



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 17/12/2024

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!

Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.

Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has nearly 600 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!

I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week !

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following [link](#).

Check Out our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Morrin & Noelle



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

#fundingfriday



The Wheel is delighted to announce that applications for funding are now open under the **Training Links programme**. Training Networks are invited to apply for grants ranging from €10,000.00 to €50,000.00.

In our biggest round yet, there is a total fund of €575,000.00 available, and applications are welcome from **new, existing, previously funded networks who have completed their programme or previously unsuccessful networks**.

Applications remain open until 5pm on Friday, 7 Feb 2025.

Download the application form here : [Training Links Programme | The Wheel](#)

What is Training Links? Training Links is a funding programme that supports community and voluntary organisations to form Training Networks - groups of a minimum of ten organisations who come together to undertake training that they may not have the opportunity to do individually.

Who can apply? Applications are welcome from community and voluntary organisations based in the Republic of Ireland. To apply, organisations must come together and form a Training Network with a minimum of 10 members.

What is a Training Network? A Training Network is a group of independently run and governed community and voluntary sector organisations who decide to



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come together as a group to undertake training that they may not be able to do individually. The term 'community and voluntary' in this instance includes registered charities, social enterprises, independently run nonprofit organisations who are not charities, and incorporated entities.

What type of training is supported under Training Links?

There are a range of priority training areas covered under Training Links:

- Digital transformation
- Enhance leadership
- Green transition
- Develop new business models
- Achieve high-quality, innovative and responsive workplaces and services
- Address current sector priorities.
-

For further information get in touch with Lauren at traininglinks2025@wheel.ie.



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RETHINK IRELAND

Deadline for applications: 1pm, Friday, January 10th 2025

A Plain English version of the application form is available to [download here](#).
A plain English version of the fund information is available to [download here](#).

What is the Breaking Barriers Fund?

Fund Overview

Rethink Ireland is partnering with the State Street Foundation, and the Department of Rural and Community Development on the **three-year Breaking Barriers Fund** to support projects or organisations that are working towards Equity in both education and the workplace in Ireland. The fund will support access-to-workplace initiatives, sustaining employment and educational initiatives, in support of the fact that educational attainment leads to better employment opportunities.

The **Breaking Barriers Fund** aims to support awardees that **tackle discrimination and inequality in the Irish labour market and education system**. The fund will achieve this through investments in innovative projects offering tailored solutions combating discrimination and inequality in the Irish labour market or education system with outcomes including (but not limited to); **sustainable jobs, work placements & internships as well as training and education**. The ultimate goal of the fund is to find and back change-making projects that support beneficiaries from the minority communities we have identified into sustainable employment, work placements, education or internships while also tackling discrimination, prejudice and inequality.

The fund will focus on projects which rise to the challenges captured in the following themes:

1. **Addressing Discrimination and Inequality:** This includes tackling labour market discrimination and barriers to employment related to race, ethnicity, and nationality.
2. **Increasing Participation and Access:** The fund aims to increase the participation of minority and disadvantaged groups in the labour market and



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facilitate better access to higher education, further education, and apprenticeships for those who face barriers (i.e through tailored employability programmes, holistic skills development courses, bespoke employment supports).

3. **Eliminate Barriers:** This involves reducing both structural and practical barriers to employment, work placements, and educational opportunities for people/groups who face these barriers.
4. **Supporting Career Development and Skills Growth:** The fund supports the career development and personal skills growth of employees/future employees who are under-represented at senior levels.
5. **Systems Change Approach-Empowerment of Marginalised Communities:** The fund aims to empower leaders from marginalised and disadvantaged communities to self-advocate and champion their cause, strengthening networks and partnerships to challenge discriminatory practices and support systemic reforms that enhance access to decent work or education for the most marginalised communities.

