

## Eligible candidates for Limerick PPN SPC elections (March 2020)

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### Community, Leisure & Culture SPC

**PILLAR: Community**

**SEATS: Four (4)**

#### 1. CANDIDATE: Oliver Creighton

**NOMINATED BY: Limerick Seniors Forum**

I have organisational and project leadership skills acquired from my previous employment as a Senior Project Engineer gained from listening, understanding and acquiring the necessary information and knowledge in order to successfully complete projects whether acting as an individual or in a team environment and used to successfully included the formation of the first Limerick University of Third Age (U3A) a Social Learning group also organising trips/outings for Senior Citizens. These skills I hope would help the SPC to enable the promotion and advancement of Limerick PPN.

I chair two (2) Seniors/Community groups Limerick Seniors Forum, an information and advocacy organisation for City and County Seniors and was President of two (2) others namely Limerick Regional Probus Club and Limerick Bridge Club which required networking with Limerick and other County organisations. I have been a member of a Seniors Inter County Limerick winning team with Limerick Sports Partnership and taken part in their sport activities. Before retiring I worked for twenty-two (22) years as a Senior Project Engineer for Analog Devices Limerick and was a member of the Sports and Social Club Committee.

I wish to be a PPN Representative on the SPC in order to use my experience and skills to help and learn from fellow Representatives in order to promote and enhance Community, Leisure and Culture activities for all Limerick Citizens.

#### 2. CANDIDATE: Pádraig Lohan

**NOMINATED BY: Oola Tidy Towns**

I am the Treasurer of Oola Tidy Towns and I have experience in amateur drama groups, including the Friars' Gate Theatre in Kilmallock. In my day job I work as a Special Class Teacher, working with children with Autism and drafting policy.

I am asking for your vote to help me represent the views of community groups like the Tidy Towns, sports clubs and arts/cultural groups. I believe that the decisions made by local government in general, and in the realm of community, leisure and culture in particular, should be:

- **Participatory:** Decisions cannot always be directly made by the communities they affect. However, local government can do more to engage with local groups and ensure that their views are taken into account at all stages of the decision-making process. Approaches like open meetings, surveys and calls for input could help ensure that the decisions made are more in line with the wants and needs of our communities.
- **Integrated:** No decision exists in a vacuum. Community, leisure and cultural facilities are deeply linked and often share the same spaces within our communities. It's important that local government takes account of this, and ensures that facilities and supports are made available to all groups who need them.
- **Evidence-based:** All decisions made at local government level should be based on best practice, and informed by a reliable body of evidence.

#### 3. CANDIDATE: Keith Pigott

**NOMINATED BY: Limerick Food Group**

I am a member of Limerick Food Group and we believe that our food culture past and present is an integral part of Limerick Culture. I currently work as a chef and that gives me a deep understanding of that culture. In my previous career I worked as an Event Manager working on local festivals and with many local voluntary and community groups so also have an understanding of the contribution they make.

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### Community, Leisure & Culture SPC

**PILLAR: Environment**

**SEATS: One (1)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Josephine Butler**

**NOMINATED BY: Environmental Trust Ireland**

My name is Josephine Butler and I would like to go forward as a nominee for the PPN election for the Community, Leisure and Culture committee. I would be delighted to be part of this committee and I am prepared to give my time and skills to help in any way I can. I have skills in project management which can help if there is a particular project that must be done and action plans and deadlines to be achieved. I work very well with people and I like working as part of a team. In my community I have taken part in many initiatives supporting the area and I would like to be part of this PPN committee to help build a strong community environment.

### Community, Leisure & Culture SPC

**PILLAR: Social Inclusion**

**SEATS: Two (2)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Donnah Vuma**

**NOMINATED BY: Doras Luimní**

Over the 5 years that I have been in Ireland I have dedicated most of my time to the voluntary, community and social inclusion sector in Limerick in a bid to create a better society for all. As an elected representative of the previous PPN I had the opportunity to undertake a training programme at the University of Limerick to help representatives carry out their duty to the PPN members effectively. This 12-week course enhanced my capacity as a social inclusion representative of the PPN to have a greater influence over the design and delivery of policy and services in the Limerick city and county. With the acquired skills and the thorough understanding of the PPN structure and the SPC's I feel I would be able to represent the PPN fully on the relevant SPC. I have over 4 years' experience working in an advocacy role with different organisations in the non-governmental and human rights sector. Through my work with Doras I have experienced the challenges in policy and legislative development, engaging with multiple stakeholders and maintaining positive relationships in areas such as community development, integration and social inclusion. In addition, I have presented in countless conferences and events nationwide, raising awareness, campaigning and advocating on various issues which has helped to develop my public speaking and advocacy skills.

Thank you for considering me as your elected representative for the Community, Leisure & Culture SPC.

### Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC

**PILLAR: Community**

**SEATS: Two (2)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Brian Thompson**

**NOMINATED BY: St. Mary's Adult Education Group**

1. Skills as a PPN Representative :

- Qualified and registered Architect
  - Self employed 2010 – 2020
  - Murray O'Laoire Architects 1981 – 2010 Achieved Associate Director level
- Qualified Lead Auditor for ISO 9001 Quality standard.

