

**Meeting of Secretariat - Mayo Public Participation Network (Mayo PPN)
Virtual Meeting via Teams**

Tues 7th Dec 2021 – 7pm

Minutes

1. Welcome and Apologies:

Present: Maureen Timlin (Convenor), Austin Francis O'Malley, Daragh Owens, Margaret Kenny Upton, Mary G Duffy, Kieran Joyce, Kathy Rowland.

In attendance: R/W Mary Costello.

Apologies: Caitriona Cunniffe, Edith Geraghty, Audrey Burke.

Convenor Maureen Timlin welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Update on Finance.

Expenses outstanding are to cover advertising for the Plenary meeting and training programmes that have still to be completed.

3. Minutes from meetings:

Secretariat Meeting, November 3rd, 2021.

Proposed by Daragh Owens, seconded by Austin Francis O'Malley.

Plenary Meeting November 29th2021,

Purposed by Margaret Kenny Upton, seconded by Mary G Duffy.

4. County Plenary – 29th Nov 2021

A discussion took place around the recently held PPN Plenary Meeting. The feedback received via the 'Chat' facility at the end of the meeting and the follow up emails received from community groups in attendance was very positive and participants were delighted with the presentations.

The presentations were both informative and engaging. All the presentations were made available on the PPN website following the meeting.

5. PPN Information and Training – Dr Harriet Emerson

Training presented to the Secretariat Committee, Resource Worker, Support Worker, Head of Community Section, PPN Liaison Officer.

Training delivered was discussed and members of the Secretariat Committee found it useful and informative. It covered PPN aspects in a clear and concise presentation on the role of the PPNs and the Local Authorities.

Extracts from the presentation was discussed by the Secretariat members including what PPN's are and what they do & how they operate. PPN's are Independent of Local Authority or other interests (e.g. political) - in operation & perception.

("Although many PPNs are [sometimes] physically situated within the Local Authority building in their area, and some of the staff have been employed directly by that Local Authority, the work of the PPN must not be influenced by the Local Authority." PPN Handbook, p.6 see also p.9)

"Although working closely with the Local Authority, the PPN is a distinct and independent network" - As per Departments Handbook 2021.

6. AOB:

- a. R/W Mary Costello brought a request to the members of the Secretariat from the PPN Liaison Officer, Maura Murphy if Support Worker, Audrey Burke would be

available to cover the reception desk at Mayo House every second Thursday. A discussion took place and the Secretariat members decided they wish to abide by the Departments circular which states the Support Worker is employed to do PPN work only. It is also stated in the current PPN handbook, there is to be a clear boundary between PPN's and the County Council. It was agreed by all Secretariat members that they would not agree to this arrangement and wish to follow the guidelines in the recently published Departments handbook and the circulars received from the Department in relation to the PPN work and the Support Worker. This was outlined clearly in a circular received from the Department.

- b. The Secretariat Committee wish to note the PPN Work Report requested by the PPN Liaison Officer, Maura Murphy is compiled by the three conveners and passed to the Resource Worker to present to the Liaison Officer.
It is further noted the Secretariat Committee will update the MOU between Mayo Co Council and the PPN when its due for renewal. This is to reflect the MOU in the recently published Departments handbook.
The PPN Secretariat Committee will continue to endeavour to follow the Department Circulars and handbook for the betterment of Mayo PPN.
- c. An email was received from Secretariat member Caitriona Cunniffe seeking clarification as to why it was agreed at the last Secretariat meeting, that Theo Cullen-Mouze would not speak at the Plenary meeting and is it that the Secretariat would not endorse somebody who was protesting outside the Mayo County Council Offices. A brief discussion took place and it was agreed by all present that it was decided at the last Secretariat meeting on Nov 3rd, that the Plenary meeting would not be the platform for Theo Cullen-Mouze to speak at.

Convenor Maureen Timlin wished everyone a Happy and safe Christmas, and this was echoed by the PPN Resource Worker Mary Costello.

Meeting concluded at 8pm.