

WORKPLAN & BUDGET 2026






Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail Chiarraí
Public Participation Network Kerry

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PREPARATION OF 2026 WORKPLAN

-  This workplan was prepared in consultation with the Kerry Public Participation Network (PPN) Secretariat and based on feedback from the full membership.
-  Input from the Kerry PPN Plenary was gathered at the Spring and Autumn gatherings and through the weekly members newsletter.
-  The Secretariat met in January 2026 to review the 2025 workplan, consider the input from the plenary and agree the main priorities and actions for the 2026 workplan.

OVERALL COMMUNITY WELLBEING VISION FOR COUNTY KERRY

Kerry is a resilient inclusive community that embraces diversity and has a strong ethos of volunteering. Thinking here is future focused, promoting growth and prosperity.

Good infrastructure and services and the dynamism of our economy enables endless opportunities and incentives for all. We treasure our history, heritage, culture, sports and recreation and work to ensure it is enjoyed for generations to come.

We have a strong local government, engagement and interactions are outcome focused. All voices are listened to and respected.

PRINCIPLES AND VALUES

- Kerry Public Participation Network (Kerry PPN) is an independent network of community & voluntary, environmental, and social inclusion groups active within county Kerry.
- Funding for Kerry PPN is provided by both the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht and by Kerry County Council through an annual allocation.
- Kerry PPN is an independent structure hosted by Kerry County Council.
- Government guidelines outline 3 main objectives for PPNs:
 1. Facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sectors on decision making bodies.
 2. Strengthen the capacity of the environmental, social inclusion and community and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate.
 3. Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.
- The ethos of the PPN is very important to how it works. In doing its work, each PPN keeps to a set of six principles. This means Kerry PPN must be:
 1. Inclusive of all volunteer-led groups in their area and actively look to include groups that might not otherwise be included or who might not often have their voice heard.
 2. Participatory, open, welcoming, respectful. Member groups must be willing to work together and supportive of each other. The PPN will encourage participation by member groups in all of its work. There should be clear communications to and from member groups using as wide range of communication methods as possible to make sure that their reach is as broad as possible. The PPN should support new member groups, and member groups who might not have a lot of experience.
 3. Independent from the Local Authority and any special interests. The PPN must account to the Local Authority for its budget but is independent in its work.
 4. Valuing of diversity and recognise that the pillars/ colleges are made up of people and member groups that have a wide range of different views, experiences and opinions. PPN's are expected to feed into local government decision making with the whole range of views from its member groups and their pillars/colleges.
 5. Transparent in everything that it does. It should communicate openly, regularly and clearly with all member groups.
 6. Accountable to its member groups by putting good governance policies and procedures in place.

GLOSSARY

- **DRCDG:** Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht
- **ELG:** Environmental Linkage Group
- **ICT:** Information and Communication Technology
- **KCC:** Kerry County Council
- **LA:** Local Authority
- **LAIT:** Local Authority Integration Team
- **LART:** Local Area Response Team
- **LCDC:** Local Community Development Committee
- **LECP:** Local Economic and Community Plan
- **Linkage Group:** A Linkage Group for an external committee is a collection of PPN member groups/organisations who have a particular interest or expertise in the issues being discussed by that committee.
- **MD:** Municipal District
- **MOU:** Memorandum of Understanding
- **NOAC:** National Oversight and Audit Commission
- **OPC:** Older People's Council
- **Plenary:** The full membership of the PPN is referred to as the Plenary.
- **PPN:** Public Participation Network
- **RALC:** Regional Adult Literacy Coalition
- **Secretariat:** The Secretariat is the key day-to-day administrative body within the PPN Structure.
- **SECO:** Sustainable Economic/Community Development Objective
- **SPC:** Strategic Policy Committee
- **VIO:** Volunteer Involving Organisations

KERRY PPN'S MAIN OBJECTIVES

Kerry PPN has four main objectives as set out by legislation.

Participation in Local Policy

Facilitate the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the appointment of environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector representatives on decision making bodies.

Capacity Building and Training

Strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate with events and training interventions.

Information Hub

Provide information relevant to the environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

Network Development

Provide opportunities for environmental, social inclusion, community and voluntary sector member groups to network locally and countywide.

OBJECTIVE 1: PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL POLICY

Key Action: To support Kerry PPN members to identify issues of collective concern, to take action on these issues and influence local policy.

PLANNED ACTIONS:

1.1 Ensure PPN Representation on decision making bodies.

1.2 Develop a process of engagement between Kerry PPN members and Representatives to allow two way communication between them and maximise their participation in local decision making committees.

1.3 Continue to support the Environmental Linkage Group (ELG).

1.4 Facilitate the development of additional linkage groups to support Representatives on local decision making committees.

