

# DLR PPN Impact Report 2024

A Year of Building Connections



Líonraí Rannpháirtíochta Pobail DLR  
Public Participation Network DLR



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# About

The Dun Laoghaire Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is the umbrella network of Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental groups in Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. Membership is diverse and includes local community and volunteer groups such as active retirement groups, men's sheds, residents' associations, scout and guide groups, chess and bridge clubs, sporting, as well as environmental and social inclusion groups operating in DLR county..

All our activities reflect the aims of the PPN:

- To facilitate communication between community groups and the Local Authority.
- To enable representatives from the community to sit on various decision-making committees within the Local Authority.
- To increase capacity and good practices within the local community by providing relevant training.
- To act as an information hub, keeping community groups informed of relevant initiatives and opportunities in DLR.
- To support the community as needed (Community Response Forum and other).

What we don't do:

- We do not provide funding, sponsorships or loans.
- We do not manage or have access to the funding set in place by the dlr County Council or other organisations.
- We do not have direct influence in executive or operational decisions made by the dlr County Council with respect to their service (e.g. parks maintenance)
- We are not political.
- We do not run the DLR Times printed publication.

We are not directly involved in the drafting of any of the dlr County Council's local plans, Annual Service Plans, Budget, etc.



Member groups are provided with opportunities for networking, learning, communication and sharing of information which leads to participation in local decision-making and collective action. Free training is open to all our members in areas such as digital skills & technology, governance, committee skills, and funding. Regular workshops, information sessions, as well as networking and public consultation meetings are held to ensure that members' voices are heard. DLR PPN Representatives (REPS) sit on the local government committees which cover these policy areas: Community, Culture & Wellbeing, Economic Development and Enterprise, Environment and Climate Action, Housing, Planning and Transportation and Marine Strategic Policy Committees, the Local Community Development Committee, Joint Policing Forum and the dlr Age Friendly Forum.

Membership is free to groups in the Dun Laoghaire Rathdown area who fulfil the membership criteria. All ages and abilities are welcome.

The DLR PPN membership is divided into three categories called pillars:

- Community & Voluntary
- Social Inclusion
- Environment

The activities are overseen by a Secretariat of 9 members, elected by groups who enjoy full membership of the network. Representatives are elected by the pillar members to Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council committees and boards.

The DLR PPN identifies issues that matter and, through member input, it seeks 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.

DLR PPN is committed to working in an open, inclusive, and transparent manner on behalf of all member groups.

Further information: [www.dlrppn.ie](http://www.dlrppn.ie) or email [enquiries@dlrppn.ie](mailto:enquiries@dlrppn.ie).

# DLR PPN Secretariat & Staff Message

## 2024 – A Year of Building Connections

Dear Members,

This year we sought to re-establish connections through participation. Some of the highlights of the year include: PPN Summer School, Focus on Funding Week, Building Connections Community Networking Event and celebrating PPN@10 – a decade of Public Participation Networks in Ireland. Very importantly, the DLR PPN Five-Year Plan 2024-2028 was finalised and published, which shapes our future workplans and activities, in line with the feedback received from our members and stakeholders. Further details of these events are included in this report.

With the local elections held in June 2024, it has been a busy year for DLR PPN as once the elections are announced, the Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) of the council are dissolved and re-established. The process takes time, and new SPCs are formed after consultation and engagement with the stakeholders. The final part of the year was dedicated to recruiting new representatives for the SPCs. In 2025 DLR PPN will have 21 representatives sitting on seven new SPCs together with representatives sitting on the Local Community Development Committee.

PPN works with the structures of leadership in the local community (committees, voluntary boards) which are often subject to a high turnover and change of volunteers. Many groups do not have an organisation email and use personal email addresses to receive the notifications from the PPN. This sometimes leads to a loss of contact with a group, if the contacts step away from the group and no alternative contact is nominated. Following an internal initiative to update contacts, 33 groups have been removed from the database or set as inactive due to the lack of contact details.

It is a pity when we lose contact with some of our member groups and is something that we wish to avoid. If your group's details are not correct on our Members Directory <https://www.dlrppn.ie/ppn-members>, please do let us know and we will update them.

And speaking of change, we have exciting news: after a decade of being hosted by Southside Partnership DLR, the PPN team has found a new home and are now hosted by the dlr Chamber.

We look forward to meeting you at our Plenary Networking Events in 2025.

