Cork County
Public
Participation
Network
Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Poiblí
Contae Chorcaí

Cork County PPN News Letter Issue 37 24th of March 2022

To Cork County PPN members,

Upcoming events and news are listed for your information

Cork County PPN News

1. To view past newsletters go to Latest News - Cork County PPN

2. PPN Linkage Groups

We are delighted to announce the setting up of our linkage groups. Linkage groups are an essential layer of the PPN. They 'link' our Representatives up with our Members. They facilitate input from members into council committees via the Representatives. Put simply, they give Representatives an mandate from our members. Without linkage groups, Representatives won't have the connection to members and might not know how to best represent them. So they really are the link that holds everything together. They will be steered by our Representatives and meet quarterly (online).

We would like to invite our members to join one or more of the following 5 linkage groups:

- **Community Safety, Crime and Policing**
- **Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise**
- **Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity**
- **Housing, Planning and Transport**
- **Arts, Tourism, Heritage and Sports**

If you do wish to join please email ppn@corkcoco.ie or call 0214 285340. To find out more about our linkage groups check out our website Linkage Groups - Cork County PPN

3. HOT OFF THE PRESS: Check out our new animation What is Cork County PPN? - YouTube. A short video explaining what we do 😊 Thanks to standpoint media for their gorgeous graphics

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Ukraine Crisis Information

1. Ukraine Refugee Response from NASC

Currently efforts are focused on securing safe accommodation for everyone fleeing Ukraine. If you have a spare room or a vacant property that you would like to make available, you can do so through the Irish Red Cross Pledge campaign. The Irish Red Cross pledge campaign is supported by the Government. If you don't have accommodation but you can interpret or offer other supports, NASC would be glad to hear from you. In the coming weeks, Nasc will be supporting communities hosting refugees and we may be able to match your skills with a community or a family in need. **Link**

2. **Ukraine crisis: Minister O'Brien** meets with Local Development and Community and Voluntary Sector Representatives. Minister of State for Communities and Charities, Joe O'Brien, today met with over 150 stakeholders from local government, local and community development and the volunteer sector. Minister O'Brien convened the meeting to discuss the community response to the Ukraine crisis. **Link**

The Minister recalled how during the pandemic, the community call initiative led by the Local Authorities, leveraged successful collaboration between Local Authorities and community and voluntary groups to provide structure and focus to communities wishing to assist at a time of crisis.

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

All current Active Part 8 Public Consultations can be found here:
Active Part 8 Development Consultation | Cork County (corkcoco.ie)

1. Part 8 Proposed R605 Road Improvements at Ship-Pool Bends, Innishannon, Co.Cork

Plans and full particulars of the proposed development may be inspected **below** or at Planning Department Floor 1, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC, **subject to COVID-19 travel restrictions**, from **Monday 7th February 2022** until **Friday 25th March 2022**.

Submissions or Observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made using the **online submission form** on www.yourcouncil.ie or, in writing to **Senior Engineer, Cork County Council, Regional & Local Roads Design Office, Floor 3, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 K335** or emailed to **part8.rlrdo@corkcoco.ie** and must reach the Senior Engineer **on or before 4pm on Friday 8th April 2022**.

As per Article 81 of the Planning and Development Regulations 2001 (as amended) an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) screening determination has been made and a determination has been made that an **EIA Report is not required.** In accordance with Article 120 (3), as amended by S.I. No. 296 of 2018, a person may, **within 4 weeks** from the date of this notice (**Friday 4th February 2022**), apply to An Bord Pleanála for a screening determination as to whether the development would be likely to have significant effects on the environment. Such a submission should be addressed to the Secretary, An Bord Pleanála, 64, Marlborough Street, Dublin, 1.

All submissions or observations should be clearly marked: Project Title: "R605 Road Improvements at Ship-Pool Bends."

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2. Part 8 Proposed Housing Development - Phase 3 Carrig Rossa, Rossmore, Co. Cork

- The construction of 2 no. residential units, each being a two storey two-bedroom house.
- New access and parking to connect to existing road.
- Hard landscaping including boundary walls, footpaths and street lighting.
- Soft landscaping including green areas, planting and tress.
- Connection to public and private existing utilities.
- All associated site works

Plans and particulars of the proposed development will be available for inspection and/or purchase at the locations outlined above (see Point No. 1 above) on each day during which the said offices are open for the transaction of business (excluding Bank Holidays) for a period beginning on 25th February 2022 and ending on 29th March 2022.
Submissions or observations with regard to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made in writing to the Director of Services, Housing Directorate, Floor 4, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork no later than 4.00pm on 12th April 2022.

