

National PPN Conferences 2018

Westmeath Public  
Participation Network (PPN)  
interaction with Municipal  
Districts PPN

# Background

- Reform of Local Government – LA's requested to establish a new umbrella structure for community groups i.e. PPN.
- The PPN would act as the framework for public engagement and participation and be the main link through which the
- LA *connects* with the community.



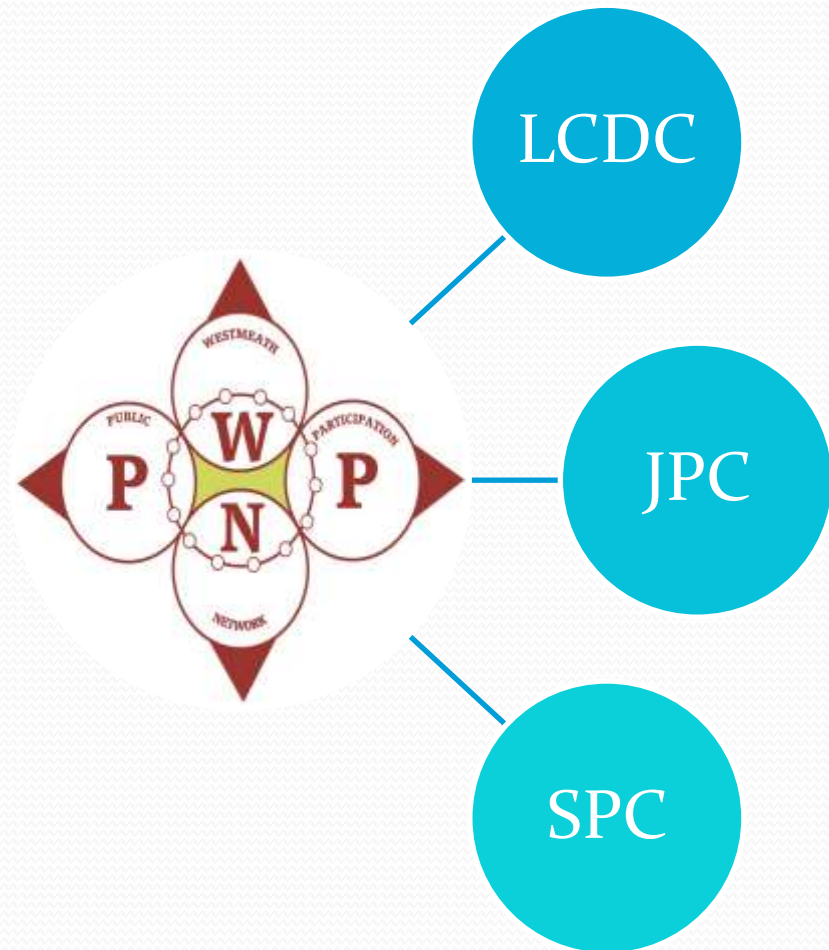
- the Local Government Act 2001, (as amended), Section 127 (4) states that the local authority PPN Framework should provide for –

- *(a) participatory mechanisms to promote, support and facilitate the local community's input into decision making by the local authority, without prejudice to any consultation procedures provided for in any enactment;*



# Public Participation Network

- The primary aim of the PPN is to facilitate and enable the public and the community to interact with local government



# Planning for Local & Community Development

Local people are meaningfully involved in;

- Identification of needs
- Determining local priorities
- Policy development
- Decision-making processes
- Implementation of actions



# Westmeath Public Participation Network (PPN) interaction with Municipal Districts Policy

Indicative Dates	Action
Sep	PPN Support Worker arranges Municipal District PPN meeting with agenda as follows: a) Agree on main issues of concern in respect of Local Authority services. b) Nominate reps to meet MD elected members – 7 Reps from AMD PPN and 13 Reps from MMD PPN (reps to include MD PPN rep on the PPN secretariat)
October	PPN Support Worker compiles draft MD PPN Submission and arranges meeting with Reps where MD PPN Submission agreed.
October	PPN Support Worker emails MD PPN Submission to MD Administrative Officer (AO)
October	MD AO liaises with relevant WCC Sections for draft response to MD PPN Submission
October	Where any clarification required MD AO emails PPN Support Worker.
October	PPN Support Worker liaises with MD PPN Reps and provides required clarification.
October	Draft response compiled and approved by MD DOS.
October	In-committee round table meeting of MD elected members and MD PPN Reps chaired by Mayor to discuss MD PPN Submission and draft responses prepared by Executive.
<i>Nov, Dec, Jan Feb and March</i>	<b><i>Completion of MD budget process including agreement on Schedule of MD Works and Road Works Programme.</i></b>
By 31 <sup>st</sup> Mar	Response to MD PPN Submission updated and the following Appendices added: (a) Schedule of MD Works (as agreed by MD Elected Members) (b) Annual road works programme (as agreed by MD Elected Members) - and overall Response Document approved by MD DOS
Apr	At April MD meeting, above Response Document presented to 3 No Reps from MD Secretariat.
Apr	PPN Support Worker arranges MD PPN meeting to receive Response Document to PPN Submission.



# Westmeath Protocol

## condensed 7 step model

Westmeath Co. Co introduced protocol between each Municipal District and MD PPN to **address main issues of concern** in respect of Local Authority services and **allocate budget resources**

1. MD PPN meet to identify & prioritise issues of concern in MD & elect reps.
2. PPN Support Worker forwards list to MD Admin Officer
3. MD AO liaises with relevant departments in WCC for response





4. Draft response issued by Executive to MD PPN
5. PPN meet with MD members & executive to agree priorities
6. MD members complete budget process and schedule of works for following year
7. MD members present Response Document to MD PPN reps following adoption of Schedule of Works





# Outcomes



- Meaningful participation by the community.
- Improved understanding and working relationships between Elected Members, Municipal District Staff and the PPN.
- Supports the prioritising of actions.
- Meaningful engagement with LA staff members and access to additional programmes under the LA and LCDC .

# Conclusion

- Is the policy working?
- Real engagement between PPN and MD
- Real outcomes
- More understanding and collaboration.