Target Groups:

This fund will work with organisations that directly support beneficiaries most affected by discrimination and inequality of access, in both education and employment, from the following population groups:

- Travellers/Roma (minority community)
- Migrant communities including refugees & undocumented migrants (minority community)
- Ethnic minorities (including people of colour)
- Minority religious and cultural groups (minority community)
- People seeking asylum (the majority of whom are living in direct provision)

Further info : [Breaking Barriers Fund - Rethink Ireland](#)



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[LAWPRO Catchment Support Fund 2025](#)

[Press Release: Funding available nationwide to support communities delivering projects to improve water quality - Local Authority Water Programme](#)

The Catchment Support Fund for 2025 is now open for applications and the fund aims to build the capacity of non-governmental organisations working in the area of water quality by providing funding towards their core costs. I have attached the guidance for you to look through.

Organisations who receive operational funding from Government Departments (e.g. Tidy Towns Groups, Group Water Schemes, etc.) are not eligible where grant aid funding is available for eligible costs from other funding sources. Groups that receive membership fees may not be eligible for all elements of Stream 1 funding i.e., insurance, audited accounts, etc.

The fund is divided into two streams which cover the following:

Stream 1

- Statutory and/or legal responsibilities
- Training and other capacity building costs
- Auditing/accounting fees
- Insurance associated with catchment management
- Website annual support cost
- Organisation promotional materials
- Group development activities (e.g., Development of group plan/strategy; group management; governance assistance).

Stream 2

- Funding towards your organisation's core costs. Core costs include staff salaries, rent, rates.
- Costs to help your organisation be more resilient in the future, for example, adapting business plans, corporate governance improvements, risk management reviews and piloting new ways of working.
- Training and skills development costs.
- Costs associated with the hiring of new or contract staff to help deliver the organisations Work Programme. A clear job description for the post must be provided with your application.



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As the deadline is Tuesday 14th of January 2025 at 5pm, a **Support Clinic** and questions and answers session will take place online at **12.30pm to 1.30pm on Wednesday 18th of December**. Please contact Ellen Murphy if you would like to attend and she will send you the Zoom link -

Ellen Murphy | Community Water Officer

Cork City & County

Email: EMurphy@lawaters.ie

Mobile: 085 850 0392

Local Authority Waters Programme

Clár Uiscí na nÚdarás Áitiúil

Cork County Council Offices

Inniscarra, Co. Cork P31 X738

OTHER FUNDING SCHEMES OF INTEREST

[The Heritage Council: Organisations Support Fund](#)

The Heritage Organisations Support Fund aims to build the capacity of non-governmental organisations working in the heritage sector in Ireland by providing funding towards their core costs.

Recognising the critical role heritage projects play in addressing climate change and biodiversity loss, the Heritage Organisations Support Fund 2025 prioritises support for projects that **demonstrate environmentally sustainable practices**.

This funding will provide support to:



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- develop and strengthen the skills, processes, and resources that heritage organisations need to survive, adapt, and thrive.
- heritage organisations who play a key role in the heritage infrastructure of Ireland and to help achieve national policy and plans.

Further information can be found at this link: [Heritage Organisations Support Fund | The Heritage Council](#)

[The National Parks and Wildlife Service \(NPWS\) Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2025](#)

A fund of up to €600,000 is being made available to support community-led projects as part of the Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme 2025. The Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme (PNCES) operated by the National Parks and Wildlife Service, is now open for applications for 2025 with a closing date of 24 January 2025.

The Scheme aims to encourage communities, local organisations and other interested parties to become involved in the enhancement of their natural surrounding areas and to raise awareness. Applications are welcomed across a diverse range of initiatives with community benefit from events, education programmes, promotions, publications, exhibitions, development of conservation management plans, public amenity and recreational measures, maintenance measures that support conservation measures, monitoring or surveying work to inform of restoration/conservation projects, invasive species and fire control measures, anti-littering initiatives to local environmental improvements in the area of the designated sites and other peatland areas.

Further information can be found at <https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-and-natura-community-engagement-scheme-2025>.



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Come work with us!

