

Record of Meeting

**Meeting:** LPPN Plenary meeting  
**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021  
**Venue:** Virtual meeting on Zoom

**Those present:** List at end of the minutes  
**Apologies:** List at end of the minutes

LPPN = Limerick Public Participation Network  
 LCCC = Limerick City and County Council  
 SPC = Strategic Policy Committee

LG = Linkage Group  
 DCRD = Department of Community and Rural Development  
 LCDC = Local Community Development Committee

Agenda item	Detail	Action	Who	When
1. Opening words by Secretariat Facilitator	<p>LPPN Secretariat Facilitator, Michael Quilligan (MQ):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending</li> <li>b) Confirmed the meeting had at the quorum (currently 10%)</li> <li>c) Referred to some highlights from 2020 report:                             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <u>Priority actions implemented:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. election of new Secretariat</li> <li>b. nominations and elections for vacant seats on all Council committees</li> <li>c. briefing for members on PPN and Local Authority structures</li> <li>d. preparation and adoption of a constitution</li> </ol> </li> <li>2 <u>Key indicators:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. 16 Secretariat meetings held and relationships strengthened with all PPN stakeholders</li> <li>b. 132 members</li> <li>c. 87% of seats (33/38) seats on Council committees filled</li> <li>d. A range of support structures to support public participation in Limerick, including eight Linkage Groups</li> </ol> </li> </ol> </li> <li>d) Welcomed the Mayor, Cllr Michael Collins</li> </ol>			
2. Mayor's Address	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Delighted to be able to launch 2020 annual report for Limerick PPN</li> <li>b) Primary purpose of PPN is to enable PPN member groups and organisations, to input into and have voices heard within the formal decision-making structures of Limerick City and County Council</li> <li>c) The PPN therefore provides a mechanism to facilitate the two-way flow of information between Limerick City and County Council and society in Limerick to influence policy development and the delivery of services to the wider community</li> <li>d) This is an exciting challenge for us all – often we think of democracy is just about voting but what we are talking about here is much more</li> <li>e) Limerick City and County Council is committed to actively engaging with Limerick's communities and indeed it is one of the Council's strategic goals. One of a number of ways Limerick City and County Council is fostering public participation is by supporting Limerick PPN as best and appropriately as possible while also very much recognising and respecting the PPN's independence.</li> <li>f) With practically 100% of sectoral seats filled on the various Strategic Policy Committees, the Joint Policing Committee, the Limerick Local Community Development Committee and the URBACT Health and Greenspace project local group and active attendance by the PPN representatives on all these committees, policy-making by Limerick City and County Council is greatly enhanced</li> </ol>			

