



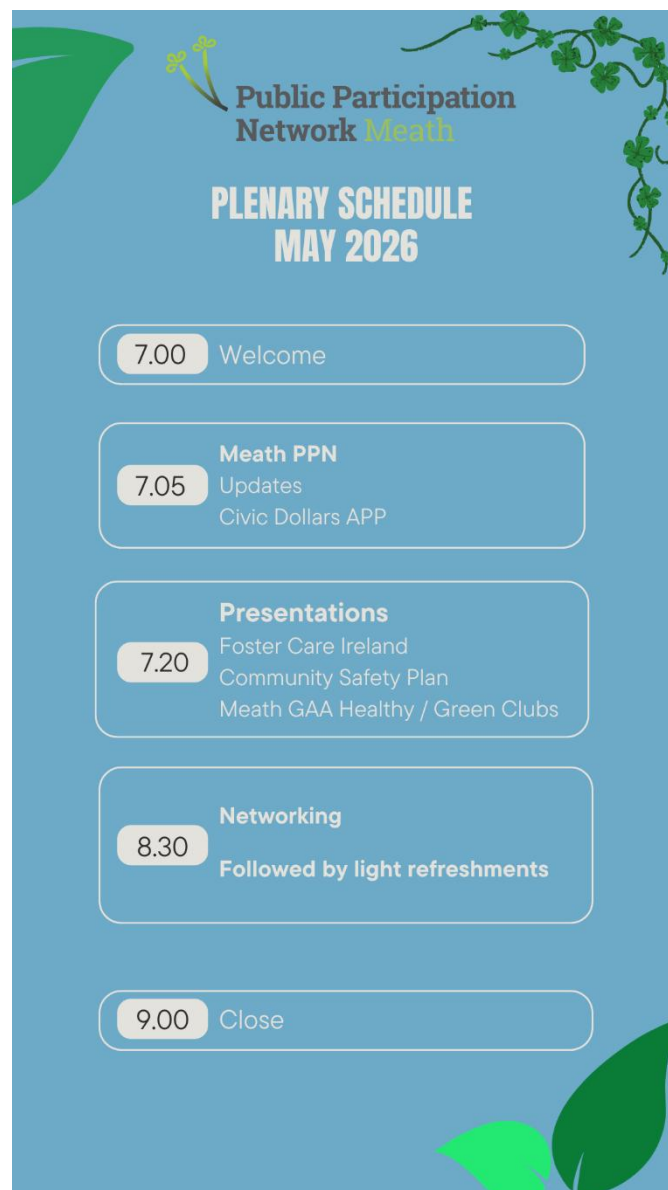
Public Participation Network Meath

Report on Plenary of Meath PPN

21st May 2026

Bective GFC, Cannistown, Navan

1. **Chair of the Plenary:** Johanna Sheehy, Blackwater CFR, Community/Voluntary Pillar
2. **Agenda:** circulated before event



3. Registration and Welcome

At the Plenary of Meath PPN, held on 21st May 2026 in the Bective GFC, Cannistown. 38 people were in attendance, representing 34 different groups from across the Meath PPN network. **See Appendix 1.**

4. Opening

Chairperson of Meath PPN, Johanna Sheehy, 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 plenary.

5. Meath PPN

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

This included updates for Secretariat positions arising from members who had reached their maximum terms. These in the Laytown-Bettysown MD as well as 2 positions from Community & Voluntary pillar and 1 from Social Inclusion pillar. The Plenary were introduced to Ross Kelly from Shelf of Wonder who would be joining Johanna Sheehy, the incumbent C&V nominee, as the 2 Community & Voluntary members. Fiona Weldon from Meath DPO was nominated to the Social Inclusion vacancy. There was one nomination received for Laytown-Bettystown MD, however in the week leading up to the Plenary, they withdrew their nomination.

Over the summer, nominations will be sought from Trim, Navan, Kells and Ashbourne MDs. Outgoing Secretariat members who have served one term are permitted to be nominated for a second term. Information will be distributed to member groups in these MD's in June.

Capacity building projects such as the Community Resilience Toolkit, Support Hubs and AED mapping were also discussed and work will continue to progress these important projects across the rest of 2026.

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.

Meath PPN now has 854 Member Groups, up from 814 or an 4.9% increase since the November 2025 Plenary.

The Chair then handed over to staff who outlined the Civic Dollars APP project in collaboration with Healthy Meath. The APP allows people to record time they spend outdoors in various mapped locations across Meath. They then receive 'dollars' for this time and can use these dollars to receive rewards or donate them to local groups and organisation. Groups in turn can accumulate significant numbers of this virtual currency and in term use it to purchase equipment or services for the benefit of their club, associations and communities.

6. Presentations

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

Carol Boylan, Principal Fostering Social Work

Kay Jackson, Local Foster Carer ([Presentation Here](#))

Carol Boylan delivered a presentation on fostering supports available to foster carers and children. This included ways you can foster, supports available, how there is no 'typical' foster carer and outlining the foster care journey.

The Plenary also heard from Kay Jackson, a local foster carer with over 30 years' experience. This was a valuable insight into the lived experience of carers and the children they support. Attendees all complimented the work being done with many expressing an interest in exploring fostering opportunities.

GAA Healthy Clubs & Green Clubs ([Presentation Here](#))

Dawn McCarthy from Bective GFC outlined the Healthy Clubs initiative and how Bective has been to the forefront of clubs involved, from right across the county. Healthy Clubs allows a GFC to attract more people to a club that may have not been involved in football or hurling before. Members can then support and encourage better physical, mental and social health to the entire community.

Dawn outlined the various events they have organised including community walks, fundraisers, line dancing and mental health and art and book projects. These all enabled the club to grow, get recognised at local and national awards and helped grow the club membership. Dawn discussed future plans as well as how other clubs could begin the journey.

Regina Purcell from Kiltale GAA discussed the Green Club programme and how it was established to support clubs in taking simple and effective sustainable action in their grounds and across their activities. Regina outlined the process in setting up a Green Club programme and showcased Kiltale's journey as well as milestones the club has achieved so far. From funding to grants as well as recognition and environmental awareness, there are numerous ways in which having a green club can help communities and members.

Paddy from Bective then introduced a video the club produced highlighting their experience of the green club project so far. ([Video here](#))

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 outlined the development of the Local Community Safety Plan and how people can get involved and have their say. A number of public consultations are organised across May and June as well as an online consultation on June 8th. Information was also given about the online survey which is currently open and can be completed at any stage by members of the public.

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 TUSLA Fostering Services, Meath Local Community Safety Partnership and Campion Insurance (formerly BHP Insurance) who were all present on the night.

Chairperson Johanna Sheehy 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:

Trim GAA	Trim Climate Action
Wild About Navan	Act Out Youth Theatre
Ratoath Tennis Club	Inland Waterways Ireland
Solas 21 Donore	Third Age
Meath DPO	Latvian Grandmothers Ireland
Meath Healthy Communities	Kentstown ICA
Kentstown Tidy Towns	Bohermeen Bog
Blackwater CFR	Meath Council Trade unions
St. Colmcilles GFC	Meath GAA
Walterstown GFC	Tara AC
Navan TAG	Neurodiversity Navan
Coastwatch	Bective GFC
Kiltale GFC	Gardeners Dynamic
Dunboyne Men's Shed	Beechmout RA
St. Marys Villas Moynalty	Bective ICA
Youth Work Ireland Meath	Moynalty Steam Threshing
Ratoath Men's Shed	Summerhill Community Centre

Photos





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Presentations

