



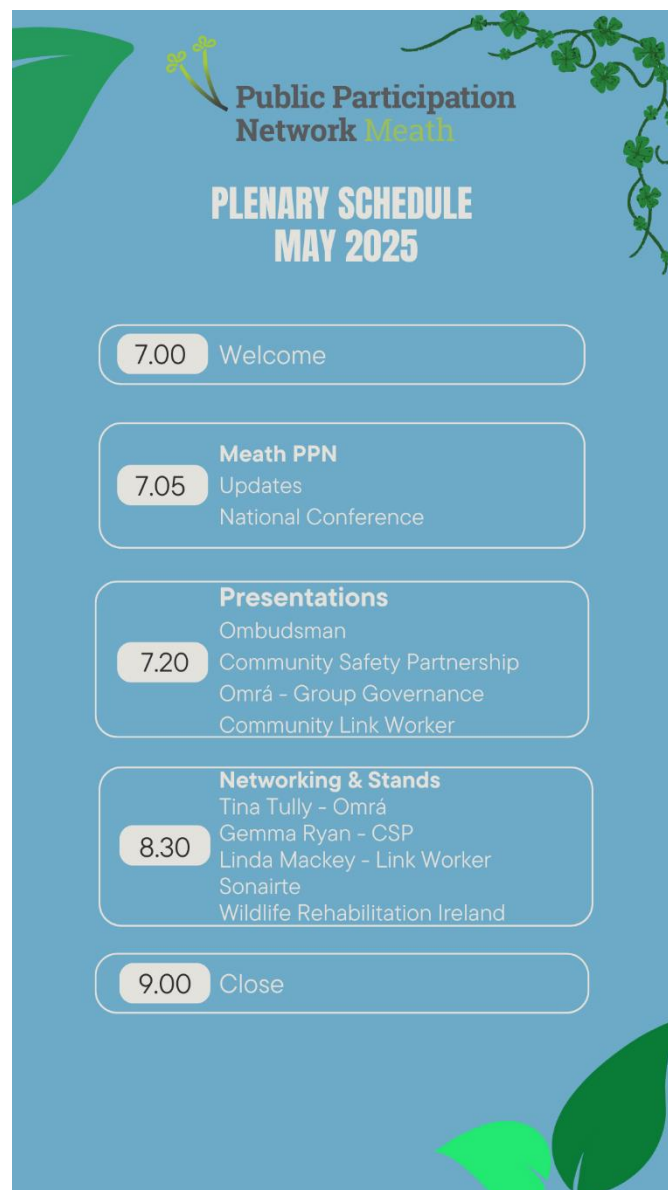
Public Participation Network Meath

Report on Plenary of Meath PPN

29th May 2025

Duleek, Bellewstown & District Community Facility

1. **Chair of the Plenary:** Andy Ogle, NE-DATF, Social Inclusion Pillar
2. **Agenda:** circulated before event



3. Registration and Welcome

At the Plenary of Meath PPN, held on 29th May 2025 in the Duleek, Bellewstown & District Community Facility, 51 people were in attendance, representing 43 different groups from across the Meath PPN network. **See Appendix 1.**

4. Opening

Chairperson of Meath PPN, Andy Ogle, thanked everyone for coming and went through housekeeping and the agenda for the evening, introducing the different presenters and making note of other contributors who formed part of the showcase.

5. Meath PPN

The Chair introduced the Secretariat before outlining for attendees what had been achieved since the last Plenary.

This included the distribution of the of the 'Grants Calendar' detailing the most relevant and reoccurring grants with approximate dates that they are issued. This calendar was sent to all registered groups early in the New Year. Hardcopies were available on the night as well a QR code which linked to the online version.

Regular updates from PPN staff via fortnightly newsletter, website updates on 'News' section and through social media accounts, kept members informed of important events in the county, consultations opened and training available.

Networking and enabling groups to meet face to face remained an important function of Meath PPN, flagged by members as being of great benefit to them. This enabled the PPN to organise a number of facilitated workshops, grant information sessions and day trips, to encourage this conversation but also provide information to the groups.

These included development of Linkage Groups as both a method of supporting Representatives on various SPC's and other committee's but also for the wider community across Meath to input onto the County agenda. Grant writing and fundraising workshops were a particular highlight and it was noted that these would be repeated in the autumn.

Meath PPN now has 774 Member Groups, up from 713 or an 8.5% increase since the November Plenary.

The support of the PPN towards the emergency response during Storm Eowyn was mentioned as an important connector between community groups, Council and Emergency Services. Liaising with 11 hubs and centres providing support to local areas, a map was issued on website and regular updates communicated to groups in affected areas.

