

DLR PPN 2025 Impact Report

# *2025: A Year of Rejuvenation & Renewal*



**Líonraí Rannpháirtíochta Pobail DLR**  
**Public Participation Network DLR**



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# About



## **Public Participation Network DLR**

The Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown Public Participation Network (DLR PPN) is a shared network that brings together community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups across the Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown area.

DLR PPN is organised around three pillars – Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion, and Environment – and is guided by an elected Secretariat. Its members range from active retirement groups, men’s sheds and residents’ associations to youth groups, sports clubs, and environmental and social inclusion organisations.

DLR PPN works to connect local community groups with the Local Authority, ensuring community voices are heard in local decision-making. The network nominates community representatives to participate in local decision making by sitting on dlr Local Authority committees and fora. It supports groups by offering free training, sharing information about local opportunities, and providing spaces for networking, learning and collaboration.

What DLR PPN does not do is provide funding, manage council grants, make operational decisions for the County Council, or engage in political activity. It is also not responsible for council publications or the drafting of local plans and budgets.

Members benefit from regular workshops, information sessions and consultations, as well as representation on a wide range of local committees covering areas such as community wellbeing, housing, environment and climate action, planning, transport, and policing.

Membership is free for eligible groups based in the area, and people of all ages and abilities are welcome.

DLR PPN is committed to being open, inclusive and transparent, and works to improve quality of life and opportunities for everyone in the Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown area.

An aerial photograph of a coastal town, likely Dún Laoghaire, Ireland. The image shows a mix of residential buildings, green trees, and a sandy beach. In the foreground, there's a rocky pier extending into the clear, turquoise water. People are seen walking on the pier and sitting on the beach. The sky is a clear, bright blue. The overall scene is vibrant and scenic, capturing the essence of a coastal community.

# Secretariat & Staff Message

2026 was a year of Rejuvenation and Renewal for DLR PPN.

We successfully transitioned to our new host organisation, the DLR Chamber of Commerce and we warmly welcome this partnership. We look forward to the stability it brings and to the new opportunities it will create for our network in the years ahead.

We would like to sincerely thank our members for their continued support, engagement and commitment throughout the year. We are also grateful for the ongoing support of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht (DRCDG), as well as the many other local agencies and organisations who help to advance and support the work of DLR PPN.

# Secretariat

The Secretariat is the steering group of DLR PPN and is elected by the PPN membership. Secretariat members are committed volunteers who participate in monthly meetings and have responsibility for governance, financial oversight, DLR PPN activities, participation of PPN Representatives, and contributing to the development of the staff workplan.

Secretariat members also attend and represent DLR PPN on a range of committees and at outreach events, including the PPN National Secretariat Network, the PPN National Conference, DLR Community Awards, the Age Friendly Alliance, the DLR Age Well Expo, and the DLR PPN Representatives Network, among others.

The Secretariat met 12 times during 2025. In addition, the Human Resources and Finance subcommittees each met three times. The overall attendance rate of Secretariat members at meetings was 79%.

## Governance

In December 2025, Kay Gleeson and Aileen Eglington stepped down from the Secretariat after completing their terms of office. To these amazing people we owe an immense depth of gratitude. DLR PPN extends sincere thanks to both for their outstanding commitment and dedication to DLR PPN. We are deeply grateful for their contribution and we look forward to their continued involvement and support of DLR PPN into the future.

## Secretariat

1 Secretariat vacancy Community & Voluntary Pillar filled in September 2025

## Representatives - Housing SPC

1 Environment Pillar vacancy filled May 2025

## Local Community Safety Partnership (dlr LCSP)

9 Expressions of Interest Received - 3 Accepted

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## DLR PPN Secretariat Members 2025

### Community & Voluntary Pillar

Aileen Eglington - Kilternan Glenamuck Residents Association

Kay Gleeson - Sandycove & Glasthule Residents Association

Hope Adjenughure - All Saints Community

Anne Harrington - Monkstown Village Tidy District

### Environmental Pillar

Gavin Harte - Friends of the Earth

Bill O'Dea - Crann -Trees for Ireland

Ronan Browne - Birdwatch Ireland

### Social Inclusion Pillar

Hilda Arenas - Filipino Multicultural Society of Ireland

Viola Di Bucchianico - DLR Integration Forum

Sharon Perry - Women's Collective DLR

# Your DLR PPN Representatives



Following the formation of the new Strategic Policy Committees for the 2024–2028 term, the PPN commenced the development of a new training programme for representatives, which was delivered in February and March. Separate induction training was also provided by Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council.

