

BUILDING RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

The SDGs as a **Roadmap for Recovery** post Covid-19

A virtual series for PPNs, LCDCs & SPCs
facilitated by Davie Philip of Cultivate



Report

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Introduction

The online webinar series aimed to provide an opportunity for Public Participation Networks, as well as members of the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) & Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), to consider the value of the Sustainable Development Goals as a blueprint for building resilient communities as we move out of the Covid 19 crisis.

This series took place across three days, from the 26th - 28th May 2020 from 2.30-4pm.

Over 260 participants from 26 counties took part across the three sessions and there was representation from every municipal district in the country.

The series was facilitated by Davie Philip of [Cultivate](#) in partnership with the [Irish Environmental Network](#) as part of the [Make Europe Sustainable for All](#) project.

Sessions:

TUESDAY 26th May for Kerry, Cork City, Cork County, Limerick, Waterford, Tipperary, Kilkenny, Laois & Clare

WEDNESDAY 27th May for Wicklow, Wexford, Kildare, Carlow, Offaly, Westmeath, Meath, Louth, Dublin Fingal, Dublin South, Dublin DLR, Dublin City

THURSDAY 28th May Galway City, Galway County, Mayo, Sligo, Roscommon, Leitrim, Donegal, Longford, Cavan, Monaghan

Recordings

The sessions were recorded and have been uploaded to Youtube. You can watch them here:

- Wednesday 27th May 2020 → <https://youtu.be/YJ2jaEzGIZE>
- Thursday 28th May 2020 → <https://youtu.be/a-ubS7wajis>

(Unfortunately the recording of Tuesday's webinar is unavailable, however the content is very similar for each session).

Key Reports, Documents & Resources referenced in the series

National:

- [‘Sustainable, Inclusive & Empowered Communities’](#). A Five-Year Strategy to support the community & voluntary sector in Ireland 2019 – 2024. From the Department of Community & Rural Development (DRCD)
- [Ireland's National Implementation Plan for the SDGs, 2018 – 2020](#) From the Department of Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCA) See Annex 1 in the NIP which highlights the lead Government Department for each of the SDGs and their targets

Local:

- [The SDGs & Local Government in Ireland](#): In this short paper, Social Justice Ireland outlines a series of concrete proposals spanning all 17 SDGs that local authorities, and their LCDCs & SPCs, can include in their Development Plans.
- [‘The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local Governments Need to Know’](#) This guide from UCLG explains how each of the 17 SDGs relates to the daily work of local and regional governments. It also lists the most relevant targets of each goal to local governments and highlights the relationship between the goals and other international agendas
- [Roadmap for Localising the SDGs](#) by the Global Taskforce of Local & Regional Governments
- [Local Economic & Community Plans \(LECP\)](#): Every county has its own 5-year Local Economic & Community Plan which highlights the vision, high-level goals and specific actions for that county from 2016 - 2021. The LECP is developed by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) within each local authority, which includes representatives from the PPN. Every county's LECP is freely available online.
- [Developing a PPN Wellbeing Statement](#) Guide to developing a Community Wellbeing Statement for your PPN

General communications:

- [SDG Communications Pack](#) *Online pack of SDG graphics, icons, posters & targets lists for download for use online or in printed materials.*
- [SDGs & Targets Booklet](#) *Booklet including list of specific targets under each of the SDGs*
- [SDG Academy](#): *This online learning portal curates a huge range of free educational and training courses focused on SDGs and sustainable development, from leading experts from around the world. Established by Jeffrey Sachs.*

Training resources from NGO Development Perspectives (DP)

- [Stepping Stones for the SDGs: A Workbook for Community & Adult Education Practitioners](#): *This workbook provides a tool for Adult and Community Groups and their leaders to understand the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and to take meaningful action on the goals, using the principles and methodologies embraced by Development Education (DE) and Global Citizenship Education (GCE).*
- [Understanding the SDGs: a Workbook for Further Education Institutions](#) *Workbook including many interactive activities designed as part of the SDG Challenge, a development education project by Development Perspectives*
- Note that Development Perspectives is offering [free trainings to PPNs on the SDGs](#) as part of their [Saolta](#) program. For more info click [here](#).

