

**Westmeath PPN Plenary Meeting**  
**18:00-21:30pm, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2025**  
**Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar**



	<p><b>Present</b></p> <p>The record of attendance from the attendance sheet was 85 plus County Council employees.</p> <p><b>Apologies</b></p> <p>Apologies received from Merrin Rebecca Thomas (Secretariat), Vinny Bagnall (Secretariat), Eilish McDonnell, Hazel Behan, Jack O'Sullivan, Ger Connaughton, Sarah Killeen.</p> <p><b>In attendance WPPN Secretariat:</b> Cathy Whelehan (CW), Nick Linnane (NL), Angela Locke Reilly (ALR), Larry Quain (LQ), Joe McEvoy (JE)</p> <p><b>WCC Staff:</b> Jenny McKeon, Thelma Garvey, Margaret Egan, Brigid Geoghegan, Andrea Geoghegan, Edel Ennis, Kelly Keogh, Annette Barr Jordan, Andrew Slevin, Breda Reynolds, Veronica Moran, Anne Myler</p> <p><b>WPPN PPN Staff:</b> Mark Ahern (MA) and Martin Fagan (MF)</p>	
1	<p><b>Housekeeping and Welcome</b></p> <p>Martin Fagan outlined the housekeeping arrangements.</p> <p>Nick Linnane, Secretariat, welcomed the gathering and thanked the PPN Resource Workers, Secretariat and Westmeath County Council employees and Bloomfield Hotel for the organisation.</p> <p>Nick outlined items on the agenda including approving the 5-year Strategic Plan and reviewing the PPN Workplan 2025 and approving the PPN Workplan 2026.</p> <p>A minute silence was held for deceased former Secretariat member Mick Kenny and members of community groups who have passed.</p>	
2	<p><b>Agenda.</b></p> <p>Martin Fagan circulated the agenda to all members prior to the event.</p>	
3	<p><b>Minutes of previous Plenary 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</b></p> <p>The minutes were proposed by Nick Linnane and seconded by Angela Locke Reilly. There were no matters arising.</p>	
4	<p><b>Presentation on the Local Community Safety Partnership-</b></p> <p>Brigid Geoghegan, Community Safety Coordinator, presented on the Local Community Safety Partnership. There were questions from the floor following the presentation. Brigid acknowledged concerns raised about safety in the community and referred to an upcoming consultation where people will have the opportunity to engage. The slides will be made available on the PPN Website.</p>	
5	<p><b>Review of 5-Year Strategic Plan and Workplan 2026</b></p>	

	<p>Mark Ahern, PPN Resource Worker, Angela Locke Reilly and Cathy Whelehan, Secretariat, presented information on the PPN workplan. Key items included plans for re- registration in 2026, Strategic Plan 2021-2025 achievements and reviewing PPN Workplan 2025.</p> <p>The presentation also outlined the Strategic Plan 2026-2030. This Strategic Plan includes suggestions made at PPN consultations with its member base in Q3 2025. The Strategic Plan 2026-2030 was approved by a unanimous show of hands. The PPN Workplan 2026 was approved by a unanimous show of hands.</p>	
<b>6</b>	<p><b>Ratifications of Nominations for Committees</b></p> <p>Nominations were sought for committees requiring PPN representation.</p> <p>Potential representatives were invited to speak.</p> <p>Nominees included:</p> <p>Brian Browne - Biodiversity Working Group Rep  John Bawle - Secretariat (Environment Pillar) and LCDC Rep (C&amp;V)  Joe Whelan - Midlands Region Drug and Alcohol Taskforce  Cathy Whelehan - Local Community Safety Partnership (Rural Interest MDMK)  Cara Guilfoyle - Local Community Safety Partnership (Rural Interest MDAM)  Pat Grimes - Local Community Safety Partnership (RAPID)  Philip Woods - Local Community Safety Partnership (RAPID)</p> <p>All of the nominations above were ratified by a show of hands.</p>	
<b>7</b>	<p><b>Presentation on Community Climate Action Programme</b></p> <p>Andrea Geoghegan, Community Climate Action Officer, presented information on the Climate Action Grant. The closing date for submissions is the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 2025. Andrea explained this is a competitive grant and fully funded. She encouraged people to contact her if they have queries.</p>	
<b>8</b>	<p><b>Presentation on STEM Supports</b></p> <p>Kelley Keogh, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Engagement Officer, presented information on outreach programmes in the Midlands Region. Kelley encouraged groups to contact her about workshops including VEX Robotics and AI (Artificial Intelligence).</p>	
<b>9</b>	<p><b>Rep/Linkage Group Questionnaire</b></p> <p>A discussion on Linkage Groups took place at each table. Each table had a Westmeath County Council employee tasked with facilitating discussion, completing the questionnaire and reporting back to the room. The questionnaire had up to 18 questions.</p> <p>Feedback to the room included some reoccurring themes as outlined below. People considered the discussion a valuable exercise. There were a number of suggestions including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation is written in Plain English</li> <li>• More outreach and in-person Linkage group meetings</li> <li>• Linking groups with similar objectives to share knowledge</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of the PPN website for FAQs</li> <li>• Develop a calendar of events for PPN website</li> </ul>	
<b>10</b>	<b>AOB</b> MF invited questions from the floor, there were no further questions or comments.	
<b>11</b>	<b>Close</b> MA thanked the attendees and contributors and the meeting ended at 9:30pm.	