



CAVAN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

Cavan Public Participation Network,
www.cavanppn.ie,
info@cavanppn.ie

Picture: The River Erne, Crossdoney, County Cavan.

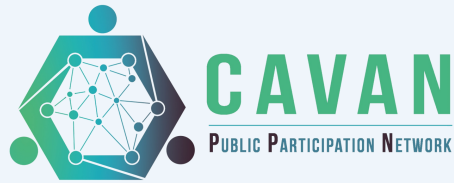
“

We value the dignity & justice of a sustainable & future-orientated community wellbeing, a place that people can proudly call home in our diversity and sense of belonging. A space of engaged citizens, supported to have their voice heard and respected for the betterment of all. We, the communities of County Cavan, call for a wellbeing core to our county's development, such that we will be a model of healthy living, vibrant mindsets & beautiful natural nurturing for all the children of Cavan.

”

- Cavan Wellbeing Workshops, 2019

Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025



We welcome you to Cavan PPN's Strategic Plan for the 3 year period of 2023 to 2025; a roadmap to effective civic participation for the community groups of County Cavan. We believe truly in the vibrancy of a democracy that embraces non political community voices in its fabric and the PPNs were established for just this reason in The Local Government Act 2014.

The PPN is a network of over 320 community groups divided into three Pillars of:

(i) Environment, (ii) Social Inclusion (iii) Community/Voluntary and into the areas of:

(i) Cavan/Belturbet, (ii) Ballyjamesduff, (iii) Bailieborough/Cootehill

From these sections are elected 2 from each to form a Secretariat of 12 people, we who oversee the mission of delivering participative democracy at a local level in Ireland. We are committed, with our staff and the representatives of the groups on over a dozen bodies, to maintaining a vibrancy of voice for the community groups of the county. It's vital that this form of democracy, in its infancy, partners with key players to make Ireland the most democratic state we can be in a world of declining democratic voices. Through our three key anchors of:

(i) Networking, (ii) Representation and (iii) Capacity Building we hope to deliver for Cavan a better place to call home.

Cavan PPN Secretariat, September 2022.

WHO WE ARE WHAT WE DO

- ◇ We support the fulfillment of community representation onto various board, committees & organisations across County Cavan.
- ◇ We deploy a community news network, weekly through our ENews, quarterly through our magazine & through social media and email.
- ◇ We provide training opportunities to community members of CavanPPN, networking over 320 groups as of 2022.
- ◇ We work with local stakeholders, such as Cavan County Council and Cavan County Local Development to help enhance the community sector of County Cavan.
- ◇ We host regular meetings to keep ourselves and member groups apprised of current and emerging issues and to liaise with those member groups to find the best solutions to those issues.
- ◇ We participate in national consultations on vital issues to the fabric of society as one of thirty one community PPNs in Ireland.
- ◇ We work on a national stage with organisations such as The Department of Rural and Community Development, Social Justice Ireland, The Wheel and others to support the increased wellbeing of citizens in Ireland through the PPN processes.

OUR VISION

The creation of a vibrant county whose citizens are raised up in their voices to contribute to its wellbeing and growth.

OUR MISSION

To facilitate and support the inclusivity of a diversity of community voices in the policy making of County Cavan. To inform and provide information for the communities of Cavan to improve in the excellent work they are already doing and to enhance this through capacity building to make our excellent county the best it can be.

OUR VALUES

Cavan PPN's work is solidly anchored into the themes of Representation, Networking and Capacity Building and in order to achieve this our values underpin these through Participation, Sustainability, Diversity, Inclusion, Empowerment, Respect, Accountability and Partnership.



Picture: Castle Saunderson, Cavan/Fermanagh Border

GOALS

OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1

NETWORKING & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- ◇ Develop a regular information communication strategy.
- ◇ Host at least 2 open meets for all registered groups per year.
- ◇ Keep informed of ongoing & emerging items nationally.
- ◇ Create a method of group communications between members.

GOAL 2

EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

- ◇ Deploy a 2-way communication between reps & members.
- ◇ Support reps with relevant & focused training sessions.
- ◇ Develop a reps network to enhance through peer support.
- ◇ Liaise with other PPNs to seek effective representational ideas.

GOAL 3

CAPACITY BUILDING COMMUNITIES

- ◇ Do a training needs analysis among the member groups.
- ◇ Deploy regular training suits rooted & relevant to the members.
- ◇ Animate harder to reach groups through capacity building.
- ◇ Engage external training opportunities for members.

GOAL 4

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL EFFECTIVENESS

- ◇ Enhance & consolidate key partnerships with stakeholders.
- ◇ Outreach to potential new partners.
- ◇ Develop robust policies to support internal effectiveness.
- ◇ Support the PPNs mission to provide Participative Democracy.