The newly elected representatives, together with Local Community Development Committee representatives and Secretariat members, worked on developing their mandate for the 2024–2028 term. This was informed by the Vision for Community Wellbeing, the DLR PPN Five-Year Plan, consultation with DLR PPN member groups, and feedback from outgoing representatives. This process aimed to ensure that representatives continue to reflect and advocate for the diverse views of the PPN member groups.

The Representatives Network has been re-established to support representatives in their work, and an introductory meeting between DLR PPN representatives and the newly elected Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown councillors was held in October.

DLR PPN thanks our representatives for their commitment and dedication, and looks forward to working with them and supporting them in their roles.

# DLR PPN Representatives, Secretariat & dlr Councillors at the Introductory Meeting



# DLR PPN Representatives 2025

## Climate Action SPC

Ger Corcoran - Community & Voluntary  
Pierre Kerhascoe - Environment

## Community, Culture, Integration & Public Engagement SPC

Mairin de Brun - Community & Voluntary  
Maria Travers - Community & Voluntary  
Seán Ó Raghallaigh - Community & Voluntary  
Pierrot Ngadi - Social Inclusion  
Daniel Walsh - Environment

## Economic Dev. Enterprise & Marine SPC

Aaron Moore - Environment  
Fardus Sultan - Social Inclusion

## Environment & Transportation SPC

Seana Kevany - Community & Voluntary  
Aaron Daly - Social Inclusion  
Diarmuid McAree - Environment

## Finance SPC

Aileen Eglinton - Community & Voluntary  
Hilda Arenas - Social Inclusion  
Brian Dunphy - Environment

## Housing SPC

P.J. Drudy - Community & Voluntary  
David Girvan - Social Inclusion  
John Legge - Resigned Jan 2025 replaced by  
Mark Kane - Environment May 2025

## Planning SPC

Una O'Shea - Community & Voluntary  
Mandy Khan - Social Inclusion  
Ronan Browne - Environment

## Local Community Development Committee

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

## dlr Age Friendly Alliance

Kay Gleeson - Community & Voluntary

## dlr Community Safety Partnership

Aileen Eglinton - Glenamuck Sandyford  
Area Resident  
Pierrot Ngadi - Minority Community  
Kieran Browne - Blackrock Area Resident

## Staff

DLR PPN is supported by two staff members and has been hosted by the DLR Chamber of Commerce since February 2025, with Southside Partnership DLR having been the previous host organisation (2015-2025).

The Network Manager, Simone Sav, is employed on a full-time basis (35 hours per week). The Development Worker, Colette Downing, is employed on a part-time basis, working four days (28 hours) per week.

The dedication and experience of our staff, who have been with DLR PPN for seven and six years respectively, ensure the ongoing stability and success of the organisation.

# Membership

Membership of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network is open to any community and voluntary group or club, environmental group and any organisation addressing issues of social exclusion, working on a voluntary, co-operative or not-for-profit basis for the benefit of the community within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Membership is not open to individuals.

Applications for membership will be considered by the Secretariat of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Public Participation Network. Only groups or organisations who meet the membership criteria will be offered membership.

Pillar	No. of Member Groups
Community & Voluntary	517
Environment	18
Social Inclusion	126
Total	661

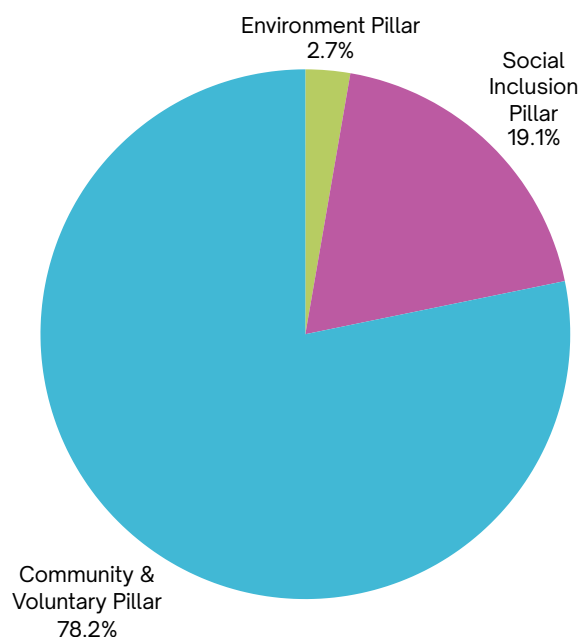
Community groups play a vital part in our community as it is their work that enhances the lives of the people in our community.