1.5 Strengthen the relationship with Older People's Council (OPC) Kerry and develop the membership of the Over 55s' Network.

1.6 Further the Community Wellbeing Vision for County Kerry.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

● Elections run as needed to ensure all PPN representative positions are filled.

● 'Community Conversations' hosted in each MD encouraging Kerry PPN members to come together and raise local issues that can be progressed by representatives when the opportunities arise.

● At least 4 ELG meetings held in 2026

● Policy priorities agreed and an ask developed around each that Representatives can work to progress at committee level.

● Secretariat sub-group formed to focus on the future direction of the Disability Linkage Group.

● Meeting of Arts, Culture & Heritage focused member groups held with a view to developing a linkage group.

● Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) developed between OPC Kerry and Kerry PPN.

● Membership of Over 55s' network encouraged during membership re-registration process.

● Co-operated with KCC to run consultation workshops when appropriate.

● Submissions made on behalf of member groups to selected consultations.

OBJECTIVE 2: CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

Key Action: To support Kerry PPN member groups, Representatives and Secretariat members with training, workshops and other capacity building exercises.

PLANNED ACTIONS:

2.1 Provide training for all new and existing Representatives and Secretariat members.

2.2 Strengthen the Representatives network.

2.3 Run capacity building training courses for member groups based on their expressed and predicted needs.

2.4 Identify key stakeholders and potential capacity building projects for collaboration.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Induction training delivered to all new Representatives and Secretariat members.
- Training for Representatives delivered in areas identified in 2025 Representatives' Survey.

- At least 2 Representative's in-person networking events hosted.

- Training needs analysis of member groups conducted.
- Proposed training schedule published.
- Training attendance and feedback recorded to inform future training.

- Collaborated with Regional Adult Literacy Coalition (RALC) to host a Literacy & Wellbeing Conference for Community Groups.
- Development of an ICT Equipment Library project for Community Groups with Kerry Library explored
- Collaborated with Local Area Integration Team (LAIT) to deliver civic literacy programmes.
- Investigated funding opportunities to develop a volunteer well-being network.

OBJECTIVE 2: CAPACITY BUILDING AND TRAINING

Key Action: To support Kerry PPN member groups, Representatives and Secretariat members by training, workshops and other capacity building exercises.

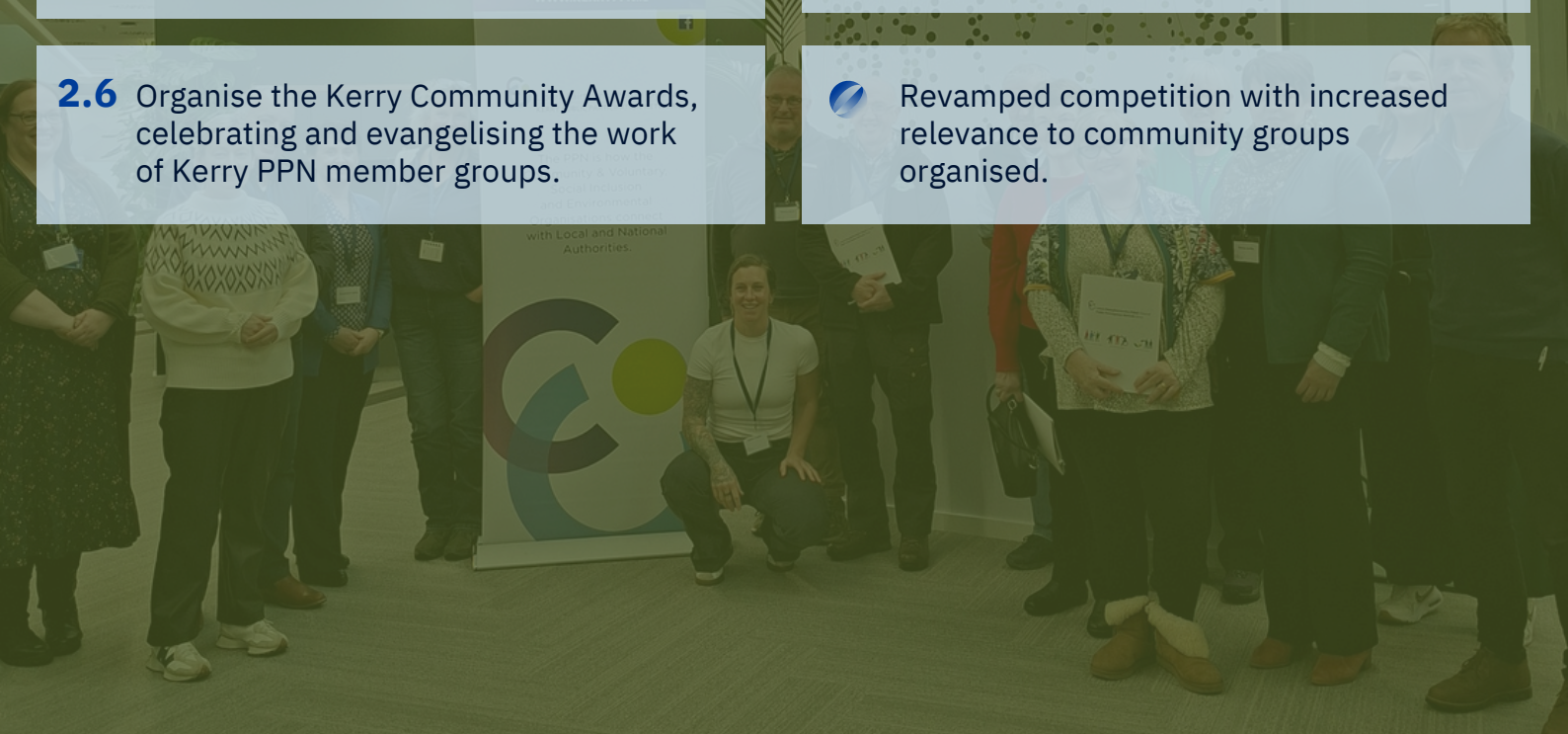
PLANNED ACTIONS:

