



**DLR PPN**  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown  
Public Participation Network



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network

# Introduction

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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is an independent umbrella network of community & voluntary, environmental and social inclusion groups active within the county.

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were established by the Irish Government under the Local Government (Reform) Act 2014 to be the main link through which the Local Authority connects with community & voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups.

Government guidelines outline 3 main objectives for PPNs:

- Facilitate the **participation and representation** of communities on local decision and policy making bodies, through the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors.
- **Strengthen the capacity** of communities to contribute positively to the community in which they reside or participate.
- **Provide information** relevant to the community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sector and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

These government guidelines also specify a number of principles and values that PPNs are expected to operate by; they should be inclusive, participatory, independent, valuing of diversity, transparent and accountable.

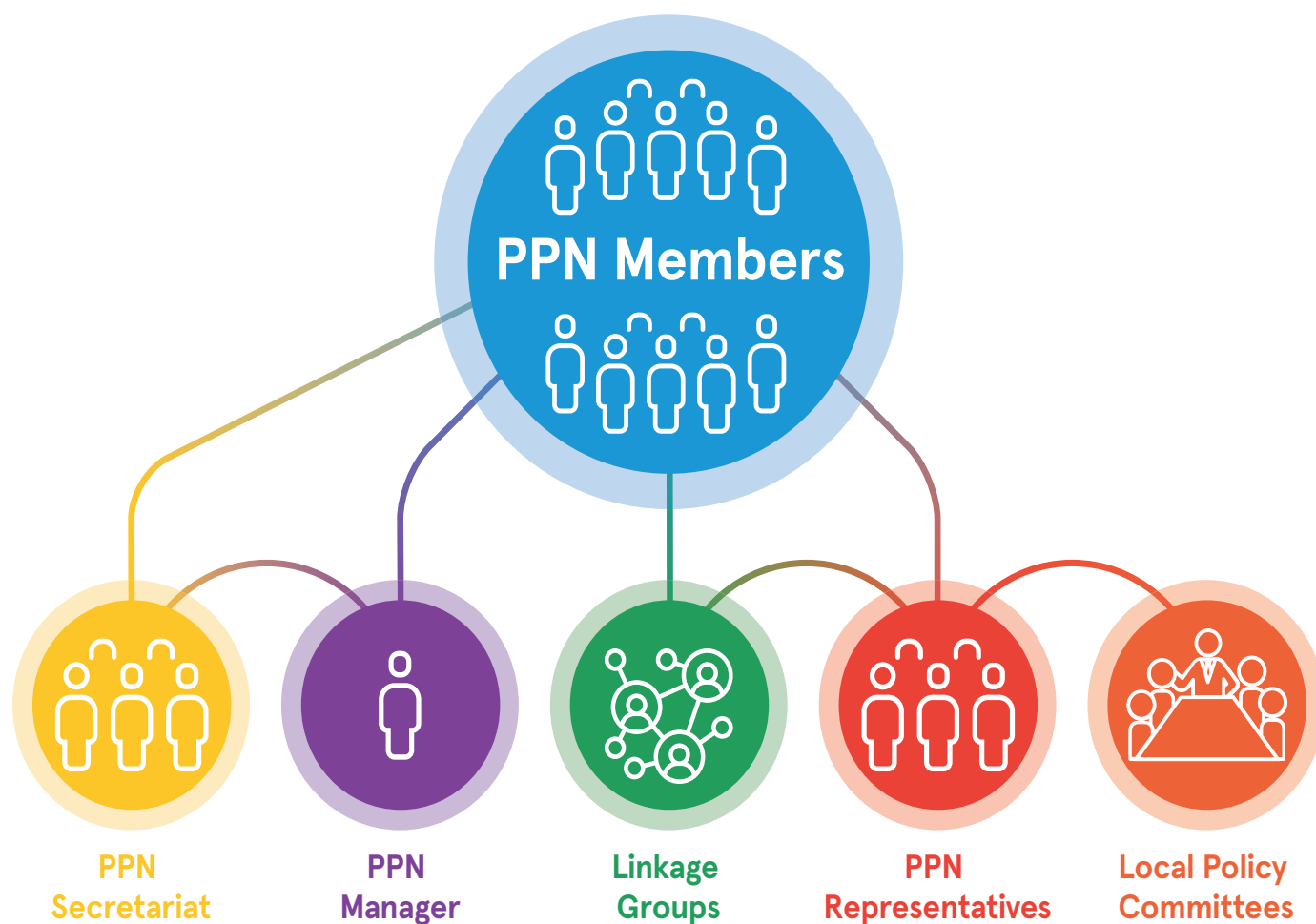
2018 was a busy year for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN). We held a number of events and workshops both for PPN members and the general public, 2 Plenary meetings in April and November, the Dublin Environmental Gathering in collaboration with the other Dublin PPNs and a workshop on how community groups can help to tackle loneliness.