DLR PPN Secretariat and Staff

# DLR PPN Secretariat

The Secretariat is the steering group of the PPN, elected by DLR PPN members. The Secretariat members are all volunteers, who participate in the monthly Secretariat meetings. They attend and represent DLR PPN at events such as the Age Friendly Alliance, the DLR Age Well Expo, the Joint Committee on Housing, Local Government & Heritage, and more. Secretariat members also attend the Representatives Network Meeting. We wish to acknowledge your commitment and thank you all sincerely.

The Secretariat met 15 times in 2024. Additionally, the Human Resources and the Finance subcommittees met 3 times each. The attendance rate of the Secretariat members at meetings was 72.8%.

## **Governance**

Nominations in 2024 were sought for the following vacancies.

### Secretariat

Environment Pillar representative – Ronan Browne, Birdwatch Ireland

Social Inclusion Pillar representative – Hilda Arenas, Filipino Multicultural Society

Community & Voluntary Pillar representative – No nomination received, position vacant.

### Strategic Policy Committees 2024-2029.

21 nominations sought for the 7 new SPCs. By December 2024, 18 of the 21 places had been filled.

## **DLR PPN Secretariat Members 2024**

### Community & Voluntary Pillar

Aileen Eglington – Kiltarnan Glenamuck Residents Association

Kay Gleeson – Sandycove & Glashule Residents Association

Tony McCarthy – Dun Laoghaire Active Retirement Association  
resigned July 2024 – position vacant

### Environment Pillar

Gavin Harte – Friends of the Earth

Bill O'Dea – Crann – Trees for Ireland

Ronan Browne – Birdwatch Ireland

### Social Inclusion Pillar

Sharon Perry – Women's Collective  
DLR

Viola Di Bucchianico – DLR Integration  
Forum

Siby Sebastian – New Citizen Initiative  
(Resigned May 2024) – Hilda Arenas –  
Filipino Multicultural Society

# DLR PPN Representatives



During the first half of the year the DLR PPN Representatives Network continued to meet. Their focus was to plan for the future and provide feed back and assistance to the PPN in planning for the training and assist in enhancing the interaction and communications between representatives and the PPN going forward.

With Local Government Elections being held in 2024 the existing Strategic Policy Committees were dissolved, as new ones would be formed post election. Two representatives were obliged to resign prior to the dissolution as they were putting themselves forward for nomination in the Local Government Elections.

## **Strategic Policy Committees 2024-2029**

- 1. Climate Action**
- 2. Community, Culture, Integration & Public Engagement**
- 3. Economic Development, Enterprise & Marine**
- 4. Environment & Transportation**
- 5. Finance**
- 6. Housing**
- 7. Planning**



# Your Representatives in 2024:

## Joint Policing Committee

Anne Harrington - Community & Voluntary  
Tony McCarthy - Community & Voluntary  
Eimear McAuliffe - Social Inclusion  
Bébhinn Murphy - Environment

## Local Community Development Committee

Valerie Snow - Community & Voluntary  
Joe Varley - Community & Voluntary  
Louise Keogh - Social Inclusion  
John Doyle - Social Inclusion  
Annette McAlister - Environment

## Housing SPC

Thomas Joseph - Community and Voluntary  
Maoilíosa Reynolds - Environment  
David Girvan - Social Inclusion  
PJ Drudy - Social Inclusion

## Community, Culture and Wellbeing

Andrew Clinch - Environment  
Olivia Dunne - Community & Voluntary  
Vacant - Community & Voluntary  
Sheila Grace - Social Inclusion  
Pierrot Ngadi - Social Inclusion

## Economic Development & Enterprise SPC

Aileen Eglinton - Community & Voluntary  
Fardus Sultan - Social Inclusion

## Planning and Citizen Engagement SPC

Brid Meehan - Community and Voluntary  
Micheál Walsh - Environment  
Ronan Browne - Environment,  
Geraldine Greydon - Social Inclusion

## Environment and Climate Change & Energy SPC

Elizabeth Clooney - Community & Voluntary  
Diarmuid McAree - Environment  
Dervla King - Environment  
Reji Chacko Jacob - Social Inclusion

## Transportation and Marine SPC

James Long - Community and Voluntary  
Aaron Moore - Environmental Pillar  
Dara Carroll - Social Inclusion  
Emma Cahill - Environment

## Rural Taskforce

Did not meet in 2024  
Vacant  
Aileen Eglinton - Community & Voluntary

## DLR Age Friendly Forum

Tony McCarthy - Community & Voluntary  
Kay Gleeson (from December  
Community & Voluntary

# Staff

DLR PPN has two staff members, hosted by Southside Partnership DLR in 2024:

- The Network Manager who is employed on a full-time basis
- The Development Worker who works part-time i.e. 4 days (28 hours) per week.