Slides from the Sessions:

- [Davie Philip, Cultivate](#)
- [Fiona Donovan, Healthy Cities & Counties coordinator](#)
- [Deirdre Kelly & Michelle Casserly](#), Dept Community & Rural Development (DRCD)
- [Ann Irwin, Galway City Community Network \(GCCN\)](#)

Session notes

1. Introduction & Welcome: Davie Philip - Cultivate

[\(Click Here for Davie's Presentation\)](#)

- Setting the scene: *How has this crisis impacted us as communities? What has it thrown up? What are the opportunities moving forward? How can we use this collective pause to lay the groundwork for the future we want to build post covid19? What is the value of the SDGs in this moment? Run through the agenda.*
- Davie's background: [Cultivate](#) (accelerating transition to low carbon, resilient societies) & [Cloughjordan Eco Village](#), Tipperary
- Working at EU level: [ECOLISE](#) – European Network for Community-led initiatives on Climate Action & Sustainability. Pioneering new approaches for community-led, bottom up action on climate.
- Note the value of understanding SDGs from a holistic, whole-systems perspective using the '[nested](#)' [SDG diagram](#) from Stockholm Resilience Centre. Healthy economy within healthy society, and healthy society within healthy biosphere.

2. Presentation from Fiona Donovan - Healthy Cities & Counties Coordinator, HSE

[Click here for Fiona's presentation](#)

- What do we mean by 'health'? To think of health holistically we need to consider education, employment, services, housing, access to green space, community, built environment, local food etc.
- Healthy Ireland = cross-governmental framework for Health & Wellbeing. Aim is to support cities & counties to implement Healthy Ireland at local level through LCDCs.
- Community action crucial
- We are drowning in networks! Smart Cities, Healthy Cities, Sustainable Cities, Green Cities Age-Friendly cities, Tidy Towns...
- But the dots aren't connecting
- The world is grey & messy - complex problems need complex solutions
- Global/ national/ local challenges are interlinked - but our response is fragmented
- System are linear – but we need to integrate horizontally, not just vertically
- The SDGs are the structural framework that can connect the dots. They are the scaffolding to organise policies, plans, actions together. They are a common language to connect the pieces.
- Use the SDGs as 'buckets' to organise existing actions
- 70 – 20 - 10 rule - 70% strengthening what is already there, 20% connecting existing projects, 10% new ideas or initiatives
- Don't start with new ideas – start with what you already have
- SDGs can & should provide the structure for developing new plans at local level, eg. LECP

3. Input from Department Level

3.1 Anthony O'Grady & Joe Gallagher, Dept Communications, Climate Action & Environment (DCCAIE)

- Ireland drafted [National Implementation Plan 2018](#). Whole of government approach, designed by interdepartmental working group. Each department was assigned responsibility for SDGs
- Stakeholder engagement: set up [National Stakeholder Forum](#) to get input from all actors in the arena of sustainable development. Academia, business, local government etc. Aim to leave no one behind. The challenge is to bring people out of silos.
- Produced 1st [Voluntary National Review](#) – 'school report' on SDG performance at the UN in 2018 highlighting strengths & weaknesses
- [SDG Champions](#) Program: received over 70 applications and chose 12 champions with large national profile. Aim of Champions is to raise awareness of SDGs
- Worked closely with **Carlow Co Co** as a champion to connect SDGs to local action eg. Tidy Towns
- Current reality: with no government & Covid 19, new National Implementation Plan is in **limbo**. New plan may be delayed – future uncertain.