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3. Part 8 Proposed R611 Cork Pedestrian Crossing & Active Travel Link to CETB Site

An overview of the proposed development includes the following elements:

- Installation of approx. 70m long 3-4m wide footpath linking an existing footpath along R611 Cork road and the recently completed pedestrian/cycle path within school grounds.
- Alteration to the existing footpaths, alteration to the existing boundary fences, installation of the controlled gate to be operated by the School Campus management.
- And all ancillary works as required to deliver the proposed scheme.
- The land acquisition is necessary from private landowners.

Submissions or Observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development will be situated, may be made using the online submission form on www.yourcouncil.ie or, in writing to Senior Engineer, Cork County Council, Regional & Local Roads Design Office, Floor 3, County Library Building, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, Eircode:T12 K335 or emailed to part8.rlrdo@corkcoco.ie and must reach the Senior Engineer on or before 4pm on Friday 15th April 2022.

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4. Part 8 Proposed Carrigtwohill Urban Regeneration and Development Fund Initiative - Public Realm Infrastructure Bundle, Carrigtwohill, Co. Cork

Location:

- Main Street from the junction at Castlelake Avenue (Castle Square) to the junction with Carrigane Road;
- Station Road from the junction with Main Street to the junction at Carrigtwohill Train Station;
- Carrigane Road from the junction with Main Street to the junction with Castleview;
- Cluain Cairn, An Fána, Castle Close, Castle Avenue;
- Wises Road/Main Street junction;
- Wises Road/Oakbrook Link Road (Access Road to Castlelake)/IDA Industrial Estate Access Road junction;
- N25 Junction 3 and lands adjoining this junction.
- In public and private land within the Townlands of: Carrigtohill, Terry's-Land, Tullagreen and Killacloyne.

Plans and particulars of the proposed development are available for inspection, or to purchase for a fee of €15 per set, from Friday 25th February 2022 until Friday 25th March 2022 at the following venues:

- Below in the **'Additional Documents'** section.
- Planning Counter, Ground Floor, County Hall, Cork between the hours of 09:00 and 16:00 on each working day, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Cork County Council Area Engineer's Office at Ballinglanna, Glanmire and Cobh Municipal District Office, Carrig House, Cobh, Co. Cork between the hours of 09:00 and 17:00 on each working day during which the said offices are opened for the transaction of business, subject to COVID-19 restrictions.

Submissions or Observations with respect to the proposed development, dealing with the proper planning and sustainable development of the area in which the development would be situated, may be made on or before 17:00 on Friday April 8th, 2022 as follows:

- Online submission form on Cork County Council's website at www.yourcouncil.ie or
- In writing clearly marked: '*Part 8 – Carrigtwohill URDF Initiative – Public Realm Infrastructure Bundle', Senior Executive Engineer, Housing Infrastructure Implementation Team, Cork County Council, Floor 3, County Hall, Carrigrohane Road, Cork, T12 R2NC*

Funding:

1. **The CLÁR Scheme 2022** has been launched by the DRCD. This scheme makes provision for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas. It promotes sustainable development and it aims to attract people to live and work in the areas it covers.

We will be promoting this scheme on CCC's website and on our social media platforms. These should be live later this week .

There is a 25% National increase in funding for 2022, and it covers the following Measures :
Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities
Measure 2: Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport
Measure 3: "Our Islands"

Measures 1 is administered through the local authority, and can be applied for by the LA in consultation with groups in local communities
Measure 2 & 3 are to be submitted directly to the Department by the applicant.

Measure 1 :
The updated Measure 1 will support a variety of capital interventions that contribute to the enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities. Applications can also include small scale renovation works to community facilities. The list below provides an indication of the types of interventions that may be supported, but is not exhaustive:
Multi-Use Gaming Areas (MUGAs)/Astro-Turf Facilities
Skateboard Parks
Playgrounds
Handball Alleys
Tennis Courts
Basketball Courts

The closing date is the **by 4pm on Friday 25th March** Link

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2. **Rethink Ireland** is committed to supporting social enterprises across Ireland from idea to expansion through The Social Enterprise Development Fund (SED).

