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**Public  
Participation  
Network**

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# **ANNUAL REPORT 2020**



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## FOREWORD BY MAYOR OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF LIMERICK, CLLR. MICHAEL COLLINS

I am delighted to present the 2020 annual report for Limerick Public Participation Network.

Volunteer-led groups and organisations make a huge contribution to Limerick's communities, economy and environment. Regardless of size, all civil society groups and organisations have an important role to play in making Limerick a great place to live, work, learn, play and age in.

Membership of the Limerick Public Participation Network presents a distinctive opportunity for community organisations in Limerick to be directly and collectively involved in local democratic processes.

The EU and OECD highlight that the participation of citizens in public life, and their right to influence the decisions that affect them and their communities are at the centre of democracy.

Public participation is the interaction between government and citizens, and can go from informing and consulting at one end of the scale, to implementing jointly-agreed solutions at the other end. In between there is dialogue, debate and analysis.

Participation is more than voting (representative democracy) and is about people and government working together in partnership (deliberative democracy).

The Public Participation Network presents an important way for this to happen in Limerick.

It is based on the beliefs that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process and that better and more sustainable decisions are made when the voices of all stakeholders are heard.

Over the course of 2020, Limerick Public Participation Network began in earnest to mature into a strong and vibrant network committed to working with Limerick City and County Council and other partners to make Limerick a better place for all citizens.

This started with the election of a PPN representative onto the Advisory Group on the Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick – a historic development that will see Limerick with the first Directly Elected Mayor in Ireland.

This led to the Public Participation Network organising eight online public consultations for both PPN members and the wider community in Limerick on the Directly Elected Mayor. This was noted by both the Advisory Group and the University of Limerick as particularly valuable due to the time and other constraints emerging in the early months of the pandemic.

The year closed after four further rounds of elections and the vast majority of sectoral seats on various Council committees filled.

Throughout 2020, there were also a number of capacity-building initiatives which focused on supporting civil society in Limerick to effectively engage with local policy-making. I am delighted to note how various Limerick City and County Council staff presented to Linkage Groups or to the wider Public Participation Network membership on the five Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee, the Local Community Development Committee, the new Development Plan and the Council's online public consultation portal, MyPoint.

I am also very happy to note that Limerick Public Participation Network was able to avail of the Council's MyPoint facility to effectively run secure and private online elections.

I have heard of and seen Public Participation Network representatives in action at various Council committee meetings and I commend their commitment and energy and their willingness to bring forward not only their views but moreover, the diverse views of the wider Public Participation Network membership through the various Linkage Groups.

I have seen how even more robust debate has emerged in the various Council committee meetings, and this all makes for open and inclusive policy-making, greater transparency and accountability, building community capacity and increased buy-in and better decision-making.

I recognise that people have given a lot of time and energy to making the Public Participation Network structures work so as to give all members an equal voice in a respectful and transparent manner and to manage to bring all these perspectives together so that they can inform Council discussions.

Making decisions at local government level is not straightforward, with so many perspectives to take into account. Rather than seeing this as an obstacle, Limerick Public Participation Network and its nominated representatives have risen to meet the challenge fairly and squarely – not always agreeing and often challenging, but nonetheless continually looking to understand different viewpoints, present an informed case and work together to improve quality of life and wellbeing of all citizens and communities in Limerick.

I want to congratulate Limerick Public Participation Network for what was achieved in 2020. I wish to confirm that Limerick City and County Council remains committed in its support of Limerick Public Participation Network in various ways including funding, administration, communications and ensuring all citizens in Limerick have a say in the policies and decisions that affect their lives and their local communities.

**Cllr. Michael Collins**

**Mayor of the City and County of Limerick**

## FOREWORD ON BEHALF OF LIMERICK PPN SECRETARIAT

Three priority actions agreed by the Plenary in Autumn 2019 (election of new Secretariat, nominations and elections for vacant seats on all Council committees and briefing for members on PPN and Local Authority structures) – along with an additional priority agreed as essential by the Secretariat (preparation and adoption of a constitution) – guided our efforts since our election and throughout 2020, with sixteen Secretariat meetings held and relationships strengthened with all PPN stakeholders.