3.2 Deirdre Kelly & Michelle Casserly, Dept Community & Rural Development (DRCD)

[Click here for slides](#)

- Focus on the [Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities Strategy 2019 - 2024](#) – strategy aiming to strengthen the State's relationship with community & voluntary sector
- Objective 8 in the strategy focuses on increasing awareness & action of on SDGs at local level.
- Actions with Objective 8:
 - i) developing program to raise awareness of SDGs for LCDCs, Gov departments, community & voluntary orgs and Local Development bodies
 - ii) develop toolkits to proof plans against SDGs
 - iii) support capacity in community & voluntary organisations re SDGs
 - iv) provide funding to all sectors to implement SDGs
- All actions relate to the SDGs within the strategy
- SDGs will be integrated into next round of LECPs

4. Insights from the Field: Sharing PPN Best Practice Examples

1) Waterford PPN

Jen Harris: Anchoring the PPN Wellbeing Statements in the SDGs

- SDGs connect our communities with communities around the world – helping us connect local wellbeing to global wellbeing

- To maximise our impact we need common goals & a common language to join the dots – this is the value of the SDGs
- There is a clear correlation between SDGs (global wellbeing) & local PPN Wellbeing Statements
- Important that people recognise SDGs are for US!
- Referencing them in Wellbeing statements makes them real, tangible and relevant for our local communities.
- Be proud to announce how you are impacting on the SDGs & how your group is playing its part in this global plan
- Waterford wellbeing process - adopted bottom up process meetings with 5 municipal districts. Process interrupted by Covid but will be continued.
- Planning a seminar with Waterford Environmental Network to highlight how the Wellbeing Statement can impact the LECP

II) Wicklow PPN *Helen Howes, Resource Worker*

- Linked their **wellbeing statements** to SDGs
- From 2019 all **PPN policy submissions** include reference to SDGs
- **SDG Mapping:** Working with environmental officer of Wicklow Co Co to create interactive SDG map highlighting how local groups in Wicklow are taking action on SDGs
- Saving the world is overwhelming! Breaking challenges into SDGs helps.

III) Wexford PPN: *Annette Dupuy: Bottom-Up Awareness Raising*

- **Social Media campaign** posting daily actions for each SDG
- **Weekly summary of actions posted in each newsletter**
- **Purchased SDG Pins for all Secretariat members & reps** – this is a great conversation starter when engaging with local authority. It encouraged counsellors to also wear pins.
- **Shared SDG training manuals** with PPN reps & Secretariat members with like [this](#) and [this](#)
- **Hosted interactive SDG workshops** for PPN members, reps, counsellors and local authority staff
- **Future proofed Wellbeing Statement** by aligning with the SDGs.

IV) Carlow PPN & County Council *Molly Aylesbury & Jannette O'Brien – PPNs & Councils working together as SDG Champions*

- **PPN working closely with Carlow Co Co** – excellent collaborative working relationship between the two – key to their success.
- 'Great synergies arise when people are singing off the same hymn sheet'
- Every county has an **Environmental Awareness Officer** in the council. Important to track them down and get their support.
- Jannette – 'Need to talk about SDGs to anyone that will listen. SDGs like wildflowers – sprinkle wherever they'll grow.' GAA, Energy Audits, Tidy Towns...

- **PPN took on education role re: SDGs:** working to help members recognise what they are already doing, creating easy to understand guidance on SDGs, inviting speakers in to train local groups, using social media campaigns to highlight daily practical actions.
- **PPN voted to support the SDGs**
- **Funding: All funding streams in Carlow Co Co connect to SDGs** – ‘Best way to ensure people get the goals is to integrate them to the funding process’. To access money applicants required to identify goals they will impact. Eg LA 21 funding (now Community Environment Fund)
- Council ran **SDG workshops with Tidy Towns**
- Plaster SDG logos everywhere you can - every social media post is tagged with relevant SDG. Yes branding alone is not enough but it's a simple way to bring SDGs into public consciousness.
- SDGs are a new way of thinking – focusing on planet, people and prosperity – they help us to build the jigsaw puzzle of building sustainable future

4.4 Galway City Community Network (GCCN) Ann Irwin

[click here for slides](#)

