



Public Participation Network **Monaghan**

MONAGHAN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT DOES IT DO?

Public Participation Networks (PPN) were set up in 2014 as a result of the 2014 Local Government reform. There is a PPN in every county council area.

Monaghan Public Participation Network (MPPN)

Monaghan Public Participation Network is a network of community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations, and we are active in the County Monaghan area. We cover areas such as Ballybay, Clones, Emyvale, Carrickmacross, Castleblayney and Monaghan town. Our members are people like you who work in the community and your involvement in our activities is crucial to making us strong and effective.

Monaghan has more than 600 members and includes, groups, organisations, clubs, charities, associations and societies

What is the aim of Monaghan PPN?

Our aim is to co-ordinate how the community in Monaghan is represented. We also aim to:

- ❖ Make our members stronger
- ❖ Keep our members informed about local developments

We help the community be Represented

We work with the community so its representatives can take part in a fair and open way on a wide range of decision-making bodies. This includes:

- ❖ Monaghan County Council
- ❖ Local Development Companies
- ❖ Other local bodies

We empower community groups to influence policy makers, like those mentioned above.

We make our members stronger

We help our members to be better able to contribute positively to the community and engage with the County Council and other local, regional and national bodies. We provide a space for policy development on issues of community concern.

We keep our members informed

We provide information to our members and we receive information.

The activities of the Monaghan PPN enable our members to contribute to the wellbeing of the County Monaghan area.

Who are PPN Members?

We have over 600 groups made up of organisations, charities, clubs, residents associations, tidy town groups, Family Resource Centres, youth and LGBTQ members.

Who can become a member of Monaghan PPN?

A group can become a member of MPPN if it satisfies the following criteria. It must:

- ❖ Be active and with a postal address in County Monaghan
- ❖ Be in existence for at least six months
- ❖ Be non-party political and non-sectarian
- ❖ Be volunteer led (groups can have paid staff, but they must be under voluntary control)
- ❖ Operate on a not-for-profit basis
- ❖ Have at least three members
- ❖ Have an appropriate governance structure like a constitution or set of rules
- ❖ Meet regularly and communicate with their members

Your group cannot become a PPN member if it is already represented on the County Council or other decision making bodies.

If your group is not eligible to become a full PPN member, you can apply to be an associate member.

Associate members of the PPN enjoy some of the same rights as regular members. However, they cannot make nominations or cast votes. Associate membership is open to groups who:

- ❖ Do not yet meet the criteria for membership, but they are working towards them.
- ❖ Have representational rights on the County Council or other decision making bodies through other social partnerships like trade unions and business organisations.

HOW IS MONAGHAN PPN RELEVANT TO MY AREA OF INTEREST?

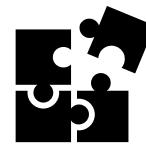
There are three pillars and every PPN member belongs to one of these three pillars.



Pillar 1
Community & Voluntary



Pillar 2
Environment



Pillar 3
Social Inclusion

When an organisation registers with the PPN, they select the pillar that most closely resembles the activity of their organisation.

Pillar 1 – Community and Voluntary

The main aim or activity of community and voluntary members is to improve the quality of life and wellbeing of their community. The community and voluntary pillar is the largest and most diverse of the three PPN pillars.

Volunteers are essential to the sustainability of community and voluntary member groups. The types of groups in this pillar may include:

Active Citizenship	Arts	Community Safety
Drama	Emergency Services	Festivals
Leisure	Residents Associations	Tidy Towns Groups
Sports	Youth	

Pillar 2 – Environment

The main aim of environment members is to protect or sustain the environment. Environment members work on building sustainable communities and achieving a sustainable future. Their work can include:

Developing Organic Horticulture	Environmental Education	Preventing the spread of Invasive Species
Protecting Wildlife	Recycling	Resource Efficiency
Sustainable Planning	Allotment Groups	Water Conservation/ protection

Pillar 3 – Social Inclusion

The main aim or activity of our social inclusion members is to improve the life chances and opportunities of those who are:

- ❖ Marginalised in society
- ❖ Living in poverty
- ❖ Living with unemployment

Social Inclusion members work to develop and build sustainable communities. They aim to build communities that promote the values of equality and inclusion and that have respect for human rights. They focus on working with the most marginalised, including but not limited to:

Disadvantaged young people	Ethnic minorities	Homeless people
Older adults	Travellers	People with disabilities
Substance misusers	Women	

WHY SHOULD MY ORGANISATION BE INVOLVED IN MONAGHAN PPN?

Networking

When you are a member of Monaghan PPN, you can:

- ❖ Meet similar groups from across the county
- ❖ Collaborate on projects
- ❖ Exchange skills and knowledge
- ❖ Learn from one another
- ❖ Share your experiences

Information

We keep members informed about community supports, funding streams and grant opportunities, workshops, training, and consultations and we act as an information hub for our members. We:

- ❖ Maintain a website
- ❖ Have active social media channels

Representation

We have nearly fifty representatives on various County Council committees, local agency boards and committees. This gives members eyes, ears and a voice in local decision making.

Training

We organise free training, workshops and information evenings on issues that our members select. These typically run during the autumn and spring. Previous training was run on topics such as social media, committee skills, putting together a Strategic Plan for your group, and information on the Charities Regulator.