We are delighted to say that DLR PPN membership continues to grow at a steady pace. In 2025 we welcomed 34 new member groups to DLR PPN.

We encourage all our member groups to check the Members Directory on our website, <https://www.dlrppn.ie/ppn-members/> to ensure that your group's contact details are up to date. It is here that you can also locate your PPN membership number.

Similarly we also request that you advise us of changes of your committees so that we have the most up-to-date details to enable us to continue to communicate with you.

**DLR PPN Membership 2025**



# Building Capacity

In 2025 DLR PPN provided training for its member groups on 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.

- SPC Representatives Induction Training Workshop
- Understanding the Political System
- Effective Political Communications
- Introduction to the PPN and the Basics of Running a Community Group
- LGBTQ+ Sensitivity & Awareness 6 Workshops/ Information Sessions
- Induction training for 2 new Secretariat members
- Introduction to PPNs and the Basics of Running a Community Group - 3 sessions

We partnered again with Dublin City PPN to provide part of this training and to share the costs, thus improving the offering available to both PPNs.

- Training provided in with Dublin City PPN
  - How to Write Impactful Submissions for Public Consultations Workshop
  - Funding and Grant Writing Tips Workshop
  - Writing Submissions for Public Consultations
  - How to care for others while caring for ourselves

## Resource Hub

The Resource Hub is an area on our website that is being developed to provide community groups with useful resources such as tutorials and recordings, slides, document templates and all that is needed to assist with running a community group.

We also developed the DLR PPN Guide to Starting and Running a Community Group.



# PPN Summer School with DCU



The fourth PPN/DCU Summer School took place from 26–29 May 2025 on the DCU Glasnevin Campus and online, bringing together community volunteers, PPN Representatives, Secretariat members and staff. Delivered in partnership with the PPNs of Dublin City, Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown and Fingal, and DCU’s Office of Civic Engagement, the Summer School continued to grow in reach, ambition and impact.

The four-day programme offered practical training and policy-focused learning, including sessions on Social Media, Artificial Intelligence in Community Work, Sustainability and Energy, Misinformation, and Navigating the Irish Public Policy System.

The highlights were the panel discussion with the Department of Rural and Community Development, alongside contributions from leading academics and sector specialists.



The Summer School concluded with a networking lunch and certificate ceremony, reinforcing the strong sense of community fostered by the programme. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many participants describing it as the best Summer School to date. Particular thanks are extended to Luke Quinlan for his outstanding coordination and delivery of the programme.



# LGBTQ+

## Sensitivity Awareness Training & Guide to Supports and Information for the DLR Community

This project was developed through a collaborative partnership between DLR PPN, the dlr County Council, Edify EDU at the IADT, and LGBT Ireland. We are particularly grateful to the Community Department of Dún Laoghaire–Rathdown County Council for approaching the PPN in 2024 with a proposal to work together on an initiative to raise awareness and increase sensitivity towards the LGBTQ+ community across the county.

**LGBTQ+**  
**Sensitivity & Awareness Workshops**

Would you like to better understand LGBTQ+ experiences – to support a family member, friend or colleague?

Whether you're looking to learn more for personal or professional reasons, these sessions offer a welcoming space to gain knowledge, ask questions and build confidence.

**What to expect:**

- Relaxed, interactive discussions
- Clear explanations without jargon
- Opportunities to ask questions in a supportive environment

**DATES:**

**Age Friendly Workshops**

- Tuesday 16th Sept. 7-9pm -Online
- Tuesday 30th Sept. 10am-1.30pm, In person - Dun Laoghaire

**DLR Festival of Inclusion Week**

- Wednesday 1st Oct 7-9pm - Online

**General**

- Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> Oct. 10am-1.30pm, In person - Dundrum