- GCCN (Galway City PPN) embraced SDGs early on
- Did lots of training and mapping – mapping concerns of GCCN locally against SDGs
- Made submission to the National Implementation Plan 2018
- Advocated for the inclusion of the SDGs in the DRCD strategy
- Used the SDGs to frame their work - eg. events on homelessness, climate etc - they framed all of their activities & events with the SDGs
- However - It's no longer good enough to just brand things as SDGs
- The beauty of the SDGs is in the framework - none of the SDGs should just be conflated to a single area or a single goal.
- In Galway - reviewed LECP and development plan.
- For new NIP it will be crucial to go beyond awareness raising
- SDGs should be used like the Public Sector Duty

5. Capturing Local examples from the Chat

- **From Tipperary:** *we have an organic community garden with allotments for local community, accredited horticultural module in our local training initiative . Annual open days based on Zero Waste, reduce, re-use etc. Men's Shed have explored bushcraft and growing their own food.*
- **From Tipperary:** *Workwise I'm focussing on SDG 7, working with Ireland's first community owned electricity supplier <https://communitypower.ie/> and with Energy Communities Tipperary Cooperative <https://energycommunitiestipp.ie/>*
- **From Tipperary PPN:** *Tipperary PPN are in the process of completing their wellbeing statements for the 5 MD's in Tipp and we are linking each vision and heading (for e.g. Health, social & Community Dev, Env & sustainability etc) to the SDG's*
- **From R.S:** *We are developing a work plan to include a social prescription project and social enterprise initiative with the SDGs in mind. We are running a community garden sharing its use with agencies and the public.*

- **From Tipperary :** Adding to Ruth's input - also at Knockanrawley Resource Centre, in addition to the Organic Garden we also deliver adult education meeting SDG 4; through various community education supports and as a SICAP consortium partner we work within the SDG 8, 16 and 17. Our Ability project working with young people with disabilities meets a number of goals but I guess particularly SDG 10. And, working with our LDC and Tipperary Energy Agency we aim to move forward with an Centre wide Energy Retrofit programme putting us on the path to meet SDG 11 and 13.
- **From Louth:** I enjoyed your presentation Fiona. Arts & Culture is one of the significant contributors locally here in Louth promoting well being, inclusivity, education and mental health. We have Healthy Ireland art workshops in our local Libraries.....yet art/culture doesn't feature as a category in your presentation?
- **From M.D :** Louth LECP Reflects the SDGs
- **From R.K :** Here in Offaly we held a Forum for the Countys Tidy Towns Groups to collectively decide actions for an environmental charter.
- **From Louth:** Family Addiction Support Network took part in the Spark Change Challenge where we found out about the UN SDGs and how voluntary groups at ground level was implementing the UN Goals. This project was so beneficial as it showed us how we were implementing SDG #3 Ensure healthy lives and promote health and wellbeing. It resulted to the organisation winning the national award. We have since made submissions to the louth co council and monaghan HI consultation 2019
- **From Louth :** Hi Helen, we (Development Perspectives) have worked with many groups - Fingal PPN, Louth Leader Partnership to support them to map their work with the SDGs. Would be great to connect. Stephanie.
- **From Wicklow :** We have a seat for a young person on the Climate & Biodiversity Strategic Policy Ctte of Wicklow CoCo. Wicklow PPN have strong links with young people and Comhairle na nOg too which is a huge asset.
- **From Co Wicklow PPN :** We attached the SJI Local Government Recommendations to our submission to the WCC Co Dev Plan Review and the WCC Corporate Plan
- **From Louth::** Example of one of our Art/Community/Social Engagement Project <https://aaex.artspark.ie/artinitiatives/art-interactions-craobh-rua/>
- **From Louth:** Local authorities need to be more responsive and inclusive of social environment projects as much as the physical environmental projects
- **From Meath PPN :** Meath PPN has signed up to the SDGs, we are working on the WellBeing Statement and will be reviewing it to see which of the SDGs are attained if the Vision is fulfilled. As past of my own commitment to SDGs I attend the fora also I ran a Community Climate Action Day in 2019 where we spoke about Climate Change and how we must look at leaving no one behind
- **From Kildare :** Our monthly Cottage Market Newbridge hosts the Kildare Env Network and highlights SDG examples. Links them to the traders and community groups who join us
- **From Healthy Wexford :** In Wexford we also recommended to groups when applying for grants - even if it is not asked for - to identify which goal the project is working towards on the SDGs as well as which LECP goal. This increases awareness and highlights the need for you project.
- **From Louth :** That was so helpful especially the framing / mapping of work that is already being done in the context of the SDGs which has come up a couple of times.as well as Fiona's 70:20:10 rule. Great description of how the Spark Change challenge opened your eyes to you are working towards SDG goal(s) Jackie (great to see you by the way!)
- **From Carlow Co Co :** SDGs are part of the Carlow Green Schools assessment..and is widely promoted by An Taisce
- CHALLENGES REGARDING INSURANCE