GOAL 1

NETWORKING & INFORMATION EXCHANGE

- ◇ Develop a regular information communication strategy.
- ◇ Host at least 2 open meets for all registered groups per year.
- ◇ Keep informed of ongoing & emerging items nationally.
- ◇ Create a method of group communications between members.

KEY ACTIONS WE WILL DELIVER:

- ◆ Dispatch of a weekly ENews to all member groups & affiliated partners.
- ◆ Compilation of a quarterly news magazine for the membership.
- ◆ Do an annual needs survey to inform the PPN of workshops & guest speakers relevant to the member groups to be organised at bi-annual member conferences.
- ◆ Ensure the deployment of user-friendly, quality information to members about the PPN and the members' role within it.
- ◆ Utilize the www.cavanppn.ie website to its full effect to provide a one stop shop for community information for member groups.
- ◆ Liaise with key partners and stakeholders to ensure a free flow of information to and from community member groups of Cavan PPN.
- ◆ Participation in national initiatives and opportunities to learn and share community relevant information for our member groups.

OBJECTIVE 1.1: Develop a robust and comprehensive communications policy to guide Cavan PPN.

OBJECTIVE 1.2: Create an online platform within which member reps can network & liaise with one another.

OBJECTIVE 1.3: Host regular meetings on relevant topics with guest speakers & workshops for members.



Picture: Shantemon (The 5 Fingers) outside Cavan Town

GOAL 2

EFFECTIVE REPRESENTATION

KEY ACTIONS WE WILL DELIVER:

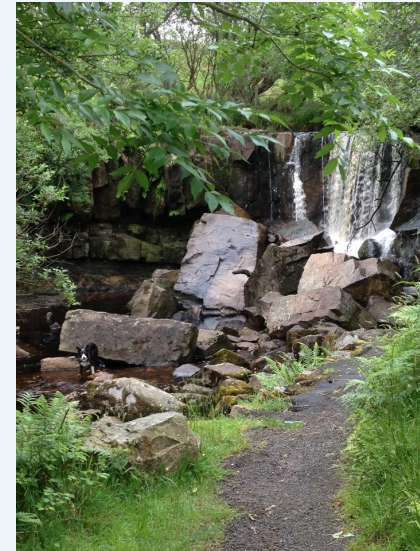
- ◆ Liaise with community representatives to seek what they need to become more effective voices for community participation.
- ◆ Development of a Representatives Network in County Cavan.
- ◆ Deployment of training for community representatives.
- ◆ Initiation of a 2-way representative method between representatives of groups and member groups themselves.
- ◆ Matching with another well developed PPN to allow our representatives to communicate with their peers in other counties to see how they represent on behalf of their groups and source strength from peer support.
- ◆ Investigation of online methods of support for representatives.
- ◆ Publication of an annual Representatives Report from Cavan PPNs reps to all its member groups.

- ◆ Deploy a 2-way communication between reps & members.
- ◆ Support reps with relevant & focused training sessions.
- ◆ Develop a reps network to enhance through peer support.
- ◆ Liaise with other PPNs to seek effective representational ideas.

OBJECTIVE 2.1: Deploy a 2-way communication between member groups & PPN representatives.

OBJECTIVE 2.2: Create an online method whereby representatives can liaise, network & communicate with one another.

OBJECTIVE 2.3: Outreach to other PPNs to seek cases of best practice to follow in support of effective representation.



Picture: Tullydermot Falls in West Cavan

GOAL 3

CAPACITY BUILDING COMMUNITIES

- ◇ Do a training needs analysis among the member groups.
- ◇ Deploy regular training suits rooted & relevant to the members.
- ◇ Animate harder to reach groups through capacity building.
- ◇ Engage external training opportunities for members.

KEY ACTIONS WE WILL DELIVER:

- ◆ Research high quality training opportunities to meet the identified needs of community groups.
- ◆ Allocate a training budget to ensure that Cavan PPN is deployed as an asset of community groups in our capacity as a training provider.
- ◆ Develop strategies of equity to ensure inactive areas and demographics are animated into activity in the county and feel strong and empowered enough to bring their voice into the PPN family.
- ◆ Invest in technological opportunities to enable training to be in-person, online or blended to meet needs in various contexts.
- ◆ Ensure that all training is user-friendly to groups.

OBJECTIVE 3.1: Do a widespread needs analysis for training.

OBJECTIVE 3.2: Develop an annual training plan early each year through which groups can access capacity building.

OBJECTIVE 3.3: Utilize roadshows to reach out to unknown groups to coax them into membership through training opportunities.