**REGISTER:**  
<https://www.dlrppn.ie/news/upcoming-training/>

**CONTACT:**  
[enquiries@dlrppn.ie](mailto:enquiries@dlrppn.ie)

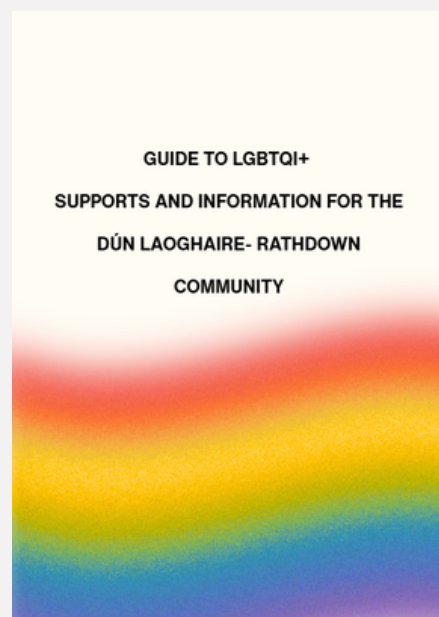
This training will be delivered by LGBT Ireland and is funded by the Dormant Accounts Fund

*Let's learn from one another, bridge the gaps, and build a kinder, more inclusive DLR Community.*

Following a successful application to the Dormant Accounts Fund 2024, DLR PPN delivered six LGBTQ+ sensitivity and awareness training sessions and developed this accompanying resource guide. This initiative supports the delivery of Action 6.3 of the National LGBTI+ Inclusion Strategy, which aims to ensure that community infrastructure is inclusive and welcoming to LGBTI+ people.

This guide has been carefully developed to highlight key services, support networks and information resources available to LGBTQI+ people, as well as to acknowledge significant milestones in the advancement of LGBTQI+ rights in Ireland.

Whether individuals are seeking support, looking to connect with others, or wishing to deepen their understanding, this guide is intended to serve as a clear, practical and welcoming point of reference. Together, we can continue to build a more inclusive future for everyone.



# Network Meetings

## Spring Network Meeting

The DLR PPN Spring Meeting 2025 took place on the 25th of March in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Road. The Secretariat and staff were delighted more than 75 participants for a very productive meeting.

DLR PPN Manager, Simone Sav, welcomed the participants and presented a few important updates about the DLR PPN activity, such as a brief Impact Report for 2024, which was ratified by the members, an update in relation to the new PPN host and upcoming events and training opportunities.

The following were also ratified:

- Work Plan 2025 & Budget 2025,
- PPN representatives on the new SPCs 2024-2029
- Two new Secretariat members Ronan Brown and Hilda Arenas

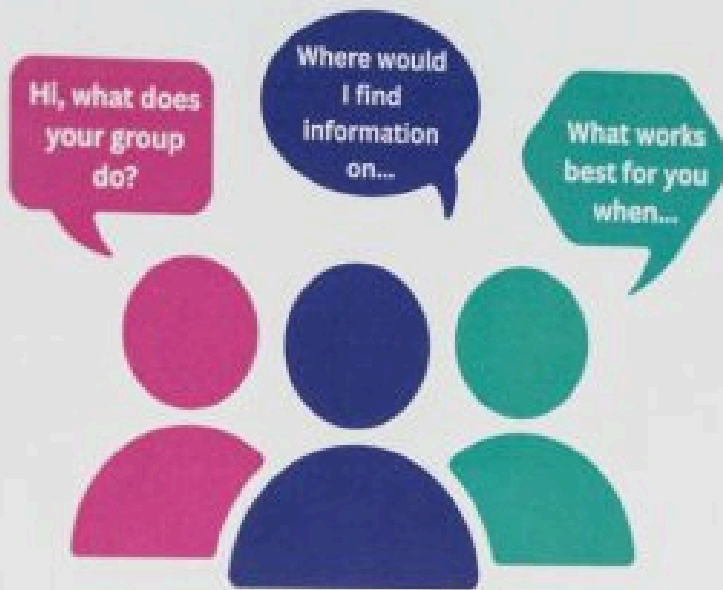
The following policies were updated due to the move to the new host and ratified by the members: Code of Conduct, Data Protection Policy, Election Policy, Complaints Policy, Expenses Policy, Financial Policy & Representatives Charter.

The evening went on with a consultation process on the priorities for 2025 and beyond, led by the guest speaker, Ellenora Lynch. The priorities identified, in conjunction with the DLR PPN Vision for Community Wellbeing Statement and the Five Year Plan 2024-2028 will help create the mandate for the PPN reps for the new local government term.