2. Experience relevant:

- Previously member of SPC during last iteration of the PPN
- Chairperson of St. Mary's AID 2011 – 2016
- Chairperson of St. Mary's Adult Education Group 2019 – 2020
- Director for St. Mary's Area on Paul Partnership 2009 – 2014
- Director King's Island Community Centre 2016 – 2019
- Member of Interim Board of new Community Organisation in King's Island

3. Why I wish to be elected:

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I have a particular interest in closer Community involvement in Local Government.

- Disadvantaged communities have decisions made on their behalf by Local Authorities which have a major effect but which lack community accountability. I would like to work on developing policies which will facilitate improved communications with communities in this regard.
- Planning policy means little without its context within the local economy being fully understood by the community and I will endeavour to contribute to policies to increase this understanding.
- Planning can be a vehicle for a sustainable economic development at local level if all decisions made by the Council can be aligned with best sustainable environmental practices, without good quality jobs or development of the public realm being compromised.
- I am opposed to development for the sake of it. All development – physical and economic – should be examined at planning stage to ensure it is viable economically and sustainable environmentally.

### 2. CANDIDATE: Declan Hehir

**NOMINATED BY: BGM Community Council CLG**

I have been self-employed since 1990. I started up my photography business in Bruff 30 years ago. In recent times I have been involved in event management and have organized scare attractions and Santa experiences in Limerick City, Bruff and Doneraile in Cork.

I was founder member of BGM Community Council and I was its first Chairperson.

I was involved with Bruff GAA and held managerial position with the both Bruff senior hurlers and U/21 hurling and football teams.

I been involved in Drama in Honey Fitz Theatre, Lough Gur, Friarsgate Theatre and Centre Stage, Limerick.

I am very concerned about the decline in rural Ireland, especially towns and villages in County Limerick. I am passionate that rural Ireland must see new enterprises and businesses promoted to bring back our towns and villages to their former glory.

**Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC**

**PILLAR: Environment**

**SEATS: One (1)**

### 1. CANDIDATE: Michelle Hayes

**NOMINATED BY: Environmental Trust Ireland**

**NOT TAKING THIS SEAT**

Skills:

- I am a solicitor and Accredited Mediator holding honours degrees in both Law and Pharmacy together with a number of post-graduate Higher Diplomas.  
(LL.B (Hons.), B.Sc.(Pharm)(Hons), Dip. Employment Law, Dip. Commercial Litigation., Dip. Family Law, Dip. Public Relations, M.I.A.P.R.)
- I am a Trustee of the Limerick Milk Market Trustee Board.

Experience:

- I am actively involved and advocate in environmental protection, climate change action policy and sustainable planning and development.
- I have prepared extensive submissions on:

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- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction for the Minister for Climate Change, Action and the Environment
- Planning Bill 2019 for the Minister for Housing and Local Government.
- I have prepared Appeals and Objections on planning and environmental matters both to An Bord Pleanála and the EPA including an Objection to the EPA on the licence granted to Irish Cement for tyre burning, burning of red mud from Aughinish etc.. Final decision from the EPA is awaited.
- I have advocated on the Flood Defence Scheme, the water abstraction pipe from the Shannon to Dublin, the fracked gas terminal etc.

**Reasons:**

- My professional, advocacy, mediation and negotiation skills would enable me to participate effectively in policy formulation on the SPC.
- I was invited by Senior Counsel for LCCC at the Opera Site Oral hearing to engage with the Council as a stakeholder in planning and Environment issues and the SPC would allow me the vehicle to do that.

**Economic Development, Enterprise & Planning SPC                  PILLAR: Social Inclusion                  SEATS: One (1)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Brian Vandamme                  NOMINATED BY: Doras**

Doras (formerly Doras Luiní) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organisation working to promote and protect human rights since the year 2000. Our core areas of work include Direct Support, Advocacy & Campaigns and Integration Planning. As a member of staff with Doras, I work to achieve positive outcomes for people from a migrant background, and the society which they are integrating into. A key element of this is employment access and opportunity and access to own business opportunities. I am a member of the corresponding linkage group and would love the chance to build on that and be a PPN Representative.

**Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC                  PILLAR: Community                  SEATS: Two (2)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Denis McAuliffe                  NOMINATED BY: Great Southern Trail**

- Founding member of Great Southern Trail
- Community Activist. Member of the Garda Reserve
- Good communication skills
- The Great Southern Greenway is an environmental safe haven for flora and fauna and should be enhanced and promoted locally and globally.

**Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment SPC                  PILLAR: Environment                  SEATS: Two (2)**

**1. CANDIDATE: Josephine Butler                  NOMINATED BY: Environmental Trust Ireland**

**NOT TAKING THIS SEAT**

My name is Josephine Butler and I would like to go forward as a nominee for the PPN election for the Climate Action, Biodiversity and Environment Committee. I would be delighted to be part of this committee and I am prepared to give my time and skills to help in any way I can. I have skills in project management which can help if there is a particular project that must be done and action plans and deadlines to be achieved. I work very well with people and like working as part of a team. I work in Industry and have taken part in many initiatives to

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improve the environment and with this experience I would like to be part of this PPN committee so that I can share my experience for the benefit of the community

### 2. CANDIDATE: Michelle Hayes

**NOMINATED BY: Environmental Trust Ireland**

Skills:

- I am a solicitor and Accredited Mediator holding honours degrees in both Law and Pharmacy together with a number of post-graduate Higher Diplomas.  
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