2.5 Provide support to newly established member groups and groups from marginalised communities.

2.6 Organise the Kerry Community Awards, celebrating and evangelising the work of Kerry PPN member groups.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Kerry PPN guidance booklet “Setting up and Running a Community Group” published.
- Targeted outreach to groups from under-represented, new communities and minority groups undertaken.
- Continued to participate in the LAIT Co-Ordination team and the LART responding to the needs of new communities.
- Revamped competition with increased relevance to community groups organised.



OBJECTIVE 3: INFORMATION HUB

Key Action: To increase understanding of the Public Participation Network within Kerry PPN and externally, build relationships with member groups and agencies and improve communications.

PLANNED ACTIONS:

3.1 Promote Kerry PPN externally by participating in relevant outreach opportunities.

3.2 Ensure two-way information sharing between Kerry PPN and Kerry County Council

3.3 Promote understanding of Kerry PPN structures, principles and functions and workplan to new, existing and potential members

3.4 Provide opportunities for member groups to share information and learnings and build supportive relationships.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Outreach activities undertaken and events attended.
- Events and activities documented and information made publicly accessible via newsletter, website and social media.

- Weekly newsletter circulated to KCC staff and councillors.
- Proposal developed for Kerry PPN & KCC funding roadshow.
- Opportunities to raise members collective concerns with KCC senior management explored.

- Quarterly online information session for new and existing members detailing what a PPN is and how it works hosted by staff.
- Social Justice Ireland programme on PPNs promoted to all stakeholders.

- Showcase event for member groups hosted, where they can present on current projects, share knowledge, experiences and challenges.
- Showcase event for local Social Inclusion supports and services hosted. Include key agencies and communities who support social inclusion in Kerry.

OBJECTIVE 3: INFORMATION HUB

Key Action: To increase understanding of the Public Participation Network within Kerry PPN and externally, build relationships with member groups and agencies and improve communications.

PLANNED ACTIONS:

- 3.5** Develop a Kerry PPN Communications Plan including newsletters, social media, print materials and website.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Weekly community newsletter with relevant information to all PPN members and stakeholders distributed.
- Content on Kerry PPN website reviewed and updated. Additional pages developed for Over 55s' network and Environmental Linkage Group information.
- Continued to build a presence on social media via Facebook and Instagram.
- Social media usage policy developed and adopted at Plenary meeting.
- Promotional signage for outreach events redesigned.



OBJECTIVE 4: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Key Action: Operational and governance work required for the day to day running of the network

PLANNED ACTIONS:

4.1 Develop, implement and review an annual workplan.

4.2 Continue to meet all reporting requirements for DRCDG, Charities Regulator and KCC.

4.3 Hold Secretariat and Plenary meetings.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Workplan developed and presented to Plenary for approval.
- Monthly workplan review presented at Secretariat meetings and bi-annual review presented to Plenary and KCC.
- Income & Expenditure report, Workplan, MOU, agreed budget, timeline for plenaries and Annual Report submitted to DRCDG.
- Annual Report for both Kerry PPN & Kerry Community Awards filed with Charities Regulator.
- Charities Governance Code compliance record form completed for both Kerry PPN and Kerry Community Awards.
- NOAC indicators for Kerry PPN submitted to KCC.
- MOU signed by KCC and Kerry PPN
- At least 9 Secretariat meetings held in 2026.
- 2 in person countywide Plenary meetings held in 2026.
- Agendas, attendance and minutes recorded accurately.
- Key decisions and strategies made by Secretariat approved by PPN members at Plenary meetings.