The Chair then handed over to staff who outlined information in the grants calendar as well as how Meath based groups can participate in the PeacePlus Changemakers Programme. Despite not being a border county but through the County's participation and membership of the East Border Region, a grouping of 6 local authorities tasked with the economic, social and cultural development of the region.

6. Presentations

The next section of the evening focused on four presentations from different organisations, all with relevant information for attending groups:

Ger Deering, Ombudsman ([Presentation Here](#))

Ger Deering was appointed Ombudsman and Information Commissioner for Ireland in January 2022.

Ger outlined the role of the Ombudsman, including how groups and individuals can get in contact with the office. He took them through the process as well what public bodies they can and cannot take complaints about.

Detailing some statistics about Meath based complaints in 2024, Ger then discussed a number of anonymised complaints before highlighting a significant success story in the development of “In Sickness and in Debt”, a report into the administration by the Health Service Executive of schemes that fund necessary medical treatment in the EU/EEA or UK. This led to several recommendations being implemented by the HSE and Department of Health.

Tina Tully, Ómra Support Agency ([Presentation Here](#))

Tina Tully is a partner of Ómra, a support agency providing governance support, training, mentoring, strategic planning and conflict resolution services to organisations that work in the community, voluntary and disability sector.

Tina gave an overview of her background and how she came to founding Ómra with business partner Catherine McIntyre, how it aligns with her values and her passion for supporting grassroots movements.

Ómra provides several governance support structures to community groups, from strategic planning and policy development to mediation and conflict management. Details were given on types of training available and how attendees could get in touch.

Tina thanked Meath PPN for the continued collaboration and expressed her interest in working with the network as a means of maximising Ómra’s reach in the county.

Linda Mackey, Community Link Worker – Meath Partnership ([Presentation Here](#))

Linda has recently begun in the role of Community Link Worker in Meath. Her role is to establish facts and countering misinformation using a community development approach, and working with groups to develop inclusive responses to integration.

Through a series of misinformation workshops, these aim to:

- Understand what misinformation is & why it exists?
- How to identify fake news, deep fakes & deep future
- Myths and Facts around migration experiences
- What we're hearing v The Reality
- Fact checking Narratives & conspiracies - Where to get information
- What you can do to respond to misinformation.

These workshops are available to organisations and community groups aiming to tackle misinformation and provide a platform for informed discussion and a collaborative integration approach.

Gemma Ryan, Local Community Safety Partnership Coordinator ([Presentation Here](#))

Gemma gave an overview of the new Local Community Safety Partnership which has replaced the Joint Policing Committee's across Ireland.

In her presentation, Gemma detailed the successful pilot schemes and the rollout to other local authority areas, the objectives and functions of the new LCSPs as well as the role and responsibilities of the Chairperson and LCSP teams.

Gemma gave information on how the committee will be made up, which will include representatives from the PPN membership. These will be advertised through the network once details have been finalised.

To finish, Gemma talked about the Property Marking Machine, how it operates and how community groups can hold a "marking day" for people in their areas. The Property Making Machine was available to view during the Plenary.

7. Networking

Following the presentations and some light refreshments, participants were invited to network amongst each other. This has been a key component of the last number of plenaries, providing a platform for groups to discuss with and learn from each other.

Everyone was reminded to find out more information from the relevant stands that each of our presenters had, along with information from Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland, Sonairte and BHP Insurance who were all present on the night.

Chairperson Andy Ogle thanked everyone for attending before holding the raffle for a selection of prizes following which everyone was wished a safe journey home.

Appendix 1 – List of Groups in Attendance:

Ashbourne Sister shed	Gardening Dynamic
Ballinlough GFC	Mornington Tidy Towns
Beechmount Residents Association	Na Fianna CLG GAA
Boardsmill GAA	Trim Family Resource Centre
Broomfield District Residents Association	Summerhill CE Scheme
Curraha Community Group	Kilskyre Pride of Place
Duleek Bellewstown DCF	Trim GAA
Duleek GAA	Porterstown Community Alert
Duleek Girl Guides	Bohermeen Community Centre
Duleek Heritage Group	Stamullen Tidy Towns
Dunboyne Men's Shed	Meath Council of Trade Unions
Dunboyne RSA Group	NERD&AT
Inland Waterways Ireland	Meath Women's Refuge
Julianstown Community Development	North East Sand Sculptures
Kells Men's Shed	Moynalty Community Council
Kiltale Hurling Club	Youth Work Ireland Meath
Meath East Community Association	Girley Bog Meitheal
Moynalty Steam Threshing	Beaufort Place RA
Sonairte	Wildlife Rehabilitation Ireland
St. Colmcille's GAA	Kentstown ICA
Trim Haymaking Festival	Kentstown Tidy Towns
Tudor Grove RA	

Photos



