



DLR PPN

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown
Public Participation Network

Annual Report 2020

Reporting Period: 1 January 2020 - 31 December 2020

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network
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About


Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network is the collective voice for community and voluntary, environmental and social inclusion organisations in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown. Its purpose is to improve people's well-being by involving the community in local decision-making.



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 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.



The DLR PPN identifies issues that matter and tries to influence policy in a way that improves the quality of life and opportunities for people within the Local Authority area of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.

The DLR PPN is overseen by a Secretariat of 9 members elected by full member groups of the network. The Public Participation Network elects representatives to committees and organisations to speak on behalf of all member groups of the network.

The DLR PPN is the main link through which Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council and other decision-making bodies in the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council area connect with the community and voluntary, environmental and social inclusion sectors.

Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network is committed to working in an open, inclusive and transparent manner on behalf of all member groups.

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Network Managers Report

In a year when the world seemed to stop turning we all faced new challenges, ones that were previously unimagined by all of us. We saw the community rising to these unforeseen challenges, neighbours supporting neighbours, the local sports clubs and volunteers rallying to deliver groceries and medicines. We saw the strength in our community.



Zoom Training



Simone Sav - DLR PPN Network Manager

In response to these new and additional challenges, the DLR PPN actively sought input and feedback from the DLR community and as a result of your engagement and through your responses to the surveys the DLR PPN conducted we were able to identify some of the pressing needs within the community. These were relayed to the council and government departments to help shape the response to Covid 19.

We would like to thank our members for their participation in 2020, our Secretariat and DLR PPN Representatives who rose to the new challenges 2020 presented. We look forward to working with you in the coming years.

Simone Sav – DLR PPN Network Manager





Secretariat Report

As with all society, the Secretariat has had a challenging year. DLR PPN is fortunate to have volunteer members who are willing to give the time to support the Network Manager and Support Worker, whose workload increased enormously as the year progressed.

The Secretariat held monthly meetings which were well attended. Several other meetings per month were required as the PPN workload increased, and the expertise among Secretariat members proved invaluable.

The Secretariat was very conscious of the need to fully support the Network Manager and Support Worker as they navigated the challenges of an unconventional year. They came through magnificently.

Some of the highlights and achievements of 2020 were:

Adapting to use new technologies to ensure that the work of the DLR PPN continued during restrictions.

The Residents Association Survey - This provided an insight as to the community's response to the Covid situation and where supports were needed. The results of this and the Funding Requirements survey helped to inform and shape the response to the covid emergency. "A Case Study of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Residents Associations Response to COVID-19 - Public Participation in Times of Crisis" was presented at the Martin McEvoy Annual Conference 2020.

Training - New training programmes were developed in response to the needs of the DLR community. It became clear that while many readily embraced the use of technology to communicate and source information during lockdown some members of the community were being left behind, mindful of this a new programme of training was developed to address these issues. It included Zoom for Beginners and Zoom Intermediate for example. The Spring Training Programme 2021 has been developed as a direct response to the training needs expressed in the DLR PPN Community Wellbeing Survey. A further programme, Digital Skills for Beginners will be rolled out in 2021.

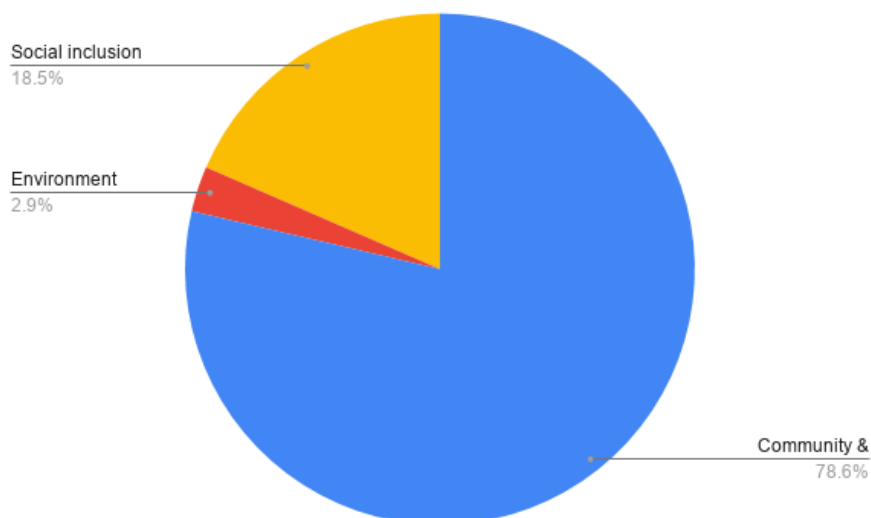


Membership

Membership of the DLR PPN is open to all community and voluntary groups, clubs and organisations in Dún Laoghaire Rathdown, working on a voluntary, co-operative or not-for-profit basis for the benefit of the community.