The SED Fund was created in 2018 by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and supported by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund 2022 now provides vital supports to a wide number of social enterprises across the sector tailored to their stage of development.
In 2022, the fund offers

1. Up to 8 Awardees an Awards package of €30,000:

- Cash grants of €22,500
- A Business Support budget worth €7,500
- A place on the Accelerator Programme

2. Up to 20 Awardees:

- Cash grants of €10,000
- Business supports worth €4,500
- A place on the Accelerator Programme

3. Start your Own Social Enterprise Business Course.

- Up to 50 participants on the course
- The opportunity to pitch for a cash grant on completion

Further details are in the attached brochure and on our website which also included links to online information webinars on the SED Fund. Rethink Ireland

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3. **Cork County Council** is today announcing the opening of the County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme and the County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme for 2022. These schemes seek to recognise the unrivalled heritage of the county, the numerous groups who actively engage with their local heritage, and the many groups dedicated to commemorating the centenary of the War of Independence and Civil War.

County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme 2022 – click **here**
County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme 2022 – click **here**

The closing date for proposals and application forms is 17:00 on Thursday 14th April 2022, which can be made online via www.yourcouncil.ie; emailed to commemorations@corkcoco.ie or corkheritage@corkcoco.ie or delivered to 'County Cork Commemorations Grant Scheme 2022/County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme 2022', Cork County Council, Floor 3, County Hall, Cork.

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4. ***New Bursary Scheme for the Decade of Centenaries Programme 2022/23.*** The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, has recently announced a new bursary scheme, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy, for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries. The objective of the bursary scheme is to encourage new local research and local history studies, and a meaningful examination of local, regional, and national events during the Struggle for Independence and Civil War period. It is a timely opportunity to acknowledge the significant contribution of local historians in furthering fields of study concerning local events and related themes during this period. Applications for the 2022 scheme are now open. For further information and scheme guidelines, please visit **Link.** A list of suggested research themes to assist applicants can also be found there. The closing date for applications is **Wednesday, 27th April 2022 at 5.30pm**.

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5. The Wheel have announced their new Grant applications are now open under the Training Links programme. Training Networks, with a minimum of 10 members, are invited to apply for grants ranging from €10,000.00 to €50,000.00. There is a fund to the value of €270,000.00 available under this programme. Applications remain open until 5pm on Friday, 29 April. You can download the application form Link

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6. **Department of Rural and Community Development** supports available in 2022. It is hoped that this calendar will assist stakeholders by providing timeframes in which to develop high quality and impactful funding proposals. **Link**

This Weeks News

1. Carmichael is running two FREE training workshops for charities and non-profits which may be of interest. These workshops are funded by the Community Foundation for Ireland as part of a wider Covid-19 Fund for Recovery. The aim is to help to strengthen the sector, and build resilience and sustainability in these challenging times. Registration is open to all non-profits. Please note, a **maximum of two people** from any **one non-profit** can register and is also limited to a **maximum of two workshops per person**.

While the content of both workshops is the same, the first workshop is aimed at smaller (non-complex) organisations while the second workshop is aimed at larger (complex) organisations. One can register via Eventbrite. **29th March** Link

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2. **EirGrid Celtic Interconnector project** team will be in East Cork in March and they would be delighted to meet with you to answer any questions you have on the project.

They will be in **Youghal** at the **Water Raleigh Hotel** on **Wednesday 30th March from 12.00 pm – 8.00 pm.**

Contact michelle.walsh@eirgrid.com for more details.

Eirgrid has been engaging with communities in East Cork in order to set up a Celtic Interconnector Community Forum. The purpose of the forum is to ensure that stakeholder and community views are understood and properly considered prior to and during project delivery. The group will provide a forum for dialogue between stakeholders with interests in the project and the project team. Community Forum members will also be invited to input on the design and implementation of the Community Benefit Fund. The Community Forum will consist of 15 seats and is open to non-profit organisations within 2km of the immediate project area (see map below) who are a registered organisation with the Cork County PPN. One of the Community Forum seats is allocated to a Cork County PPN rep and if you are interested in being part of this, please contact ppn@corkcoco.ie

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3. Transport and Mobility Forum Cork are holding their Annual Mix Your Mode Seminar on Wednesday the 6th of April from 2.00pm - 4.30pm. Full webinar schedule and registration details available soon on www.transportandmobilityforum.com.

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4. **HTI** is a joint initiative between the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and the Heritage Council. The Heritage Council, along with Ministers Malcolm Noonan TD, and Minister Darragh O'Brien TD have recently announced that 13 historic towns will share €1.75m funding under the 2022 Historic Towns Initiative.

