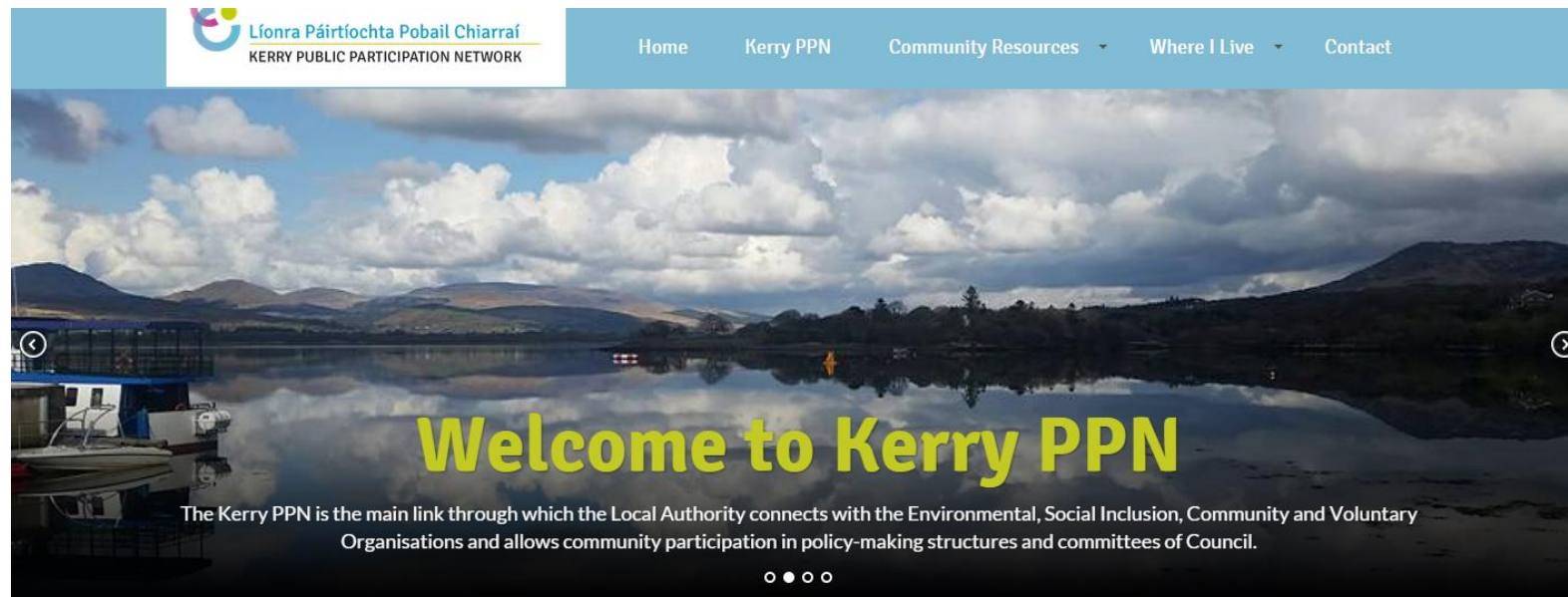


Kerry Public Participation Network



**Environmental Linkage Group Meeting
Policy Development Areas for Kerry County Council
28th May 2024**

Allotments and Community Gardens



Overview



- **Tralee Allotments in existence for over 15 years**
- **Allotments at Moyderwell, Marian Park and Rahoone - Gallowfield (not active)**
- **Community Gardens in Tralee Town Park, Shanakill**
- **Transition Kerry since 2007 advocating for and campaigning to ensure allotments/community gardens included in Tralee town and Kerry County development plans.**
- **Transition Kerry provide mentoring, training, consultancy services over many years**



- **In 2021, Kerry County Council (KCC) contracted Transition Kerry (TK) to undertake a review of Tralee Allotments, propose key recommendations (actions) for the future of these allotments, and also recommend roles and interrelationships amongst the key parties KCC, TK, NEWKD, ALLOTMENT HOLDERS**
- **Report was completed and submitted to KCC in October 2021**
- **Since 2022 NEWKD have supported Allotments with CE and Tus workers and Mens Sheds collaboration**

Activities since June 2022



Nutrition

Food Preservation



Poetry

Drama

Music



Biodiversity Action

Seed Saving



Composting



Lunchtime Talks

Climate Action



Propagation



Basic Gardening Skills

Soil Management



Foraging

Herb Gardening

Pruning

Benefits and Potential For Allotments & Community Gardens

- Education Hubs on issues such as growing Local Food, Climate Change, Food Preservation, Cooking, Diet & Nutrition.
- Environmental Education at each location – Waste Management, Composting, Reducing Food Waste, Energy Conservation, Water Conservation
- Ideal locations for education on the importance of Biodiversity and Habitat Creation and Protection.
- Intergenerational and cross-cultural activities.
- Marginalised groups participate at the Allotment sites.
- Health and Wellbeing & Nature Connection
- Local Primary, Secondary Schools and 3rd Level centres





Groups Involved



TIRC

**Transition
Kerry**

**Social
Farming**

KDYS

**St John Of
Gods**

**NEWK
D**

**National
Learning
Network**

TEAM

project

Kerry Parents

& Friends

**Mental Health
Services**

**Tralee Tidy
Towns**

Challenges

- Ensuring appropriate infrastructural needs are met.. eg soil/wood/maintenance, etc
- Payment of allotment bills including electricity, insurance, water etc
- No KCC department with responsibility for Community Gardens and allotments or a policy re same
- No funded development worker to coordinate with key stakeholders such as Local development companies, Transition Kerry, Tidy Towns, Development associations, etc to ensure that allotments are developed & supported
- No designated budget stream





Supports Needed



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chiarraí
Public Participation Network Kerry

- **Multi-annual investment:** Investment will maximise the potential within Allotments/ community Gardens, showcase them as a Flagship project for KCC, and provide a template for allotments owned/planned by KCC in other areas post 2024
- Allocate a KCC department with responsibility for Community gardens & allotments for the county, develop a policy re same
- Designated “development worker” to co-ordinate with the many stakeholders to maximise the potential of allotments as outlined
- Allotment promotion improved
- Nominating a key KCC champion with authority to be an active member of the steering committee



“We might think we are nurturing our gardens but of course it is our garden that is really nurturing us”

Jenny Uglow

Thank You!