	<p>g) Recognise that the restoration of Limerick PPN last year would not have happened without numerous volunteers across the city and county of Limerick – including, but not solely, the Secretariat who keep the show on the road on behalf of the membership</p> <p>h) Volunteer-led groups and organisations make a massive contribution to Limerick’s communities, economy and environment. Regardless of size, all groups and organisations have an important role to play in making Limerick a great place to live, work, learn, play and grow old in</p> <p>i) And the PPN members are doing it again by membership of Limerick PPN and bringing knowledge, experiences, expertise, vision and generosity to engage with local government policy-making structures and processes</p> <p>j) Wish Limerick Public Participation every success into the future. Limerick City and County Council will remain committed in its support for Limerick PPN and deliberative democracy in Limerick</p>			
3.	<p>Launch of 2020 annual report</p>	<p>The report was taken as received and read by the members. It is also available on the <u>PPN website</u>. The Mayor of the City and County of Limerick launched the 2020 Limerick PPN annual report.</p>		
4.	<p>Minutes of last <u>Plenary</u> meeting</p>	<p>a) MQ took the minutes of the Plenary meeting on 17/12/20 as read b) It was agreed that they were a fair reflection of the discussion at the meeting c) The minutes of the last Plenary meeting were proposed by David Tobin of Limerick Pedestrian Network, seconded by Marian Hurlley of Kilmurry Arts &amp; Heritage Centre and adopted by the Plenary</p>	<p>a) Sign agreed minutes b) Post minutes on website</p>	<p>Facilitator LPPN Staff</p> <p>ASAP ASAP</p>
5.	<p>Matters arising</p>	<p>a) MQ outlined how Secretariat members met with LCCC staff to present the motion agreed at the last PPN Plenary meeting. Limerick City and County Council said it would endeavour to facilitate this PPN request. The new standing orders for the SPCs and the JPC have incorporated the recommendation by stating that “in so far as practical meeting documentation should be circulated ten days in advance of a meeting to allow sectoral representatives an opportunity to consult within their sector in relation to same”.</p> <p>b) Michelle Hayes (Environmental Trust Ireland) maintained there were elements of the proposed amended constitution that were contradictory, amounting to gagging people, quashing diversity and in contravention of national and international law</p>		
6.	<p>Proposed updated PPN constitution</p>	<p>a) MQ explained the proposed updated constitution is to simplify the current constitution, to reflect PPN members’ and Secretariat learning arising from past year of activity and to reflect the requirements of the new <u>national handbook for PPNs</u>. MQ welcomed comments and questions with the view to the constitution being proposed, seconded and adopted by the Plenary. He indicated that the key changes to the current constitution:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Purpose, goals and objectives section simplified</li> <li>2. References to national PPN handbook used instead of text in the constitution - for example role, rights and responsibilities of PPN reps</li> <li>3. More detail on Linkage Groups and with reference to their terms of reference – option to ask existing linkage groups to nominate reps for other relevant committees should they arise (eg. situation with URBACT Local Group)</li> <li>4. Significant changes re elections processes:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Elections to be done on-line instead of in person (current constitutional provisions are for a physical meeting where voting happens in person)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>		