- **From Donegal County Council** : Also very difficult to get Community employment workers, their help is invaluable to us, not everyone in these schemes are willing to take on further education, the criteria needs to change. TUS also only workers for 1 year, not enough time for people to bed in.
- **From E.D** : we have set up a Community Wellness Program and it was running very successfully up until lock down. We have included our TUS workers, community
- **From Cllr Galway County Council** : I'm working with Amicitia here in Athenry on how we can apply the SDG's to our area: Looking at accessibility, connectivity, energy consumption, sustainable communities. It's a lot of work and we will need the support of local and national funding to implement our ideas.
- **From Donegal** : In Inishowen we have been training communities on water, biodiversity related issues (Inishowen River Guardians Programme). Leader funded and ongoing
- **From Roscommon** : We are beginning the process of developing a Rivers Trust around the Boyle River catchment. this involves many different aspects of society and of the SDGs. with great hel from existing Riverst Trusts. Goals 3, 4, 6, 11,14,15 and 17.
- **From E.D** : Here in Carna. Connemara Gaeltacht we have setup a meals and wheels type program for people isolating during the Covid 19 and from that we are in the process of developing it as a more inclusive scheme. As well as that we have a number of sustainable developments re; Community and Tourism .
- **From Roscommon**: We have Roscommon Transition Towns, a new initiative to imbed justice and sustainability in our transition to low carbon resilient communities
- **From Donegal County Council** : Chef Aid Donegal is also really successful since COVID 19, there is now a need to continue the meals service for more elderly and vulnerable people.
- **From Monaghan** : We're starting a project in Monaghan called Edible Estates to engage with low income families in estates and get them growing their own food
- **From Monaghan: Liam Murtagh** : Drogheda based NGO Development Perspectives have great SDG resources and also projects such as the SDG Advocacy initiative. They also have an international initiatives.
- **From Sligo**: Carraroe and District Regeneration Association Sligo in partnership Sligo Co Co Water Officer / Carraroe National School 4th 5th 6 th classes organised a educational awareness including field trips to our local Lake Lough Gill .We are in process of undertaking a water sampling project again with same partners
- **From Meath County council** : Linking shops with local Vincent de Paul for using surplus non perishables.
- **From Donegal** : We have Inishowen Seed Bank - sharing seeds and plants. Encouraging collecting seeds, using open pollinators etc
- **From Sligo Cycling Campaign** : We're trying to influence the Co Co to see the need for #Safer Streets in light o Covid 19, more people out walking/cycling, children out, needing space for queuing, need to prioritise space for walking and cycling and reduce speed limits
- **From E.D** very informative and encouraging. we have built the wild flower identification & nature appreciation into our Wellness program with EAGNA, Catherine O Brien and the community.
- **From Carlow** : Hi Martina you were asking about the wellbeing vision- ours is rooted in the SDGS and we bring that to all our meetings around policy. So this week the County Tourism plan developers had to go through the plan as it relates to our vision.

6. Break Out Discussion (15 minutes)

'Identify a **collective action** that could be taken at a **local/county level** to ensure the SDG framework is at the **core** of our roadmap to recovery.'