We still have a number of vacancies across our Secretariat, LCDCs and SPCs Please see our website & nomination forms to get involved - <https://corkcountypn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/>

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) are local authority committees in city and county councils whose membership includes elected councillors, representatives of business, farming interests, trade unions, the environment, social inclusion and the community sectors. The PPN is responsible for the election of environment, social inclusion and the community sectors Reps onto SPCs. To find out more about the scheme, you can read the [STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE SCHEME 2024- 2029](#) on the Cork County Council's website.

It is the task of the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), as committees of the council, to advise and assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy. They have no remit in relation to routine operational matters regarding the delivery of services. The SPC system is intended to give councillors and relevant sectoral interests an opportunity for full involvement in the policy making process from the early stages.

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-SPC-Nomination form final](#)



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Remaining SPC Vacancies:

Committee/ Pillar :

Economic Development SPC:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| Environment seat | Vacant |
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Housing SPC:

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|------------------|--------|
| Environment seat | Vacant |
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Planning & Strategic Development SPC:

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| Environment seat | Vacant |
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Social Inclusion, Community & Rural SPC:

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|-----------------------|--------|
| Social Inclusion seat | Vacant |
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| Environment seat | Vacant |
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Tourism SPC:

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|-----------------------|--------|
| Social Inclusion seat | Vacant |
|-----------------------|--------|

Arts, Culture & Languages SPC:

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|----------------------------|--------|
| Community & Voluntary seat | Vacant |
|----------------------------|--------|

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|------------------|--------|
| Environment seat | Vacant |
|------------------|--------|

Coastal, Marine and Flooding SPC:

| | |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Social Inclusion seat | Vacant |
|-----------------------|--------|



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Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) North, South and West

The Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) were set up as part of the [Local Government Reform Act 2014](#) in each Local Authority area. The aim of LCDCs is to enhance the strategic planning and coordination of local and community development activity. LCDCs comprise public and private sector members, including Local Authority members and officials, state agencies, and private sector local and community development representatives.

Functions

The key functions of the LCDCs are as follows:

- Prepare the community elements of a 6 year [Local Economic & Community Plan \(LECP\) \(pdf\)](#)
- Implement, or arrange to implement, the community elements of the LECP
- Monitor implementation of the LECP
- Coordinate, manage and oversee the implementation of local & community development programmes, for example: SICAP and the Rural Development Programme
- Improve coordination and reduce duplication of efforts
- Consider a draft of the economic elements of the LECP Plan and adopt a statement in this regard
- Prepare an annual report

Cork County Council has established three LCDCs, aligned with the local government administrative boundaries of North, South and West Cork. Each LCDC can have between seventeen and nineteen members. There must be a mix of both public sector and private sector representatives, with the majority of the members coming from the private sector.

Current LCDC Vacancies :

- **North Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies, 2 Community & Voluntary vacancies, 1 Environment vacancy)
- **South Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies, 2 Community & Voluntary vacancies, 1 Environment vacancy)



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- **West Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies, 2 Community & Voluntary vacancies, 1 Environment vacancy)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form](#)

DEADLINE : 20 December 2024

Secretariat Vacancies :

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN.

In particular its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN
- Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff

The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Current Vacancies:

Vacant seat – Carrigaline Municipal District

Vacant seat – West Cork Municipal District

Vacant seat – Macroom Municipal District

Vacant seat – Environmental Electoral College

[Cork-County-Secretariat-Nomination-form](#)



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Training



Public
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Networks
Ireland



Registrations are still open for an **online only self-paced training programme for PPN stakeholders** that is being provided by Social Justice Ireland (SJI) on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

The online **training covers** the following:

- An Introduction to the PPNs
- Local Government Budgets
- PPNs and Local Government
- Effective Participation in Consultations
- Effective Facilitation
- Strategic Planning
- Measuring Outcomes and Impacts

This is online only and is **intended for self-directed learning at the learner's own pace**. There are no scheduled classes as part of this training. SJI will provide some support via the webform on each Module page.