The capacity of the staff has increased from that of 2023. However there was additional statutory leave taken in 2024.

# Membership

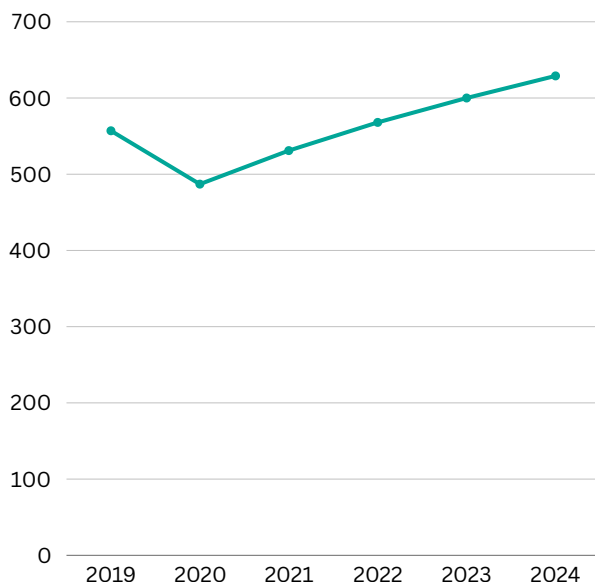
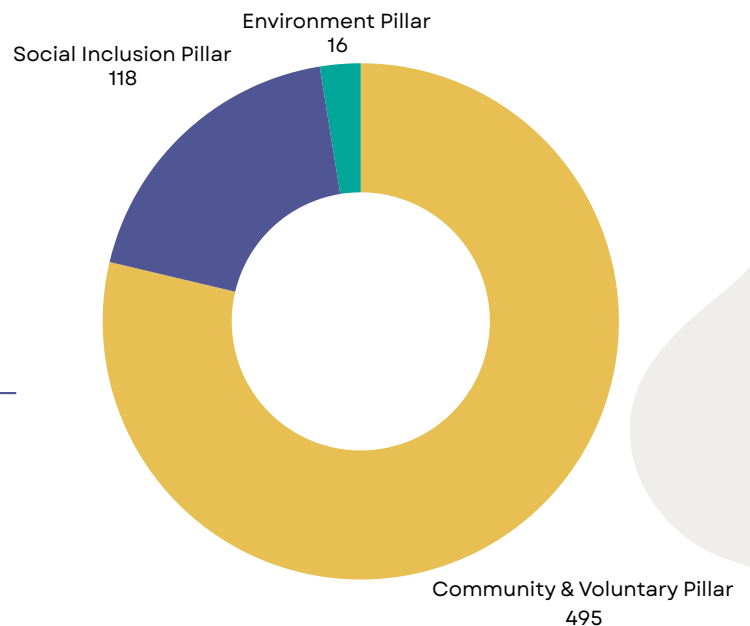
Membership of DLR PPN is open to all community and voluntary groups, clubs and organisations in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, working on a voluntary, co-operative or not-for-profit basis for the benefit of the community, who meet the membership criteria.

As of 31st December 2024, the number of membership groups in each of the Pillars counted:

Social Inclusion Pillar	118
Environment Pillar	16
Community & Voluntary Pillar	495

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Total Membership 2023	629
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DLR PPN membership has continue to grow each year since the membership shrinkage in 2020 as a result of the pandemic

In 2024 we were delighted to welcome 62 new member groups ito DLR PPN.

We also under took a data cleansing exercise removing any groups that were no longer active in 2024. This resulted in a net increase membership of 4.83%



# DLR PPN Activities

## Communication

Website Posts 176  
Website Visits 18215  
X/Twitter Posts 328  
X/Twitter Followers 1.3k  
Facebook Posts 223  
Facebook Followers 1.1k  
Mass emails sent 79  
Ezines 12  
Community Connection Radio Programme 12



## Community Connection – Radio Programme & Podcast

Member groups and services in DLR who have submitted articles for our monthly ezine are invited to participate in our Community Connections programme.