Funding will be awarded to the relevant local authorities for eight conservation projects in:

- Listowel, Co Kerry
- Ballyshannon, Co Donegal
- Ballina, Co Mayo
- **Macroom, Co Cork**
- Tipperary town, Co Tipperary
- Naas, Co Kildare
- Monaghan town, Co Monaghan
- Enniscorthy, Co Wexford

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5. **Five monuments in locations across Ireland have been selected for inclusion in the Adopt a Monument Scheme 2022.** The scheme offers communities expertise, mentoring and support to help them to care for their local heritage. Following a call for applications in September 2021, more than 40 community groups applied to adopt a monument in their locality. The five sites were chosen following a selection process that also involved the National Monuments Service, the Discovery Programme, a community archaeologist, and Abarta Heritage.

The sites included in this year's scheme are an early medieval church and cross at Killaghtee in Co Donegal, which overlooks the Atlantic; a **ring fort in Baltimore, West Cork**, which is perched above Church Strand Bay; Dunmanogue Church and Graveyard in Kildare; St James' Church in Dingle, Co Kerry (home to the Other Voices Music Festival), and an Anglo-Norman motte castle in the heart of Inniskeen, Co Monaghan.

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6. ***Reminder on Hedgecutting and the Law.*** The National Parks & Wildlife Service (NPWS) of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage is reminding the public the cutting, grubbing, burning or other destruction of "vegetation growing in any hedge or ditch" between 1st March and 31st August is prohibited. The prohibition is contained in section 40 of the Wildlife Act 1976*. Suspected breaches are investigated by the NPWS and An Garda Síochána. If you see what you suspect to be a hedge-cutting offence you can report it to your local NPWS office (see www.npws.ie/contact-us) or your local Garda station.

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7. Design Team Appointed to Develop Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter.
A team of architects is set to visit North Cork next week to begin work on developing Mitchelstown Georgian Quarter. The project centres around public realm improvements in the centre of Mitchelstown, building upon its rich urban heritage and highlighting its unique historic character. Funding of €360,000 has been made available through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund from the Department of Rural and Community Development and Cork County Council. Cork County Council has appointed REDscape Landscape & Urbanism to the project. The company has been tasked with the feasibility, statutory planning, and design of the public realm enhancements. The project team will begin work on Monday, March 21st, with site visits for the consultant design team scheduled for March 25th.

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8. The Irish Walled Towns Network (IWTN) has a membership of 30 towns throughout the island of Ireland (North, South, East and West) and includes 4 towns in Cork. Three of these are in Cork County – Bandon, Buttevant and Youghal – and Cork City is also part of the Network. The Irish Walled Towns Network over the last number of years has supported a range of different projects and undertakings, including here in the County of Cork. To further promote the work of the ITWN, an Ezine, which is called the Walled Town Crier, is issued regularly and the October/November Edition, 2021, is available to read by clicking **here**

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9. **National Tree Week**, organised by the Tree Council since 1985 and in partnership with Coillte since 1989, is a week-long programme of events to celebrate all things trees and this year takes place from March 20th to 26th. It is a week to be proud of our trees; to learn about their folklore and their practical applications and to appreciate how important a healthy and diverse tree stock is particularly important given increasing concerns regarding Climate. Over 40 groups from throughout County Cork were allocated trees as part of Tree Week 2021 by Cork County Council and interest in National Tree Week 2022 suggests it will be the benchmark for years going forward. For groups looking to avail of trees for planting and or simply to find out more about our trees and Tree Week itself, email corkheritage@corkcoco.ie or phone 021 4285905.

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10. The Wheel Weekly Newsletter, Link

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11. **The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine** has launched a public consultation survey on the future of forests in Ireland today. This is the latest phase in the development of a new Forestry Strategy for Ireland. The consultation is part of the work of Project Woodland to shape a new shared vision and develop a new strategy for trees and forests in Ireland. All citizens, private organisations, public authorities, communities and stakeholders are welcome to contribute. The online questionnaire can be accessed at https://foreststrategy.consultation.ie/en/surveys and will take approximately 15 minutes to complete. The survey features sections on the reasons why we plant forests, the places they are planted, the types of trees we plant, and how forests are managed. Respondents can also provide additional information to the questionnaire.

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12. The Arts Council's Artist in the Community (AIC) Scheme, managed by Create, offers awards to enable artists and communities of place and/or interest to work together on projects. The AIC scheme is open to artists from any of the following artform disciplines: architecture, circus, street art and spectacle, dance, film, literature (Irish and English language), music, opera, theatre, visual arts and traditional arts.

The aim of the AIC scheme is to encourage meaningful collaboration between communities of place and/or interest and artists. It is essential that consultation take place between the artist and the community, so that both parties are involved in deciding on the nature of the project's realisation. Group ownership of the art should be maintained at every stage.

