

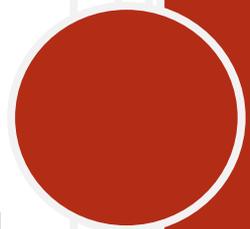


WESTMEATH PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Report to Westmeath Joint Policing Committee

Westmeath PPN reps on the JPC

1/7/2019





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Overview

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) were introduced following the enactment of the Local Government Act 2014. Westmeath Public Participation Network (WPPN) was established in 2014 as an umbrella structure for all community groups in the county. The primary role of the PPN is to enable the public to take an active formal role in the policy making and oversight activities of local decision making bodies including Local Authority structures.

Introduction

A primary function of Westmeath PPN is to consult with and organise feedback from our members. To date WPPN has developed consultation feedback to many documents on a local and national level.

The aim of WPPN is to co-ordinate how the community in Westmeath is represented. We also aim to make our members stronger; and keep our members informed about local developments. WPPN makes its members stronger by helping them to be better able to contribute positively to the community and engage with the County Council and other local agencies. WPPN provide a space for policy development on issues of community concern. We keep our members informed by disseminating information to our members and we receive information. The activities of the Westmeath PPN enable our members to contribute to the wellbeing of the County. WPPN has more than 60 representatives on various County Council & local committees, including representation on other local agency boards and committees. This gives members eyes, ears and a voice in local decision making. A great debt of gratitude is owed to all WPPN reps and especially our hard working, dedicated secretariat.

General Actions

- 🗣️ Some of WPPN activities in 2018
- 🗣️ Westmeath PPN has sent over 70,000 informational emails 2018
- 🗣️ Organised 2 Annual Resource and Funding workshops
- 🗣️ Compiled & Issued 7 PPN Monthly Newsletters
- 🗣️ PPN website up and running www.westmeathppn.ie
- 🗣️ 2 Plenary meetings
- 🗣️ 2 Municipal District PPN Public meetings
- 🗣️ PPN Reps made submissions to Mullingar Municipal District (MMD) meetings
- 🗣️ PPN Reps made submissions to Athlone Municipal District (AMD) meetings
- 🗣️ 6 WPPN Delegates to Joint Policing Committee (JPC) meetings
- 🗣️ 13 WPPN Secretariat meetings
- 🗣️ Hosted the National PPN Conference in Athlone in October with over 300 attending over 2 days
- 🗣️ Lead organiser and host of Midland Region Public Participation Network
- 🗣️ WPPN made submissions on behalf of member groups to MMD, AMD & JPC

Joint Policing Committee

According to the GARDA SÍOCHÁNA ACT 2005: Joint Policing Committee Guidelines – Amended August 2014 “The purpose of the Joint Policing Committee (JPC) is to provide a forum where a local authority and the senior Garda officers responsible for the policing of that area, with the participation of Oireachtas members and community interests, can consult, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the area”.

Each year WPPN seek submissions from community groups across the county on issues of local concern appropriate for the consideration of the JPC and elect representatives to the JPC as appropriate. Westmeath Public Participation Network 2018/19 representatives to JPC are:

Marie Reddin	Des Sheridan	Kathleen Grennan
Pat Grimes	Sheena Lawless	Dave Raftis

Westmeath PPN six representatives on Westmeath Joint Policing Committee made a collective presentation to the JPC on the 16th April 2018 on issues for consideration by Westmeath Joint Policing Committee in 2018. This document is the end of year (2018) report on the outcomes of these issues.

The Submission

The submission contained 10 actions, significant progress was made on the workplan with a total of nine of the ten actions identified being completed or in progress by the end of 2018, the final action is one which is ongoing as the decision on this is a national one, hence this will be carried into 2019 for updates on this action as it becomes available to WCC .

1. WCC to produce a protocol for position process of the mobile camera unit in litter black spot areas.



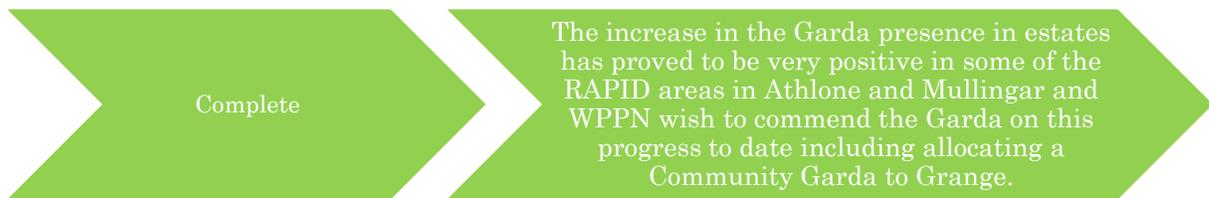
2. WPPN requested that the new speed limit signage of 30km for estates be erected in all estates across the county to act as a deterrent for speeding in housing estates.



3. An increase in intimidation has been indicated by community members. WPPN requested that the Garda, WCC and MRDATF implement the “Intimidation Training” for community & voluntary groups in Westmeath be carried out in Westmeath.



4. To address public safety and confidence in Garda, WPPN requested increased foot patrols and bicycles patrols where possible.



5. WPPN requested clarification on the National CCTV scheme and if this scheme will be implementable in Westmeath.



6. Athlone and Mullingar RAPID Community Forum members to participate in annual Clean up days.

Complete Athlone & Mullingar Spring and Autumn clean up days 2018 have been completed in conjunction with WCC supports.

7. Development of a Youth Committee in Ennell Court

Complete Youth Work Ireland Midlands have developed a Youth Committee in Ennell Court and will continue to give ongoing support to it.

8. RAPID groups are requesting that WCC enforce their Anti Social Behaviour Policy in Local Authority estates and remind any LA tenants of their responsibilities as a tenant of the LA.

Complete WCC Tenants handbook has been circulated to all county council estate homes.

9. An increase in the selling and buying of drugs through Social Media has been cited by the community as an ever increasing problem – including online payment methods i.e paypal. WPPN requested information on how this can best be address.

Ongoing Developments are being investigated by an Garda Siochiana, WPPN will be kept informed with updates.

10. WPPN requesting a cleanup of an area of heavy dumping between Mullingar Athletic Grounds and the Presbyterian Church in Farran.

Complete Completed by Mullingar Municipal District; with ongoing monitoring

In addition to the above 10 actions Westmeath PPN, MRADTF, RAPID, Westmeath Community Development and Westmeath County Council have held a number of meetings to address the need of the community and individuals on how to access drug and alcohol related support services in the county. Two drug and alcohol information sessions were delivered one on 25th Sept in Annebrook Hotel, Mullingar and the 2nd October 2018 in Shamrock Lodge Hotel Athlone.

Conclusions

Westmeath PPN recognises and wishes to acknowledge the support of Westmeath Joint Policing Committee through Westmeath County Council and the Garda in helping them to make their communities a safer and healthier place to live in. The council grants have facilitated the communities to implement community based projects and the ongoing work with the Garda, most especially the Community Garda section is exceptional. WPPN is very aware of the demand on WCC and the Gardai resources from different sectors in Westmeath and are grateful that the Joint Policing Committee as a collective considers and responds to the queries and proposed projects that has been identified by WPPN and look forward to ongoing collaboration with you in 2019.