national legislation are other Local Authorities doing the same, Justin confirmed yes it is a national issue and each LA will have an Equality Action Plan

Good to see a new initiative in this area of equality, however the main problem is that the LA are not building houses, Justin could not comment on this FCC issue

Micheala Benasi on behalf of Citizens Advice offered to help with this initiative and Justin's contact details will be sent out by email following the meeting (Jenny Foley)

3. Disability Steering Group – for Housing people with a disability

Loretta Hennessy gave an outline of a steering group that is being set up and a possible representation from the PPN on the Disability Steering Group- for Housing people with a disability. The membership comprises Director of Services, SEO and AO from FCC Housing Department, HSE reps, Approved Housing Bodies reps, St. Michaels House, Daughters of Charity, HAIL, NCBI and Deaf Hear, Prosper Fingal, Praxis. They are interested in having advocacy/community rep who has an interest in representing the Disability Sector. The Steering group meets quarterly and we liaise with the members of the Groups as the need arises. The PPN have not decided if the representative should come from this Linkage Group or from the Social Inclusion Linkage Group.

4. Reps Reports

Greg, Ray and Doreen gave an update (reports to be circulated Jenny Foley)

It was agreed at the meeting that any motions must come from the Linkage Group as a group and they must be approved by the Facilitator Kathleen McCann before submission.

5. Bus Connects

A discussion took place about Bus Connects issues. It was agreed that submissions can be submitted individually and there was no need for the PPN to submit issues on behalf of the members. However if any submission were received by close of Business on 28th November the PPN would collate them and submit them on 29th November (Jamie Moore)

6. Community Issues

As the meeting was coming up to the finishing time and a lot of time was taken up earlier in the meeting with the Equality Action Plan and Housing Steering Group discussions Q&A sessions Kathleen advised that unless there were major Community Issues that needed to be discussed at this meeting she would defer them to the next meeting.

7. Agreed Actions

- Circulate by email to the attendees Greenway Consultation details (Jenny Foley)
- Circulate by email to the attendees Loretta Hennessy's contact details (Jenny Foley)
- Circulate by email to the attendees Justin O'Brien's contact details (Jenny Foley)
- Bus Connects submission received by 28th November will be submitted on 29th November (Jamie Moore)

AOB.

As stated in Community Issues section, Kathleen advised that unless there were major AOB they would be deferred to the next Linkage Group Meeting.