



Association of Irish Local Government

Aontas Rialtas Áitiúil na hÉireann

AILG PLENARY MEMBERS ACTIVITY REPORT



November Plenary Report

Welcome Plenary Members to our monthly activities report from AILG for November 2020.

Our monthly report will bring you, our Plenary Delegates, up to date on the activities and service delivery of AILG during November and allows you the opportunity to report back to your council colleagues, as their AILG delegates, to keep them informed on the ongoing work of AILG.

We hope this month's message continues to find you, your family, colleagues and your friends safe and well. With November brought the continuation of level 5 restrictions across our entire country, as our local communities continued to show strength and resilience through these difficult times. ***AILG would like to pay tribute to all our members and their Local Authorities who continue to play a vital role in the ongoing response to COVID-19.***

AILG continues our commitment to our ongoing work in support of our members and we continue to adapt to the challenges of COVID-19 to ensure continued service delivery to you.

November 2020 Highlights:

- AILG Deputation with Minister Peter Burke, TD
- AILG Deputation with Minister Malcolm Noonan, TD
- New AILG Website launches live!
- AILG partners with the Office of the Planning Regulator for fourth on-line training webinar
- AILG continues its rollout of its communications strategy

November was another very busy month for AILG, which saw Deputations with both the Minister for Local Government and Planning, Peter Burke, TD and also Minister for Heritage and Electoral Reform Malcolm Noonan, TD.

We also launched our new AILG website live & hosted our fourth on-line training webinar, which was carried out in conjunction with the Office of the Planning Regulator on the 27th November. Full details of these events can be seen below.

AILG Deputation with Minister Peter Burke, TD



L-R: Minister Peter Burke, TD, AILG President Cllr. Mary Hoade and Vice President Cllr. John Joe Fennelly following their deputation with the Department of Local Government and Planning at Custom House, 25th November 2020

On Wednesday 25th November 2020, new AILG President, Cllr. Mary Hoade, led a delegation to meet with Minister Peter Burke to discuss a range of local government issues including seeking an update on the status of the Moorhead Report.

Cllr. Hoade welcomed the opportunity to meet with Minister Burke so early into her term of office and she also acknowledged the on-going engagement with the Minister since his appointment and especially the intense engagement between AILG, the Minister and his Department during the summer on the Moorhead Report. A range of issues were discussed

with Minister Burke including local authority funding, issues related with the development plan process, diversity and female participation in local government and an update of the Moorhead Report and AILG's alternative proposals on Members remuneration and other financial supports. The Minister also committed to ensuring that the Development Plan Guidelines for Local Authorities and the guidance on the Housing Need Demand Assessment (HNDA's) will be published as soon as possible to assist the Elected Members in their reviews of their development plans. In relation to the Moorhead Report, Minister Burke thanked AILG and the Members for their engagement on the published report during the course of the summer. Minister Burke confirmed that his proposals are now with government for final approval.



AILG President Cllr. Mary Hoade & Vice President Cllr. John Joe Fennelly pictured outside Custom House, 25th November 2020

Minister Burke also committed to commencing discussions on proposals for non-financial supports for our members which will also help to ensure greater diversity & participation in local government including greater female participation. Minister Burke committed to working with AILG and its members for the promotion of greater diversity & participation in local government and to build on the momentum of AILG electing its first woman President.

AILG looks forward to working with Minister Burke during his term as Minister for Planning and Local Government.

AILG Deputation with Minister Malcolm Noonan

AILG will receive an advance briefing on next year's Electoral Reform Bill which will modernise how Irish elections are run. That's the commitment from Minister Malcolm Noonan, T.D., Minister of State for Heritage & Electoral Reform.

An AILG delegation led by President, Cllr Mary Hoade, met the Minister via a remote meeting on Thursday 3rd of December to raise issues relating to electoral administration and to heritage matters. The AILG stressed that the Electoral Commission to be established by the Bill should not subtract franchise functions from Councils. On heritage, the Minister endorsed the AILG's support for the role of Council Heritage Officers in reaching out to communities during the pandemic. He committed that his officials would consult with the AILG as further heritage initiatives are rolled out through 2021.



AILG President Cllr. Mary Hoade & Vice President Cllr. John Joe Fennelly pictured with Minister Malcolm Noonan, TD, 25th November 2020

AILG Launches New Website Live!

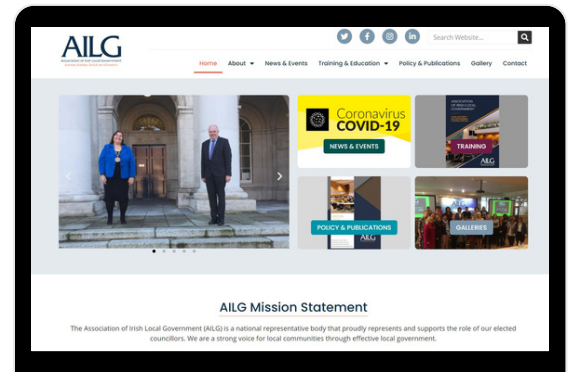
After many months of hard work and dedication, we are delighted to officially announce the launch of our new AILG website which can be located at www.ailg.ie

As part of the strategic review carried out earlier this year, one of our primary goals was to update the AILG website. Specifically, we wanted to focus on making it easier for our members to learn, keep up to date on upcoming training & events and also to locate valuable information not only at their desks but on mobile devices.

