



Volume 1, Issue 1, October 2015

NEWSLETTER

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WHAT IS THE OFFALY PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK?

The PPN is the recognised link through which Offaly County Council connects with the community, voluntary and environmental sectors to facilitate input by the public into local government.

Why a PPN?

The PPN structure is in place in Offaly to ensure that there is public participation and representation on decision-making committees and bodies within local government. The PPN is the new representative structure for the community & voluntary sector that was put in place under Section 46 of the Local Government Reform Act. This Act enables Local Authorities to take all appropriate steps to consult with and promote effective participation of local communities in local government. The PPN replaces Offaly Community & Voluntary Forum.

What's the role of the PPN?

- Facilitate networking and identify issues of concern
- Support inclusion of socially excluded groups
- Encourage/enable inclusion in local decision making
- Facilitate selection of representatives on decision making bodies
- Assist input of ideas and experience into policies/plans
- Develop the Environmental, Social Inclusion and Community and Voluntary sectors
- Support and develop the capacity of PPN individual members
- Contribute to the Local Authority vision for county Offaly

HOW TO GET IN CONTACT WITH THE PPN?

IN PERSON

The PPN operates from the Local and Community Development Section of Offaly County Council, Charleville Road, Tullamore.

FACEBOOK

Like the Offaly PPN Facebook page to get updates on Funding. As soon as we hear about funding opportunities we post them on facebook.

Like us on www.facebook.com/offalypnn



EMAIL

We circulate a weekly email with PPN updates and items of interest to members. Email community@offalycoco.ie if you would like information included in the next email or to join our weekly information updates.

WEBSITE

Check out our webpage on www.offaly.ie/ppn

TELEPHONE

Call us on 057 935 7401



OFFALY

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
NETWORK

Calling all Community & Voluntary Groups

Register with Offaly Public Participation Network and **win €100 for your Club**

Download the registration form at www.offaly.ie/ppn or call us at Offaly County Council on **057 935 7401**

Closing date is 30 November

WHY REGISTER WITH THE PPN?

If you are a community and voluntary group in Offaly then please register with the PPN so we can help you with:

- Updates on funding
- Training opportunities for volunteers
- Direct links to agencies and services to help your group
- Networking with other groups at PPN meetings
- Community Insurance with BHP Insurance

Registration form available at www.offaly.ie/ppn or by calling **057 935 7401**

All groups registered with the PPN are broken into the following 3 categories:

1. Community & Voluntary groups
2. Social inclusion groups
3. Environmental groups

THE OFFALY PPN COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BACK ROW (L-R): Seamus Rourke, Loughlan Hooper

FRONT ROW (L-R): Linda Dowling, Barbara O'Sullivan, Frances Walsh, Michael Flynn, Maura Allen, Geraldine Byrne



Municipal District/Category	Name	Nominating Group
Birr MD		
Municipal District Representative	Seamus Rourke	Ferbane Parish Community Alert
Social Inclusion Representative	Petria Malone	Offaly Association for people with Intellectual Disabilities
Community Representative	Linda Dowling	McAuley Drive Residents Association, Birr
Edenderry MD		
Municipal District Representative	Michael Flynn	Carrick Vale Residents Association
Social Inclusion Representative	Anna O'Neill	St. Joseph's Hall Committee / Acorn Edenderry
Community Representative	Maura Allen	Clonbullogue Development Association
Tullamore MD		
Municipal District Representative	Loughlan Hooper	Tullamore Chamber of Commerce
Social Inclusion Representative	Maureen Ward	Offaly Traveller Movement
Community Representative	Frances Walsh	Offaly Dyslexia
Countywide Environmental Reps		
	1.Barbara Sullivan	Irish Wildlife Trust
	2.Geraldine Byrne	Offaly Beekeepers Association

LIST OF COMMUNITY REPS ON OFFALY DECISION MAKING BODIES



Members of the Offaly PPN kindly made themselves available for election to various decision making bodies in the county. Please see the list below.

