

Date:	29.01.26
Time:	6:15pm teas/coffee's, 6:30 p.m. start sharp
Venue:	Áras an Phobail, Moyderwell, Deans Lane, Tralee, V92CRW8

Meeting Facilitator:	Tomás Stack (TS)
Present	<p>Alan O'Connell (AOC)</p> <p>Anne Marie Fuller (AMF)</p> <p>Catherine Lenihan (CL)</p> <p>Ciaran Forde (CF)</p> <p>Jennifer Coffey O'Sullivan (JOS)</p> <p>Joanne McCarthy (JMC)</p> <p>Julieann Lane (JL)</p> <p>Laura Bennett (LB)</p> <p>Olha Yatsyk (OY)</p>
In Attendance	<p>Alex Grassick, KCC SEO Community, Climate Action and Operations (AG)</p> <p>Fergal Reidy, KCC CE (FR)</p> <p>Máiréad Costelloe, PPN Development Worker (MC)</p> <p>Kathy Molyneaux, PPN Support Worker (KM)</p>
Apologies:	Derry Murry (DM)

1. Welcome & Introductions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TS welcomed FR and AG to the meeting. All present introduced themselves.
2. 2025 Workplan Review
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MC presented an overview of the 2025 workplan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 82 new member groups joined Kerry PPN in 2025, bringing total membership to 1,154 groups. ○ Kerry PPN currently has 28 representatives on 10 local decision-making committees. ○ 3 representative elections held and 28 training interventions were delivered. ○ 48 weekly newsletters were issued to over 2,000 recipients, with strong engagement on funding and consultation opportunities.

- Social media engagement increased, including the launch of the Kerry PPN Instagram account.
- Capacity building training for member groups was prioritised following a training needs analysis. This has continued into 2026 with grant writing, collaboration, and media literacy training taking place already
- Kerry PPN attended 25 outreach events and held 2 plenaries, both with strong attendance.
- 5 Linkage Group meetings were held to identify policy priorities for Kerry PPN.
- All DRCDG, NOAC and Charities Regulator reporting requirements were met.
- FR acknowledged the ambition and strength of community groups in Kerry, noting this compares very positively with other counties. He highlighted the strong working relationship between KCC and Kerry PPN. FR asked to make meeting with the Kerry PPN Secretariat an annual occurrence.

3. Kerry PPN Representative's Experience

- AMF presented the result of the survey of Kerry PPN Representatives conducted in November 2025. The strong survey response rate (80%) and positive feedback regarding engagement with KCC was noted.
- Members highlighted the importance of having a workplan in place for SPCs
- Requests were made for:
 - Agendas and minutes to be circulated earlier
 - Meeting dates to be provided well in advance and adhered to
 - Greater recognition that daytime meetings are challenging for volunteer representatives
 - Formal introductions and induction sessions for committee members, particularly for LCDC and as refreshers for existing members
 - Sharing of meeting agendas and minutes, especially for SPCs, to allow communities to input meaningfully
- FR advised that SPC workplans are the responsibility of the Chair and that annual workplans would be more appropriate than five-year plans. He committed to raising this with KCC Directors of Service.
- A new organisational chart will be shared with Kerry PPN, and a general induction session with Corporate Affairs will be arranged, with AG confirming support.

4. Kerry PPN & Kerry County Council Collaboration and Co-Operation

- TS thanked KCC for its continued collaboration and AG for attending and speaking at the Plenary. Co-hosted information sessions with the Community Climate Action Officer were noted as very successful.
- MC acknowledged Davina Griffin for her ongoing liaison role, which has been critical to PPN delivery.
- TS raised some issues that had been identified as priorities by Kerry PPN member groups:
 - Community Support Fund (CSF) challenges of the deadline so early in the year and the issue of groups required to have public liability insurance, particularly where insurance costs exceed grant amounts.
 - Improving accessibility and usability of the KCC website.
 - Proposal for funding roadshows as a joint initiative between KCC and Kerry PPN.

- FR confirmed that liability insurance requirements will be reviewed, and they will look to other LAs to see if there are solutions that can be replicated. Also the KCC website and CE reports are both currently under review to improve accessibility.
- AG explained the deadline for CSF is set so that it doesn't clash with LEP and so that projects who are not eligible for CSF can be diverted to LEP if appropriate. A funding roadshow is in the Community Section plan for 2025.
- FR welcomed Kerry PPN looking to role out civic literacy training in 2025 and offered support of KCC staff to speak in these sessions.

5. 2026 Priorities

- JMC emphasised empowering groups and representatives by demystifying structures, terminology, and decision-making processes, and encouraging collaboration across sectors.
- AOC proposed hosting the PPN National Conference in Kerry in 2027, in collaboration with KCC. FR and AG confirmed support for a potential bid.
- FR spoke of the importance of groups engaging with consultation processes not only when they disagree with them but also if they are in agreement with the proposed plan or if they agree but have some suggested changes. He also stressed the importance of including diverse voices in the work of KCC and Kerry PPN and looking at innovative ways to engage and consult with groups.

6. Kerry PPN Representative Vacancies

- TS outlined current representative vacancies and proposed timeline for seeking nominations.
 - Proposed: AOC
 - Seconded: JoS
- MC explained that previously the Housing SPC Social Inclusion seat had previously been reserved for a member of the OPC Kerry Executive and asked if the group wanted to continue with that practice or open nominations to all groups in the social inclusion pillar. Decision was made that the nominations be open to all groups in the social inclusion pillar
 - Proposed: AOC
 - Seconded: JOS
- FR outlined how SPCs review and shape policies before they proceed to Council and emphasised the importance of local insight and representative participation e.g. it would be good to hear from Environmental representatives the projects on that worked and didn't from the people on the group.

7. AOB

- FR explained that the Kerry Community Awards committee are looking to revamp the competition and are hosting a two-hour workshop to look at how that can be done. He asked if Kerry PPN would be willing to nominate a delegation of 4 members of the Secretariat to join the workshop. AOC, JOS, JL, LB have agreed to participate.
- Upcoming Meetings & Training:
 - Collaboration Training: 9th February, 9:30am, Tralee Bay Wetlands
 - Kerry OPC & Kerry PPN Working Group meeting, 9th February 6.30pm
 - Kerry PPN Executive & KCC PPN Liaison staff member meeting, 9th February 7.30pm

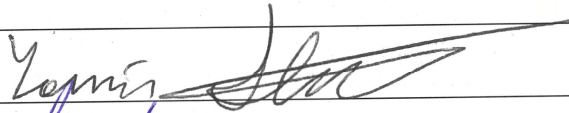
8. Glossary

- **CE:** Chief Executive
- **CSF:** Community Support Fund
- **KCA:** Kerry Community Awards
- **KCC:** Kerry County Council
- **LCSP:** Local Community Safety Partnership
- **LEP:** Local Enhancement Programme
- **MD:** Municipal District
- **NTA:** National Transport Authority
- **OPC:** Older People's Council
- **PPN:** Public Participation Network
- **SEO:** Senior Executive Officer
- **SPC:** Strategic Policy Group

Next Meeting

Date:	Thursday 26th February
Time:	6.30pm
Venue:	Aras an Phobail, Tralee

Signed:



Signed:

