

PPNs, LCDCs & Alphabet Soup

Citizen Participation in Local
Government

PPNs, LCDCs and Alphabet Soup

- Well Being
- Citizen Participation (or lack of)
- PPNs
- LCDC
- Community & Economic Plans
- Leader + SICAP

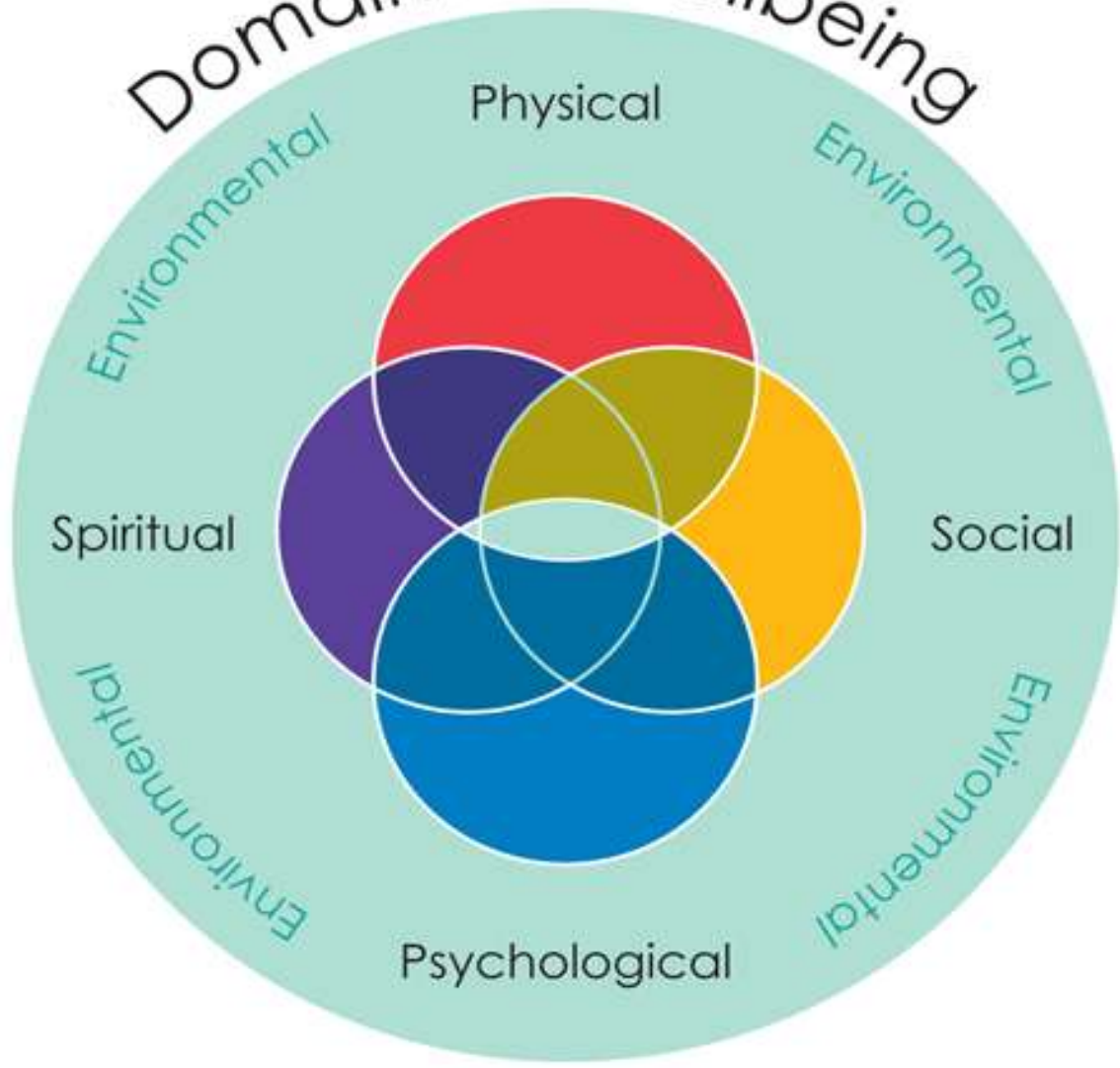
“Visions For Community Well-Being”

- As you will be hearing, the **Plenaries** of the County/City PPNs and the Municipal District PPNs will commence their work by going through a process to set out what they consider is necessary to promote **well-being in their community for present and future generations.**

“Visions For Community Well-Being”

- This statement will act as a guiding vision statement for everything done by the group that drew up the statement .
- e.g. choosing representatives, taking positions on issues, developing activities of any kind etc.
- Well-being statements should be reviewed (by the PPNs) bi-annually.

Domains of Wellbeing



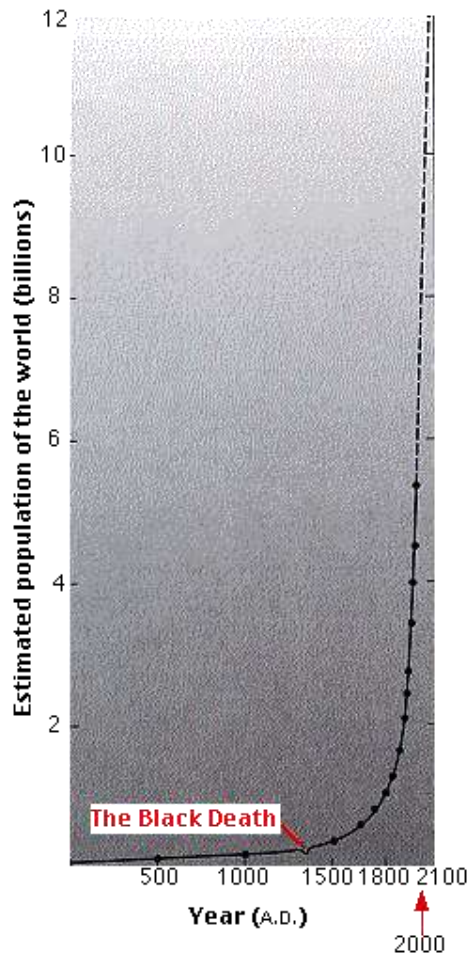


Local communities can do much to develop and protect well-being but they must do so in the context of what is happening in the wider global community.

World Food and Oil Prices April 2001 to April 2011



World Population



Atmospheric CO₂

August 1958 - August 2011

August CO₂ | Year Over Year | Mauna Loa Observatory
Data: Scripps (1958 - 1974) + NOAA-ESRL (1974-Present)



Individual Well- Being

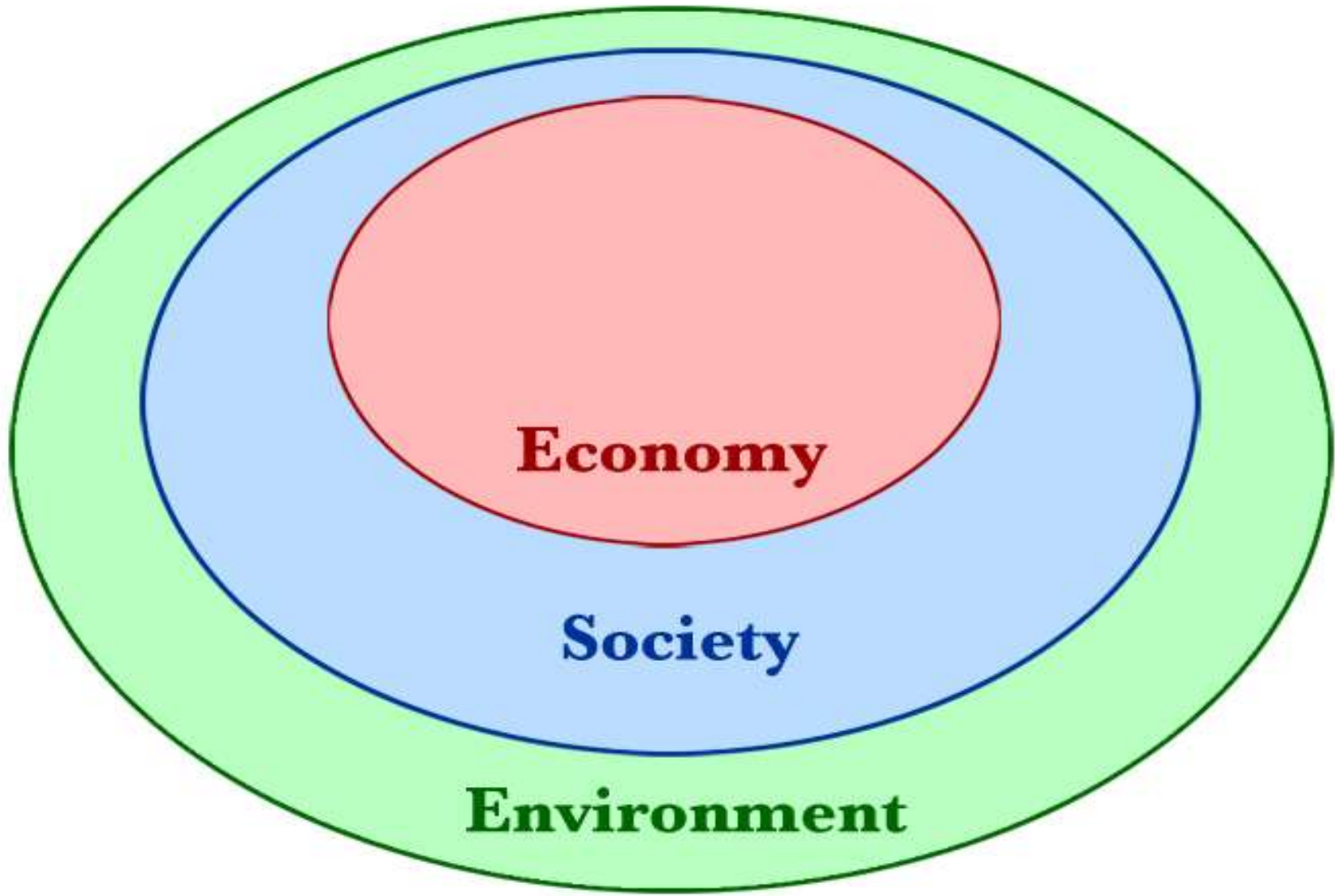
- According to a study by the National Economic and Social Council (NESC)
 - “a person’s well-being relates to their physical, social and mental state.
 - It requires:
 - that basic needs are met,
 - that people have a sense of purpose, and
 - that they feel able to achieve important goals, to participate in society and to live the lives they value and have reason to value”.

Community Well-Being

- A society's well-being requires that economic, political, environmental, cultural and social developments all be sustainable.
- It also requires a focus on **inter-generational justice** to ensure the well-being of future generations is promoted.

Sustainability

- The Human race developed within and is entirely reliant on the natural environment for its well-being
- Human social structures initially evolved within the limitations of the natural environment and they must start to do so again in order to flourish.
- Economic systems were developed within the context of those social structures.



Sustainability

- There is a huge disconnect between the capacity of the natural ecosystems to withstand abuse, and the economic systems that are driving their destruction.
- This cannot continue

Growth

- It only takes 14 years at 5% growth for something to double.
- If we are now at/near the limits of resources, in 14 years we will need twice as much of what we don't have.

What do we mean by Sustainable Development ?

- The Brundtland Commission, 1992 coined the most often-quoted definition of sustainable development as
- “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”.

What do we mean by Sustainable Development ?

- Brundtland noted
- the ‘environment’ is where we live;
- ‘development’ is what we all do in attempting to improve our lot within that abode.
- The two are inseparable.

GROWTH 1960 – 2000:

- POPULATION: DOUBLED **2x**
- ECONOMY: SIXFOLD **6x**
- FOOD PRODUCTION:
TWO AND A HALFFOLD **2,5x**
- USE OF FRESH WATER: DOUBLED **2x**
- CUTTING OF FOREST FOR PULP
AND PAPER: THREEFOLD **3x**
- DAMMED RIVERS:
FOURFOLD **4x**

... DURING
THE SAME PERIOD
OF TIME THE EARTH
HAS NOT GROWN A BIT.



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Development of a Vision

- The development of a vision for the well-being of our communities for this and future generations can begin that search for a sustainable future for all members of the community.
- A shared vision is lacking at the national level, but could grow from these local community visions.

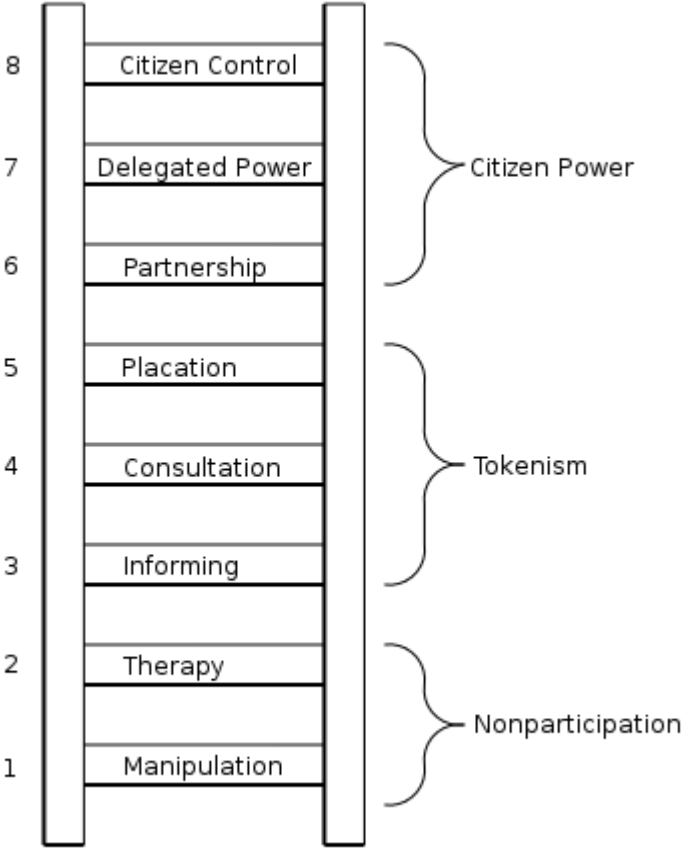
Developing the Vision

- People working together with shared understandings and expectations are what provide a place of strong community.
- Doing so within a shared understanding based on the limits to growth presented by the natural environment creates a community that cares for the needs of this and the generations to follow.

Lack of Citizens' Participation

- Citizens are pissed off with being consulted
- They are not stupid they know it's a tick box exercise.
- They want to participate and have the right to participate

Ladder of Participation (Arnstein)



Local Government Reform

Local Government Reform

- Putting People First
- Restructuring Local Authorities
- Alignment process
- Public engagement – **What public engagement?**

(Lack of) Citizen Engagement

- Working group established, with Sean Healy as chair
- 8 weeks to report!
- Reported January 2014
- Agreed by Minister

Sean Healy's Group

- Recommend a participatory mechanism for citizens in the new Local Government structures, that will ensure
 - citizen input into decision making,
 - clear and transparent structures for the selection of representatives and
 - accountability of representatives to their wider communities and groups.

Sean Healy's Group

- Public participation is essential
- Open, participatory systems crucial
- Not replacing representative democracy – complementary

Public Engagement and Participation

- **What?** From engagement to participation
- **Why?** To enable whole community engage in decision-making to improve well-being of this and future generations.
- **Who?** All with a stake in the area or issues
- Democracy requires greater engagement by people in shaping decisions that affect them.

Public Participation Networks

Environmental Pillar

- Founded in 2009 – last of the Pillars of Social Partnership
- Thereafter Social Partnership fell apart
- EP gained the right to nominate people onto various Local Authority bodies
- An Taisce a founder member of Environmental Pillar
- Joined with Community & Voluntary Sector to create PPNs

PPNs

- Public Participation Networks (PPNs)
- These will be the main link by which LAs will connect to the community
- To facilitate and enable the public and organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system, (**not to reduce or homogenise this diversity**).

To begin the PPNs are to:

- Strengthen the capacity of communities and of the environmental, social inclusion & voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate
- Provide information relevant to these sectors and act as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

PPNs - Key Principles of Working

- Implement and abide by good governance structures.
- Work in an inclusive, respectful, transparent and collaborative manner.
- Act as the vehicle to gather feedback and input into policies and plans being developed by local authorities, reflecting both areas of disagreement and, where there is no consensus, the range of views.