		<p>2) Preference voting is used to select PPN representatives. Voters put <u>all</u> the candidates in order of preference. Candidate(s) who have the highest preference score(s) are elected. (As a voter ranks each option, their most preferred candidate gets more points based on the amount of options ranked. If there are 5 options and the user ranks all 5, then their top candidate gets 5 points. All points for all candidates are added, and the candidate with the most points is the winning candidate.) We currently use a first past the post system where each voter gets one vote only and the person(s) with most votes 'wins' the seat(s) – not great in terms of building consensus and reflecting the PPN membership. If agreed to by Plenary, this cannot take force until after the annual members' meeting in the autumn (this is when the facility will be available on MyPoint and when any panels we have run out – panels last up to next annual members meeting)</p> <p>b) Michelle Hayes (Environmental Trust Ireland) continued to speak on her already noted position about the PPN constitution.</p> <p>c) <i>Noted in Chat:</i>  20:26:54 From Michelle Hayes- Environmental Trust Ireland to Mo Foley Walsh(Direct Message) : I am objecting to the ratification of the Constitution  20:27:56 From Brian O'Connor to Everyone : I don't think this should be ratified tonight. Brian O'Connor; Environmental Trust Ireland  20:32:50 From Josephine Butler to Everyone : This should not be ratified tonight; Environmental Trust Ireland</p> <p>d) This led to some discussion with some queries on the issue of "gagging", with a number of elected PPN representatives on Council committees confirming that they do not feel silenced and find the PPN structures helpful (contributions from: Liz Gabbett (The Maigue Rivers Trust), Brian Thompson (St Mary's Adult Education Group), Mary Conlon (Ormston House), Cillian Flynn (GOSHH), David Tobin (Limerick Pedestrian Network).</p> <p>e) Dr Breda Hayes (Environmental Trust Ireland) argued that there are different rules for different people with only certain views "getting through".</p> <p>f) It was noted the current Constitution and draft proposed amended Constitution include a mechanism for amending it, so it is not set in stone</p> <p>g) Such was the discussion that a number of people responded to say that the amended constitution should be given more time to look at in detail, there needs to be dignity and respect in how PPN business is done, more clarity is needed in how the PPN works and that people should be allowed an opinion</p> <p>h) Madeleine Lyes (Limerick Pedestrian Network) outlined how the current Linkage Group structures support her in her PPN representational role and are in line with the national PPN handbook. Her description was agreed with in the Chat by a number of people (Aidan Hogan, Limerick Pedestrian Network; Kieran Chambers, St Patrick's LGFC; Tom Tarpey, BirdWatch Ireland Limerick Branch; Innocent Iroaganachi, Midwest Migrant Community Network (MMCN))</p>
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	<p>i) MQ suggested that an open vote could be done on the Chat.<sup>1</sup> There was some discussion on how to ensure one-member-one-vote and how it could be acceptable that the vote would not be by secret ballot. It was suggested that the staff or given tellers could receive the votes and report back, but there were concerns about this.</p> <p>j) Michelle Hayes (Environmental Trust Ireland) asked MQ to clarify the legal status of the PPN and indicated she was putting him "on notice"</p> <p>k) Ailish Drake (Irish Georgian Society - Limerick Chapter) said people came to this meeting in good faith and a vote should happen, Keith Piggott (Limerick Food Group) maintained that this vote could proceed as an open vote in the Chat and both Denis McMahon (University of the Third Age) and Helena Flanagan (St Mary's Adult Education Group) objected to two people dominating the meeting. The following was posted in the Chat:</p> <p><i>20:56:12 From Ailish Drake to Everyone : Chair I wish to put it on record that I support a proposal to vote on the constitution; Irish Georgian Society - Limerick Chapter</i></p> <p><i>20:57:44 From Madeleine Lyles to Everyone : I support that, for the record; Limerick Pedestrian Network</i></p> <p><i>20:58:23 From Bruce Harper to Everyone : we wish to vote on the constitution; Limerick Cycling Campaign</i></p> <p><i>20:58:57 From Vidette Ryan Molyneux to Everyone : I wish to vote on the constitution; Limerick Dragons</i></p> <p><i>21:00:00 From Keith CEO ASD Ireland to Everyone : I wish to vote on the constitution; ASD Ireland</i></p> <p><i>21:00:17 From CityFarm- HelenaCommunityForestGarden to Everyone : I also wish to vote on the constitution; Garryowen Residents Association</i></p> <p><i>21:00:21 From Dr. B. Hayes to Everyone : Vote should not take place until document is in compliance with core principles of PPN. It has not reached the stage where inclusiveness, diversity, deliberative democracy, public participation are prevalent; Environmental Trust Ireland</i></p> <p><i>21:00:55 From Leona OCallaghan to Everyone : The Haven Hub would like to vote</i></p> <p><i>21:01:31 From Keith Piggott to Everyone : I support a vote this evening; Limerick Food Group</i></p> <p><i>21:02:42 From Seamus Scott to Everyone : I would support a public vote now or at another time, we do have the option to amend at a later date; Families Support Limerick</i></p> <p>MQ's proposal, on behalf of the LPPN Secretariat, for the Plenary to adopt the proposed amended constitution was not progressed and the agenda item was deferred.</p>		
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<sup>1</sup> From Limerick PPN Constitution: **Appendix 1: Limerick Public Participation Network Plenary Standing Orders**  
**Voting Rights and Decisions**

- 1) Only matters on the Agenda will be the business of the meeting in accordance with the Constitution.
- 2) All decisions taken will be in accordance with procedures set out in Constitution.
- 3) Each named Limerick PPN member group/organisation will have one vote.
- 4) Voting will be by show of hands and in accordance with Constitution.
- 5) Decisions will be by simple majority.
- 6) Voting for election to the Secretariat will be by secret ballot.

