



# **Public Participation Network Meath**

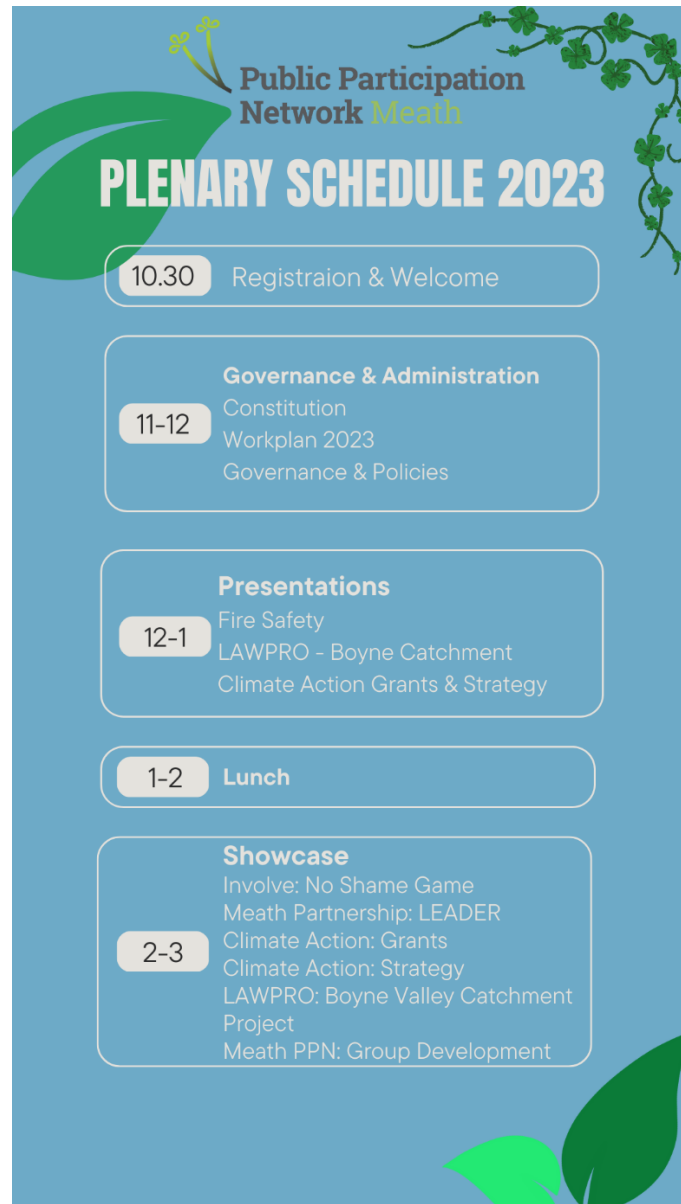
**Report on Plenary of Meath PPN**

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2023**

**Knightsbrook Hotel, Trim**

1. **Chair of the Plenary:** Nazih Eldin, Beechmount Residents Association, Navan MD

2. **Agenda:** circulated before event



3. **Registration and Welcome**

At the Plenary of Meath PPN, held on 20<sup>th</sup> May 2023 in the Knightsbrook Hotel in Trim, 45 people were in attendance, representing 35 different groups from across the Meath PPN network. **See Appendix 1.**

#### 4. Governance & Administration

The Chair officially opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance, reminding them that was Meath PPN's first in person Plenary since 2019.

The Chair then introduced the new Secretariat before thanking the previous Secretariat and acknowledged the work they had done to date.

Groups were thanked for the coordinated response during the COVID 19 pandemic and recognised the response as an example of good community collaboration, the heart of any PPN.

Reflecting on the workplan from the Plenary of April 2022, the Chair talked through actions achieved to date and outstanding ones currently underway.

Of particular interest was the development of the Constitution for Meath PPN (*distributed to all member groups on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and available on the website*).

This lays out a binding set of rules, outlining how Meath PPN will operate and should be read in tandem with the PPN Handbook.

The Constitution must be adopted by the membership of Meath PPN. As only 35 groups were present on the day (6% of total membership) and given a significant number had not read the document previously, a decision to hold the vote online was suggested from the Secretariat. This would allow groups time to read, discuss and decide. **See Appendix 2.**

The Chair then introduced the workplan (*distributed to all member groups on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and available on the website*) developed by the Secretariat, Staff and Facilitator, explaining its 4 sections. Incorporating decisions from last year's Plenary, the workplan is heavy on administration but this is to be expected giving the requirement to have all governance, policies and procedures in place. With no issues or objections raised from the floor, the workplan was adopted for 2023.

