



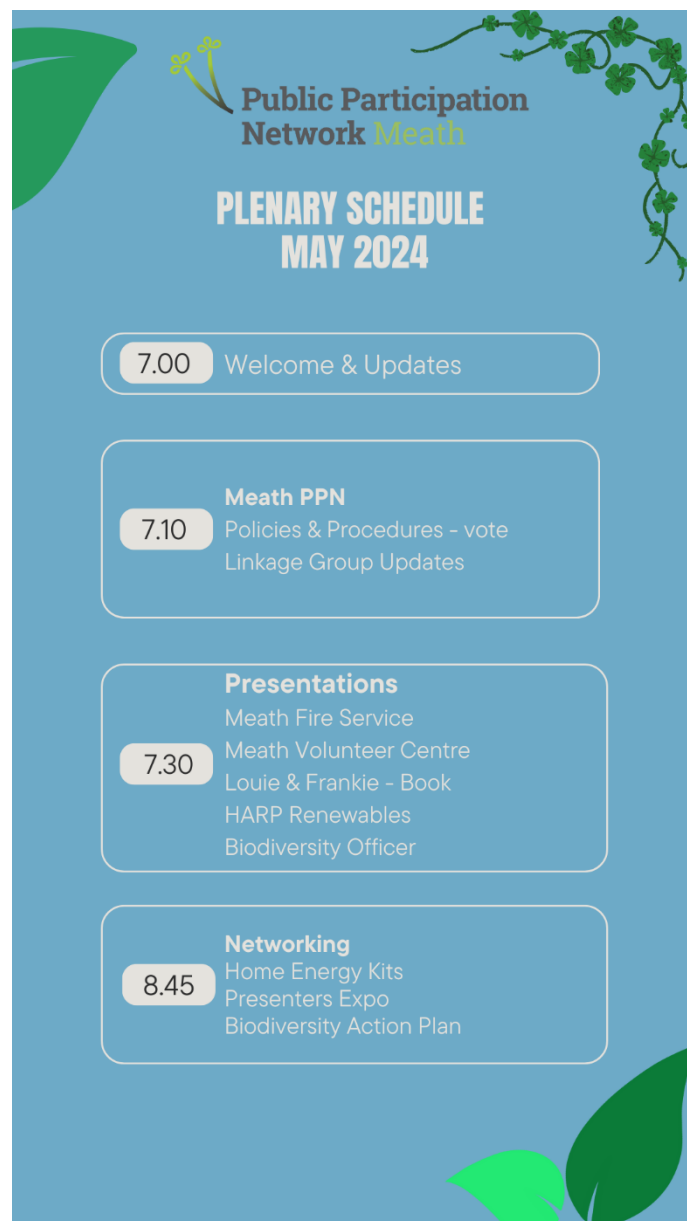
Public Participation Network Meath

Report on Plenary of Meath PPN

14th May 2024

Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre

1. **Chair of the Plenary:** Brian Sullivan, St. Mary's Villas Moynalty, Kells MD
2. **Agenda:** circulated before event



3. **Registration and Welcome**

At the Plenary of Meath PPN, held on 14th May 2024 in the Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre, 32 people were in attendance, representing 37 different groups from across the Meath PPN network. **See Appendix 1.**

4. **Opening**

Coordinator of Meath PPN, Nicky McDonnell, thanked everyone for coming and went through housekeeping and the agenda for the evening before handing over to the incoming Chair of Meath PPN, Brian Sullivan.

5. Governance & Administration

The Chair officially opened the meeting and welcomed all in attendance before introducing the Secretariat and outlining for attendees what had been achieved since the last Plenary.

With the passing of the first tranche of policies and procedures at the last Plenary in Wilkinstown, the Chair introduced Stephen Rourke, facilitator with the Secretariat of Meath PPN, to go through the second tranche (*distributed to all members on 3rd May 2024*) which would further complete the governance requirements of Meath PPN.

Stephen suggested, as per the [PPN Handbook](#), that those present at the Plenary are mandated to be a voting body for the whole PPN. Asking those present if they were happy to take a vote on the second tranche of policies and procedures on behalf of the full network, there was unanimous agreement.

Following a robust discussion on the need for such governance in the PPN, a vote was put to the floor on the acceptance or rejection of the policies. 37 voted in favour with 0 against. This completed the full governance requirements for Meath PPN and further embedded the Constitution for member groups. **See Appendix 2.**

The Chair finished by outlining the development of Linkage Groups with facilitator Jamie Moore and the success of the first round of meetings held in March. Groups were encouraged to attend any of the 4 meetings planned for June and take part in the mapping exercise which will frame the workplan for each of the Linkage Groups.