Functions of a PPN

- Bringing together all community and voluntary groups in an area.
- Representation on policy making boards and committees
- Information Sharing and collaboration
- Support and Training for groups and volunteers in current challenges for charities, governance etc.

PPN Structures

- Municipal District PPN
 - One per Municipal District
 - All groups in an MD
 - Come together to develop a vision for the area
 - Liaise with Local Authority in that district re services
 - Elect members to a County Secretariat
 - Work together on agreed objectives based on promoting the **well-being of this and future generations in this area.**
 - Has the freedom to engage as it sees fit in whatever way it wishes to promote local development and in this way it can harness local capacity and strengthen local development in a very real manner.

PPN Structures

- County PPN
 - All registered groups in County
 - Environmental / Social Inclusion / General Community Colleges
 - Plenary/Decision making body of PPN
 - Work together on agreed objectives based on promoting the **well-being of this and future generations in this area.**

PPN Structures

- Secretariat
 - Administrative body
 - No power (**PPN Plenary makes decisions**)
 - Manages
 - processes
 - selection of representatives
 - communications
 - resource worker

Linkage Groups

- Grouping around a particular issue – those interested and capable.
- Especially when a need for a nomination to a Local Authority body
- Linkage group makes nomination
- Communications
 - taking the views of the linkage group
 - Returning report to the linkage group
- Each representative taking up a position for the PPN must:
 - Represent the views of all the members of the Linkage Group and not just those of their own organisation.
 - Abide by the communications protocols set out above.

Which Groups can join a PPN

- In general
 - Not for profit
 - Operating in Local Authority region
 - At least 6 months in existence and be open to new members
 - Have structure; committee, bank/credit union account, AGM, etc
- Select into primary area of
 - Environmental, (Extra criteria re Environmental Pillar)
 - Social Inclusion
 - General community and voluntary
- All groups **MUST** apply to become PPN members, even if already registered with Community Fora.

Extra Environmental College Criteria

- The primary objectives and activities of the organisation must be Environmental (i.e. ecological) protection and / or environmental sustainability.
- Single issue protest groups are not eligible for membership.
- The organisation must have been in existence for a period of at least 12 months prior to an application for membership.

Extra Environmental College Criteria

- The organisation must be an independent and legally discrete body, and not an organisation managing a project with a limited life span.
- The organisation must have accounts or a Balance Sheet/Profit and Loss account from at least one of the previous two years.
- The organisation must be able to demonstrate a substantial level of activity in promoting its aims and objectives over a period of at least 12 months prior to application for membership.
- No organisation whose executive board contains a representative or representatives appointed by any government department, semi-state body or local authority shall be admitted to membership. However, this does not exclude individuals from sitting on the board in a personal capacity.