We ran over 40 hours of free training for DLR PPN members on topics such as Planning and Urban Development, Communications and Grant Writing and Fundraising. DLR PPN members elected a new Secretariat (steering committee) for the PPN in April and two new DLR PPN representatives joined the local Community Development Committee and the Social Housing Strategic Policy Committee. The membership of DLR PPN increased by nearly 100 groups. We increased our member's input into our monthly ezine and began collaborating with Dublin South FM on a radio programme based on the ezine.

This year, thanks to additional funding from the Department of Rural and Community Development and Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, DLR PPN will be employing a support worker for one year to assist with carrying out the 2019 workplan. We look forward to the continued development of DLR PPN and an even busier 2019.

**Laura Howe, DLR PPN manager**

# PPN Structure

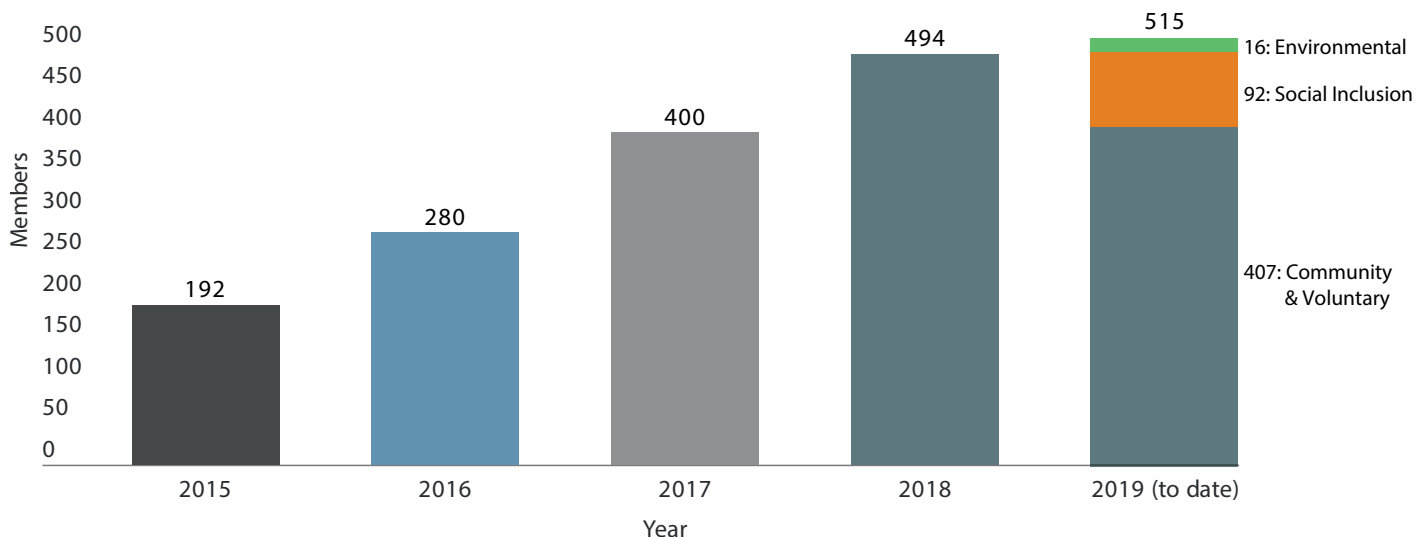




# PPN Member Growth

As of 01/04/2019 there are 515 groups in DLR PPN. **In 2019 DLR PPN will be asking member groups to re-register with the PPN. This will allow us to make sure**

**we have up to date contact details for all member groups, help us to comply with GDPR and ensure our membership database is up to date.**



## Community Voice

### Consultations

In 2018 we informed members directly about:

- Ballyogan & Environs Draft Local Area Plan
- Dundrum Draft Local Area Plan
- The Draft Marlay Park masterplan
- The Bus Connects Redesign of the Dublin Area Bus Network

DLR PPN members were informed about the consultation process of the Bus Connects-Redesign of the Dublin Area Bus Network

and were kept up to date about the public information sessions. We also put printed copies of the consultation information into some of the local libraries.

We also shared surveys on behalf of DLR Sports Partnership and DLR Healthy Ireland. In our ezine we shared information about 15 local consultations and 18 national consultations.

# Participation

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## Representation on boards and committees

In 2018 **DLR PPN had 33 representatives sitting on 9 committees:**

- The Local Community Development committee
- The Rural Task Force
- Strategic Policy Committees dealing with the following areas:
  - Planning
  - Social Housing
  - Environment, Energy and Climate Change
  - Economic Development and Enterprise
  - Transportation and County Wide Movement
  - Community Development, Culture and Ageing

On the committees DLR PPN representatives sought information on topics such as:

- Research on loneliness carried out by the Council (Community Development, Culture and Ageing Strategic Policy Committee)
- The expansion of the 30 kilometre per hour zone in DLR (Transportation and County-Wide Movement Strategic Policy Committee)

- The misuse of disabled parking bays (Transportation and County-Wide Movement Strategic Policy Committee)
- The provision of suitable housing for people with intellectual disabilities.(Social Housing Strategic Policy Committee)

In 2018 **2 new DLR PPN representatives joined committees:**

- PJ Drudy joined the Social Housing Strategic Policy Committee
- Ibrahim Al-Kaddo joined the Local Community Development Committee

DLR PPN representatives reported mixed experiences from sitting on the committees. Some reported finding it a positive experience and others reported frustration.

