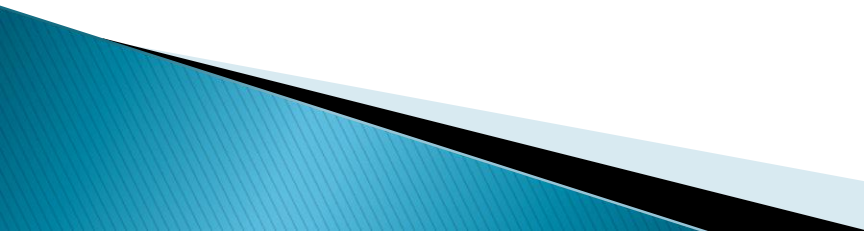


Public Participation Network –what you need to know

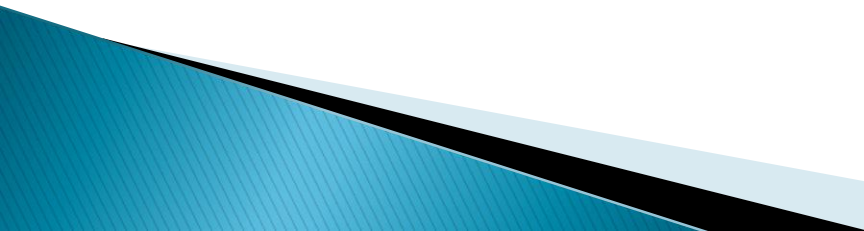
Monaghan County Council
March 2015



Background

- ▶ Local Government Reform Act 2014
 - ▶ Expanded role of Local Authority in Community & Economic Development
 - ▶ For the first time, a place for community on Council decision-making structures provided for by law
 - ▶ Each Council required to:
 - Adopt a Framework for Public Participation
 - Set up a Public Participation Network (PPN)
 - Source their community reps from the PPN
 - Provide resources to the PPN
 - ▶ Guidelines issued on what & how we're to do this
- 

Why Public Participation?

- ▶ The people affected by a decision should be there, at the table, when the decision is being made – accepted best practice at EU and national level
 - Better decisions
 - More buy-in
 - ▶ Meaningful interaction between civil society & local government
 - ▶ Promotion of active citizenship, leading to better communities
- 

What the PPN will do

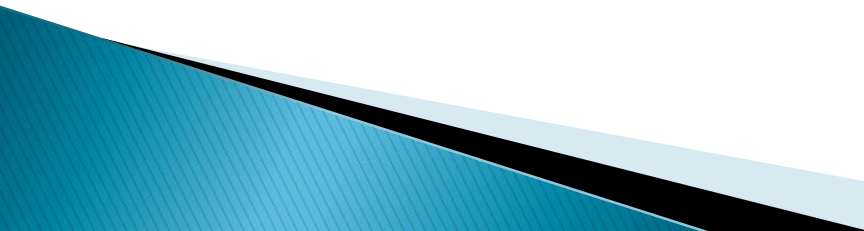
- ▶ Facilitate community input into Council decision-making. **BY:**
- ▶ **Representation**
 - Appointing Community Reps to serve on Council committees and other structures
- ▶ **Consultation**
 - On Council plans & policies, and others
 - Putting the community's view forward in an organised way
- ▶ **Information**
 - Keeping all groups informed about EU, national and local developments, funding calls etc
- ▶ **Communication**
 - Keeping everyone in touch: Helping to feed information up to the reps, and helping the reps to feed back to groups on the ground

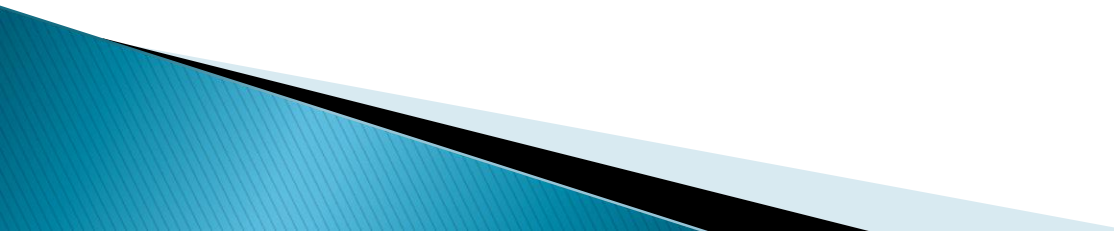
The Structures

- ▶ Every group is entitled to join the PPN
 - Register under one of the 3 Municipal Districts and in one of the 3 Electoral Colleges
- ▶ Meetings of the entire membership are called Plenaries
 - County Plenaries
 - MD Plenaries
- ▶ Community Reps are appointed from the membership via Linkage Groups