**LE CHÉILE**  
TOGETHER



**DLR PPN**  
**Community Autumn Networking Event**

## Le Chéile - Together

# DLR PPN Autumn Community Networking Event

The DLR PPN Secretariat and Team was delighted to welcome 175 participants to Le Cheile – Together – DLR PPN Autumn Community Networking Event, which took place on Wednesday, the 8th of October, in the Talbot Hotel, Stillorgan Road (the Shelbourne Suite).



The PPN Secretariat and Team was delighted to welcome An Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Jim Gildea, who gave an opening address for the audience and thanked the DLR PPN Representatives ‘who sit on Council committees, SPCs, and other boards. They help bring the community voice into policy and planning. It’s voluntary, often behind-the-scenes work – but incredibly valuable.’

One important moment during the event was the Launch the *Guide to LGBTQI+ Supports and Information for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (DLR) Community*, by Sharon Perry, DLR PPN Secretariat member. The Secretariat and Team of the DLR Public Participation Network, took this opportunity to present this resource, which aims to provide information and support for LGBTQI+ individuals and allies living within our community. This Guide came about as collaboration between the PPN, the County Council – Community Department, the Edify EDU in the Institute of Art, Design and Technology and LGBT Ireland.

The evening also included an information session on the dlr Community Climate Action Programme – Phase 2, which was open from the 20th of October to the 15th of December 2025. The information session took place in the Merrion Suite.

This event provided insightful discussions, opportunities for collaboration, and a deeper understanding of the exciting developments within the DLR PPN community. We look forward to continuing our work together and seeing the exciting outcomes of the connections made.

The exhibitor stands included:

- dlr Community Department Grants
- DL Harbour Masterplan Consultation updates
- dlr Heritage Grants
- LGBT Ireland
- dlr Sports Partnership Grants
- BHP/ Champion Insurance
- dlr Local Integration Team Updates
- Local Enterprise Office (LEO) Grants
- TUSLA Foster Services
- dlr Local Community Safety Partnership
- Insurance for Community Groups
- Arachas Insurance for Community Groups
- Dublin Rural Leader Funding
- Sustainable Energy Communities Mentors DLR
- dlr Biodiversity Initiatives
- dlr Environment Grants
- dlr Community Climate Action Fund



LE CHÉILE  
TOGETHER

“Just a short note to thank you both very much for the great event last night. We particularly enjoyed the networking at all the various exhibitor stands. Looking forward to the next meeting already!”  
The Gallops RA

“It was such a fantastic event, I actually think it was the busiest I was ever at! All of the members were so engaging which was brilliant! Well done for organising – everything went so smoothly.” Arachas

“Thank you, and well done on the Le Chéile DLR PPN event in the Talbot Hotel last Wednesday evening. It was well organised and very informative event. I came away with lots of notes that will be very useful to DLARA.”

Many thanks for tonight! It was great! - really informative!

“Thank you for a very well run event last evening.. very informative and most helpful staff on hand for questions and of course the lovely food was an added bonus.....”



# PPN National Conference

The National PPN Conference 2025 took place in Trim, between the 16th and 17th of October and offered the opportunity for PPNs across Ireland for two days of learning, discussion and connection. DLR PPN was well represented, with five members of the PPN Secretariat and Team (Hope Adjenughure, Kay Gleeson, Gavin Harte, Ronan Browne and Simone Sav) and two members of the dlr County Council joining in (Mary Ruane and Ian Smalley).



There were two keynote sessions on Misinformation and Disinformation, delivered by the Hope and Courage Collective and the Institute for Strategic Dialogue. The presentations focused on: how misinformation spreads, how it influences public debate and how communities can respond. Workshops and site visits formed another important part of the programme.

The gala dinner, attended by Minister of State Jerry Buttimer, highlighted the positive contribution of PPNs around the country, and the positive role that PPNs play in supporting democracy at local level.

The second day of the conference offered the opportunity to learn more about the ongoing collaboration between Community, Meath PPN and Meath County Council in terms of the Trim Tidy Towns Circular Economy Strategy. The panel discussion was followed by a workshop session on four different topics.

The conference ended with feedback from workshops, and we are delighted that two DLR PPN delegates (Ronan Browne and Hope Adjenughure) shared their experience and input.

We were delighted to have had the opportunity to join this conference and we would like to extend our thanks to Meath PPN for organising and to the DRCDG team, for their amazing and ongoing support.