OBJECTIVE 4: NETWORK DEVELOPMENT

Key Action: Operational and governance work required for the day to day running of the network

PLANNED ACTIONS:

4.4 Provide support to existing and potential Kerry PPN members.

4.5 Maintain clear records of expenditure.

4.6 Continue to ensure good governance.

4.7 Staff Liaison subgroup to meet regularly with staff and PPN Liaison for KCC.

OUTCOME/ TARGET:

- Member re-registration completed in 2026.
- New membership applications processed in a timely manner.
- Email and phone support provided to member groups as needed.
- Quarterly income and expenditure report prepared and presented to the Secretariat.
- Annual income and expenditure reports presented to Secretariat for sign off.
- PPN structures and performance are evaluated using the National PPN Handbook Mandatory Evaluation Checklist and appropriate actions taken to ensure compliance.
- At least 4 meetings held in 2026 between Staff Liaison sub-group, staff and PPN Liaison for KCC.
- Staff training needs identified and training interventions delivered as funding permits.

KERRY LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) 2025-2026 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The LECP sets out the ambition and core values of County Kerry for period 2025 to 2030 and through its actions will provide for economic growth and social development across our community. As a stakeholder Kerry PPN has been identified as the lead partner in the following acts:

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Build capacity to allow people to avail of digital opportunities and support the development of a Smart Southern Region.

ACTION:

- Organise training sessions and provide resources to help community groups adopt digital communication tools and remote working capabilities.

PARTNER:

- Kerry ETB, Solas

MEASURE:

- Number of training sessions delivered.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Strengthen and support the community and voluntary sector to enhance the range and quality of supports and services available to the community.

ACTION:

- Encourage a culture of volunteering in local communities.

PARTNER:

- Kerry Volunteer Centre, Kerry County Council, Kerry LCDC, Community Groups

MEASURE:

- Retention and recruitment of volunteers in the county.

- Empower organisations understanding of and capacity to implement good practices in Volunteer Management and organisational sustainability.

- Kerry Volunteer Centre, Kerry County Council, Kerry LCDC, Community Groups

- Strengthening of Volunteer Involving Organisations (VIO) capacity.

KERRY LOCAL ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY PLAN (LECP) 2025-2026 IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Strengthen and support the community and voluntary sector to enhance the range and quality of supports and services available to the community.

ACTION:

● Increase awareness of and participation in volunteering, particularly among those sections of our communities that are currently under-represented.

● Empower greater recognition of volunteering, celebrating the value of and affirming the importance of volunteering in all its forms to life and living in Kerry.

● Implement the annual Kerry PPN workplan.

PARTNER:

● Kerry Volunteer Centre, Kerry County Council, Kerry LCDC, Community Groups

● Kerry Volunteer Centre, Kerry County Council, Kerry LCDC, Community Groups

● Kerry County Council, Community sector, LCDC

MEASURE:

● Increase in the diversity of volunteers availing of volunteering brokerage services.

● Greater recognition among the public, policy makers and decision makers of the impact of local volunteering.

● Actions from annual plans completed.

SUSTAINABLE ECONOMIC/COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT OBJECTIVE:

Develop and progress sustainable community and local economy initiatives.

ACTION:

● Implement zero waste initiatives and support circular economy projects.

PARTNER:

● Local Communities

MEASURE:

● Number of community sustainable programmes.

KERRY PPN ANNUAL BUDGET 2026

| Income | |
|--|--------------------|
| DCRDG Core Funding | €100,540 |
| LA Core Funding | €35,000 |
| 2025 Budget Carry Over | €6548.10 |
| Total Income | €142,088.10 |
| Expenditure | |
| Salaries for Full Time Resource and Support Worker incl. PRSI | €103,845 |
| PPN Staff Travel & Subsistence | €3,555 |
| Secretariat & PPN Representative Travel & Subsistence | €3,588.10 |
| Postage/Telephone/Office Supplies/Equipment | €2,800 |
| IT/ Website/Online Communications | €2,000 |
| Membership of external orgs/ Workshops & conferences attended by PPN | €2,000 |
| Projects/ Activities/ Events | €4,000 |
| Traning & Development for Community Groups | €10,000 |
| Marketing & Promotion of PPN | €4,500 |
| Meeting Expenses & Plenary Costs | €6,000 |
| Total Expenditure | €142,088.10 |