We are pleased to announce that Round One of the AIC Scheme is now open for applications, with a closing date on the **28th March 2022, at 5pm**.

This Round includes:
Research and Development Award (without mentoring)
Research and Development Award (with Mentoring)
Recent Graduate Research and Development Award (with Mentoring)
Project Realisation Award

Full details of the awards, and how to apply Link

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13. **The Minister of State for Biodiversity and Land Use at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine**, Senator Pippa Hackett, has announced the results of the "Attitudes to Afforestation in Ireland" survey. This survey was commissioned by the Minister's Department as part of Project Woodland's work to develop Ireland's next National Forest Strategy. Project Woodland was established by Minister of State Hackett to implement a range of initiatives aimed at developing our forests and creating a new vision for forestry based on a shared national approach.

The survey found a very positive attitude in general to forestry, including: Three out of four people were in favour of planting more forests in their county, as well as more trees in urban areas.

People said the most important benefits of forests were how they addressed climate change (25% of respondents), enhanced air quality (15%), contributed to wildlife and biodiversity (14%), and supported mental health (14%). Overall, 88% of those surveyed said they thought forests and woodlands benefited local communities.

Almost two in five people said they would like an even balance of forests & agriculture in their ideal landscape, while a further quarter would like a forest-dominated landscape.

A majority of people (72%) favoured planting broadleaf and conifer trees in new forests. 17% said they would like to see mainly broadleaves planted; 11% favoured mainly conifers.

Adults with young children are more likely to have visited a forest in the past year; the over 50s are the most frequent visitors generally.
58% of people have visited a forest in the past year with exercise and recreation cited as the key visit driver. 57% said they visited woodlands more since the COVID-19 pandemic began compared to 2019.
A copy of the report is available at gov.ie - Forestry (www.gov.ie)

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14. RTÉ Broadcaster John Creedon was named Cork Person of the Year at a Gala Awards Lunch at the Rochestown Park Hotel, Cork. John received the award for representing the best of Cork City and County through his broadcasting and writings over the years. The Judges also praised John for igniting a new love of Ireland during the recent lockdown Covid period through his television series 'Creedon's Atlas of Ireland' and book 'That Place We Call Home', published by Gill Books. A third series of Atlas of Ireland will air on RTÉ this summer.
The John Creedon award-winning evening radio show broadcast from the local RTÉ Cork studios was also noted as attracting a huge home and international audience.

16. The online availability of Births, Marriages and Deaths records has been extended, with a further 12 months of these records available to view online on www.irishgenealogy.ie. The records now available for each of these life events are:

- Birth Register records for the years 1864 to 1921
- Marriage Register records for the years 1845 to 1946
- Death Register records for the years 1864 to 1971

The website is free and there is no subscription or registration required to use it.

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15. Energy Pathfinder Lunchtime Webinar will take place on Tuesday 5th April at 1 pm GMT via Zoom. Join us and our Guest Speaker, Mr Chris Morgan for this free online event and learn about the EnerPHit refurbishment at Niddrie Road, Glasgow.

Register on Eventbrite for tickets to this event **here.**

For further information please see Energy Pathfinder Website

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16. Minister of State in the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O' Brien TD, launched a primary school art competition in association with Volunteer Ireland, calling on students to design artwork to be used to commission a commemorative badge to acknowledge the contribution of volunteers during the pandemic.

When considering their designs, children are asked to think about what volunteering looks like to them, and what does a volunteer do? They will also consider the impact of all types of volunteering in the community during the pandemic across a number of areas and initiatives, including local volunteers, or if any of their family members were involved in volunteering. **Link**

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17. Don't Mow - Let It Grow. A gentle reminder to reduce the number of times you mow your lawn this year. Not only will you save money, and help climate action, you'll also help our bees, butterflies and other insects which need the nectar from native wildflowers like clover, birdsfoot trefoil and dandelions that grow in our in our lawns. To find out more contact the Heritage Office or see **Link**

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18. The National Biodiversity Data Centre, with support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, recently launched the Farmers' Wildlife Calendar for 2022: Climate Tracker. Research suggests that there will be an increase in temperatures and rainfall in Ireland as a result of climate change. Any change to our climate will disrupt the emergence time of insects, flowering of plants and arrival of migrant species, such as the swallows. Farmers and other landowners can help by submitting records on the first occurrences of nine key species within the Wildlife Calendar. Further details/how to submit records available at **Link**