The total number of DLR PPN membership groups after the re-registration process finished is 487. The number of groups that did not complete the re-registration process was 75. In 2020 we were joined by 48 new member groups. 42 from the Community Pillar and 6 from the Social Inclusion Pillar.

Pillar Stats



As of 31 December 2020 the number of membership groups in each of the Pillar Groups were as follows:

Community & Voluntary - 383

Environment - 14

Social inclusion - 90



DLR PPN Activities

Consultations and participation

We informed and invited members to become involved in a wide variety of Public Consultations on matters such as;

National survey on a framework for Open Disclosure in Healthcare in Ireland

Bus Connects

Draft Register of Electors for 2021-2022

Dundrum Central

Broadband Connection Points

Public Consultation on EU Citizenship Rights

EU Commission Consultation – Roadmap for the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas

Dundrum 2030 and UCD creating a Community Sustainable Development Goals Dashboard

EU Commission Consultation – Roadmap for the Long-Term Vision for Rural Areas

Active School Travel - New Safe Walking and Cycling Routes in DLR - Consultation

Deansgrange Flood Relief

Dublin Array - Offshore Wind Farm consultation

Active School Travel - New Safe Walking and Cycling Routes in DLR - Consultation

WeCount -European project run through UCD aims to help tackle traffic related issues in the local community.

Tidy Towns

Age Friendly Dun Laoghaire Survey

Mounttown Boxing Hall Development Consultation

Consultation dlr Trees & Urban Forestry Strategy (2021-31)

Public Consultation on the National Air Pollution Control Programme

National Transport Authority review of the 2016 - 2035 Transport Strategy



DLR PPN staff have supported the following targeted consultations with relevant local stakeholders:

Dundrum One Way system - Carysfort Bus Stop - LDA Dundrum Central Mental Health Hospital

Relaying comments received from the public. - There were over 80 engagements between the Mounttown Boxing and Dundrum One Way consultations which were responded to and forwarded to the relevant stakeholders.

Funding



Information was circulated on the many funding opportunities available in 2020 such as:

Rural Regeneration and Development Fund

EIL Seed Fund – Autumn Round

Angling for All Fund

Community Enhancement Programme: 2020
Fund for Community Centres and Community
Building

Funding for Public-library-upgrades to
respond/adapt to Covid-19

Community Grants Round 1 - dlr Grants
Scheme 2021 : Phase 1 -

Environment and Climate A Rural
Regeneration and Development Fund

Arts Council Funding

Restart Grant Plus - a Grant to Reconnect
SMEs with their Employees and Customers

Covid 19 Stability Funding 4th Tranche

Communication

Email

56464 emails sent to our members informing members about Funding, Training and Consultations and other relevant information.

Ezine

We produced 12 ezines and included 426 articles. Our members submitted 205 individual news items regarding their activities. The remaining 221 items on the topics of, Public Consultation, Participation, Grants and Training.



Social Media

We posted information on Twitter 343 times and we have 607 followers.

We posted information on Facebook 286 times and have 596 followers.

Website

Number of website posts on www.dlrppn.ie : 240

No of Visitors 149788

No of Hits 302742

Radio Programme

We produced 12 Community Connections radio shows in conjunction with Dublin South 93.9 fm. This gives PPN members an opportunity to promote their activities and concerns. You can listen to the podcasts [here](#).



Our guests in 2020 discussed a wide range of varied topics, these are a few examples:

Southside Travellers Action Group: The online services they have continued to provide to the traveller community in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown area during the Covid 19 pandemic, and how their services have expanded to the UK & USA.

Ballinteer St John GAA Club: Their May fundraisers for Pieta House, Cystic Fibrosis Ireland and the club's volunteer work serving the Ballinteer community.

Local Vocals Loughlinstown: How they have operated during lockdown and the Dreamland Garden Festival.

Therese Langan Director of Community and Cultural Development DLR CoCo: Community Call helpline.

CYPSS (Children & Young People's Service): The launch of LetsTalkDLR.ie, a new innovative mental health platform for young people in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown that helps to connect them with mental health.

GROW Mental Health Recovery – John Farren: Their collaboration with Southside Partnership to deliver their free virtual Mental Health Programme online.

Purple House Cancer Support – Conor O'Leary: Their expanded supports during COVID lockdown, their new premises, and plans for the future.