In light of the challenges reported by some DLR PPN representatives we have requested of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council that DLR PPN has an input into the new Strategic Policy Committee Scheme and a planned operational review of the Strategic Policy Committees.

# Creating links

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## Linkage groups

Linkage groups are groups of PPN members and PPN representatives who share an interest in a particular issue and work together on this issue.

Linkage groups work to highlight issues that affect communities across Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown and feed into the relevant policy-making committees.

Getting linkage groups up and running is an ongoing task for DLR PPN and poses challenges.

In 2018 linkage groups were active under the following topics:

- Planning
- Environment
- Policing
- Public transport

We will continue to work on getting linkage groups operating in 2019. This is particularly important as linkage groups must elect new DLR PPN representatives to the Strategic Policy Committees after the local elections in May 2019.

# Sharing information

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## Communications

**Ezine:** In 2018 we produced 11 ezines and it is with great pleasure we report that there was increased input from our members with over 300 news items being published. A monthly radio programme based on the ezine. was piloted with Dublin South FM.

**Email:** In 2018 we sent over 20,000 emails informing out members about funding, training, consultations and other relevant information.

**Website:** 6769 visitors from Ireland accessed our website dlrppn.ie.

**Facebook:** We posted information on Facebook over 207 times and our Facebook page now has 474 likes.

**Twitter:** We posted information on Twitter 282 times and we now have 567 followers.

### Outreach in 2018:

- DLR PPN attended DLRCC's grant information sessions to share information about the PPN
- We had information stands at the Festival of Inclusion and Women4Women's International Women's Day Breakfast

# Building capacity

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## Events and Workshops

There were 2 members Plenary meetings in 2018, in Stillorgan and Dun Laoghaire. 138 attended in total.

In collaboration with the other 3 Dublin PPNs and the Irish Environmental Network we ran the Dublin Environmental Gathering to highlight the work PPN members across Dublin were doing on environmental projects in their communities. 80 attended.

In partnership with the Irish Environmental Network we ran a workshop in Dundrum on the Sustainable Development Goals and how

they are relevant to local policies such as the Local Economic and Community Plan. 22 people attended.

As part of the DLR Festival of Inclusion we ran a workshop on loneliness and social isolation to build member's understanding of these issues. This workshop came from a motion proposed by PPN members and passed at the April 2018 plenary relating to tackling loneliness in older people in DLR. 35 people attended including DLR PPN members and representatives, council staff and councillors.

## Training

In 2018 we held 12 training sessions, over 40 hours of training, for DLR PPN members with a total attendance of 104.

Training was held on the following topics:

- Communications
- Committee skills
- Strategic Planning
- General Data Protection Regulation
- Project management
- Grant Writing and Fundraising

- Impact measurement and evaluation
- Planning and urban development

We also collaborated with DLR Volunteer Centre on Garda Vetting and Volunteer Management training.

- We collaborated with Southside Partnership on GDPR, Communications, Impact Measurement & Evaluation and Grant Writing and Fundraising training.

# Governance

## Secretariat

The Secretariat is the steering group of the PPN, elected by DLR PPN members. In April 2018 elections were held for a new Secretariat at the Plenary meeting. The following people were elected:

### Social Inclusion Pillar:

- David Girvan, Parents, Family & Friends Association of St. John Of God Carmona Services Jen Kane-Mason, PRISM dlr
- Ben Stafford, Balally Family Resource Centre

### Community and Voluntary Pillar:

- Aileen Eglington, Kiltarnan Glenamuck Residents Association
- Kay Gleeson, Sandycove & Glasthule Residents Association

- Tony McCarthy, Dun Laoghaire Active Retirement Association

### Environmental Pillar:

- Dara Carroll, Dublin Cycling Campaign
- Goff Lalor, Crann -Trees for Ireland
- One position remained unfilled on the Environmental Pillar.

Ben Stafford stepped down from the Secretariat in December 2018.

In March 2019 Sharon Perry from Southside Women's Action Network (SWAN) was elected to the Secretariat, replacing Ben Stafford. Gavin Harte from Friends of the Earth also joined the Secretariat in March 2019, representing the Environmental Pillar.

## Expenditure

|                                |               |
|--------------------------------|---------------|
| Staff salary                   | €44339.88     |
| Travel expenses staff and reps | €1213.18      |
| Training & Development         | €6890         |
| Equipment                      | €2859.33      |
| Overheads                      | €7339.11      |
| Marketing and Promotion        | €5153.7       |
| Activites/events               | €12204.8      |
| <b>Total</b>                   | <b>€80000</b> |