12 Community Connections radio shows were produced in collaboration with Dublin South 93.9 FM providing DLR PPN members with an opportunity to promote their activities and concerns. You can listen to the podcasts here <http://dlrppn.ie/community-connections-radio-show>. A wide range of topics were discussed by our 38 guests in 2024. Please see below:

Ballinteer Male Voice Choir  
Blackrock Flyers Special Olympics Sports  
Comhairle na nÓg  
Community Bike Rides  
Dalkey Players  
Dance Theatre of Ireland  
DLR Roger Casement Summer School  
Dublin South FM  
Dun Laoghaire Rotary Club  
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Outreach Project  
Engaging Dementia  
Focus on Funding Week – DLR PPN  
Healthy Food Made Easy  
Helium Arts  
Heritage Week 2024  
HUGG  
Indian Film Festival of Ireland  
Kilcross Youth Club's  
Kilmacud Musical Society

Kilmacud Stillorgan Local History Society  
Move4Parkinson's  
National Maritime Museum  
Neuronlike Music Therapy  
Our Lady's Hospice & Care Services – Light up a Life  
Pearse Museum  
Purple House Cancer Support  
Rosemount Family Resource Centre  
Shankill & Ballybrack Community First Responders  
Ski Club of Ireland  
Smashing Times International Centre  
Suicide or Survive  
Team Hope's National Christmas Shoebox Appeal  
The dlr Festival of Inclusion  
The Down Syndrome Centre (DSC)  
The Irish Council for Civil Liberties  
The Mill Theatre  
Underground Cinema International Film Festival  
Urban Junction



# Building Capacity

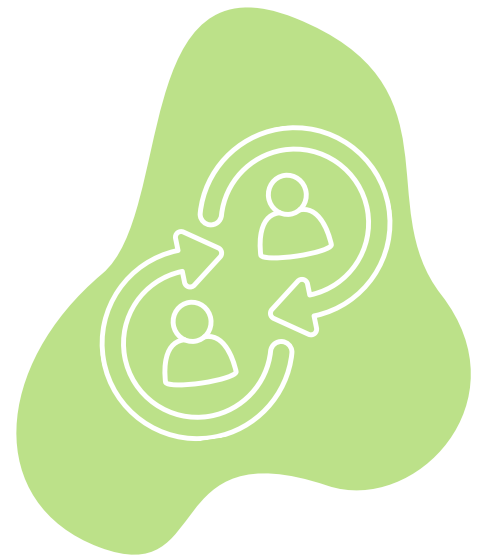
## Training

In 2024 DLR PPN provided training for its member groups in a wide variety of topics all of which aimed to help strengthen the capacity of the Environment, Social Inclusion, Community and Voluntary PPN member groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside or participate.

Once again, we partnered with Dublin City PPN to provide part of this training and to share the costs, thus improving the offering available to both PPNs. Later in 2024 as Fingal PPN was re-established they too participated and will do so moving forward in 2025.

Our offering included the following:

- Social Media
- Grant Applications and Fundraising
- Public Policy
- Equality/Diversity and Inclusion
- What is the PPN?
- How to engage with Local Authorities
- Facilitation Skills for Online Meetings
- Facilitation Skills for In-Person Meetings
- Sources of Funding
- Mastering PowerPoint for Impactful Presentations
- Anti-Racism Training
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Improving Your Non-profit's Annual Report
- Understand Your Purpose – How to Write & Update Your Group's Constitution
- How to prevent your meeting from being Railroaded
- Breaking the Cycle – Role Rotation



### Dublin Mountains Community Archaeology Workshop

The Workshop took place on 27th February, at 7.00pm online. The Dublin Mountains are a popular destination for many who want to escape from the busy urban life that has now reached their foothills. Whether hiking, mountain biking, birdwatching or just taking a stroll through the woods, the uplands are busier than they have ever been. The Dublin Mountain Community Archaeology Project aims to increase awareness among those who visit, live in and work in the mountains of the region's rich archaeological heritage.



This training workshop for the Public Participation Network consisted of a talk introducing the wide range of monuments and artefacts found in the Dublin Mountains, how to identify them, the risks they face and how we should treat them. This was followed by an opportunity for discussion and questions.





