



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## E - Bulletin Newsletter 31/01/2025

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

Get Involved! We continue to seek LCDC nominations.



Public Participation  
Network Cork County



Cork  
County Council  
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

**DO YOU WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN  
CORK COUNTY ?**

**LOCAL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE (LCDC) POSITIONS AVAILABLE**

- ARE YOU A MEMBER OF A COMMUNITY GROUP ?
- IS YOUR GROUP REGISTERED WITH THE CORK COUNTY PPN ?
- ARE YOU INTERESTED IN TAKING AN LCDC POSITION ?

**Application forms available on  
our website :**

**[www.corkcountyppn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/](http://www.corkcountyppn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/)**

**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)

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

**For further information, email : [ppn@corkcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@corkcoco.ie) , or  
call**

**021 428 5340 or 086 059 7563**

We are seeking Social Inclusion nominations in  
North Cork and South Cork.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

Come along!

### THE WHEEL ROADSHOW IN CORK

#### The Wheel are taking their supports and services on the road!

Through a series of regional events, they will showcase everything membership of The Wheel has to offer, share valuable resources and spotlight local voices.

Their first stop is Cork City, where they will hold an in-person event dubbed “The Wheel Roadshow” on Wednesday 09 April 2025 (10am – 3pm) in Nano Nagle Place.

This is your opportunity to:

- **Learn** from expert panels, tailored training sessions, and local case studies.
- **Connect** with other members of the community and meet The Wheel team in person.

#### Event Highlights

- **Panel Discussions:** Explore skills, leadership, and advocacy with local and national experts.
- **Hands-On Training:** Gain practical tools for funding, communications, and more.
- **Networking Opportunities:** Engage with peers, funders and other sector providers over a networking lunch.
- **Feedback Forums:** Share your needs and ideas to help us better support you.

Learn more about membership here: <https://www.wheel.ie/membership>

**Click here to register - [The Wheel Roadshow in Cork | The Wheel](#)**

- You can book places for yourself and/or colleagues by clicking the button below.
- This event will take place in-person

- Please email [matthew@wheel.ie](mailto:matthew@wheel.ie) if you have any special requirements.



## Public Participation Network Cork County



*Gavin Falk's Friday Fact:*

*“All our food ultimately comes from God .... wheat for bread, eggs, water etc etc but there’s only one product on sale in a supermarket that has a biblical reference on its cover! And that is ....: - Lyle’s Golden syrup .... where it quotes “out of the strong came forth sweetness” (referring to bees).*

*Incidentally the packaging of this product is still exactly the same as when it was originally introduced in 1885....140years unchanged.”*

Thank you, Gavin, we’ll look forward to next week’s tidbit!  
No pressure!!



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Group of the Week: Inniscarra Historical Society



Margaret Baker of Inniscarra Historical Society has asked us to highlight that the Annual Memorial Parade of The Dripsey Ambush takes place on Sunday March 2nd 2025 starting in Dripsey Cross at 3.00 pm.

Mary O'Mahony Local Historian/ Author will give the Oration.

\*\*\*\*\*

As always, we would love to hear what our fabulous groups are up to ! Whether it's a Tidy Towns group clearing the weeds for the summer bedding, or a knitting circle bathing in custard to raise money for a charity – let us know! You could be our next group of the week!





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***#fundingfriday***

## **Cork County Council Announces €1.8 million Fund to Support Communities**

Cork County Council has announced support of over €1.8 million to enhance community engagement and facilities in 2025. The Community Fund Scheme supports a range of projects and initiatives by local voluntary groups and organisations each year and opens for applications on Monday the 13th of January.

Last year, 398 groups including Tidy Towns, community associations and sports clubs benefited from the fund, using it to create gardens, deliver infrastructure projects, buy sports equipment, and improve their facilities.

The Community Fund Scheme is administered locally by the eight Municipal Districts across the county under three distinct fund types: The Capital Fund, Community Contract and The Amenity Fund.

Guidelines for the scheme and details for online applications are available at the link below. Applications will close at 4.00pm on Friday the 14th of February 2025.

Further information, including contact details for Municipal District Offices are available [here](#).

[Municipal District Community Fund Scheme | Cork County Council](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Local Enhancement Programme 2025



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

The Department of Rural and Community Development Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2025 will provide capital and current funding to support community groups across Ireland.

The capital funding will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, purchase equipment such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment etc.

The current funding will support groups/organisations with running costs associated with their facilities and groups – such as electricity bills, insurance, refuse costs, rental costs, etc.

This funding will help communities, community groups and committees, allowing them to continue to provide valuable services to the people in their area, and in the process strengthen the bonds that tie communities together. The fund also aims to support local strategic priorities through linkages with Local Economic Community Plans (LECPs).

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Please see the following link for a press release by the Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and the Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien TD: [Press Release](#).