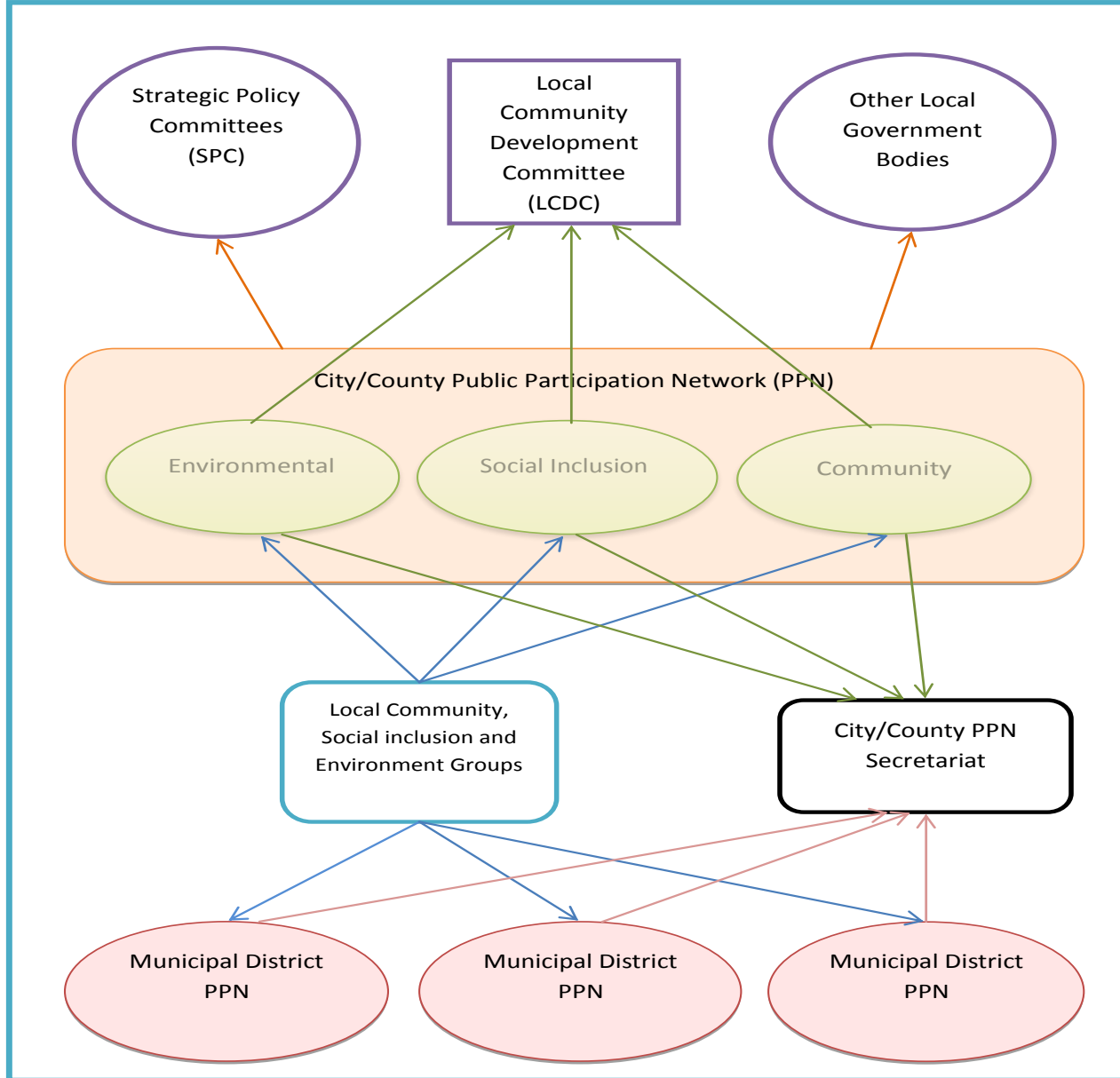


Diagram to show the relationship between the Public Participation Network Structures and Local Governme

What Boards will the PPN have reps on?

- Local Community Development Committee (LCDC),
 - Will have a significant budget for community development including LEADER and SICAP (social inclusion)
 - Fixed minimum delegates – must be accepted by Local Authority
 - 2 Social Inclusion college
 - 2 Community college
 - 1 Environmental college
- Strategic Policy Committees (SPCS) –
 - Nominations by linkage group
- Others i.e. Education and Training Board, County Childcare Committee, Joint Policing Boards, Drugs Task Forces etc
 - Nomination by linkage groups

What about representation on Boards

- Reps must
 - Be knowledgeable and experienced re the area
 - Communicate with all the groups interested in that particular area
 - Reflect the views of the sector as a whole, not just their own views
 - No councillors / TDs / Senators etc – 12 month cooling off period
- Linkage (Interest) Groups
 - Composed of all groups interested in a particular topic
 - Elects representatives
 - Advises / informs representatives.

PPN Summary

- PPNs are being established across the country
- They will cover much of the work done by Community Fora to date
- Extended by inclusion of Environment College/Reps
- It is a time of change in the county and there are real opportunities to shape the future
- It can only work, with the participation of all groups large and small across the county.
- That means YOU

Starting a PPN

- Need a 'Bootstrap committee'
- Tipperary - formed
 - 4 from Community Forum
 - 2 from Environmental Pillar
 - 1 from County Council
- Going well – but not before the year end
 - 5 explanatory meetings in Municipal Areas
 - 150 (of 1000) groups signed up
 - Can't use existing databases – must reapply
 - Data manager of database must be PPN.
 - Another round of meetings – including checking of criteria
 - Won't be happy till at least 300/400 groups signed up
 - Weary of those in the know – the usual suspects taking over
 - Rural area – Saving hay, milking cows and getting through the back door
 - Little between now and September
 - Criminal lack of funding 12K rather than €120K