- **From Tipperary** : Persuade the Local Authority that they need a recovery plan and that would be best based on SDG's
- **From Tipperary** -: Rather than being overwhelmed with the whole idea of SDGs we are probably doing them anyway - eg. Tidy Towns. Also LECPs should embed SDGs in the plans.
- **From Tipperary** : We had a discussion around Waste. Dumping and Litter but also about the need to do Business Waste Audits and a creating a platform for this Resource sharing.
- **From Tipperary** : Develop specific actions to develop cycling walking infrastructure and the creation of urban parklets to both support social distancing and to support biodiversity – connect actions to SDGs.
- **From Waterford** : Our conversation was around how people outside the SDG 'sector' aren't that aware of the Goals and we need to increase that awareness. Not about changing people's actions but the way they think about those actions - by putting the actions in to the SDG framework, getting the SDGs embedded in the LECPs, having organisations advertise that they are doing work on the Goals, using it almost as a promo tool. Also that we need to be able to capture the change as it is taking place that is the result of the SDGs
- **From Tipperary** : To actively maintain the community spirit and local focus which has come to the forefront under COVID. To work to sustain communities and the volunteer effort. Think Globally - Act Locally.
- **From Tipperary** -: Difficult to "sell" the message to those families and communities who are living with poverty, mental health issues, drug & alcohol issues - this is a challenge for organisations like ourselves - Family Resource Centres - who are helping these communities to just "fire fight". We will pursue this going forward but i think the challenges can't be ignored.
- **From Tipperary PPN I** : More training needed. More clarity around the LECP time frame, and how to practically link the LECP to SDGs
- **From Co. Cork & Co. Limerick** : We explored the need for effective and understandable language to be used from the outset. We acknowledged the need to communicated differently with different groups and platforms. However, it would be beneficial if those developing reports, plans and documents could understand the need for simple language without the need from those on the ground to translate at the same time. Also the point was raised to include HSE as a champion to increase connectivity
- **From DRCD Mayo** : DRCD are actively working on learning from the current crisis so we can harness the community spirit and local focus while moving forward to support communities as we recover from the crisis.
- **From Tipperary PPN**: Training for Reps/community/PPN members etc around how best to use the vision statements that are linked to SDG's
- **From Tipperary**: Yes - training for REPS etc to really understand the role. I am new to this and knowing the 'lingo' is a process. Today has been great getting to know the direction off our county/ community plans. The SDG's could be linked to my own employment role in Autism.
- **From Cork City** : Re joint statement: Re more street space for active travel, Transport and Mobility Forum have sent an open letter to Cork Councils, with signatories through the city and county PPNs. See press (e.g. Examiner lastThursday).