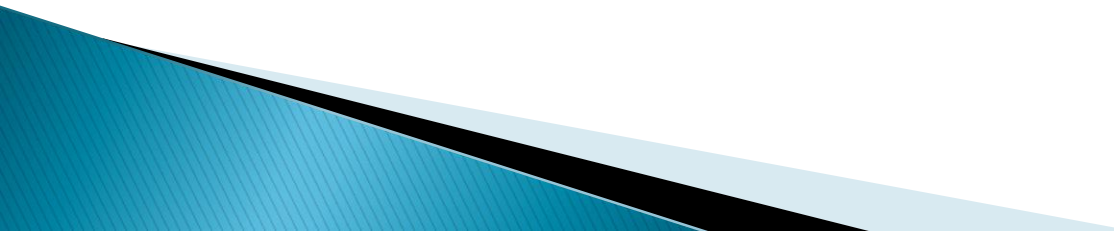
- ▶ A Linkage Network (bringing all reps together with the Secretariat, the Chairs of the Networks and paid workers in the community sector) will facilitate the reps' development and help them to feed back to the wider membership

 - ▶ A Secretariat of 15–18 people will meet monthly to plan the PPN's work & ensure set tasks are carried out
 - Acts as the central hub for all PPN activity

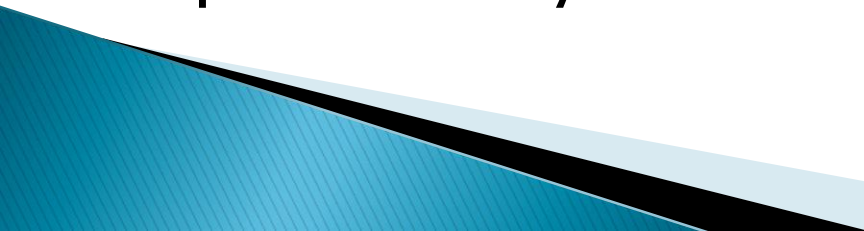
 - ▶ Elections onto Secretariat to be held tonight
- 

- ▶ PPN will link in to the Community Development team in Monaghan County Council
 - ▶ Monaghan County Council to provide resources to support the PPN, including a full time worker
- 

PPN Community Well-Being Statement



Key Task for 2015

- ▶ Dept Guidelines require the PPN to produce a ‘community well-being statement’
 - ▶ Will act like a position paper: ‘this is what the community sector thinks should be done’
 - ▶ Will identify the key issues which impact on the lives of Co Monaghan people
 - ▶ Will shape the priority activities of the PPN for the next 5 years
 - ▶ Will feed in to important strategies, particularly:
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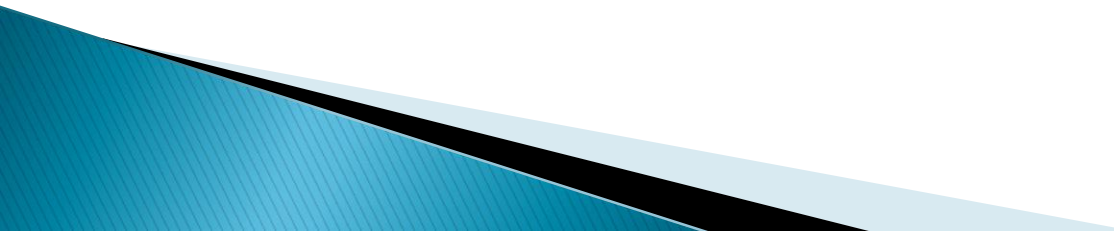
▶ LCDC's Local Community Plan

- Will identify where resources should be concentrated in the county
- Will shape where funding is directed over the next 5 years

