



PPN Secretariat with County Mayor at 2022 Mayor Awards

L-R Tommy Collins, Pat Dooley, Sean Kelly, Mayor Cllr Gillian Coughlan, Liam McCarthy, Pauline O'Dwyer, Tom Howard, Gavin Falk.

Cork County PPN News Letter Issue 40 28th of April 2022

To Cork County PPN members,

Upcoming events and news are listed for your information:

Cork County PPN News

1. Cork County PPN invites you to its bi-annual plenary meeting where you can HAVE YOUR SAY on the PPN's priorities for the Community, Environment and Social Inclusion sectors for the year. This year's plenary will feature a special focus on **FUNDING** and will feature guest speaker Tom O'Leary who will outline how community and voluntary groups can source and successfully apply for funding and grants. It will take place online on Thursday May 5th from 7-9pm. Register to attend plenary [here](https://corkcountypcn.ie/events/event/plenary/).

Find out more: <https://corkcountypcn.ie/events/event/plenary/>

2. PPN Training

We have designed a new training series dedicated to building your capacity to access funding and grants. It will run online in May and comprise of the following 4 workshops:

Workshop 1- Sources of Funding for Community & Voluntary Organisations	Monday 5th May, 7-9pm
Workshop 2- Grant Application Process	Monday 16th of May 7-9pm
Workshop 3- Writing grant applications including online applications	Monday 23rd of May 7-9pm
Workshop 4- Fundraising Strategy including Online Fundraising	Monday 30th of May 7-9pm

* It is recommended you sign up for all 4 workshops.

To book email pcn@corkcoco.ie
Find out more: <https://corkcountypcn.ie/events/category/training/>

3. PPN Call for Nominations

The main reason the PPNs were set up is to enable community groups to be represented and to feed into local government decision-making in a way that is fair, clear and respectful. The PPNs have three main areas of interest, also called 'Colleges':

- Community and Voluntary
- Social Inclusion
- Environmental

On becoming a member of a PPN, each organisation is asked to select its College which represents their main interest. The Colleges nominate and elect people from within their Member Groups to represent them on some of the Boards and Committees set up by the Local Authorities and other bodies. This is key to the participation part of the Public Participation Networks. This is how the voices of Member Groups are included and heard when it comes to the policy and decision-making process.

We currently have vacancies on several committees. Details of vacancies and the nomination form are attached. The **deadline for nominations is midnight on Friday 20th May 2022**.

Find out more and submit a nomination: [Link](#)

4. PPN Linkage Groups

Our members 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 pcn@corkcoco.ie or call 0214 285340. To find out more about our linkage groups check out our website [Linkage Groups - Cork County PPN](#)

5. Cork County PPN Podcast interview

Thank you to Rob Hurdon of West Cork Community website for featuring Cork County PPN on their weekly podcast series 'The Voice of West Cork'. The Voice of West Cork podcast consists of in-depth interviews with *Community, Not-for-Profit & Social* groups based in West Cork, as well as music, Drama/Comedy Sketches, Book Extracts & Poetry Readings written & recorded by West Cork artists. There is also the *rant* of the week and the *eco-competition*.

Find the podcast here: [Voice of West Cork - West Cork Community](#)

6. PPN Animation: Check out our new animation What is Cork County PPN? - YouTube. A short video explaining what we do 🎥

7. Mayors Awards 2022

At the recent Mayor's Awards the secretariat were invited to give a speech on behalf of the PPN. Liam McCarthy volunteered to give the speech and he did a great job. If you would like to read the speech it is available to on our website: [Link](#)

Ukraine Crisis Information

As you are probably aware, the Irish Government is committed to delivering a humanitarian response to welcome people fleeing the war in Ukraine and seeking protection in Ireland. Very significant work is taking place across Government to provide accommodation and other essential supports to those who have arrived here already, as well as planning and preparing to receive and support the large numbers of further people expected to arrive.

A webpage on the whole-of-Government response to the situation in Ukraine is now available at www.gov.ie/ukraine (and is updated regularly) which includes information on supports and services available to people arriving from Ukraine.

We have created a dedicated page on our website with information and resources for communities: [Ukrainian Support - Cork County PPN](#)

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](#)

Community Response Forum in each area to coordinate local measures welcoming Ukrainians. The Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage Darragh O'Brien TD, along with Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD today welcomed the establishment of **Community Response Forums** in every local authority area to coordinate local responses to the Ukraine crisis.

Local community and voluntary groups around the country have been mobilising in recent weeks to welcome into their communities people who are fleeing Ukraine. As the new arrivals begin to settle in, each local authority has established a Community Response Forum to provide a co-ordination point for the community and voluntary response in their area. [Link](#)

Cork County Council's Community Response Forum

Cork County Council's **Community Support Programme** has re-established as part of the county's response to assist the people of Ukraine. The Community Support Programme, formed during the Covid Pandemic, is a multi-agency approach which brings together representatives of both Statutory and Voluntary agencies operating across Cork County, ensuring commitment and consistency in terms of service delivery.