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19. The Minister for Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media, Catherine Martin TD, recently announced a new bursary scheme, in partnership with the Royal Irish Academy, for the final phase of the Decade of Centenaries. The objective of the bursary scheme is to encourage new local research and local history studies, and a meaningful examination of local, regional, and national events during the Struggle for Independence and Civil War period. Further information/bursary criteria at **Link**. Closing date for receipt of applications **5.30pm Wednesday, 27th April 2022.**

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20. The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) Heritage Awards 2022 are inviting applications for their Heritage Awards 2022 with an expanded range of awards championing excellence in built heritage across the UK and Ireland and waving the flag for all the gifted craftspeople, dedicated custodians and environmentally conscious practitioners that work tirelessly to ensure that our astonishing built heritage has a bright future. Closing date for receipt of entries is 5pm 28th March 2022. **Link**

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21. The Government's online mapping portal for Ireland's marine spatial planning is now live at **Link**.

This web map portal is Ireland's first marine spatial planning portal. It links planning within the Maritime area and the relevant policies for each marine sector or activity listed in the National Marine Planning Framework (NMPF). The site has 3 main areas: Activities Map, Activities and Policies Map. There is also an information page showing all Government Departments and Agencies with a role in the Maritime area.

Activities Map: The map here will display marine activities. All activities are off by default and you can turn on each activity layer by clicking the eye icon. The legend for each layer is available once the layer is turned on. You can choose to turn on and off as many layers as you need but there will be slower response times when everything is turned on or very busy layers are resolving.

Activities: This section allows the user to learn more about the Environmental, Economic and Social sections of the NMPF's Overarching Marine Planning Policies. It also allows the user to get more information about each sector or activity in the plan's Key Sectoral / Activity Policies. You can see the relevant policies and a map of the areas where these policies apply.

Policies Map: Here the user can draw a shape on the map to select an area of interest and the relevant NMPF policies will be displayed. These can then be expanded to show the full policy wording or explored in more detail using the "more info" link.

You can read the National Marine Planning Framework **here.** For further information click **here.**

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22. .IE Digital Town Awards are now live!

People and towns across Ireland are being called on to enter the annual .IE Digital Town Awards 2022, which celebrate the digital achievements of local towns and citizens across the country.

Now open for applications, the .IE Digital Town Awards has a total prize fund of €100,000 across 14 categories to honour local towns and people that, through digital projects and innovation, have contributed to enhancements in areas such as e-health, digital tourism, community, education, and digital business.

The .IE Digital Towns Awards 2022 is an initiative of .IE, the managers of Ireland's trusted online .ie address.

Award categories
10 of the awards will be for digital projects in local towns.
Two special awards – Digital Changemaker and Digital Rising Star.
Digital Hero Award - a person in your community who is an unsung hero working tirelessly on initiatives to promote the digital enhancement of your town.
The overall winner will be selected from the category winners.
Entry to the Awards is free, applications close at 5pm on Friday 25 March 2022. Link

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23. Tidy Towns Newsletter, Link

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24. Muintir na Tire weekly Newsletter, Link

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25. The European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland is holding a workshop for people from communities, community groups and those working to address poverty and social exclusion on the role of the European Union in the creation of a more social and inclusive society.

The workshop will be interactive, and will provide an opportunity for participants to build up their understanding and engage in discussion and debate. It is suitable for participants no matter what their existing level of knowledge is on the EU and will look at the values of the EU, how it works, and how it addresses social issues, including poverty. The workshop will look at the relevance of the EU for Ireland and the experience of people in communities.

To register please email enquiries@eapn.ie expressing your interest in taking part.

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26. Dungarvan to Mallow Greenway. The consultation is for information purposes and we are looking for feedback etc. **Link**

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27. Enable Ireland are hosting our first in person event in Innishannon House Hotel this March 30th. Includes Tea/Coffee, Cake & Oasis Ring. Contact Ellen Murphy for more information on (087) 6868333 or email elmurphy@enableireland.ie. Tickets €30

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28. Census 2022 will take place on Sunday 3 April 2022. This is a major undertaking for the Central Statistics Office, which involves counting every person in the State on that night (Census Night). We wish to request your assistance in promoting and maximising awareness of, and participation in, the census, which is so important for our communities, our counties, and our country.

We have developed a dedicated website, www.census.ie, to provide comprehensive information about the census and to assist the public in completing their census form. The website is available in English and Irish. It also includes a page of information and advice in 22 other languages - **Link**, as well as a range of other accessibility aids **Link.**

We would greatly appreciate if you would share this email with your networks, and help bring the census, and the website, to their attention. We would also appreciate if you would provide a link to our website - **Link** - on your own website. Details of how to do so are available here **Link.**

Thank you for helping us to deliver a comprehensive and inclusive Census 2022.