- **From Limerick** : Training has been mentioned - is anyone aware of online training on delivering SDGs at local level to local communities?
- **From Carlow** : Just to say that in Carlow many of future plans eg. Tourism strategy are being rooted in SDGs
- **From Tipperary** : Great session, thanks. Would the COVID emergency response group at local authority be a good structure to work on a COVID response plan from within a SDG framework - seems to have many of the key actors already sitting on these committees...
- **From Dublin**: Anthony - using Fiona's 70-20-10% rule, why not use existing IEN/PPN networks to engage with stakeholders more effectively & regularly across Ireland?
- **From Wicklow** : I much agree with Dermot that it would be great to empower the young enthusiastic activists by demonstrating the practical way to input into local and national policy documents through the SPCs etc
- **From Co Wicklow PPN** : Have an "SDG Officer/Champion" in each local authority
- **From Co Wicklow PPN** : Access UN budget to do extensive advertising campaign
- **From Co Wicklow PPN** : Share the stories of the process undertaken by PPNs in developing their Vision for Community Wellbeing and linking them to the SDGs
- **From Wicklow** : Have an SDG element in all local authority funding applications which would challenge/inspire/motivate groups to explore their own connection to the SDGs and own that connection.
- **From Meath PPN** : firmly believe Goals need an officer possibly linked to Climate Change Action Plan as it's cross departmental
- **From Wicklow** : Awareness raising within the local authority among staff and elected reps - inspire a value based connection to the goals rather than just a compulsion to reference them
- **From B.M**: We need much better engagement and collaboration between Local Authorities and PPNs. Are the LAs ready and willing?
- **From Roscommon**: SDGs embedded into C-19 community forum
- **From Galway City Community Network** : Feedback from Group 3 - Plans, strategies and policies - such as the City/County Development Plans should be required to develop within the context of the SDGs and assessed against the goals from the beginning of the planning process - the Public Sector Duty should be looked at as a model
- **From Co. Roscommon** : Totally agree with Floss's comments and the recent Biodiversity booklet issued by RCC could be merged with local TidyTowns, Edible Estates and Older Peoples Council networks future planning on diversity, knowledge, walks etc.
- **From Roscommon**: Could the SDGs form some of the Linkage Groups in the PPN?
- **From Roscommon**:: Roscommon County Plan...check SDGs are in it.
- **From Roscommon**: this was one of the best zoom meetings I have attended....congratulations to everyone on being polite and wonderful contributions...keeping everyone muted is such a great plan
- **From Monaghan** : In the break out group we looked at the role of PPN reps on committees - helping to embed SDGs . Also identifying existing actions and linking them to SDGs. Looking at Development plans and using the SDGs to shape the plan not the other way around. Not having it as a tick the box exercise.
- **From Roscommon**:: have got an sdg flag and going to place up at our playground :)
- **From DRCD (Roscommon)** : Great chat in our breakout room. Some discussion points included - the importance of identifying what else is going on around us in different communities. Identify the actions that are ongoing already, that are happening organically and supporting them, helping them to grow, they are authentic not manufactured. Other thoughts, what is the most useful thing we can do now as we emerge from the crisis. Needs, behaviours have changed. The need for training, awareness building, education

and supports as we emerge and look at things differently. Also the need to recognise digital poverty and how we can ensure people are not left behind. The importance of circular economies, supporting local and shopping local. How can we support each other. Grow your own projects. The opportunities from sharing experience and challenges, and the need for linking up and better communications amongst communities, between different communities, and up and down. Great discussions, thanks all

- **From Sligo:** *We need to be careful to avoid superficial connections to SDGs in planning, seeing it as a tick box challenge to incorporate as many as possible. It can be better to focus specifically on one while a couple of others may interlink...*
- **From Roscommon :** *Government needs to drive the local governments to take the SDGs seriously*

Summary of Actions

- i. Persuade Local Authorities that they need a **Covid19 Recovery Plan** anchored in the SDGs
- ii. Develop **joint statement from all PPNs** calling on local authorities to ensure SDGs are guiding principle of any Covid-Recovery plan – Get PPNs to sign OR develop shared template for PPNs to sign send to their own local authority
- iii. Work with **Covid Emergency Response group** in each local authority to develop recovery plan rooted in SDGs
- iv. Work to ensure every Local Authority has an **SDG Champion/Officer**
- v. Connect all **local authority/ PPN funding and grants** to the SDGs: require applicants to identify how project will impact on SDGs to avail of funding
- vi. Ensure SDGs are used as the **framework for every new county plan** – County Development Plans (CDPs) Local Economic & Community Plans (LECPs) etc.
- vii. Identify/seek **training & guidance** for the LCDCs to facilitate the mapping of SDGs into new LECP.
- viii. Use SDGs to frame upcoming **PPN plenary meetings/ community meetings** thematically
- ix. **Develop local SDG Map** for counties highlighting local groups that are impacting on the SDGs

- x. PPNs can encourage members to proactively brand their events & activities with SDGs
- xi. Insist that Government plays more active role in drive local authorities to take the SDGs seriously – offer guidance and more training for local authorities
- xii. Share the process undertaken by PPNs in developing their **Vision for Community Wellbeing** and linking them to the SDGs with others
- xiii. Include & involve **young people/ young activists** in inputting to by demonstrating the practical way to input into local and national policy documents through the SPCs etc
- xiv. Increase **awareness within the local authority staff and elected reps** - inspire a value based connection to the goals rather than just a compulsion to reference them
- xv. Work to ensure Tidy Towns embeds the SDGs into marking/awards process



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