6. Presentations

The next section of the evening focused on five presentations from different departments and organisations.

Barry Quinn & Olivia Carpenter, Meath Fire Service

Barry Quinn spoke of new and updated safety measures; which organisations should make themselves aware of. He took groups through the video resources available on Meath Fire & Rescue YouTube channel before discussing some basic safety audits groups can do. A free smoke alarm was presented to all attendees.

Emma Golesworthy, Meath Volunteer Centre ([Presentation Here](#))

Emma Golesworthy spoke about the county-wide community-based service that offers a recruitment and placement service available to anybody living in county Meath who is interested in volunteering. Meath Volunteer Centre also provides support and training to organisations in county Meath on all aspects of volunteer management in order to encourage best practice across the sector.

Fionn Murray, author of the Louie and Frankie book series

Fionn Murray is a writer and illustrator from Gibbstown. He is also the author of the Louie and Frankie, a storybook designed to show young people the importance of understanding, exploring and expressing their emotions in a healthy, positive way. With a goal of being a mental health ambassador for young people and taking away the scariness from discussing the topic, Louie & Frankie is already on several primary schools prescribed reading lists.

Ben Malone, Biodiversity Officer for Meath County Council ([Presentation Here](#))

Ben Malone discussed the pre-draft public consultation currently underway for Meath's Biodiversity Action Plan 2025-2030. He brought groups through the importance of nature, not just for our environment but also our shared dependency for human development. Participants were invited to take part in an open think-tank session before being encouraged to complete the pre-draft consultation forms.

Gerry McDonnell, HARP Renewables ([Presentation Here](#))

Gerry McDonnell spoke about HARP Renewables, a Kentstown based global leader in thermophilic aerobic digestion and waste treatment. The company manufactures a range of bio digesters, for large business to small household units suitable for community hubs and clubs. These units 'digest' food and organic waste, converting it into a dry, safe, nutrient-rich soil product.

7. Networking and Presenters Showcase

Following light refreshments, groups were invited to network amongst each other. This has been a key component missing from PPN events. Peer led and shared learning is vital to the continuous improvement of community provided services across the county.

PPN groups were reminded to complete the Biodiversity Draft Consultation survey as well as receive their fire alarm and nutrient samples from suppliers.

All presenters had tables available for attendees to gather further information or ask specific questions.

Outgoing Chair, Eilish Devine stood to thank Willie John Creedon, who was stepping down from the Secretariat after the evening's plenary. Willie John represented the Ratoath MD area for the past 18 months.

At the end of the evening a raffle was held with prizes sponsored by various companies from the Ratoath MD area, **see Appendix 3**, before the May Plenary was ended and everyone wished a safe journey home.

Appendix 1 – List of Groups in Attendance:

Clonee Tidy Towns	Cultur
Moynalty Steam Threshing	Dunshaughlin Tidy Towns
Moynalty Active Retirement	Kilskyre Pride of Place
Old Mill Estate	Kentstown ICA
Ballinlough GFC	Meath East Community Association
Beechmount Residents Association	Na Fianna CLG GAA
Broomfield District Residents Association	Summerhill CE Scheme
Chestnut Grove Residents Association	North East Sand Sculptures
Meath East Community Association	How Are You Feeling Outreach
Latin Insight Meath	Ratoath Men's Shed
Ratoath Tidy Towns	Athboy Men's Shed
Ratoath Rugby Club	Sick of Plastic Trim
Dunshaughlin GAA CLG	Dunshaughlin Historical Society
Dunboyne Men's Shed	Wilkinstown Community Centre
Dunboyne Tidy Towns	St. Mary's Villas Residents Association
Flexibus	Moynalty Community Council
Voculeles	Gardening Dynamic
St. Colmcille's GAA	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Bhulf Tón GAA	

Appendix 2 – Policies & Procedures Result:

For: 37 votes

Against: 0 votes

Policies ratified by the vote can be found here: [Policies & Procedures](#)

Appendix 3 – List of Raffle Prize Sponsors

Alltech

Avoca Handweavers

Dunboyne Castle Hotel and Spa

Fairyhouse Racecourse

Pearse Lyons Distillery

Photos



Ben Malone – Biodiversity Officer



Emma Golesworthy – Meath Volunteer Centre



Fionn Murray – Louie & Frankie author



Barry Quinn – Meath Fire and Rescue Service