This **training is available to:**

- PPN Workers
- PPN Secretariat Members
- PPN Representatives
- PPN Member Groups
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Councillors

For a **taster of the course** content, I'm linking the slides of session 'PPNs and Local Government – Section 2' on the role of the PPN

representative: https://www.canva.com/design/DAGY_b3rXWM/1fjlxZTPYhrJkORLckcxSA/view

To register for free, please complete the Registration Form at the following link: <https://www.socialjustice.ie/register/register-training>



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Workshop material from Training Sessions provided by The Wheel for PPN stakeholders is available online.

Themes included:

Basics of Employment and HR Practice

Successful Communication for Community Groups and Voluntary Boards

Leading Communities: the Role of the Board or Committee Member

Social Media

Procurement

Strategic Planning

All of these and more training sessions can be found on this webpage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/b4571-public-participation-networks-latest-news/>



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CHRISTMAS ROAD SAFETY CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED



The Road Safety Authority is urging drivers nationwide to stay safe and sober this festive season as new data from the Medical Bureau of Road Safety (MBRS) show concerningly high levels of alcohol and other drugs in driver toxicology testing.

With December bringing holiday celebrations into full swing, the RSA, An Garda Síochána and the MBRS are urging motorists to stay drug and alcohol free to prevent collisions and protect all road users this Christmas.

During the month of December 2023, 14 people lost their lives on Irish roads and 124 were seriously injured. So far this year, there have been 165 people killed on Irish roads. The RSA, An Garda Síochána, and MBRS are calling on everyone to act responsibly to prevent further tragedies on Irish roads. Each life lost is a family left grieving and forever shattered.

RSA behaviour and attitudes research, conducted in November 2024, found that 11% of motorists admitted to driving after consuming any alcoholic drink in the past 12 months. Meanwhile, 25% of motorists said: "it is acceptable to drive short distances in your local area after consuming one alcoholic drink".

An Garda Síochána

To date in 2024, An Garda Síochána have carried out over 100,000 checkpoints, averaging 300 checkpoints per day.

- Almost 50% of checkpoints are Mandatory Intoxicant checkpoints (MIT), established under statutory orders, an increase of 16% over the same period in 2023.
- Breath tests (alcohol) have increased by 26% over 2023.
- Oral Fluid Tests (Drugs) have increased by 57% over 2023.
- To end November 2024, over 7000 drivers have been arrested on suspicion of Driving under the influence of Alcohol or Drugs, over 1 driver every hour, every day.
- 56% of arrests are alcohol related. 44% drugs related. The number of drug driving detections is up 11% on 2023.



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**DRIVING UNDER THE INFLUENCE
IMPAIRS YOUR JUDGEMENT AND
REACTIONS.**

DON'T RISK IT.
PLAN AHEAD. BE SAFE.

Cork County Council
Road Safety Education



Those that take drugs or have alcohol before getting into the car to drive are playing roulette with their own life and the lives of other road users.





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Stay safe online this Christmas! - Upgrade Scam targeting mobile phone users

CURRENT THREAT

Cork County Council's ICT Security have been made aware of an ongoing scam targeting mobile phone users. Scammers are impersonating mobile phone provider representatives and using deceptive tactics to gain access to your account in order to steal valuable mobile devices. Here is how the scam works and how to protect yourself.

How the Scam Works

1. **Cold Call:** The scammer calls you, claiming to be from a mobile provider, offering an upgrade on your mobile phone contract or some other offer. At this stage they try to confuse the victim by being unclear about why they are ringing.
2. **Account Access:** While on the call, the scammer uses the "Forgot Password" option on the mobile providers website. This triggers a verification code to be sent to your phone.
3. **Code Request:** The scammer asks you to read out the verification code, claiming it's necessary to process your upgrade.
4. **Account Hacked:** Once the scammer has the code, they reset your online account password and gain full access.
5. **Fraudulent Order:** The scammer orders a high-value phone to be delivered to your address.
6. **Second Call:** After the phone arrives, the scammer contacts you again. When you express confusion or refusal, they offer to "resolve the issue" by collecting the phone and processing a refund.
7. **Collection:** The scammer arranges for the phone to be collected, leaving you without the device and potentially liable for the cost

How to Protect Yourself

- **Never Share Verification Codes:** No legitimate company will ever ask for a one-time code or password over the phone
- **Verify the Caller:** If someone claims to be from your mobile provider, hang up and call your provider directly using the official customer service number
- **Monitor your account:** Regularly check your account for unauthorised activity or changes
- **Use strong, Unique passwords:** Avoid using easily guessed passwords and enable additional security features, such as two factor authentication, if available

ALWAYS REMEMBER TO...