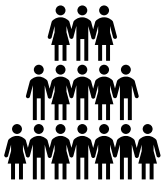
Consultation

Members can take part in and be consulted on issues, strategies and programmes that are relevant to you, such as the County Development Plan, Climate Change Strategy, Litter Management Plan, Local Economic and Community Plan, and Peace Plus Programme.

We Need You!!

Monaghan PPN is at its best when you, our members:

- ❖ Attend meetings
- ❖ Raise issues
- ❖ Give feedback



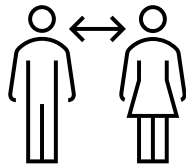
Our PPN Reps need your local knowledge and expertise to fully represent your concerns. Your active membership will help make the PPN for the Monaghan area strong and representative.

HOW DO MEMBERS TAKE PART IN MONAGHAN PPN?

PPN Representatives

PPN Representatives are PPN members who have been elected by their group to represent the PPN on a committee, board or advisory group. PPN reps can submit motions, highlight issues and raise questions on behalf of the PPN plenary. The role of the representative is to:

- ❖ Listen
- ❖ Discuss
- ❖ Represent
- ❖ Feedback



A gathering of all our PPN members is called a Plenary meeting. We hold Plenary meetings twice a year, usually in March/ April and November/December. One is held online and the second meeting is held in person. The meetings are open for our members and at these meetings, our members decide the workplan, strategy and any policies or procedures that have been updated. Each PPN member has one vote at the Plenary meeting, and members can raise local issues at a county level for discussion. Any new representatives that come on board during the year, must also be ratified at the Plenary meetings.

Secretariat Board

The Secretariat is a board made up of 10 members elected by the Plenary. The Secretariat meets every six weeks (excluding July and August) and is responsible for overseeing the day to day running of the PPN, in conjunction with the Resource Worker and Support Worker.

PPN Staff

The PPN staff are made up of a full time Resource Worker and Support Worker. Funding for the Resource Worker and the PPN day to day expenses and programmes comes from the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), with funding for the role of the Support Worker being funded by Monaghan County Council. The offices are based in Monaghan County Council's offices in MTEK 2. The Resource Worker under the direction of the Secretariat develops and co-ordinates the activity of the PPN.



HOW WE APPROACH OUR WORK

Inclusive



We accept all volunteer led organisations in Monaghan. We actively seek to include groups who may feel that they are not usually welcomed or listened to.

Participatory

We encourage our members to get involved in all aspects of the operation of the PPN. We welcome all feedback and ideas about how we can do better.



Independent



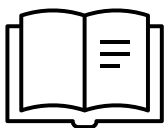
We are independent of Monaghan County Council and any vested interests. We have our own staff, manage our own budget and our opinions are not influenced by anyone other than our members.

Value Diversity

We know that Monaghan PPN is made up of groups with many different opinions. We do not expect that all our members agree on everything, but we will always feedback the diverse range of views our members have.



Transparent



We are open about everything we do. We try to have fair and clear policies and procedures, which are all available on our website. We communicate our activity with all our members on a regular basis.

Accountable

We report to you, our members. We will answer any and all questions you have. We have a good governance structure, good policies and procedures.



KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Strategic Policy Committees (SPC)

The purpose of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) is to develop, monitor and review policies which relate to the functions of Monaghan County Council and to advise the Council accordingly. The SPC's bring together members of the local authority, officials and the Monaghan PPN representatives and other stakeholders. They have no role in relation to operational services such as social housing waiting lists or roads etc.

Monaghan County Council have four SPC's that cover various issues. These are:

1. Housing, Social and Cultural (3 PPN Reps)
2. Economic Development and Enterprise Support (2 PPN Reps)
3. Climate Change and Environment (3 PPN Reps)
4. Transport and Community (3 PPN Reps)

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

The LCDC is responsible for co-ordinating, planning and overseeing local and community development funding. When putting in place local and community development programmes, the LCDC links the different agencies and the work being done.

The LCDC promotes active public participation and community engagement in local and community development programmes. The LCDC engages in the preparation of the six year Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) which focuses on enhancing the quality of life and well being of communities and our local economy.

Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

The JPC offers an opportunity to develop greater consultation, co-operation and accountability between:

- ❖ An Garda Siochana
- ❖ Monaghan County Council
- ❖ Elected Representatives

- ❖ Community Representatives

They work together to manage policing and crime issues across the Monaghan area.

National PPN Advisory Group

The National PPN Advisory Group advises the Department of Rural and Community Development on the development and monitoring of PPNs. The membership of the advisory group includes local and national stakeholders including:

- ❖ Local PPN volunteers
- ❖ PPN Resource Workers
- ❖ Local Government Officials

It also includes national community, voluntary, environment and social inclusion sector nominees.

National PPN Workers Network

The National PPN Workers Network exists to support PPN Resource and Support Workers to:

- ❖ Share best practice
- ❖ Work collectively on projects and highlight issues
- ❖ Nominate representatives onto the National PPN Advisory Group
- ❖ Engage with PPN stakeholders at a national level

Every PPN Resource and Support Worker takes part in this network.

Contact Details



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