

Welcome to Westmeath PPN The Voice of the Community

Your Representative and
Information Network for
communities in County
Westmeath



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The 4 Strategies of the PPN

Representation

Westmeath PPN facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sectors on decision making committees/structures.

Under the Local Government Act 2014 the setting up of PPNs in Ireland was to provide non-political representation. This takes the form of electing volunteer representatives from among the over 750 community groups which are members of Westmeath PPN.

Westmeath PPN is proud to have community representatives on 18 (committees/fora) from Joint Policing Committee to Local Community Development Committee to SPCs (Strategic Policy Committees).

Westmeath PPN is co-funded by Department of Rural & Community Development and Westmeath County Council.

Informing

Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and acts as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

Developing

Strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, community & voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate.

Networking

The final strategy of the PPN involves networking. This takes places in 3 ways:

1. Regular information exchange from the groups and to the groups through the PPN newsletters and website.
2. Annual gatherings of all community groups to liaise and work together on a variety of issues and items (Plenary & 2 Municipal District - Athlone/Moate & Mullingar/Kinnegad - meetings).
3. The development of networking groups based on themes of action called Linkage Groups.





What is a PPN made up of?

The Plenary

- The Plenary is essentially all the registered community groups in the county. At present this is over 750 registered PPN community groups in Westmeath.
- The Plenary meets twice per year to discuss issues, elect representatives to roles and to network to find active solutions to community challenges.

The Secretariat

- The Secretariat are the actioning body of the PPN. They are 8 in number and fulfil the day to day running of the PPN in liaison with the Resource Worker & Support Worker.
- 2 Secretariat Members are elected from each Pillar (Community & Voluntary; Social Inclusion & Environment) and 1 from each Municipal District (Mullingar/Kinnegad & Athlone/Moate).



How the PPN works

The Work

- At the beginning of their 5 year term of office Westmeath PPN Secretariat create a 5 year Strategic Plan; based on consultation with PPN member groups.
- Each year Westmeath PPN's Secretariat develops a workplan for the following year, based on strategic plan and in consultations with PPN member groups.
- This workplan is then submitted to the member groups at a Plenary session for mandating.
- Throughout the year the Secretariat and Resource Worker implements the actions of its Work plan, meeting at least every month.
- As volunteer representatives vacancies come up, these are advertised to member groups and open to election for fulfilment of community voice.

The Background

- The PPN is jointly funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development and Westmeath County Council.
- It liaises with both and sends regular reports of work and spending to ensure an open and accountable procedure.
- However, Westmeath PPN is an independent organisation, whose Secretariat are elected from among the PPN member community groups.
- In this way, though Westmeath PPN is supported and funded by Westmeath County Council & the Government, it is independent in its organisation and work.



The 3 Pillars of Westmeath PPN

Environment



The Environment Pillar of Westmeath PPN is made up of groups with a strong environmental goal in mind. These goals vary from action groups on sustainability and new technologies to wildlife groups and community gardens.

Although this is the lowest number of community registered groups, it is in comparison one of the highest in terms of activity and engagements, reflecting the active passion of the environmentally conscious volunteers in County Westmeath.

Social Inclusion



The Social Inclusion Pillar, is the second highest number of registered PPN groups. The main focus of these groups is to ensure that 'no one is left behind', and that minority groups are representation and supported.

Example of social inclusion groups include: Age Friendly, Integration groups, Active Retirement, Men's Sheds, The Disability Network, Westmeath Traveller Movement and many more.

This pillar is crucial to ensuring a fairer and more just society for all.

Community & Voluntary



The Community and Voluntary Pillar is vast, containing almost two thirds of all PPN groups, mainly because the aims and focus of the groups are so varied. The Community and Voluntary groups consist of any that do not fall into the other categories, including Tidy Towns, sports groups, clubs, hobby groups and many more.

There is no one main purpose of this sector, however community development could not happen without the volunteerism and passion of this varied spectrum of groups. As such, though widely different, this pillar brings a richness of involvement and experience that others do not.