Community Response Forum Contact Details:

Email: communityforum@corkcoco.ie
Phone: 021 438 6637

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

One of the key priorities identified through the initial programme meeting was the requirement for adequate emergency shelter and accommodation facilities to accommodate Ukrainian refugees in Cork County. The Council is seeking assistance from members of the public to identify potentially available multi-occupancy facilities and properties that may be brought back into use easily and quickly. This might include community halls, sports or leisure facilities or other former accommodation facilities in private or public ownership.

Please see the following link: [Emergency Shelter & Accommodation for Ukraine](#)

PUBLIC CONSULTATIONS

All current Active Part 8 Public Consultations can be found here:

[Active Part 8 Development Consultation | Cork County \(corkcoco.ie\)](#)

1. **Consultation open on Review of Building Regulations.** We have a great chance now to get more Changing Places across the country. A public consultation on the Review of Building Regulations to get more Changing Places toilet in certain buildings is now open until 12 May. This is great news for thousands of children and adults with disabilities who are restricted in where they can go and what they can do because they will not find a toilet with the equipment they need.

We would encourage as many people as possible to take part in the consultation and highlight how important and necessary these facilities are. To show your support, send an email to buildingstandards@housing.gov.ie to tell the Department there needs to be more Changing Places in the country. It is easy to make a submission and we have a sample email below which you can use as a template for your own submission at [Link](#). Deadline is 12 May.

2. **Minister of State for Sport and the Gaeltacht**, Jack Chambers TD, has today launched a public consultation on the development of a new Major International Sports Events Policy.

The main objectives of this consultation are to seek views and understand people's attitudes towards major international sports events, and the role of Government in supporting them. This public consultation will assist in the development of a policy to underpin a subsequent strategy.

The consultation is in the form of a short survey of 5 multiple choice questions which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete; it can be accessed at the following [link](#)

Closing date is the 26th of May 2022

3. **Dunganvan to Mallow Greenway.** The consultation is for information purposes and we are looking for feedback etc. [Link](#)

FUNDING

1. **Minister Humphreys announces details of new €15 million Community Centre Fund.**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today announced a new €15 million capital fund to support community groups for the upgrade and refurbishment of Community Centres. This is an investment in both rural and urban communities across the Country.

The Community Centres Investment Fund will support community groups with the upgrade and development of their Community Centre facilities.

Funding will be available under 3 Categories with grants of between €10k and €300K available:

Category 1: Small scale projects/improvements to facilities - €10,000 to €25,000.

Category 2: Larger scale projects - €25,001 to €100,000.

Category 3: Major projects- €100,001 to €300,000.

Applications under Category 2 and 3 must include a minimum contribution of 5% of the total project costs from the applicants own funds.

Registration will open on **Tuesday 3rd May 2022**, applicants need to register as 'users' on the portal in advance of the application process opening on **Tuesday 7th June 2022**. The closing date for applications is **Thursday 14th July 2022**.

The Department will be hosting a number of online information events in May and June 2022 to provide guidance in relation to the application process and details will be released in due course. Guidelines and a sample application form are now available at [Link](#).

2. 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](#).

3. 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. **The HSE** is running a Free Dementia Information Evening which is being held in Midleton Park Hotel, East Cork on Wednesday the 11th of May from 7-9pm. The evening is one of three community information sessions currently being organised in 2022 by the HSE, Cork North Community Work Department, the Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and the Crystal Project Mallow. The following two Dementia Information Evenings are scheduled for:

-**Springfort Hall Hotel, Mallow on Wednesday 21st of September from 7-9pm.**

-**Cork City (North-side venue tbc) on Wednesday November 2nd from 7-9pm.**

The evening is open to anyone living with a diagnosis of Dementia, family carers, home helps, professionals or those with an interest in learning more about Dementia. Information stands will also be available. [Link](#)

2. UCC Civic and Community Engagement are looking at The Global Design Challenge for Sport and Physical Activity crowdsources radical, innovative ideas that enable people of all ages and abilities to lead active healthy lives. Ideas come from around the globe with best ideas incubated and/or taken up by national and global partners. [Link](#)

3. **The Centre for Disability Law and Policy at NUI Galway** is currently investigating the impact of Covid-19 on persons with disabilities in Ireland, UK, Spain, Italy, France, Germany and Sweden through a project called *Response*. The project is funded by the Health Research Board. The ResPOND-E team have set up a [survey](#) to gather information about the experience of persons with disabilities in Ireland, the UK and Spain during the Covid-19 pandemic.

