

Creating a Local Sustainable Future - Practical actions for your community

PPNs working together to strengthen our communities wellbeing and
resilience.

23rd February at the Kilkenny Ormonde Hotel, Kilkenny





Climate change is harming people, ecosystems and the economy.

Peoples' livelihoods are threatened.

Families impacted by climate change are taking the EU to court to ask for better climate protection.

They are supported by scientists, NGOs and citizens.

Background to Conference

- Identified that there was a deficit in respect of Environmental Pillar
- Collaborative approach required with the Irish Environmental Network to strengthen this Pillar
- Capacity Building needed in the Community especially in relation to the Environmental College within the PPN and Irish Environmental Network
- PPN's role to fill that void

Continued-

- A series of regional meetings took place – Tipperary, Waterford, Wexford, Carlow and Kilkenny
- Decision made to host regional conference
- Kilkenny identified as central location for all counties involved
- Roles and responsibilities assigned to each PPN

Conference Preparation

- Agreed format for event compiled
- Identified MC – Mr Davie Philips and Key Note Speaker-Senator Grace O’Sullivan
- 4 Facilitators for 4 individual workshops
- PPN Regional Network set out themes for each workshop with relevant questions to capture conversations and concerns
- Identified 4 Support Workers to provide report after each workshop
- Each PPN publicised and issued invitations to members, particularly Environmental College PPN members and non-members
- Environmentally focused organisations and groups invited from each county to set up information stands



South East Public Participation Networks and the Irish Environmental Network present

CREATING A LOCAL SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

PRACTICAL ACTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY

FREE WORKSHOP! ALL WELCOME!

- EXPLORE EFFECTIVE ACTIONS FOR YOUR COMMUNITY
- LEARN FROM EXPERTS IN THEIR FIELD
- MEET OTHERS WHO ARE WORKING FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING AND RESILIENCE
- LUNCH AND REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED

FEBRUARY 23RD, 9.45AM - 2.30PM
ORMONDE HOTEL, KILKENNY

Register on Eventbrite. Find us on Facebook. Contact your local PPN or catherine@ien.ie for more information.



Regional PPN's and Speakers



L-R-Davie Philips, Ann Phelan, CWO; Grainne O Neill, Carlow PPN, Senator Grace O'Sullivan, Avril Wilson, Tipperary PPN, Annette Dupuy, Wexford PPN; Karin Dubsy, Coastwatch; John Hawkes, Waterford PPN

Future Proofing Your Community

- Over 120 attendees
- This event concentrated on local action with the aim of giving attendees some real and positive actions that can be taken back into their communities and used for local change.
- It was designed for anyone interested in creating a future proof community
- Four workshops- each aiming to give an overview of the topic and create a list of actions and ideas that can be used by groups and individuals to tackle the issues associated with Climate Action.



4 Workshops

- Global Goals for Local Change - Bringing the Sustainable Development Goals to Life, Facilitated by Davie Philips
- Community Initiatives - Expanding the Conversation, Facilitated by Ray McGrath.
- Water Catchments - Local Response to Climate Action, Facilitated by Fran Igoe.
- Actions for Biodiversity, Facilitated by Pádraig Fogarty.



Workshop Outcomes

- Each workshop asked participants to take note of the issues being discussed
- To work together to brainstorm actions that are achievable in their community
- 3 questions – (1) Where are we now, (2) where do we need to be and (3) how do we get there?
- Actions suggested on the day are included in report
- Additional resources identified on the day

Common Issues

- Perception of inadequate and conflicting policies and actions by national and local Government
- Perceived apathy –lack of leadership
- Perceived ignorance or uncaring attitude by those in positions of power
- Communities are demanding action however policies are not there to lead action at local level
- **PPN's have a vital role to play in respect of engagement and interaction with local authority and relevant agencies in respect of all issues outlined, locally and collectively. Use the SPC's to lobby and make effective on the ground change**

Turning Ideas into Action

- Inform yourself
- Map the goals of your group
- Include SDG's in all activities
- Lobby Politicians for change
- Create incentives
- Buy in from Private Companies
- Communicate through media
- Reach out to other stakeholders- schools, councils, clubs etc
- Persuade councils to stop using round up
- Increase biodiversity in public spaces
- Community planting of verges in rural areas
- Target single use plastics
- Peer learning
- Citizen science and training for water quality monitoring
- Citizen science for soil and plastic waste
- Adopt a pond or create one
- Get support from relevant agencies for your projects-SEAI, County Council, LEADER, LEO...
- Get schools involved
- Pollinator friendly planting
- Hold film screening – Symphony of Soil
- Begin Locally- e.g. The Bride Project provides a guide
- Bee Corridor in Towns or Farms
- Hare's Corner
- Take ownership of hedge cutting
- Promote health benefits of biodiversity
- Communicate with GAA
- Use you purchasing power

Ratification of SDG's by PPN's

- Conference voted that PPN's regionally adopt the Sustainable Development Goals and implement into all policy related issues
- Formally proposed by floor and ratified
- Each PPN to bring before next plenary and formally adopt SDG's
- Identified that SDG's form the basis as to how we are going to meet our targets nationally
- PPN's raising awareness about SDG's and how to achieve goals at local level



Fundamental Identification

- **Community groups are far ahead of the policy developers in respect of implementing practical actions on the ground which will positively impact climate action and our environment.**

Why is it Best Practice?

- Collaboration= Synergy (The sum of the whole is bigger than the sum of each part)
- Collaboration across PPNs can maximize resources and achieve common goal(s) i.e. increase profile and membership of environmental pillar in each PPN
- Engages a broader audience to the PPN- ensuring our message best relayed to the public



Why is it Best Practice? ...Continued

- Allowed us to overcome problems/obstacles more quickly and easily (One PPN can assist the other)
- Knowledge sharing and increased innovation- allowed for a regional sharing of experiences
- The event being set regionally offered groups a high calibre event relatively locally and an opportunity to network
- Feedback Report which fed in to local and national policy



Find out More.....

Contact one of the
five PPNs who
collaborated on
this event.....



KILKENNY PPN
Public Participation Network

056 779 4710
ppnkilkenny@kilkennycoco.ie
www.kilkennyppn.ie



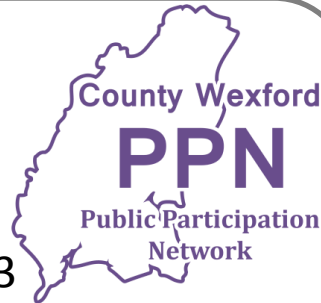
Carlow PPN

059 9172495
info@carlowppn.ie
www.carlowppn.ie



Waterford
**Public
Participation
Network**

058 211 98
info@waterfordppn.ie
www.waterfordppn.ie



053 9196553
wexfordppn@wexfordcoco.ie
www.wexfordppn.ie

PPN TIPPERARY
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

0504 61014 or 087 4567 111
ppntipperary@gmail.com
www.ppntipperary.org