We have been committed to ensuring that Limerick PPN achieves what was established to do and to do so in a transparent and accountable manner. 2020 was a busy year for Limerick PPN, despite the challenges posed by the public health crisis, with a range of events that are outlined in this report. A significant development in late 2020 was the publication of the PPN Handbook by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This document is an important tool to help Limerick PPN going forward. It will facilitate the review of the PPN Constitution in 2021, the development of a strategic plan and the development of the 2021 workplan.

Limerick PPN goes into 2021 in a much stronger place than when it went into 2020, with 132 members, a solid Secretariat, a constitution, 87% of seats (33/38) seats on Council committees filled, a terms of reference for PPN Linkage Groups adopted by Plenary and a range of support structures to support public participation in Limerick, including eight Linkage Groups. We look forward to building on these successes together and hope to see new people joining the Secretariat as the PPN establishes itself as the vibrant structure supporting public participation in Limerick.

**Michael Quilligan**

**Facilitator, on behalf of Limerick PPN Secretariat**

### Members of Secretariat

- a) Catherine Dalton, Environment
- b) Jack O'Connor, Newcastle West
- c) John Buttery, Limerick Metropolitan
- d) Michael Quilligan, Social Inclusion
- e) Noreen Stokes, Cappamore-Kilmallock
- f) Patrick Cummins, Community
- g) Patrick Fitzgerald, Social Inclusion

*As of March 2021:*

- h) Aidan Hogan, Environment
- i) Sean Kelly, Adare-Rathkeale
- j) David O'Brien, Community

**“Limerick PPN goes into 2021 in a much stronger place than when it went into 2020.”**

## OVERVIEW OF MEMBERSHIP








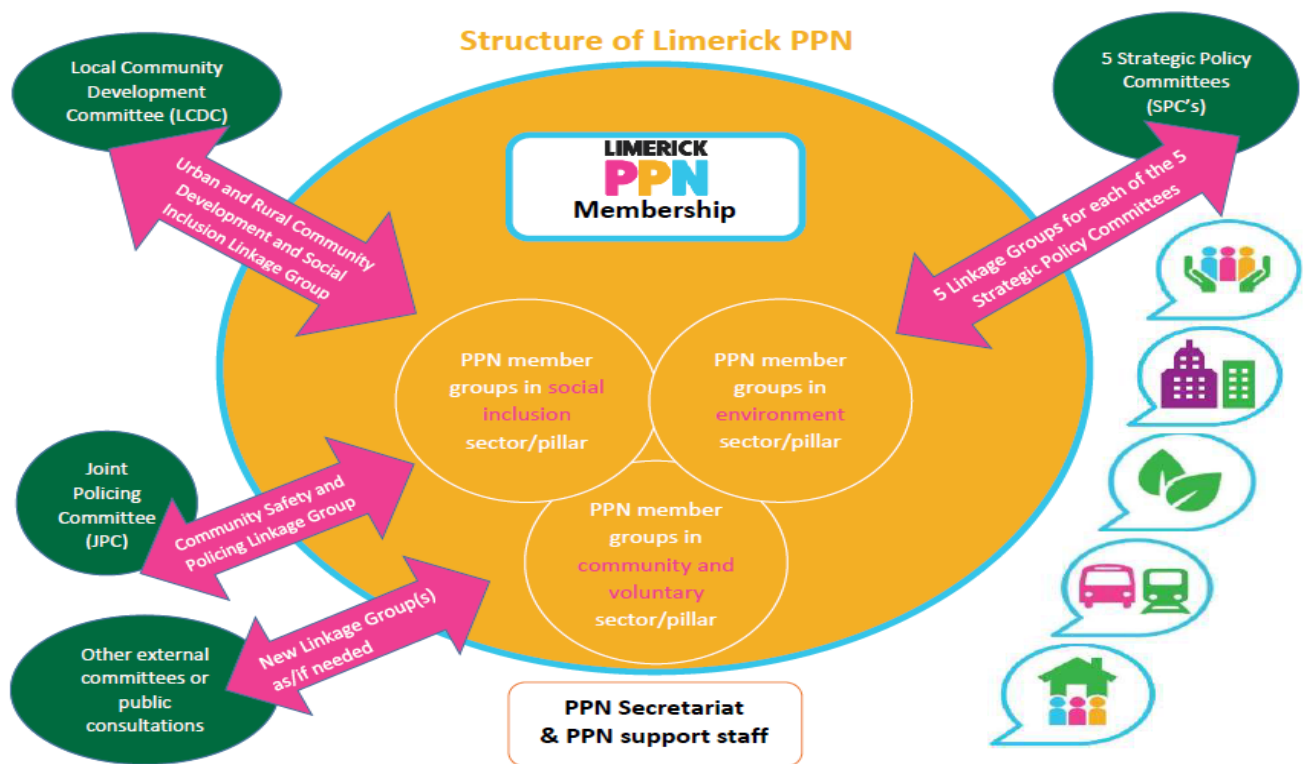
Pillar/Sector	Full members 31/12/20	Associate Members 31/12/20	Municipal District	Full members 31/12/20	Associate Members 31/12/20
 Community and Voluntary	75			88	1
 Social Inclusion	46	1		23	
 Environment	10			11	
				9	
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	