Community Development and Local Authorities

LEOs

Alignment Process

LCDCs

Local Enterprise Office - LEO

- Expectation is that it will act as a first stop shop for all customers
- To allow greater connectivity and better service for customers and greater input by elected members
- Supported by an SPC for Economic Development
 - Policy determined by DJEI (Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation) & funding provided by same for CEB (County Enterprise Board) related work.
 - Critical initial work is creation of an **Economic Plan**

Alignment Process

- Objective of Government is to align functions of local development with local government
- A mess

Alignment Process

- LCDC – Local Community Development Committee
- LCDC structure to be set up - 51% non statutory & 49% statutory
- Original expectation is that LCDC will ultimately be the vehicle which will monitor and have oversight over all local and community spend in the county
- But are they looking to have LCDC deliver programmes instead of Leader Companies
- LCDC will be a committee of the LA but independent of it. **How the hell are they going to achieve that ?**
- **What protection is there for a LCDC committee member against being sued if LCDC inadvertently makes a monetary mistake**
- LCDC's key objective is to prepare an LCDC Plan

Alignment process Continued

- LCDC Plan will be called LCEP - (no idea what this means)
- Plan has to be consistent with core objectives of RESS (no idea) and CDP (County Development Plan)
- To cover community, social and economic areas
- Economic element will commence as an LCEP(??), break off to then be further developed by the SPC and then re-emerge as an LCEP (??) for adoption by LA members & MD members
- LCDC Committee only adopt the LCDC aspect of the plan and SPC for Economic Development only adopt economic element of plan
- Significant engagement with community (business & other) is intended

Next Steps – LCDC Structure

- Must have appropriate competencies and expertise & appropriate geographic spread
- Representatives must be at a senior level and have capacity to make decisions
- Steering committee to be set up of LA; LDC & ETB (??) to identify and recommend nominating bodies
- **Minimum - 5 nominations from PPN – must be accepted**
- **2? Nominations from Leader Company(ies)**

Temporary – LCDC Structure

- **Requirement for a Temporary LCDC**
 - PPN's will not be properly set up till end 2014
 - Danger of rushing PPNs to select LCDC's – the usual suspects will bag the seats & kill the PPN
 - Rather have community fora & Environmental Pillar nominate temporary members till end 2014
 - Replaced by proper PPN nominations

LCDC work

- First responsibility will be to commence an LECF Strategy and its responsibility will be for the Local Community Aspect (Economic SPC will be responsible for Economic Element of Plan)
- Template for Plan being developed - to be commenced in March and completed by October/Nov 2014!!
- Steering Group to be set up between Economic SPC and LCDC to oversee progress and ensure non duplication
- Initially, it is envisaged that the process will look as follows

LECP

- LECP will be a 6 year plan
 - *The duration of the first LECP will be extended or shortened to facilitate synchronisation with the RSES*
- Prepared by the LCDC and the local authority
- 2 Elements
 - A local economic element—prepared by local authority
 - A community development element—prepared by the LCDC
- The LECP will be part of a series of plans and strategies
 - The NSS, NDP, RDS, the Action Plan for Jobs and the NAPS
 - The Regional Spatial and Economic Strategies
 - The CDP made under the planning Acts
 - The local Education and Training Strategy