The 2 Municipal Districts in Westmeath

Mullingar/Kinnegad MD

The Municipal District of Mullingar/Kinnegad spreads from the centre of the county to the far east and north of the county and takes in the towns of Mullingar, Kinnegad, Castlepollard, Streete, Clonmellon, Delvin, Collinstown and Milltownpass.

It has a rich agricultural heritage and natural environment with Loughs Ennell & Owel, bog lands, forests, rivers Brosna & Inny.

The main economic focus is in Mullingar Town, however despite the rise in population here, there are more community groups in rural than in urban areas of the county.

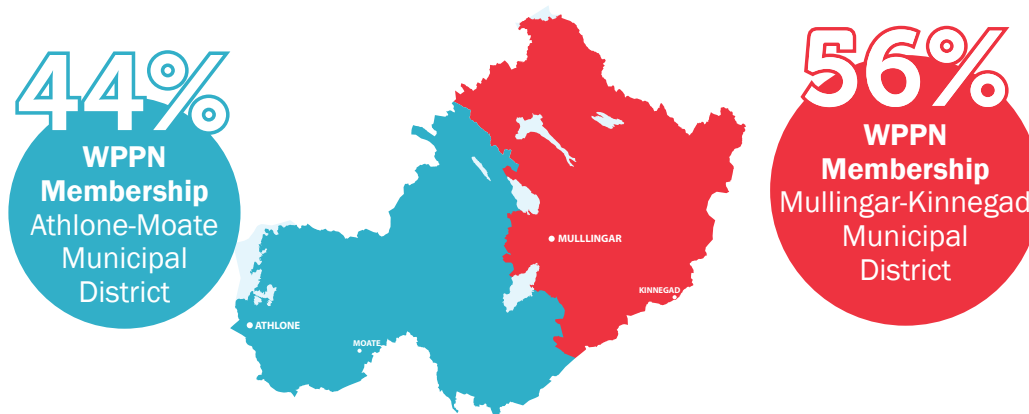
This Municipal District contains the highest number of PPN community groups in County Westmeath and the greatest frequency of community project activity.

Athlone/Moate MD

The Athlone/Moate Municipal District stretches from middle to the west of the county. It includes Athlone, Moate, Ballymore, Tyrrellspass, Castletown-Geoghegan, Kilbeggan, Mount Temple and Ballinahown.

It has a rich history which includes the ancient centre of Ireland, the Hill of Uisneach.

It has a terrain of rich pastureland, with its economic centre of Athlone.



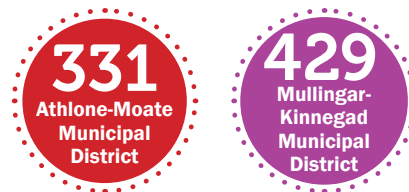
WPPN Groups by Pillar



WPPN Groups by year



WPPN groups by Municipal District



Number of members/
volunteers in PPN affiliated
groups approx. 30,000+





Representation fulfilled by Westmeath PPN

Westmeath PPN fulfills a community voice on each of these agencies. This fulfillment is intended to enrich the agency with a voice of community activists who will in turn meet with the community groups in their area or sector to provide a two way communication in their representation.

- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)
- Joint Policing Committee (JPC)
Strategic Policy Committee = (SPC)
- Economic Development, Enterprise and Tourism (SPC)
- Environment, Climate Action and Emergency Service (SPC)
- Housing, Community, Corporate and Culture (SPC)
- Planning and Transportation (SPC)
- Midland Regional Drugs & Alcohol Task Force (MRADTF)
- Westmeath County Childcare Committee
- Westmeath Community Development incl. Volunteer centre
- Westmeath Heritage Forum
- Westmeath Music Generation
- Westmeath Regional Sports Centre
- Westmeath Road Safety Forum
- Westmeath Age Friendly Council
- Westmeath Water Monitoring Committee
- Regional Money Advice & Budgeting Service (MABS)
- Westmeath Sport & Recreation Forum
- Athlone/Moate Municipal District
- Mullingar/Kinnegad Municipal District



Westmeath Community Wellbeing Vision 2020-2024

“Westmeath is a flourishing community with a thriving economy where we live and work sustainably. It is a welcoming and safe place which values and respects all people. We enjoy a beautiful and healthy natural environment and celebrate our rich heritage. Each of us has the freedom to live the life we choose and have a say in decisions that affect us. We all participate in our communities making them vibrant places where no-one is left behind. We are all supported to be the best that we can be.”