If you require further information, please contact us at :

Telephone: 01 895 1400 or **Email:** censuspublicity@cso.ie

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29. **Farmers4Safety -** Managing Risk Together EIP Agri Project Launch will take place on Monday the 11th of April from 11.00 am to 12 noon with Refreshments after followed by a Farm Walk on the Murphy Family Farm Kildinan, Co. Cork (T56 DN29). **Link**

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30. **AkiDwA** are hosting 'It Takes a Village to Raise a Child' online, a High Level – Round Table Discussion on Migrant Children of African Descent in State Care on Wednesday 30th of March from 11 am to 12.30 pm on Zoom. You can learn more and register here.

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33. AkiDwA are also hosting a Strategic Plan 2022 – 2025 launch; 'Moving Forward Together, Bigger & Better'. Highlighting their Mission to promote equality and justice for migrant women and address barriers to equal opportunities, this zoom meeting takes place on the 5th of April 2022 from 2 to 4pm. You can learn more and register **here.**

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34. New Communities Partnership and Mi-WOW are holding a "Hiring for Diversity Training" which is designed with the aim of raising awareness around diversity, inclusion, and multiculturalism and the importance of including these values into recruitment processes. As a migrant organisation led by and for migrants, NCP have extensive experience of the challenges that migrant people in general, and migrant women in particular, face when trying to relaunch their careers in the country and enter the Irish workforce. Hr Professionals are invited to join this three-hour training delivered via Zoom for free. The first (for this year) training is scheduled for 31st of March at 10.30am and will be facilitated by Dr. Lucy Michael and Dr. Niloufar Omidi. You can register by contacting miwow@newcommunities.ie.

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35. Mother Tongues free online platform, Mother Tongues Families can help newcomer families to connect with families who speak their language and live nearby. There is an option to find families with children of the same age (0 - 12) too and to join a language group to receive notifications of events. If you know families who are looking to connect through their own mother tongue, please send them the description + link below. People have been using the app to organise picnics, visits to the library and other small social gathering for children, especially for preschoolers and primary school children. There are no ads and no promotions, of any kind, just families organising get together through different languages. The platform is free to join **here**.

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36. Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has announced the appointment of Mary Hurley as the new Secretary General at the Department of Rural and Community Development. A graduate of University College Dublin (UCD), Ms Hurley previously served as an Assistant Secretary at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage prior to her promotion. Link

37. Muintir Na Tire Weekly News Letter. Link

38. WildWork Biodiversity is running a **new free 12-week biodiversity *Wild Work* training programme** that will be rolled out across **10 locations** in the region. The training will target community and voluntary organisations, individuals, farmers, teachers, the business community and others with an interest in the environment, as well as managers of public amenities / owners of public land.

The aim of the Wild Work project is to help people, help nature, help people. Designed by expert ecologists, the training programme integrates the use of innovative virtual and augmented technologies with practical outdoor classroom and on-line learning modules to help trainees to focus on how best to support local biodiversity and experience mental and physical health benefits as a result of taking part in positive environmental actions.

The Wild Work training programme will begin in **May 2022** and will be delivered in;

Killeagh, Douglas, Midleton, Fota and Ballincollig in South Cork AND

Tracton, Castlefreke, Leap, Baltimore and Kilbrittan in West Cork

Please note the Douglas and Fota dates are now FULL

Training will comprise of six core biodiversity training modules that will explore the Irish landscape and its natural networks, along with Wild Work in Action training focusing on wellness and biodiversity management of public lands, all of which will be delivered by biodiversity experts. The training will be enhanced by the development of an online Wild Work Toolkit containing an exciting range of e-learning activities to support the learning, added to by the participants themselves as they experience the training in their own place.

The Wild Work programme is being coordinated by three Local Development Companies - **SECAD Partnership in Cork** who first designed and piloted Wild Work in 2017, West Limerick Resources and Cavan County Local Development as part of a LEADER funded Inter-territorial Co-operation project.

It is hoped that, over time, the training programme will be rolled out nationwide and will inspire other countries to create similar programmes for the benefit of both people and place.

To sign up for **Killeagh, Douglas, Midleton, Fota or Ballincollig,** please do so through the following link: https://wildwork.ie/south-cork-introduction-course/

To sign up for **Tracton, Castlefreke, Leap, Baltimore or Kilbrittan** please do so through the following link: https://wildwork.ie/west-cork-introduction-course/

No previous experience or qualifications are required to take part. Basic IT skills are required.