▶ LEADER

- New Plan to be devised to identify how LEADER 2014–2020 will be delivered in Co Monaghan
- Will identify where funding will be made available
 - Eg less on tourism, more on agri-food

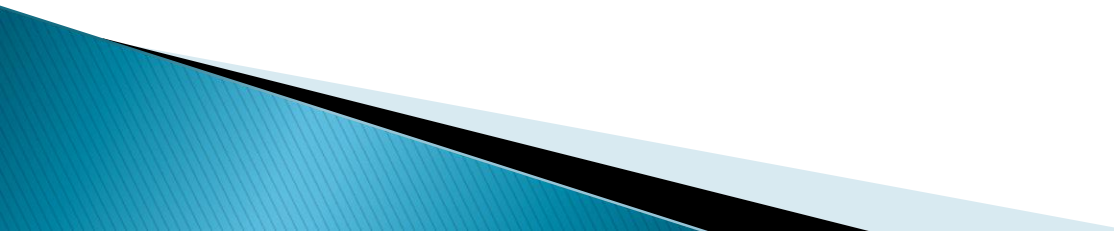
Consultation has already started

- ▶ MD Plenaries held in January/ February
 - ▶ Four questions put to the floor:
 1. What are the biggest challenges facing this MD?
 2. What would make the single biggest difference to the quality of life of Co Monaghan people?
 3. What can Monaghan Co Co do to help communities?
 4. What should the PPN focus on achieving for the next two years?
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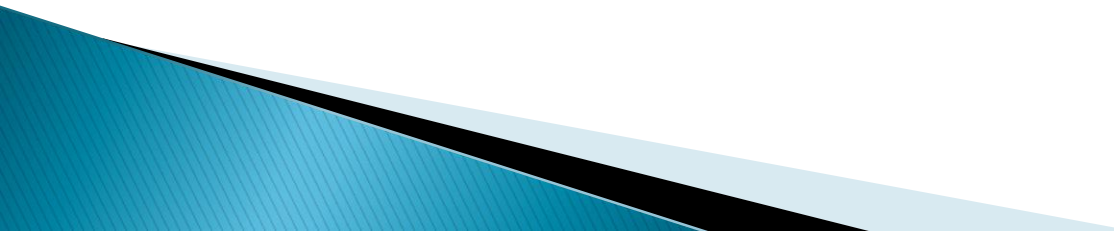
Tonight

- ▶ Review issues identified at the MD plenaries
- ▶ Add to them if necessary
- ▶ Identify which of them should be given priority

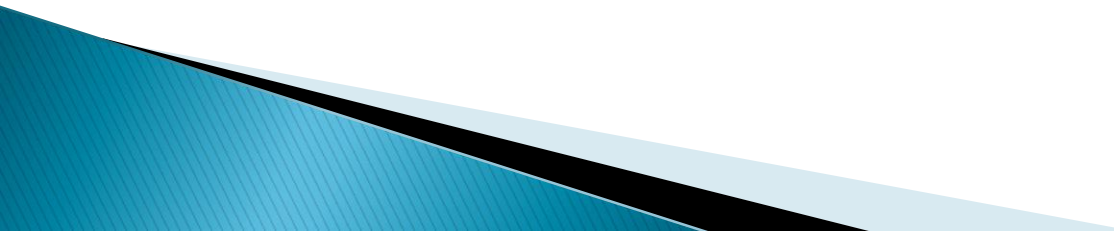
Workshop 1

- ▶ Posters around the wall
 - ▶ Identifying KEY ISSUES for Co Monaghan, from the community sector's perspective
 - ▶ Please review
 - ▶ Ensure we have everything in there
 - ▶ Use the post-it notes provided to add anything you think is missing
- 

Workshop 2

- ▶ Collect 4 strips of stickers (5 stickers on each strip)
 - ▶ Revisit the posters
 - ▶ Use your stickers to identify the FIVE most important issues, in your opinion, in EACH of the following
 - The Biggest Challenges
 - The Biggest Difference
 - Council Help
 - PPN focus
- 

Next Steps

- ▶ We will review the information & prepare a draft report
 - ▶ Member groups will be given a copy of the report, and asked again to add to it/ comment on it
 - ▶ A Final position paper will then be prepared
- 

- ▶ Thanks for your participation – future projects are counting on you to get the priorities right!