Table: overview of membership

### Notes on membership

- Details of the three pillars/sectors of the PPN can be found on [limerickppn.ie](http://limerickppn.ie)

### Structure of Limerick PPN



Graphic showing PPN structure

## PPN REPRESENTATION ON EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

### Nomination to the Implementation Advisory Group (IAG) for the Directly Elected Mayor

At the request of the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in November 2019, Cillian Flynn (GOSSH) was elected by the Plenary in February 2020 onto the IAG. The Secretariat acted as a Linkage Group. The IAG concluded its work in October 2020. A presentation was made at the December 2020 Plenary meeting by Cillian and IAG Chair, Tim O'Connor. Limerick PPN acknowledges the contribution of Cillian for both representing the PPN and reporting back to the PPN so well. More information can be found on the [Limerick PPN website](#).

### Nomination and election of PPN representatives to local structures

Following the election to the DEM IAG and the adoption of the PPN constitution, elections to Council committees commenced in February 2020. Due to the Covid pandemic, the successful nominees in these elections were not ratified by Limerick City and County Council until its deferred meeting in late June 2020. Three further rounds of PPN elections were held in July, September and October. These were facilitated by having access to Limerick City and County Council's MyPoint platform – giving the PPN a secure platform for online elections to take place. Another election took place in November for two seats on a new group for the URBACT Health and Greenspace project. One of these seats was filled. The breakdown of the representation across the various Council committees as reported at the December Plenary meeting is shown in the table on the next page.

### Notes on representation on external committees

1. Limerick PPN acknowledges the valuable contribution played by those representatives on the LCDC whose term came to an end or who resigned in 2019-2020. Many thanks and best wishes to Trish Forde Brennan (Limerick Grow It Yourself), Liz Price (Limerick Women's Network) and Zara O'Driscoll (Croom Family Resource Centre).
2. It is with regret that Limerick PPN learnt of the passing in December of one of the PPN representatives on the Community, Leisure and Culture SPC. Oliver Creighton. Oliver was nominated by Limerick Seniors Forum and was a well-known and respected community representative who will be missed.

	Committee	No. of seats	No. of PPN Reps		Total occupied seats	% occupied seats	No. of empty seats	No. of Community and Voluntary Pillar Reps	No. of Social Inclusion Pillar Reps	No. of Environmental Pillar Reps
			Male	Female						
1	Joint Policing Committee	7	2	3	5	71%	2	1	3	1
2	Local Community Development Committee	5	1	4	5	100%	0	2	2	1
3	Travel & Transportation SPC	4	2	2	4	100%	0	2	1	1
4	Climate Action, Biodiversity & Environment SPC	4	2	2	4	100%	0	2	0	2
5	Community, Leisure & Culture SPC	7	3	4	7	100%	0	4	2	1
6	Home and Social Development SPC	5	0	3	3	60%	2	2	1	0
7	Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC	4	3	1	4	100%	0	2	1	1
8	Limerick URBACT Health & Greenspace local group	2	1		1	50%	1	1	0	0
		38	14	19	33		5	16	10	7
			33					33		

**Table: Breakdown of the representation across the various Council committees as reported at the December Plenary meeting**



## SUPPORT STRUCTURES FOR PPN REPRESENTATIVES AND LINKAGE GROUPS

	Yes	No
Linkage Groups	✓	
Thematic or Activity Networks (specific purpose, e.g. Disability Network, Social Inclusion Network)		x
Representatives Charter	✓	
Training for PPN Representatives	✓	
Meeting Feedback Forms Completed by Reps	✓	