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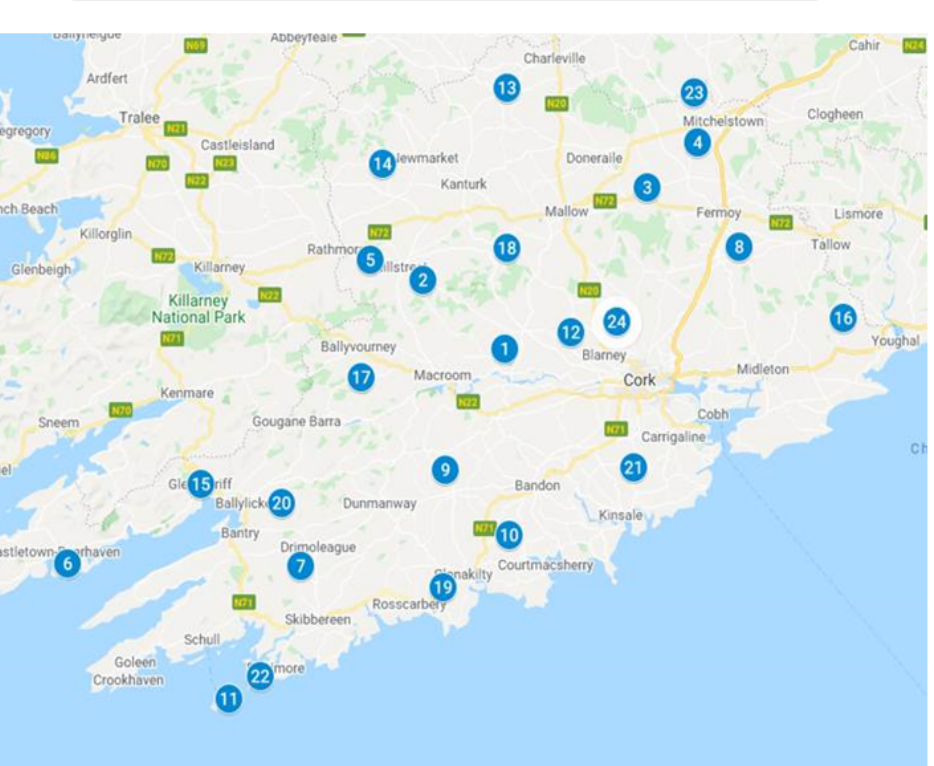
39. The Cork County Council are delighted to be involved in the roll out of Broadband Connection Points. The basic concept of BCP's is that publicly accessible buildings be developed at a number of locations throughout the country so that the public living in the local communities can be provided with interim, but immediate, access to high-speed broadband throughout rural Ireland until such time as properties in the area are served directly by the fibre being rolled out under the National Broadband Contract.

This will enable people living in the area to go to the selected locations and access broadband for a range of uses including remote working, general access and keeping in touch with family and friends. The BCP service will remain active until such time as high speed broadband is available at the premises in the locality of the BCP. A list of the locations are below and the date of roll out is to follow.

Broadband Connection Points

Map Ref No.	Eircode	BCP Name
1	P12 CD51	Aghabullogue Community Centre
2	P51 EP49	Aubane Community Centre
3	P51 F9PX	AVONDHU BLACKWATER PARTNERSHIP LTD.
4	P67 W562	Ballindangan Community Centre
5	P51 DP95	Ballydaly Community Hall
6	P75 W660	Bere Island Heritage Centre
7	P47 CH60	Caheragh Community Centre
8	P61 DT88	Castlelyons Community Centre
9	P47 YR96	Castletownkenneigh Community Centre
10	P72 KF65	Clogagh Community Hall
11	P81 P627	COLÁISTE PHOBAL CLÉIRE
12	T23 NH22	Courtbrack Community Centre
13	P56 H267	Dromina Community Centre
14	P51 W024	Glash Community Centre
15	P75 V067	Glengarriff Community Centre
16	P36 RC43	Inch Community Centre
17	P12 F447	IONADH ÁISE
18	P51 FK44	Laharn Heritage Centre
19	P85 W840	Lissavard Community Centre
20	P75 K253	Mealagh Valley Community Centre
21	P43 DX99	Riverstick Community Centre
22	P81 AE02	Sherkin Island Community Hall
23	V35 E895	T.O. Park Community Hall
24	T34 RR58	Whitechurch Community Centre