4. **The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD)** has been asked to share details of a conference at which our colleague, Gareth Makin is presenting. The theme is 'Integrated Rural & Urban Transition Evolution'. Chaired by economist Jim Power, we have 12 inspiring speakers including workshops, panel discussions and a closing address from Minister Hildegarde Naughton, Deputy Minister for Transport. [Link](#)

5. **Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys** has announced the appointment of 5 Ordinary Members to the Charities Regulator. The Charities Regulator is the State organisation responsible for registering and regulating all of Ireland's charities, with the mandate to promote good governance practice. The Minister welcomed the appointment of the new Board members, who were selected further to an open competition through the Public Appointments Service (PAS). [Link](#)

6. **The Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly TD**, has today received Cabinet approval for the abolition of the statutory public in-patient charge for children. The Minister has received approval to draft the General Scheme of a Bill to provide for the abolition of both overnight and day case public in-patient charges for children under 16. These charges have been in place for many years, therefore primary legislation will be needed to amend the Health Act 1970 to abolish the public in-patient charge for children under 16 years of age. The legislation needed to fulfil this objective will now be developed by the Department of Health and the draft Bill will be published as soon as it is finalised. The proposed Bill will remove the existing acute statutory in-patient charge of €80 per night for all children less than 16 years of age in all public hospitals. [Link](#)

7. **Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development, Joe O' Brien, today, (26 April 2022)** chaired the first meeting of the National Advisory Group on the Development of a Government Policy on Philanthropy in Ireland. [Link](#)

8. **The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media** has just announced the Decade of Centenaries History Competition 2022 for primary and post-primary students. The closing date is 27 May 2022 and further information is available at [Link](#)

9. **The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD**, in association with the Managing Director of SuperValu, Mr. Ian Allen, has launched the 2022 SuperValu Tidy Towns competition. The closing date for receipt of entries for this year's competition is Friday 20th May 2022. Entry will only be accepted by email to the tidytowns@drdc.gov.ie address

10. **Harper's Island Wetlands** nature reserve is situated just east of Glnunthune village in Cork Harbour. The nature reserve is owned by Cork County Council and managed by a steering group comprising Cork County Council, BirdWatch Ireland and Glnunthune Community. Now, with support from Cork County Council's Heritage Unit, a 68 page full colour booklet has been produced by Glnunthune Community entitled Harper's Island Wetlands, its History & Wildlife. A pdf version of the booklet, which is currently out of print, is available for download free of charge via this [Link](#)

11. **The National Biodiversity Data Centre**, with support from the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, recently launched the Farmers' Wildlife Calendar for 2022. [Link](#)

12. **The Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine**, Charlie McConalogue, TD, and the Minister of State with Responsibility for Biodiversity and Land Use, Senator Pippa Hackett, have welcomed the signing into law of new legislation relating to Fur Farming and Forestry. The bill had been passed at all stages by the Oireachtas last week.

13. **National Biodiversity Week 2022** takes place from May 15th -22nd and the theme this year is: "Building a shared future for all life". More information can be had on this [link](#)

14. **New Solitary Bee Species in Ireland**, in less than six-months after the arrival of the Ivy Bee, another new solitary bee species has been spotted in Ireland. The Hairy-footed Flower Bee (*Aurhophora plumipes*) has migrated from Britain to set up home in Ireland for the first time. The first sighting was made by Mary Molloy in her garden in Harold's Cross, Dublin on the 27th March 2022. The Hairy-footed Flower Bee is a gorgeous insect and very distinctive.

15. **Cork Cultural Companions** creates local networks of like-minded people interested in arts, heritage and culture who can accompany each other to events. It operates by bringing together like-minded people that meet up regularly to go out either with one other person or as part of a small group. The aim is to provide increased opportunities for older people to engage with Ireland's vibrant cultural and arts scene and it is supported in Cork by the Health Research Board. The ResPOND-E team have set up a [survey](#) to gather information about the experience of persons with disabilities in Ireland, the UK and Spain during the Covid-19 pandemic.

16. **The Cork City Freshwater Monitoring Network** presents The Otters of Cork City and County. The talk is given by Dr Paddy Sleeman from UCC on the 11th of May at 7-9pm in The Glen Resource Centre, Glen Avenue, The Glen. For further information please contact Catherine Skeale-Duggan, Community Water Officer at cskeale@gawaters.ie or 0850805533.

17. **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;

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

Tracton, Castletreke, Leap, Ballinmore and Kibbritan 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 counties to create similar programmes for the benefit of both people and place.

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

To sign up for **Tracton, Castletreke, Leap, Ballinmore or Kibbritan** 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.

Other Newsletters

- **CECAS Newsletter**, [Link](#)
- **The Wheel Weekly Newsletter**, [Link](#)
- **Age Friendly Newsletter**, [Link](#)
- **Tidy Towns Newsletter**, [Link](#)
- **Muirir na Tíre weekly Newsletter**, [Link](#)
- **The All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP) Newsletter**, [Link](#)

To view past PPN newsletters go to [Latest News - Cork County PPN](#)