Table: Overview of support structures for PPN representatives and Linkage Groups

### Notes on PPN support structures for PPN representatives

1. At the beginning of 2020, none of the above structures were in place. They are now embedded in the constitution and active.
2. While there are currently no thematic groups, the constitution does allow for them

### Linkage Groups

- a) Eight linkage groups were established to support the PPN representatives on the various committees and discuss matters relevant to their respective committees.
- b) An online communication space (Salesforce Chatter) for each of the Linkage Groups was established, meaning that members can communicate directly in a secure and transparent manner.
- c) All but one Linkage Group met online at least once in 2020. These meetings were initially supported by Secretariat members. It is anticipated that Linkage Groups will be self-managing.
- d) Statements of Outcomes from Council committee meetings were generally prepared by the PPN representatives on all the external committees. These are jointly-prepared between the representatives on a given committee and then communicated directly with the Linkage Group members via Chatter. The agreed Statements of Outcomes were also published on the PPN website on their respective Linkage Group pages.
- e) Where Linkage Groups had access to both the PPN representatives' Statement(s) of Outcomes and Council committee meeting documentation, the Linkage Group meetings were particularly productive.
- f) Overview of Linkage Group meetings between October and December 2020:



#### 1. Urban and Rural Community Development and Social Inclusion Linkage Group:

- Met once
- At first meeting: presentation by the LCDC Chief Officer





## **2. Travel and Transportation Linkage Group:**

- Met three times
- At first meeting: presentation by the SPC meetings administrator from the Council
- Prepared and made a submission on the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS)
- Discussed a presentation made by one of the PPN members on the Schoolgate Project which was on an upcoming SPC meeting
- A member of the group to facilitate the next Linkage Group meeting in 2021



## **3. Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Linkage Group:**

- Met once
- At first meeting: presentation by the SPC meetings administrator from the Council
- The representatives on this SPC actively shared information and received feedback from Linkage Group members on Chatter on items relating to the SPC meeting agendas



## **4. Community, Leisure and Culture Linkage Group:**

- Met once
- At first meeting: presentation by the SPC meetings administrator from the Council
- Agreed to make recommendation for consideration by Plenary to have Council committee meetings' documentation enough in time to facilitate meaningful discussion within the Linkage Group
- One of the PPN representatives to facilitate the next Linkage Group meeting in 2021



## **5. Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Linkage Group:**

- Met twice
- At first meeting: presentation by the SPC meetings administrator from the Council
- The four PPN representatives on this SPC made direct contact with Linkage Group members to encourage and facilitate engagement in the discussions around what is being discussed by the SPC
- There were robust discussions and significant sharing of information at both meetings
- The four representatives will initially rotate the role of Facilitator of the Linkage Group in 2021



## **6. Home and Social Development Linkage Group:**

- Met once
- Webinar held in September with Limerick City and County Council Director of Service to explain this SPC
- There was a robust discussion about the Regeneration Programme which helped inform the PPN representatives before an SPC meeting
- The three PPN representatives on the SPC to initially rotate the role of Facilitator of the Linkage Group in 2021



## **7. Community Safety and Policing Linkage Group:**

- Met once
- At first meeting: presentation by the SPC meetings administrator from the Council
- Five of the seven PPN seats on this committee filled

## EXAMPLES OF INFLUENCE OF PPN REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES



### Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC

#### July 2020

- PPN representative seconded motion for public toilet in Castletroy, queried if cost could be reduced by outright purchase, and asked if it was possible to obtain cost options.

#### December 2020

- At the next CABE Linkage Group meeting PPN representative said they would propose the Linkage Group discuss the Local Authority Climate Action Plan and formulate a list of questions, if they arise, to communicate to Limerick City and County Council.



### Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning SPC

#### October 2020

- PPN representatives actively contributed to the discussion on a motion to delist all derelict protected structures. The outcome was that the motion was not to go forward to the Council pending a full review.

#### November 2020

- Report on *Supporting Limerick SME's through Challenging Times and Change* was discussed and it was recommended with PPN representatives' support that the Council set up a task force on the matter.
- PPN representative raised the issue of small businesses being restricted for tendering for local authority work because of the high turnover and insurance levels required to qualify.