The Chair finished by outlining actions currently in development. These included the development of policies and procedures as referenced in the Constitution, to be presented at the next Plenary.

The development of Linkage Groups with facilitation, training and capacity building provided, to support representatives on committees and boards in bringing the voice of community groups into the decision-making process.

A training needs analysis would also be carried out with PPN membership to develop a training calendar which will form part of the workplan for 2024.

## 5. Presentations

The next section of the day focused on three presentations from different departments and organisations.

### *Barry Quinn – Meath Fire and Rescue Service*

Barry discussed how community partners can help identify vulnerable households, including the elderly and people with disabilities, where no smoke alarms are fitted. The local authority will supply two ten-year self-contained smoke alarms. Working smoke alarms are critical to prevent house fire deaths and can save lives.

### *Aoife McGrath – LAWPRO*

Aoife is a Community Water Officer and highlighted the role of community action to ensure the protection and restoration of water quality for future generations. Aoife detailed the supports available to communities to undertake projects and initiatives. The Boyne Vision Project aims to bring communities together with state agencies to manage and protect the Boyne catchment.

### *Anne O'Brien & Peter Olwell – Climate Action Team in Meath County Council*

Anne discussed the Community Climate Action Programme 2021-24, €811,000 is allocated to Meath. The aim of the fund is to support community climate action projects that reduce carbon use and promote sustainability. Projects may be small, medium or large under themes of Home/energy, Travel, Food & Waste, Shopping & Recycling and Local Climate & Environmental Action.

Peter talked about the development of a new Climate Strategy for county Meath and the importance for community input for developing such a strategy.

## 6. Showcase

Following lunch, a number of groups and organisations were available to talk to participants and groups. These included:

- Involve – No Shame Game
- Meath Partnership – LEADER Programme
- Climate Action – Grants
- Climate Action – Strategy
- LAWPRO – Boyne Valley Catchment Project

PPN groups were also invited to meet their Municipal District and Pillar Secretariat members for round table discussions. This was a great opportunity to meet and greet both the Secretariat and PPN membership. The collective voice of the groups is what drives forward any PPN and after 4 years of no physical meeting point, this opportunity was a particular highlight for many.

## Appendix 1 – List of Groups in Attendance:

ALONE	Hillside View Housing Association
Amach Fada Housing Association	Kentstown ICA
Ashbourne and District Community Council	Kilskyre Pride of Place
Athboy Tidy Towns	Meath An Taisce
Ballinlough GFC	Meath East Community Association
Beechmount Residents Association	Na Fianna CLG GAA
Broomfield District Residents Association	NE Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force
Clonalvy Revival	Rathmolyon Union of Parishes
Coast Watch Europe	Ratoath Rugby Club
Coiste Halla Bhaile Ghib	Ratoath Tidy Towns
Cultúr	Skane Kilmessan Active Retirement
Drumconrath Community Alert	Sonairte
Drumconrath Community Development Association	SOSAD
Dunboyne Men’s Shed	Summerhill GAA
Dunboyne Tidy Towns	St. Mary’s Villas Residents Association
Flexibus	Trim Women’s Shed
Friday Night Soccer	Wild About Navan
Gaeil Colmcille CLCG	

## Appendix 2 – Constitution Result:

### Meath PPN Constitution

May 22, 2023 at 4:00pm – May 29, 2023 at 4:00pm  
(GMT+01:00) DUBLIN

Completed

Actions ▾

175 ballots submitted of 564 eligible voters (22 opened) – 31%  
564 emails sent - 0 notices queued

Results

Graphed Results

Vote by Vote

Voter Audit

Admin Audit

Export Results ▾

Do you approve the Constitution for Meath PPN as presented to the Plenary on  
May 20th 2023? PLURALITY

Yes - I approve the Constitution of Meath PPN

151 votes 91.52%

No - I reject the Constitution of Meath PPN

14 votes 8.48%

Yes - I approve the Constitution of Meath PPN wins with 91.52% of the vote.

165 votes tallied and 10 abstentions

## Secretariat of Meath PPN



Back Row: Andy Ogle, Willie John Creedon, Brian Sullivan, Ronan Murtagh

Front Row: Garret O'Brien, Eilish Devine, Nazih Eldin, Johanna Sheehy

Missing: Jack Holmes



[Constitution of Meath PPN](#)

[Workplan 2023](#)