Agenda item	Detail	Action	Who	When
7. 2021 Workplan	MQ asked PPN resource worker, Mo Foley Walsh, to present the 2021 workplan. After it was presented, MQ asked if it could be adopted by the Plenary. David O'Brien (Limerick Civic Trust) proposed the workplan. Trish Forde Brennan (Limerick Grow It Yourself) seconded. The workplan was adopted.	Workplan to be posted on LPPN website and sent to DRCD and LCCC	LPPN staff	ASAP
8. Ratification of 2021 Linkage Group and Secretariat elections	MQ presented the outcomes of the elections since the last Plenary meeting. These were proposed by Vidette Ryan Molyneux, seconded by Mary Conlon (Ormston House) and ratified by the Plenary			
9. AOB	<p>Trish Forde Brennan (Limerick Grow It Yourself) suggested that a culture thematic group would be a valuable activity in the future for Limerick PPN. MQ suggested that this would be useful to pursue through the existing Community, Leisure and Culture Linkage Group</p> <p>Pete Moles (Emerging Limerick Filmmakers) suggested a vote on the proposed updated constitution should happen at the next Plenary meeting. Bruce Harper (Limerick Cycling Campaign) asked for an open vote at this meeting. It was noted by Linda Ledger (St Munchin's Community Centre) and Sean Kelly (Foynes and District Community Council) that a number of people had left at this point and therefore the vote should not happen. It was noted by Denis McMahon (University of the Third Age) and Brian Thompson (St Mary's Adult Education Group) that two people had unfairly dominated tonight's meeting and that an open debate should have been allowed. Sean Kelly (Foynes and District Community Council) suggested that some reflection on what happened/needs to happen in the future for meetings is needed. The following was posted in the Chat in response to the idea of a vote this evening:</p> <p>21:03:44 From Seamus Scott to Everyone : Yes; Families Support Limerick                  21:03:45 From David Tobin to Everyone : Yes; Limerick Pedestrian Network                  21:03:48 From Kieran to Everyone : Yes vote tonight; St Patrick's LGFC                  21:03:52 From Niamh Brown to Everyone : Yes; Ormston House                  21:03:55 From Tom Tarpey to Everyone : yes; BirdWatch Ireland Limerick Branch                  21:03:57 From Aidan to Everyone : yes to a vote please; Limerick Pedestrian Network                  21:03:59 From Vidette Ryan Molyneux to Everyone : Yes; Limerick Dragons                  21:04:03 From Pete Moles to Everyone : Yes; Emerging Limerick Filmmakers                  21:04:04 From Paul Burkley to Everyone : Yes; Down Syndrome Limerick                  21:04:05 From Ailish Drake to Everyone : yes; Irish Georgian Society - Limerick Chapter                  21:04:07 From Innocent Iroaganachi to Everyone : I agree...; Midwest Migrant Community Network                  21:04:11 From Bruce Harper to Everyone : yes; Limerick Cycling Campaign                  21:04:38 From Brian O'Connor to Everyone : I don't agree with a vote tonight; Environmental Trust Ireland                  21:05:40 From Josephine Butler to Everyone : There should not be a vote tonight; Environmental Trust Ireland</p>	Community, Leisure and Culture Linkage Group to explore setting up of culture thematic group		
10. Closing remarks	MQ thanked everyone for attending, thanked the staff, encouraged people to participate in Linkage Groups and Chatter. And MQ closed the meeting			