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IT Security is critical both in your work and home life and these types of attacks may increase over time so please err on the side of caution and be vigilant at all times.

Always Remember to...

- *Be SUSPICIOUS of e-mails that ask for personal information*
- *Do NOT click on links in an e-mail / text that you are suspicious of*
- *NEVER open attachments or click links in suspicious e-mails / texts*
- *NEVER send your password or personal information in response to any e-mail, even if it does not seem suspicious*



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PPN News!

In a slight change to proceedings, our **Group of the Week** for this week is **Our Secretariat & newly appointed SPC Reps!**

The Secretariat Christmas Function was held on 13 December 2024, in “Vertigo” (the top floor of County Hall!) and it’s safe to say everyone brought their Christmas Spirit!

To welcome the newly elected SPC Representatives, we compiled gift bags of fabulous merchandise generously provided by departments in Cork County Council, such as Tourism, Healthy Ireland, Corporate Services and Health Promotion. We were so grateful for everyone’s kindness & support.

We held a raffle on the evening, and we would like to thank our generous sponsors –

Shanbally Shop & Deli - <https://www.facebook.com/daybreak-shanbally>

Stonewall Garden Centre -

<https://www.facebook.com/StonewallGardenCentreCarriglaine>

The Kingsley Hotel – <https://thekingsley.ie/>

Brook Foods - <https://brookfoods.ie/>



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Check out our gorgeous gang!



Three wise men!





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Lovely girls competition!



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Speaking of ...



Housewife of the Year, featuring our very own Ena Howell is showing in the Briary Gap Macroom on Womens' Little Christmas, 6 January 2024 .

“Between 1969 and 1995, women all over Ireland competed to win the Housewife of the Year, a competition celebrating “cooking, nurturing, and basic household management skills”. Broadcast on RTÉ from 1982, the programmes featured not just the competition itself but also footage of the contestants at home – creating a vivid, nationwide tapestry of ordinary lives. Here, former contestants share our bewilderment at their acceptance of societal strictures and recount their experiences of marriage bars, contraception, Magdalene institutions, financial vulnerability, marital breakdown, and shame. The film is a poignant, often



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hilarious, and uplifting story of a generation of resilient women and a country in transition.” Notes by Sunniva O’Flynn

“Housewife of the Year: A wistful celebration of a generation of Irish women who competed for £300 and a gas stove Ciaran Cassidy’s fine documentary is filled with much sadness but also allows a fair degree of celebration” Donald Clark: The Irish Times



Book tickets Here - IFI@BrieryGap: [Housewife of the Year](#)

When: 6 Jan 2025

Time: 8pm

Rating PG



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A big hello to our newly registered groups:

Skibbereen Playground Committee

Canto Community Choir

All Abilities Ireland

Bantry Tidy Towns

Lisgould Leamlara Community Council

Monkstown Community Heritage Group

Cork Cultural Champions

Macroom History Group

Mallow Indian Association (MIA)

Sanctuary Runners

Courseys Integrated Rural Development



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Job Vacancies:

Please note that the following position is currently advertised:

- **24-158 Temporary Full-time Pool Assistant - Dunmanway Swimming Pool**
- **24-159 Full-time Pool Assistant - Mallow Swimming Pool**

Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is **12:00p.m. on Tuesday, 31st December 2024**

Application Form and Details are available on the Cork County Council Website – Careers Section

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/council/careers>

And finally for now:



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