PPN Summer School - DCU Centre of Civic Engagement



# PPN Summer School – DCU Centre of Civic Engagement

DLR PPN is delighted to have helped organise the annual Summer School at DCU which took place from the 27th to the 30th of May. This year, the Summer School was extended to include all four Dublin County PPNs. Evening online sessions were introduced in addition to the morning in-person sessions on the Glasnevin Campus.

The topics covered were: Social Media; Grant Applications and Fundraising, Public Policy, Equality/Diversity and Inclusion, What is the PPN?, How to engage with the Local Council, and The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

## Focus on Funding Week



During the consultation process for the DLR PPN Strategic Plan 2024-2028, we heard from a number of our stakeholders that one of the most appreciated supports provided by the PPN is information, signposting and training about funding. For this reason, we put together a week of training with the theme of 'Focus on Funding' from the 10th to the 13th of June covering topics such as:

- Sources of Funding
- All About dlr County Council Grants
- Clann Credo – Information on funding supports they provide
- Change X - Information on their online funding platform and projects they support

The sessions were held both in person and online and we are delighted that more than 100 participants joined. Thank you to all who joined the DLR PPN Focus on Funding week and to all the speakers and trainers.







# Building Connections

In keeping with the theme of dlr Festival of Inclusion 2024 – 'Building Friendships in the Community', DLR PPN and dlr County Council hosted the Building Connections: Community Networking on the 15th of May, from 7 to 9 pm, in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Park.

DLR PPN provided a print-out of all our member groups in each electoral area, which was displayed along with posters from 35 member groups who wished their activities to be promoted at the event.

On arrival, all participants received a 'Networking Card' and a pen at the door to encourage networking with each other and writing down contact details.

We were delighted to welcome more than 120 participants who explored the many social inclusion, community, older people's, environmental, youth, disability, residents associations, sports & activities, migrant communities groups operating across Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown. The event was officially opened by An Cathaoirleach, Councillor Denis O'Callaghan, and also included the launch of our Five Year plan 2024-2028 by Gavin Harte, a member of the DLR PPN Secretariat.

Featured initiatives, organisations and projects:

## **Community Organisation Stands.**

- Adult Education Service South East
- DLR Social Prescribing for Health & Wellbeing
- dlr Integration Forum
- DLR Volunteer Centre
- Women's Collective DLR
- DLR County Childcare
- Family Resource Centres
- DLR information

## **Funding Information Stands**

- dlr County Council Community Grants
- Dublin Rural Leader Funding
- dlr County Council Initiatives
- Healthy Age-Friendly Homes Programme
- dlr Sports Partnership
- Community Climate Action Initiatives



# DLR PPN

## Network Meetings

### Spring Network (Plenary) Meeting

This meeting was held on 11th April 2024 in the Talbot Hotel Stillorgan. More than 65 groups registered to attend, and there were 50 participants during the evening. The voting representative from each full member group attending was given voting cards upon registration to ratify the reports and plans for 2024.

For the first time, the DLR PPN published the Directory of Members and everyone who attended was encouraged to get to know the groups in their area and network with those present on the night. This directory is also available online and is a useful resource for those looking to become involved in community activities it is especially useful to those new to DLR.

We would ask all members to let us know if the details for their group change, as there is the possibility that some details need updating since the first registration was submitted.

Following a presentation from the DLR PPN Network Manager, and several Question & Answers opportunities, all the documents were ratified:

DLR PPN Annual Impact Report 2023

Workplan and Budget 2024

Five Year Plan 2024-2028









# Autumn Network (Plenary) Meeting

Can you believe it's been 10 years since the PPNs were established?

We were delighted to celebrate this important milestone during the Autumn Network (Plenary) Meeting, which took place on Thursday, the 7th of November in the Assembly Hall.

More than 80 members and guests joined the DLR PPN Secretariat and Staff for an evening of looking back and looking forward on a decade of public participation in Dun Laoghaire Rathdown.

We were honoured to welcome An Cathaoirleach, Jim O'Leary, as well as Frank Curran, the dlr County Council Chief Executive and Mary Ruane, Chief Officer of DLR LCDC/Senior Executive Officer, Community and Cultural Development Department among the special guests.

After the few opening addresses from our distinguished guests, current and former PPN reps shared their experience as part of a panel discussion aptly moderated by Aileen Eglinton, DLR PPN Secretariat Member.