### Home and Social Development SPC

#### October 2020

- PPN representative stated that it is important that the option to purchase is available to tenants to create sustainable communities with a mix of tenure private and rental, as some AHB's do not have that option.
- PPN representative stated that taking into consideration environmental impact, energy saving and long term saving on maintenance, the thermal upgrade of approximately 150 homes in Limerick is value for money. It is vital the Local Authority maintain housing inspections & carry out maintained where necessary so that the homes are maintained in good condition.

#### December 2020

- PPN representative asked about the Mortgage to Rent Scheme and take up on same following the high levels of long-term mortgage arrears (based on recent figures released by Central Bank) and also advised that eligibility criteria is an issue.



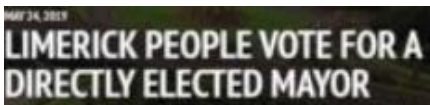
## Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

### July 2020

- Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Small Grants initiative – recommendations proposed by PPN representative
- EU Leader Programme - PPN representatives involved in discussion and proposed/seconded individual projects

### September 2020

- Community Enhancement Programme - PPN representatives suggested that support needs to be offered to groups requiring assistance with grant applications.



## Implementation Advisory Group on the Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick

### June 2020

- PPN representative asked group to inform the PPN when the public consultation process was to begin to help create awareness and encourage participation. Also stressed the importance of individual people's responses and not just community groups represented by PPN.

### July 2020

- PPN representative stated the PPN is more than an information dissemination tool and the PPN should have been more involved in the process. This was noted by the Advisory Group members.

### September 2020

- PPN representative thanked the consultant for their work in facilitating the consultation process and collating the final report. Limerick PPN and the PPN representative on the Advisory Group were thanked by Dr Adshead and the Advisory Group Chair for their involvement and support of the public consultation process.

### October 2020

- PPN representative raised the issue of Gender Neutral language. In order for the report to be inclusive to all members of the public who read this it was suggested to remove He or She and replace it with "The Mayor" or They. This was approved by all present and the secretariat was to update the final document.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Communications were done via:



1. Salesforce/email
2. Salesforce Chatter
3. Website
4. Social media




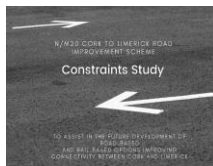
	Number	Number of Likes / Followers (where applicable)
Physical printed newsletters		
Electronic online newsletters		
Email (individual emails)	96	
 Website	44 35	Pages News Posts
 Facebook Posts	254	141
 Twitter Posts	292	307
Participating in events hosted by other organisations		
Local Radio (Community and/or Commercial)	1	

Table: overview of external communications activity in 2020

### Type of content communicated to members:



- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. PPN Events</li> <li>2. PPN Vacancies</li> <li>3. Public consultations</li> <li>4. PPN Activities</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5. Training opportunities</li> <li>6. Useful supports/resources</li> <li>7. Covid-19 supports and information</li> <li>8. Funding Information</li> </ol> |
|---|---|

### Functions on the Limerick PPN website:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <a href="#">Directory of members</a></li> <li>2. <a href="#">Minutes of Secretariat meetings</a></li> <li>3. <a href="#">Minutes of Plenary meetings</a></li> <li>4. <a href="#">List of elected PPN Representatives</a></li> <li>5. <a href="#">Information on Linkage Groups, Linkage Group meetings and Statements of Outcomes</a></li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6. <a href="#">PPN governance documents including constitution and Memorandum of Understanding with Limerick City and County Council</a></li> <li>7. <a href="#">Financial reports</a></li> <li>8. <a href="#">Resources including information on funding opportunities and Covid-19 resources</a></li> </ol> |
|--|--|

## Public Consultations promoted

a) local authority public consultations in 2020	12
b) notifications of consultations sent to the PPN in 2020	12
c) local authority consultations carried out via the PPN as the main vehicle in 2020	0
d) consultation workshops jointly hosted by the PPN and the Local Authority in 2020	0
e) national consultations	2
f) EU consultations	1

## Public Consultations organised/hosted

8 consultation workshops jointly hosted by the PPN and UL	1
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**Your Mayor – Your Voice! Join the conversation and be part of the change.**  
 20+ Limerick community groups have already had their say, now here's your opportunity to ensure your voice is included.  
 Limerick Public Participation Network working with UL Engage is delighted to announce a series of eight public online consultations over four days next week for community and voluntary groups across Limerick city and county who represent social inclusion, community and environment sectors. These one hour sessions give your community a chance to have a say in this historic change.