Westmeath Community Wellbeing Vision 2020-2024



It is envisioned that this Community Wellbeing vision/ statement will guide the work of Westmeath PPN, as well as how we do our work.

Soft copy of Westmeath Community wellbeing vision is available on WPPN Website under 'Resources'

We can also post out hard copies on request WPPN
044-9332157 info@westmeathppn.ie

www.westmeathppn.ie

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



Westmeath PPN 5 Year Strategic Plan 2021-2025

Purpose

The strategic plan's key purpose is to orientate the PPN's systems and resources in a common direction in order to achieve the agreed goals.

The strategic plan will also assist Westmeath PPN in further establishing credibility as an organisation and expanding the scale and scope of work conducted by the organisation.

WPPN Overall Strategic Goal

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



Westmeath PPN Strategic Plan 2021-25

Over all goal of WPPN

That Westmeath PPN is an integral and respected local decision-making partner and network.

It is engaged and pro-actively consulted in the development of all Westmeath community, social, economic and infrastructural policies.

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

1	2	3	4	5
Improving our Network	Improving our Communications	Improving our Membership Supports	Improving our Representation	Environment & sustainability
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Operate the network to the highest possible standard. 2. Develop working Linkage / Thematic Groups. 3. Grow Westmeath PPN membership in a planned and sustainable way. 4. Increase the operational capacity of the PPN. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Develop communications. 6. Showcase our achievements. 7. WPPN will work to communicate clearly and concisely to its members & the wider public. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 8. Provide a range of training supports. 9. Create more networking opportunities. 10. Sharing opportunities and supports for PPN Representatives. 11. Develop methods to make the PPN more understood and accessible to all. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 12. Progress the PPN as a mandatory consultative and participatory structure. 13. Foster key partnerships and explore further public participation initiatives. 14. Further develop relationships between the PPN relevant agencies, organisations and Public Representatives. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 15. WPPN will operate in an environmentally sustainable way. 16. WPPN will actively try to positively influence policy on issues such as Climate Action. 17. WPPN will strive to encourage our members to conduct their activities in a safe and environmentally responsible manner.



WPPN Linkage Groups

Arts,
Community,
Heritage
and Sports

Climate
Change,
Environment
and Water

Community
Safety,
Crime and
Policing

Social
Inclusion, Rural
Development,
Youth &
Enterprise

Housing,
Planning
and
Transport

- Linkage Groups are the way that PPN member organisations can have a real input into policy in their area of operation.
- Linkage Groups bring together all PPN groups who have a relevant interest or remit in a issue, to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific area; -regardless of which Municipal District or Pillar they belong to.
- WPPN representatives are all members of Linkage Groups; and so can hear the voice of PPN member groups, and also feedback any updates from the committees they are on.
- These Linkage groups nominate for election PPN representatives to Boards or Committees, receive feedback from those representatives and direct their activity.
- They may also set policy priorities and input into consultations etc. on behalf of PPN.
- This in turn helps the member organisations to gain a deeper understanding of the local policy process.
- It is important to note that the role of a Linkage Group is to facilitate and enable organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system, not to reduce this diversity.



WPPN Secretariat 2019-2023

Anne Drury

Social Inclusion Pillar,
Representative

Maureen McCormack

Mullingar/Kinnegad
Municipal District,
Representative

Hugh Farrell

Athlone/Moate
Municipal District,
Representative

John Mangan

Environment Pillar,
Representative



Dave Raftis

Environment Pillar,
Representative

Kevin Brady

Community &
Voluntary Pillar,
Representative

Catherine McEntee

Community &
Voluntary Pillar,
Representative

Margaret Kiernan

Social Inclusion Pillar,
Representative

Westmeath PPN

For more information Contact:

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