Created with our Elected Members in mind, the new website includes many new features to including:

- "About" section which includes a dedicated section welcoming New Councillors, FAQ's, a dedicated page promoting the Role of the Councillor and details on our Officer Board, Subcommittees and Plenary Delegates.
- "News & Events" section which will help keep members up to date on our latest training events, meetings, seminars, webinars and any AILG announcements.
- "Policy & Publications" section where recent publications, legislation & circulars and media assets/ press releases can be located.
- Live Twitter Feed, video content and Social Media Handles.
- Interactive map where users can find their local councillor/local authority.

We hope you enjoy our new look!



AILG partners with the Office of the Planning Regulator for fourth on-line training webinar

AILG is delighted to continue our on-line planning training programme which saw our final webinar of 2020 being delivered on 27th November to our Elected Members.

Over 140 members joined us for November's webinar which was entitled "Implementation of the Development Plan and the Development Management Process" which covered The Role of the Elected Member in the Development Management Process.



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OPR
Oifig an Rialaitheora Pleanála
Office of the Planning Regulator

AILG looks forward to continue building on our partnership with the OPR in 2021 and we are pleased to announce that further online training is scheduled Friday, 22nd January and Friday, 26th February 2021.

The second webinar, delivered on 22nd of January will be entitled *"The Decision on the Planning Application and Appeal"*. We will be dealing with the factors that are taken into consideration by local authorities when they are making decisions on planning applications. The presentations will be delivered by a guest speaker from a Local Authority Planning Director and from An Bord Pleanála.

We look forward to returning to our physical training programme as soon as it is safe to do so in 2021.

Members can register their interest for the 2021 webinars by emailing info@ailg.ie

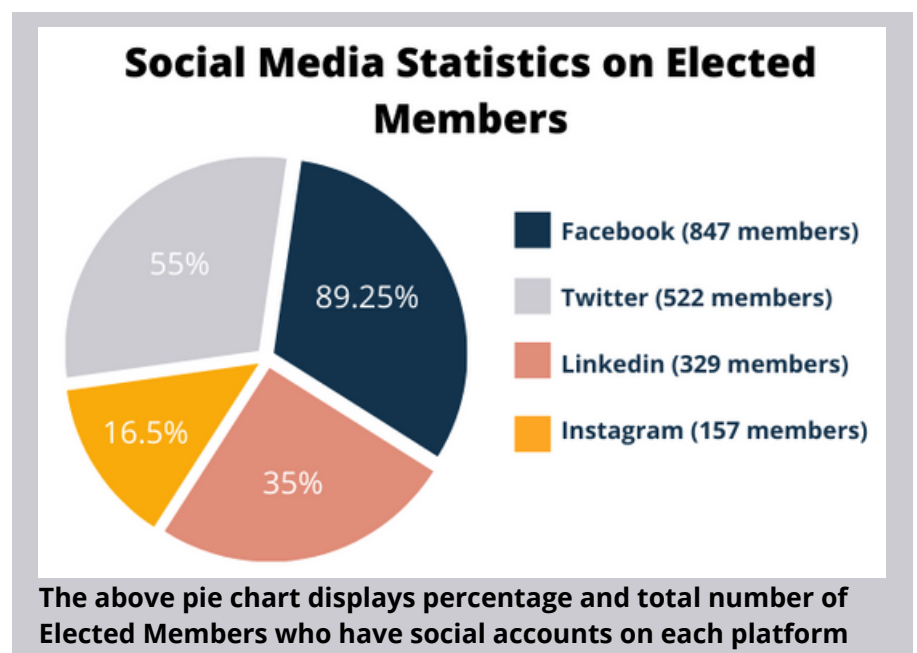
AILG Communications Report

Our social media channels continue to perform strongly and we hit over 1000 followers on Twitter at the beginning of December! We are also on track to reach our target for the year on Facebook as we currently have 934 followers.

Our Communications strategy ties into our wider AILG strategy which is to champion, advocate for, support, and promote the organisation on behalf of the AILG membership and the local government sector. A lot of work has been done this year to build our Communications Strategy including an internal audit on the full membership to check how many of our Elected Members themselves use/have social media accounts. You can see the results of this audit in the below Pie Chart which clearly demonstrates the importance of building our presence online and being able to communicate to our members via these channels.

Our social media accounts and new website have drastically improved our online presence which helps us to gain the attention of important stakeholders and allows AILG to reach a wider audience to promote and highlight the work and role of the Councillor.

We look forward to continuing this success in 2021.



We would like to remind Delegates that our private closed members group is also now up and running on Facebook with over 312 members. *We encourage all members to chat openly and share ideas in this closed group. It is an opportunity to discuss common issues and share best practice to support you in the vital role you play in your Local Authority.*

Wishing all of our Delegates a safe, happy and peaceful Christmas.

Kind regards,

Mary



Cllr. Mary Hoade

AILG President 2020/2021

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The AILG is a national representative body that represents and supports the role of our elected councillors. We are a strong voice for local communities through effective local government.