Festina Lente Equestrian Centre – Dr. Jill Carey, Chief Executive Officer: Their innovative new services for children with disabilities.

Age & Opportunity – Ciaran McKinne: The release of their "Something Inside So Strong" video series that helps senior citizens build resilience in their mental health.

Sustainable Energy Communities, and DLR County Council's plans to support local neighbourhoods in establishing or strengthening Sustainable Energy Communities within the County.

Muslim Sisters of Eire, about their organisation and the launch of their new community helpline.

Cuala GAA, and their participation in the Musgrave/GAA Club Together Initiative, assisting vulnerable members of the community during the COVID 19 pandemic.



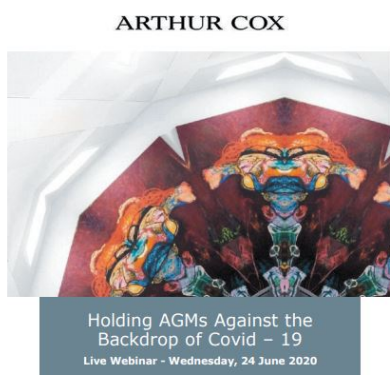
Shanganagh Castle Allotments and their community allotment scheme.



Building Capacity

In order to 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 we organised training, events, presentations and linkage groups. As the year progressed these events were moved to online platforms in adherence to Covid-19 restrictions.

Training



We held 10 training sessions for DLR PPN members with more than 230 attendees. During the first quarter these sessions were conducted in local venues however these had to move online as the year progressed.

The online training workshops were organised based on feedback received from our members who participated in the Residents Associations Response to Covid 19 and the Community Wellbeing surveys and covered the following topics:

Graphic Design for Community Groups

Zoom Beginners

Email Marketing

Zoom Intermediate

Video for Mobile Phones

Microsoft Teams

Holding AGMs in the context of COVID-19

We collaborated with DLR CoCo to produce Youtube training videos, Zoom Beginners Part 1 & Part 2 covering the topics of how to open an account, schedule a meeting and host a meeting.

Plenary

The Plenary meeting arranged for April 2020 had to be cancelled due to Covid restrictions. We did hold one Plenary meeting online with more than 40 members attending in November 2020.



Community Well Being - Response to Covid 19



Our response and activities were influenced by three main factors:

- ☐ Government directives
- ☐ Ongoing and precious feedback from our local community groups about specific needs arising (contacted by phone, email, messages, etc.)
- ☐ Close collaboration with Community Call Stakeholder forum

We focused strongly on communication with our members, prioritising research to help inform stakeholder decisions and providing ongoing support. We did this by:

- ★ Creating a separate web page at the very beginning of the crisis on our website with useful resources. <http://dlrppn.ie/covid-19/>
- ★ Regular news updates posted on our website about funding, local initiatives, online resources, and much more.
- ★ Social media posts sharing the news and the DLR Helpline (Facebook and Twitter) multiple times each week.

- ★ Weekly emails to our membership about updates, services and supports available.
- ★ Text message to Residents Association promoting the DLR Helpline.
- ★ Two DLR PPN Ezine Newsletters sent to all members (March 2020 and April 2020). For the April issue, we asked groups and communities to send news of how they were responding in order to highlight the vibrant response in our community and the response has been fantastic.
- ★ Radio programmes - Community Connections - interviews with relevant local organisations providing support.
- ★ Communication by phone - we rang all Residents Associations and Estate Management companies on our database (almost 100 in total) to inform and obtain feedback.

DLR Residents Associations Report

We contacted all Residents Associations in order to get a snapshot of the response happening at local level, with very interesting and relevant results - please see Residents Associations in DLR Respond to the Covid-19 Crisis on dlrppn.ie. The results were widely distributed to local stakeholders.

We asked the local groups to give us feedback on the needs that they saw as arising from the COVID-19 crisis. Please see Report on What DLR Groups Identify as funding needs. This helped inform the dlr County Council's funding Guidelines for the COVID-19 Emergency Fund and the Community Wellbeing Initiative.



Through this research, as well as through the regular contact with different communities by phone, we were able to sense a change of mood and adapt our communication to respond to this change. We researched and shared information on Health and Wellbeing, resources to assist Cooconers and the Helplines available. Our post Online Hobby and Cultural Resources was very well received.

Community Response Stakeholder Forum

1. We have been a member of the Forum since the beginning, attending all meetings and providing vital feedback on the response at the local level, thanks to our research and the feedback obtained.
2. We are part of the separate Community Well-Being Initiative, headed by the Community Department in the Local Authority.
3. Additional mutual support to the dlr Community Champion (Southside Partnership) for promotion of local initiatives.