PPN member group/organisation		Pillar	Municipal District	Name of Secretariat member
<b>Secretariat members</b>				
1.	Tait House Community Enterprise CLG	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Michael Quilligan
2.	Foynes District and Community Council	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	Sean Kelly
3.	Garryowen CDP	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	John Buttery
4.	Glin Going Strong Club	Community	Newcastle West	Patrick Cummins
5.	Limerick Civic Trust	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	David O'Brien
6.	Limerick Pedestrian Network	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Aidan Hogan
7.	Maigue Rivers Trust	Environment	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Catherine Dalton
8.	Pallas United Soccer Club	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Noreen Stokes
PPN member group/organisation				
1.	Alone	Social Inclusion	Municipal District	Name of representative(s) who attended
2.	ASD Ireland	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Martina Kinane
3.	Bedford Row Family Project	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Keith Enright
4.	BGM Community Council	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Ailson Curtain
5.	BirdWatch Ireland Limerick Branch	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Declan Hehir
6.	Croom Family Resource Centre	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Tom Tarpey
7.	Down Syndrome Limerick	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	Laura Bennett
8.	Eiro - Irish Romanian Cultural and Business development CLG	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Paul Burkley
9.	Emerging Limerick Filmmakers	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Daniel Nedelcu
10.	Environmental Trust Ireland	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Pete Moles
11.	Extinction Rebellion Limerick	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Josephine Butler; Dr. B Hayes; Michelle Hayes; Frank Heffernan; Brian O'Connor
12.	Families Support	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Marie Richardson
13.	Foynes District and Community Council	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Seamus Scott
14.	Fresh Film	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	Ger Hartigan
15.	Garryowen Residents Association	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Ciarada Tobin
16.	Glin Going Strong Club	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Helena Kelly; John Nugent; Tom O'Brien
17.	GOSHH	Social Inclusion	Newcastle West	Mary Enright
18.	Great Southern Trail	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Cillian Flynn
19.	Irish Georgian Society - Limerick Chapter	Community	Newcastle West	Denis Mc Auliffe
20.	Kilmurry Arts & Heritage Centre	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Ailish Drake
21.	Kurdish art nergz group	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Marian Hurley
22.	Limerick City CDP	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Zana Amin
23.	Limerick Cycling Campaign	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Sean McSweeney
				Bruce Harper

24. Limerick Dragons	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Vidette Ryan Molyneux
25. Limerick Food Group	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Keith Pigott
26. Limerick Grow It Yourself	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Trish Forde-Brennan
27. Limerick Market Trustees - Limerick Milk Market	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Fionán Coughlan
28. Limerick Pedestrian Network	Environment	Limerick Metropolitan	Madeleine Lyes; David Tobin
29. Limerick Senior's Forum	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	John Ryan
30. Limerick Suicide Watch	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Shirley Johnston
31. Limerick USA	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Denis McMahon
32. Maigue Rivers Trust	Environment	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Liz Gabett
33. Midwest Migrant Community Network (MMCN)	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Innocent Iroaganachi; Ann Piercy
34. Monaleen Park Residents' Association	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Kevin Haugh
35. NCCWN Limerick Women's Network	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Mary Bradshaw
36. Northstar Family Support Project	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Joe Slattery
37. Ormston House	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Niamh Brown; Mary Conlon
38. Shannon Dragons	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Deirdre Ryan
39. St Mary's Community Adult Education Group CLG	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Helen Flanagan; Brian Thompson
40. St Munchin's Community Centre	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Linda Ledger
41. St Patrick's LGFC	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Kieran Chambers
42. The Haven Hub	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Leona O'Callaghan
Apologies			
Abbeylea Community Council	Community	Newcastle West	Maurice O'Connell
Galbally Senior's Alert	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Ailbe Burke
Kilfinane Community Council	Community	Cappamore-Kilmallock	Ruth Mc Auliffe
Limerick Senior's Forum	Community	Limerick Metropolitan	Noreen Waters
Rathkeale Community Council	Community	Adare-Rathkeale	David Lamont; Pat Neville
Southill Family Resource Centre	Social Inclusion	Limerick Metropolitan	Jim Prior

Record of the meeting taken as a fair and accurate reflection of the discussion and adopted at subsequent Plenary meeting:

*Michael Gally*

FACILITATOR: Signature: Michael Gally Print Name MICHAEL GALLY Date: 12/04/2022