Monday July 27th	12 – 1pm	and	8 – 9pm
Tuesday July 28th	12 – 1pm	and	8 – 9pm
Wednesday July 29th	12 – 1pm	and	8 – 9pm
Thursday July 30th	12 – 1pm	and	8 – 9pm








## Covid response

- 1) Limerick PPN maintained a dedicated section on its website with links to reliable information and resources in response to the pandemic. Eight information emails from national Covid-19 Health Communications Stakeholder Support and eleven other related information emails were sent to PPN members during the early weeks of the pandemic.
- 2) The Secretariat Facilitator attended the Covid Community Response Forum meetings where briefings were provided by Limerick City and County Council staff on the local response to Covid -19 in Limerick.

## CAPACITY BUILDING

A number of events in line with the core role and functions of the PPN were held in 2020.

	Session/ event/ meeting	Presenter/ partner	When	Approx. no. of participants	Other details	Relationship to PPN objectives
1	Consultations on Directly Elected Mayor X8	University of Limerick	27-30 July	60	Part of the public consultation on the DEM for Limerick	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
2	Briefing on Home and Social Development SPC	Aoife Duke, Director of Service, LCCC	Sep-20	10	This session was organised because up to September there had been no nominations for this SPC	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
3	Development Plan Issues paper webinar X 2	Karen Burke, Planning team, LCCC	Aug-20	35	Presentation shared with PPN members	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
4	Information session on MyPoint X 2	James McCarthy, Business Improvement, LCCCC	Nov-20	25	MyPoint is LCCC's online consultation platform; powerpoint presentation shared with members; session can be run again in 2021 if there is interest	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
5	Introduction to PPN and Limerick City and County Council structures	PPN staff	Nov 2020 and as required by members	25	This action was unanimously agreed upon by the Plenary at the Sept 2019 meeting; Powerpoint presentation shared with PPN members; this was delivered to a number of PPN members separately to the scheduled Nov session	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
6	Sustainable Development Goals two- workshop training	National Environmental Pillar	Dec-20	12	Addresses one of the needs identified in the 2019 annual report; gives support to the Environmental Pillar members; SDG's prioritised in PPN constitution	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;

7	<b>Briefing on Public Sector Duty</b>	Community Mediation Service	Nov-20	10	Addresses one of the needs identified in the 2019 annual report; gives support to the Social Inclusion Pillar members; significant piece of legislation that public bodies are required to follow and that civil society's awareness is growing on	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;
8	<b>Induction training with elected PPN reps on the different committees</b>	PPN staff	Sept-Dec 2020	29	To support PPN reps in their representational role	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building
9	<b>Briefing session on the URBACT Health and Greenspaces project</b>	Anne Goggin, Physical Development Directorate, LCCC	Nov-20	8	This session was organised to give a background on this new project and stakeholder group hosted by LCCC and in advance of the elections for two PPN reps onto the project stakeholder group	Participation in decision-making and representation; capacity-building; information-sharing;

Table: PPN events in 2020



## OPERATION OF THE PPN

### Secretariat

How many places are allocated on the Secretariat	10
How these places are allocated	2 per pillar; 1 per Municipal District
Term of office on the Secretariat	Max 6 years
How the Secretariat operates a flat structure:	
a) Rotating Facilitator	Y
b) Decisions made by consensus	Y
c) Proposals brought to Plenary	Y
d) Terms of Reference emphasising flat structure	In constitution
e) Minutes / Reports available to all PPN members	Y