Surveys

- ★ Residents Associations in DLR Respond to the Covid-19 Crisis
- ★ Funding Needs
- ★ DLR PPN Community Wellbeing Survey

Martin McEvoy Annual Conference 2020 - Presentation

A Case Study of Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Residents Associations Response to COVID-19. Public Participation in Times of Crisis.



DLR PPN Representatives

We are fortunate to have representatives who work hard and give freely of their time to represent the PPN on the many committees in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank each and everyone of you for all your hard work and involvement over the last year. Your DLR PPN Representatives are:

● Joint Policing Committee

Anne Harrington - Community & Voluntary

Tony McCarthy - Community & Voluntary

Eimear McAuliffe - Social Inclusion

Bébhinn Murphy - Environmental

● Local Community Development Committee

Kay Gleeson – Community & Voluntary

Michael O'Brien – Community & Voluntary

Darren Chambers - Community & Voluntary

Joan Casey - Community & Voluntary

Ibrahim Al Kaddo - Social Inclusion

Sharon Perry – Social Inclusion

Tom Kivlehan – Environmental

Mark Fox - Environmental

● Housing SPC Representatives

Thomas Joseph – Community and Voluntary

Maoilíosa Reynolds – Environmental

Grainne Fennell – Social Inclusion

PJ Drudy – Social Inclusion

● Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Representatives

Aileen Eglinton – Community & Voluntary

Fardus Sultan – Social Inclusion

● Community, Culture and Wellbeing SPC Representatives

Lyn Hagin Meade – Environmental

Olivia Dunne – Community & Voluntary

Brian Kavanagh – Community & Voluntary

Sheila Grace – Social Inclusion

Pierrot Ngadi – Social Inclusion

● Planning and Citizen Engagement SPC Representatives

Brid Meehan – Community and Voluntary

Micheál Walsh – Environmental

Dara Carroll – Environmental

Geraldine Greydon – Social Inclusion

● Environment and Climate Change & Energy SPC Representatives

Elizabeth Clooney – Community & Voluntary

Diarmuid McAree – Environmental

Cynthia O'Mahony – Environmental

Reji Chacko Jacob – Social Inclusion

● Transportation and Marine SPC Representatives

Frances Kelly – Community and Voluntary

Aaron Moore – Environmental Pillar

John Nolan – Social Inclusion Pillar

Oisín O'Connor - Environment Pillar

● Rural Taskforce

Valerie Snow - Community & Voluntary

Mark Fox - Environment

Sharon Perry - Social Inclusion



DLR PPN Secretariat

The Secretariat is the steering group of the PPN, elected by DLR PPN members.

In 2020 Jane Kane-Mason and Goff Lalor retired from the Secretariat; these vacancies were filled and in December 2020 Viola Di Bucchianico (Social Inclusion) - Bill O'Dea (Environment) attended their first Secretariat meeting having been newly elected. The Secretariat met 11 times in 2020. The attendance rate of the Secretariat at meetings was 63.09%.

The Secretariat had the following members:

Social Inclusion Pillar

- ☐ Sharon Perry, SWAN
- ☐ Viola Di Bucchianico, DLR Integration Forum
- ☐ Jen Kane-Mason - PRISM (until July 2020)
- ☐ Vacancy

Community & Voluntary Pillar

- ☐ Aileen Eglington, Kilternan Glenamuck Residents Association
- ☐ Kay Gleeson, Sandycove & Glasthule Residents Association
- ☐ Tony McCarthy, Dun Laoghaire Active Retirement Association

Environmental Pillar

- ☐ Dara Carroll, Dublin Cycling Campaign
- ☐ Gavin Harte - Friends of the Earth
- ☐ Bill O'Dea, Crann -Trees for Ireland
- ☐ Goff Lalor (until February 2020)

Training for the Secretariat was provided in October 2020 on using Microsoft Teams and conducting meetings using other online meeting platforms such as Zoom.



DLR PPN - Expenditure Report for 2020

Expenditure	€
Staff salary	€69,717.97
Travel expenses staff and reps	€119.04
Training and development	€9,996
Equipment	€4,529.82
Overheads	€14,886.95
Marketing and promotion*	€2,304.89
Activities and events	€4,860.80
Total Expenditure 2020:	€106,415.47

**Figure includes promotion of the Community Call Helpline*



Many thanks for reading the DLR PPN 2020 Annual Report.

Should you have any questions please contact enquiries@dlrppn.ie or 087 455 7945.