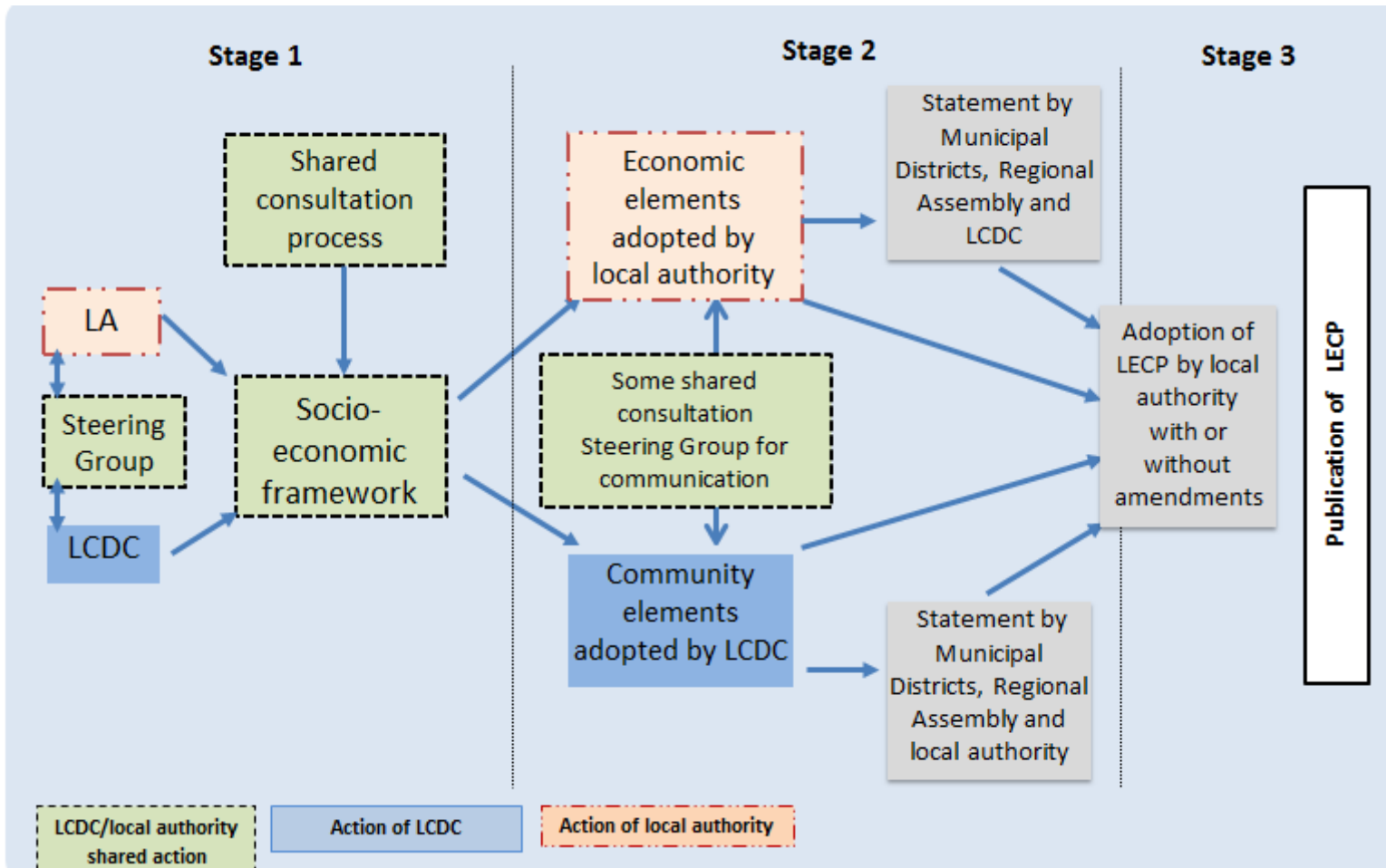
LECP Guidelines

- Promotion and mainstreaming of equality
- Sustainability
- Maximising returns from resources—avoiding overlap and duplication
- Participative Planning
- Community consultation and Engagement
- Community Development Principles
- Accessibility and Ownership

Overview of Economic & Community Planning Process

- Phase 1 – LECP Framework
 - High level consultation and Vision for Area drafted
 - Identification of High level Goals
 - Key data gathered and analysed
 - Draft framework for Area agreed by Economic SPC and LCDC Steering Group
 - Draft Plan agreed by the Framework consultees???. Who are they???
- Phase 2 – LCP Element
 - Phase 2 consultation at MD level with sectoral stakeholders
 - Focused socio-economic analysis to build on identified Framework Priorities

Diagrammatic presentation



Leader & SICAP

- Department putting out pre-tender qualifying for Leader/SICAP (new Social Inclusion programme)
 - Proof of ability to delivery locally
 - No restriction to Not for Profits
- LCDC to put out tender for delivery of (part of) Leader & SICAP
 - What part will LCDC do itself & how as it's meant to be an independent part of Local Authority
 - Conflicts of interest between members of LCDC & Leader companies

Finale

- Any betting person like to give me odds that this does not all end in tears?
- Environmental Pillar workshop July 19th July – contact michael@environmentalpillar.ie