### PPN Meetings

	Total Number Held	No. Held in Evening
Plenary	2	2
Secretariat	13	13

### Staff and staff management

- Two full-time staff support the Secretariat and the PPN as a whole. Limerick City and County Council act as employer and manage key HR responsibilities. The work of the PPN staff is supported by the Secretariat acting on behalf of the Plenary.
- As employees of the local authority, the PPN staff partake in shared duties of staff in the Community Development Directorate and Council in the Council's corporate headquarters building, such as staff training and meetings and sharing office duties with other local authority staff. This is valuable to the PPN because:
  - it is much easier to have good communications with the key staff in the local authority (e.g., in Corporate Services, Communications, and in the different strategic directorates of the Council (Community Development, Economic Development, Physical Development and Housing))
  - the Secretariat and PPN do not have employment and other HR responsibilities
  - the PPN benefits from practical supports (at no cost) such as mail, storage, phone, desk space, meeting rooms, photocopying/ scanning facilities etc

## FINANCE

1. 70% funded by Department of Rural and Community Development and 30% funded by Limerick City and County Council.
2. The Local Authority approved expenditure relating to staff salaries and expenses. All other expenditure was managed in accordance with the financial protocol agreed between Limerick City and County Council and the Secretariat in 2020 (incorporated into the MOU) and standard local authority financial control policies and procedures.

### Income & Expenditure Report for 2020 – Limerick PPN

2020 Income/Budget		
DRCD	€ 75,700.00	
LCCC	€ 35,000.00	
<b>TOTAL BUDGET FOR 2020</b>	<b>€ 110,700.00</b>	
2020 Expenditure		
Expenditure item	Expenditure	% of total expenditure
1. PPN staff salaries incl. PRSI	€ 63,393.33	85.90%
2. Travel & Subsistence for PPN staff	€ 433.69	0.59%
3. Secretariat Travel & Subsistence paid for by PPN	€ 1,640.84	2.22%
4. Online communications tools (e.g. online meeting software, survey software)	€ 172.08	0.23%
5. Office Supplies/Stationery/Printing	€ 260.85	0.35%
6. Training & Development	€ 3,900.00	5.28%
7. Equipment for PPN	€ 1,795.64	2.43%
8. Website/Hosting Fees	€ 383.28	0.52%
9. Projects/Activities/Events sponsored by PPN	€ 475.00	0.63%
10. Plenary/ Meeting Costs (excl. Room Hire /Refreshments/ Meeting Software)	€ 812.00	1.10%
11. Room Hire/Refreshments	€ 536.40	0.73%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>€73,803.11</b>	<b>100.00%</b>
<b>70% of total expenditure paid by DRCD</b>	<b>€51,662.18</b>	
<b>30% of total expenditure paid by LCCC</b>	<b>€22,140.93</b>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>€73,803.11</b>	

## RECOMMENDATIONS/LEARNING ARISING

1. Clarity on a national position on GDPR responsibilities of PPN's and support for PPN's on this matter was recommended in the 2019 report to the Department of Rural and Community Development and remains outstanding.
2. Specific national training/seminar events for Local Authority officials was recommended in the 2019 report to the Department of Rural and Community Development and remains outstanding.
3. The establishment of the Linkage Groups as self-managing structures within the PPN was a very positive step in 2020. This development of Linkage Groups should be consolidated in 2021.
4. The hosting of the PPN by the local authority worked well in 2020 and should continue. The PPN Secretariat and membership are better able to focus on the core functions of the PPN without the onerous responsibilities associated with employing staff and managing finances and assets. This should not undermine the independence of the PPN – and did not in 2020.
5. The Limerick PPN constitution should be reviewed in light of PPN members' learnings from 2020 and the publication of the new PPN handbook.
6. The Vision for Community Wellbeing that is required in 2021 for all PPN's (who have not yet completed this action) should not be rushed in Limerick. Limerick PPN needs 2021 to develop relationships within and beyond the network so that the Vision for Community Wellbeing that is developed is of relevance and use to key stakeholders, including PPN members, Limerick communities, the local authority (including the new Directly Elected Mayor for Limerick) and Limerick Local Community Development Committee.
7. Every effort is required to fill all Secretariat seats, have a healthy turnover of Secretariat members, build the capacity across the PPN membership to manage the PPN and ensure future sustainability of the PPN.

## CONCLUDING REMARKS

This report summarises the activities of Limerick PPN in 2020. This was an important year in the life of Limerick PPN which saw all agreed priorities actioned and advanced despite unique challenges. There are learnings arising to inform the coming year and years. The Secretariat are committed to working with the PPN membership, Limerick City and County Council, and local and national partners to build on the solid successes of Limerick PPN's first full year of full-functioning since the election of the current Secretariat.