# Outreach

DDL R PPN's outreach aims to:

- Strengthen community voices in local policy-making
- Connect diverse groups across sectors
- Increase awareness of, and participation in, civic events
- Build capacity within voluntary groups for effective engagement
- Support raising awareness about Social Enterprise in DLR

We achieve this through a range of outreach methods, including actively attending community events, providing training and surveys, and maintaining regular communications through our eZine and email updates. We encourage our members and the wider community to participate in consultations and other opportunities to ensure their voices are heard.

DLR PPN is committed to grassroots engagement. We regularly attend community events across the county to raise awareness of the PPN and encourage wider participation. These in-person interactions help us to build trust, expand our network, and ensure that our supports reach a broad and diverse range of community voices. In addition, we host community networking events that bring together local groups, services, and residents. These events showcase the work of community organisations, foster collaboration, and raise awareness of the supports available throughout the area. They also provide valuable opportunities for sharing experiences, strengthening local connections, and encouraging volunteerism.



*Some of the events and workshops attended in 2025 included:*

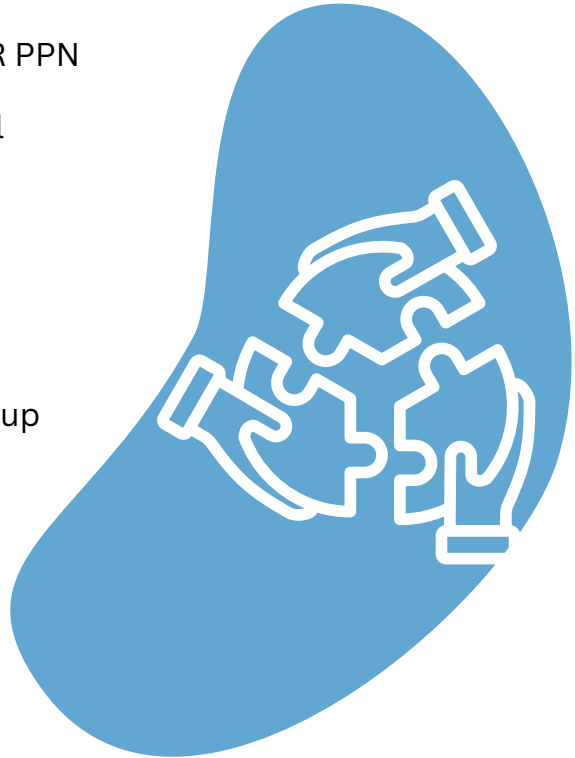
*Africa Day; SEAI Dundrum Energy Clinic; DLR PPN New Members' Coffee Morning; Decarbonising Zone Workshop; Eurofound 50 Years Celebration; dlr Age Well Expo; Dublin South FM 30th Anniversary Outside Broadcast; the National Community Safety Partnership Townhall; and several meetings of the Social Enterprise steering group for DLR.*



## Outreach & Collaboration

We are proud to partner with the following organisations to help further the work of DLR PPN and benefit the DLR community:

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council
- Dublin South FM
- DCU
- Dublin City PPN
- Edify - IADT
- Dundrum by Design
- DLR Chamber of Commerce - Purple Flag
- dlr Social Enterprise
- How to Set Up and Run a Community Group
- Sustainable Energy Communities DLR
- Comhairle nÓg Steering Group
- DLR Age Friendly Alliance
- Community Integration Forum
- National PPN Conference
- National PPN Workers Conference
- National Secretariat Committee
- Africa Day
- dlr Community Volunteer Awards
- National Community Safety Townhall



## Communications



### 430 topics of information shared

Members News 109  
Community Wellbeing 176  
Funding 114  
Opportunities to Participate 162  
Environment 41

### Submissions Made 4

## How we Communicated

Web Posts 57  
Website Visits 19312  
X Posts 142  
X followers 1.25k  
Facebook 208  
Facebook followers 1.2K  
Mass email 55  
Ezines 4  
Community Connection Radio Programme 4



# Income & Expenditure

<b>Income 2025 (Including Contingency Fund and Agreed Carry-over)</b>	<b>€162,257.36</b>
Cost of Employment	€100,410.83
Travel Expenses - Secretariat, Representatives and Staff	€1,503.94
Plenary Costs	€8524.47
Hosting Fee	€8500
Training and Development	€12,234.49
Marketing and Promotion	€0
Projects, Activities and Events	€10,153.06
Other (Website, Office, Phone, Insurance, etc.)	€5,196.06
Contingency Funding	€15,700
<b>Total Expenditure 2025</b>	<b>€162,222.85</b>