Picture: Flemmings Folly outside Ballinagh, Co. Cavan.

GOAL 4

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL EFFECTIVENESS

KEY ACTIONS WE WILL DELIVER:

- ◆ Do a regular and objective re-look at all Cavan PPN policies and provide these and meeting reports on our website in the name of transparency and accountability.
- ◆ Reach out to our key partners and stakeholders to understand their views on their relationship with their local PPN.
- ◆ Investigate methods of robust strengthening of synergetic opportunity between Cavan PPN and its partner groups and how these can provide opportunities to both, within the limits of resource.
- ◆ Undertake a campaign of information dissemination, through various means, to ensure the value of participative democracy is increased at a local level as a vehicle for a voice provider for community civic representation.
- ◆ Work with Cavan PPN Secretariat to ensure the internal health of the organization.

- ◆ Enhance & consolidate key partnerships and stakeholders.
- ◆ Outreach to potential new partners.
- ◆ Develop robust policies to support internal effectiveness.
- ◆ Support the PPNs mission to provide Participative Democracy.

OBJECTIVE 4.1: Analyze and ensure policies of best practice within Cavan PPN.

OBJECTIVE 4.2: Do a partnership analysis to measure the strengths & opportunities of key partnerships & develop missed potential partners.

OBJECTIVE 4.3: Provide an active role in educating key partners and stakeholders in the role of PPNs in providing Participative Democracy and what that is.



Picture: Clough Oughter Castle, County Cavan

PLANNING & MONITORING

The Cavan PPN Secretariat will undertake to develop an annual workplan to develop these strategic goals between 2023 and 2025. A system of monitoring these will be developed by the staff of Cavan PPN.

KEY PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

A scoring mechanism will be incorporated into the Annual Workplans against both the Strategic Goals in this document and the UN Sustainable Development Goals pertaining to Public Participation Networks

OUTCOMES

The successful rollout of this Strategy will:

- ◇ Enhance the mechanism for community voices in Cavan.
- ◇ Create a views-values society in Cavan.
- ◇ Increase membership capacity & motivation.
- ◇ Effectively develop useful inputs into policy determination in County Cavan.



Picture: Killykeen Forest Park, County Cavan

REPRESENTATIONS OF CAVAN PPN

Local Community Development Committee (LCDC)

x7 representatives

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC):

Housing Social and Cultural SPC

(x2 representatives)

Climate and Biodiversity Action and Environment SPC

(x3 representatives)

Transport, Infrastructure & Emergency Services SPC

(x1 representative)

Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC

(x1 representative)

Cultural Development, Irish Language & Sport SPC

(x3 representatives)

Other Representations:

County Childcare Cttee (x1 representative)

Teach Oscail FRC (x1 representative)

Local Link Cttee (x1 representative)

Sports Partnership (x1 representative)

Heritage Forum (x1 representative)

Drugs & Alcohol Taskforce (x1 representative)

Connect for Life Cttee (x1 representative)

Healthy Cavan Initiative (x1 representative)

Cavan Recreation Forum (x1 representative)

National Secretariat Network (x1 representative)

Cavan Peace Plus Partnership (x8 representatives)

KEY PARTNERS & STAKEHOLDERS

CavanPPN maintains a vibrant network of partnerships outside of the key stakeholders identified here on the left, upon which community representatives contribute their voice on behalf of civic society.

This list is not exhaustive in its content and only covers key partners Cavan PPN holds regular contact with in undertaking both our works in supporting community wellbeing in Ireland:

- ◇ **Department of Rural and Community Development.**
- ◇ **Social Justice Ireland.**
- ◇ **The Wheel.**
- ◇ **Carmichael Centre.**
- ◇ **The PPN National Advisory Group.**
- ◇ **Cavan County Local Development (CCLD).**
- ◇ **Cavan Joint Policing Committee.**
- ◇ **Cavan Tourism.**
- ◇ **Cavan Arts.**
- ◇ **Cavan/Monaghan ETB.**
- ◇ **The HSE.**
- ◇ **An Garda Siochana.**
- ◇ **EmployAbility.**
- ◇ **Cavan Volunteer Centre.**



A STRATEGIC
PLAN FOR THE
COMMUNITY
GROUPS OF
CAVAN PUBLIC
PARTICIPATION
NETWORK BY
ITS ELECTED
SECRETARIAT
& ENDORSED
BY ITS
MEMBER
GROUPS.

Strategic Plan 2023 - 2025

Cavan Public Participation Network,
www.cavanppn.ie,
info@cavanppn.ie

Picture: Killykeen Forest Park, County Cavan