The members of the panel were: Pierrot Ngadi - Congolese Anti Poverty Network, Diarmuid McAree - Crann Trees for Ireland, Kay Gleeson - Sandycove Glashule Residents Association and Tony McCarthy. DLR Active Retirement.

The evening concluded with a special recognition of four PPN members whose longstanding contribution has been instrumental in the success of the DLR PPN: Kay Gleeson, Aileen Eglinton, Tony and Margaret McCarthy.



We would like to thank all the PPN members who joined us on the night. A special thank you goes to the PPN representatives and Secretariat members whose amazing and dedicated contribution as volunteers makes DLR PPN one of the best PPNs in the country. Here's to 10 more years of Public Participation!







# DLR PPN Five-Year Plan 2024-2028



We are proud to say that in 2024 we launched our Five Year Plan. This plan will guide our work for the next five years.

The consultation period took place over four months starting in November 2023 and over 120 member groups participated. We also had a number of dedicated consultations with local stakeholders.

The strategic plan will help shape our workplans and guide our activities and events.

## DLR PPN Strategic Objectives

### Strategic Priority 1

#### Governance & Operations

Future Statement -

**DLR PPN has robust Governance & Operations**

### Strategic Priority 2

#### Participation & Representation

Future Statement -

**DLR PPN has equitably facilitated the participation and representation of communities**



### Strategic Priority 3

#### Capacity Building

Future Statement -

**DLR PPN has strengthened the capacity of member groups to positively impact the wellbeing their community**



### Strategic Priority 4

#### Information & Communication

Future Statement -

**DLR PPN provided relevant and accessible information and communicated effectively with all stakeholders**





# Public Participation Network National Conference 2024

The Public Participation Network Limerick (PPNL) and Limerick City and County Council hosted the 6th National Public Participation Network Conference at the Strand Hotel Limerick on October 17th and 18th. This year's event was particularly special as it marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of PPNs across Ireland.

The conference brought together 160 delegates representing community and voluntary groups, social inclusion and environmental organisations from across the country, alongside local authority officials, elected representatives, and other supporters of the PPNs' work.



The theme for this year's conference, "Collaboration for Resilient Communities," highlighted the essential partnerships required for the effective delivery of government programs at both national and local levels. The PPNs play a crucial role in facilitating these collaborations by providing representatives on committees and steering groups, sharing information, building capacity, and offering support.

Welcoming delegates to the conference, Mayor of Limerick, John Moran said, "It is an honour to welcome such a dedicated group of individuals to Limerick. The work of the PPNs over the past decade has been instrumental in fostering resilient communities through collaboration and support. The key has been working together and supporting each other. This conference is a celebration of the PPN's achievements and also sets the stage for future initiatives that will continue to strengthen our communities."

Minister of State with responsibility for Integration, Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD said: "I would like to thank the team in Limerick PPN for all their hard work, enthusiasm and creativity in organising the Annual PPN Conference 2024, in collaboration with Limerick City and County Council. Your work in bringing this national event to Limerick is a great example of the collaboration which is a core characteristic of Public Participation Networks."

# Collaboration

We are proud to partner with the following organisations to help further the work of DLR PPN.

- Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council
- Dublin South FM
- Dublin City University
- Dublin City PPN
- Fingal PPN



## dlr Community Integration Forum

DLR PPN is a member of dlr Community Integration Forum which was originally established in 2022 as the Community Response Forum in response to the pandemic. Since then, the Forum has helped coordinate the local response to the Ukrainian community support and now focuses on the wider integration of refugees, asylum seekers and more in DLR. The PPN participates in the meetings and helps share news of training, funding, events and more. The PPN is also seeking to offer training in the area of integration and multiculturalism.



## Information Shared

In DLR PPN, we believe information is power and in 2024 we shared information on 900+ different topics

- Members News 282
- Community Wellbeing 141
- Funding 270
- Opportunities to Participate 207
- Environment 74

# DLR PPN Expenditure Report for 2024

	<b>Expenditure €</b>
	Cost of Employment €88,041.32
Travel expenses - Secretariat, Representatives & Staff	€3,416.84
Training and development	€1,115
Plenary Costs	€3,149.85
Hosting Fee	€8,500
Marketing and promotion	€8,30.24
Projects, activities, and events	€5,470.19
Other (website, office, phone, insurance, etc.)	€2,062.33
Total Expenditure 2024	€112,585.77

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