Decision Making Body	22 seats	Break down	Electoral Sector/Category	Nominee	Nominating group
Economic Development, Enterprise and Planning Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)	2	1	Community / Voluntary	Gillian Barrett	Grand Canal Adventures
		1	Environmental / Conservation	Lynne Gallagher	TBA
Transportation and Emergency Services SPC	1	1	Community / Voluntary	John O'Connor	Grand Canal Adventures
Environment, Water and Drainage Services SPC	1	1	Environmental / Conservation	Lynne Gallagher	TBA
Housing Policy, Social and Cultural Services SPC	3	2	Community / Voluntary	Michael O'Hanlon	Offaly Association for People with Intellectual Disabilities
				Tony O'Riordan	Midlands Simon Community
		1	Social Inclusion	Paul Scanlon	Clara Family Resource Centre
Heritage Forum	1	1	All groups / County Plenary	Teresa Ryan Feehan	Birr Historical Society
Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce	1	1	All groups / County Plenary	Marian Fitzpatrick	Clara Family Resource Centre
Offaly County Childcare Committee	2	2	All groups / County Plenary	Karen Daly	Kilbrook Residents Association
				1 Vacancy	Contact the PPN if interested
Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)	5	2	Social Inclusion	Liz Fleming	Clara Family Resource Centre
				Margaret Murphy	Arden View Family Resource Centre
		2	Community / Voluntary	Tom Finnerty	St. Carthaghs Athletic FC
				Frances Walsh	Offaly Dyslexia Group
		1	Environmental	Eimhin Shortt	Grow It Yourself
County Joint Policing Committee (JPC)	6	6	All groups / County Plenary	Gerry Galvin	Arden Vale Residents Association
				Vincent Bermingham	Ballydaly/Tinnycross Residents Association
				Michael Brennan	Cappincur Community Alert Group
				Mary Margaret Martin	Multiple Sclerosis Society Offaly Branch
				Adrian Haines	Birr Tidy Towns
				Mary Delaney	Clara Community & Action Plan

PPN MEETINGS TO DATE

Birr Municipal District PPN met on 25th May (primarily to elect two people to the PPN Secretariat as vacancies arose). Seamus Rourke and Linda Dowling were elected.

Tullamore and Edenderry Municipal District PPN met on 23rd and 24th June respectively with updates on Dormant Accounts Funding and issues for PPN members.

The Secretariat have met 5 times so far in 2015 and are meeting monthly since September.

A county plenary meeting of all groups registered with the PPN will take place on 3rd November in the Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore at 7pm. The PPN will decide on its workplan priorities based on the outcomes of that meeting.



YOU ARE INVITED TO

Offaly PPN Annual Meeting

For all Community & Voluntary groups

Tuesday 3rd November 7pm
Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore

GUEST SPEAKER:
Community Finance Ireland

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

- "How to Access Social Finance (A Step by Step Guide for Voluntary Groups)" - Community Finance Ireland
- Rural Transport in Offaly – Laois TRIP
- Sustainable Energy Communities – SEAI
- Rural Development Programme Funding Update
- Europe for Citizens Funding



BHP Insurances are delighted to announce the launch of our newest insurance facility for the not-for-profit sector. The facility has been arranged for all members of the Public Participation Networks and its aim is to provide all encompassing solution to the insurance needs of the PPN members. Our facility can provide the following covers under a single policy with the most competitive premiums available to not-for-profit groups.

Examples of Policy Features and Benefits:

- Property insurance including cover for buildings, contents, laptops and playground equipment
- Directors & Officers Insurance which protects the individuals Own Personal Assets
- Money cover including theft at fundraisers and from collection buckets
- Immediate quotations over the phone, ensuring groups do not have to spend unnecessary time completing proposal forms
- Policies can be incepted with immediate effect, saving both time and money for community groups
- Policy documents, including indemnity letters, are issued on same day that cover is arranged. This ensures that there will be no delay in funds being drawn down from government departments
- Fully dedicated department, ensuring that there is always the right person to speak to, who can give the correct, assured advice straight away



For further information please contact Mark Lee, BHP Insurance on freephone number **1890 666 111** or at **mlee@bhpinsurance.ie**