- Capital funding for use towards carrying out necessary repairs and improvements to facilities, purchase of equipment, etc.  
**(For drawdown, capital costs must cover period from LCDC grant approval date to 31st October 2025)**
- Current funding (Non-Pay) for use towards running/operating costs, e.g. Utility costs, insurance, audit/accountancy fees, etc.  
**(Costs related to the period from 1st June 2024 – 30th May 2025 only eligible under this category to be claimed by 31st October 2025)**



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**Please read and make yourself familiar with the Application Guidelines below for the 'Local Enhancement Programme 2025' before completing the online forms. Closing date for applications is Monday the 17th of February at 3.00pm**

[Local Enhancement Programme | Cork County Council](#)





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## **Cork County Council's Circular Economy Fund 2025 Open for Applications**



Cork County Council has launched a second round of its Circular Economy Fund, with the aim of empowering local action to reduce waste. The fund aims to support communities to move away from the traditional linear 'take-make-use-dispose' model towards more circular living where resources are reused or recycled.

This year, schools, community groups, sports clubs, and festivals are invited to submit proposals aimed at minimising single use plastics. These plastic materials pose a significant threat to our environment, contributing to pollution in our oceans and harming wildlife.

With an increasing demand from the public to reduce single use plastics and a desire from communities to act, the fund will support projects such as the installation of temporary or permanent water refill stations or reusable cup or container schemes in schools, community buildings, sports clubs and at festivals. The Council hopes to build on the success of recent years, which has seen over 40 water refill stations installed in schools and community buildings as well as numerous pilot mobile hydration stations at events across the county.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Joe Carroll welcomed the return of the fund saying, "Reducing single use plastics is an important step in our journey to cutting waste,



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conserving resources, and protecting our environment. Cork County Council's Circular Economy Fund is designed to support communities in their transition to more sustainable practices. We have already seen many successful projects from community groups in the first year of this fund and I look forward to seeing many more this year."

Applications for the Circular Economy Fund are now open and will be accepted online until Friday the 21st of February at 5:00pm. Eligible applicants in the Cork County Council administrative area include schools, community groups, sports clubs, festivals and events. Commercial, for-profit bodies are not eligible. Only applications addressing the single use plastics theme will be assessed in the 2025 Fund, the ambition is to focus on a wider range of circular themes in future years.

For further information and to apply, visit the Council's website at [www.corkcoco.ie](http://www.corkcoco.ie) or contact Cork County Council's Environmental Awareness Office at [cefund@corkcoco.ie](mailto:cefund@corkcoco.ie) or 021 4532700.



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# APPLY NOW FOR THE 2025 COLLABORATION AND INNOVATION FUND

The Collaboration and Innovation Fund is a great opportunity to fund projects and activities that support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy, digital and financial literacy needs.

### **How much funding is available?**

In 2025, the total funding available in the Collaboration and Innovation Fund is €1 million.

The funding will be divided into two strands as follows:

**€750,000 for local and national projects that provide innovative and collaborative ways to:**

- support adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and
- create a more literacy friendly and equal society.

**€250,000 for local and national projects that support innovative and collaborative ways to:**

- improve financial literacy skills for adults with unmet literacy, numeracy and digital literacy needs, and
- create a more literacy friendly approach to accessing financial services.

### **Why has the fund been divided?**

Ireland's first National Financial Literacy Strategy will be published in 2025. To support this, the Consumer and Competition Protection Commission (CCPC) has given €250,000 for projects on financial literacy.

### **How do I apply?**

Read the [2025 Collaboration and Innovation Fund Guidelines](#).

You need to [complete an online application form](#).

The deadline for submitting your application is 5pm, Friday 7 February 2025.

[Apply Now for the 2025 Collaboration and Innovation Fund | The Wheel](#)



**Public Participation  
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**traininglinks**

## **GRANTS AVAILABLE FOR SECTOR UPSKILLING - APPLY NOW!**

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**.

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**.

**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 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:



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

Find out everything you need to know about Training Links [here](#) or get in touch with us at [traininglinks2025@wheel.ie](mailto:traininglinks2025@wheel.ie).



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### **NO IDEA WHERE YOU'RE GOING WITH EU FUNDING ?**

See the link below to access the European Commission's EU Funding & Tenders Portal Online Manual. Here you can read up on everything from Finding a Funding Call, Submitting a Proposal, Eligibility Checks, Finding a Project Partner and so on !

**Definitely one to bookmark!!**

[Online Manual - Online Manual - Funding Tenders Opportunities](#)





## Public Participation Network Cork County



### **EirGrid announces opening of next phase of €2.4m community benefit fund**

EirGrid, the operator and developer of Ireland's electricity grid has announced the opening of the next phase of community benefit sharing for the Celtic Interconnector project. Applications for the second phase of the €2.4 million fund are now being welcomed, with €841,013 in funding available to eligible communities and voluntary groups.

The Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund was established by EirGrid to recognise the importance of local communities who facilitate this critical development of the electricity grid and will benefit groups and projects in the east Cork project area.

The Celtic Interconnector, a 575km subsea link between Ireland and France, will enable the movement of electricity between the two countries, making our electricity supply more secure. The community benefit fund is open to community groups and not-for-profit organisations who can demonstrate benefits to communities from the services, programmes or facilities they provide in the project area, under three streams of funding: community, sustainability and biodiversity.

Funding of €240,000 will be available for community projects, €240,000 for sustainability projects and €361,013 for biodiversity projects, with a €121,013 underspend carried over from the first phase of the fund under the biodiversity stream.

The first phase of the Celtic Interconnector Community Benefit Fund saw 29 community groups receive a total of €838,987, with funding supporting a wide range of projects, from the funding of an electric vehicle community bus, the funding of LED floodlights for Youghal Rugby Football Club, to supporting the development of a school's sensory garden.

Speaking about the fund opening, Sinead Dooley, Head of Public Engagement, EirGrid said: *"We're delighted to open the next phase of this fund and build on the incredible projects already completed. These initiatives demonstrate the power of collaboration and show how targeted support can make a real difference. We strongly encourage communities to apply, particularly for projects with a biodiversity focus."*

Dooley added, *"This fund shows EirGrid's commitment to supporting local communities as they further environmental sustainability and civic initiatives. We want to thank all the communities*



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*in east Cork who have collaborated with us so far as we work to deliver this strategic energy project and we look forward to seeing what can be achieved through this latest phase of funding.”*

Deadline for application is March 14, 2025.

For more details on eligibility, please visit [Celtic Interconnector | Projects | EirGrid](#)



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## PPN News



The first Regional PPN Staff Network meeting of 2025 took place in Tipperary this week!

Always great to meet everyone, hear what others are up to and share ideas to strengthen communities across the country!

Looking forward to the next one already!



## Public Participation Network Cork County



On Wednesday 22 January, we had the great opportunity to attend a Tidy Towns showcase hosted by Cork County Mayor Joe Carroll, and new CEO Moira Murrell. It was a lovely morning. We got to meet amazing Tidy Towns groups from all over the County – some who were not involved with Cork County PPN are going to register with us now! We will hit that 600-member mark very soon!! Exciting times!!

### **Interested in getting involved?**

See our website – where you can see our full list of vacancies!

[Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Upcoming Training Opportunities

Cork County PPN is excited to continue facilitating training for our members in 2025. See the following survey, where you can let us know what you think would be useful for your group, and we'll try our best to offer it - <https://form.jotform.com/250073905528053>

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### The Wheel and Open University Learning Hub

Looking for some free, easy to access training for your staff? The Wheel and Open University have collaborated to create a collection of free courses and resources to support the development of leadership skills within the charity and community sector in Ireland.

The offering available [here](#) is a shop window into the wide range of training available through Open University.

The current offering contains topics particularly suited to those in leadership positions such as board members. The modules include Understanding and Managing Risk, Working in Groups and Teams and Effective Communication in the Workplace. The best part? You can combine whichever elements that you like the look of, no need to complete all the resources on offer.





## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Leaders for Change Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management



*Leaders for Change*, the Level 9 Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management, delivered by [Quality Matters](#), in conjunction with [The Wheel](#) and [National College of Ireland](#), is now accepting candidates for January 2025.

*Leaders for Change* is an applied programme, aimed at improving specific managerial and leadership competencies for managers and executives in Irish nonprofit organisations. The course combines academic, evidence-based practices with practitioner-led knowledge and skills.

[Full details and application process available here.](#)

If you would like to learn more about this course, please contact Regina Dunne on [regina.dunne@ncirl.ie](mailto:regina.dunne@ncirl.ie).





## Public Participation Network Cork County



### Future Board Leaders 2025 Now Taking Expressions of Interest from Boards and Candidates

The Leadership Academy and Boardmatch are delighted to announce that they are now taking expressions of interest from both candidates and Boards for our 2025 Future Board Leaders (FBL) programme!

FBL is a programme which aims to bring new and diverse voices to Irish charity boards.

In 2023 they found a group of 22 people from all walks of Irish life who had limited or no charity board experience. Successful applicants were provided with director training and were matched with charity boards based on their interests. [Click here for more info.](#)

Charities who are interested in diversifying their membership are also recruited to meet with candidates. When a successful appointment is made, the charity provides additional support to the new trustee. [Learn more here.](#)

*To date the programme has placed and supported 36 new voices onto Irish charity boards.*

If you are a potential candidate who would like more info, email [Sharon@wheel.ie](mailto:Sharon@wheel.ie) and if you are a board who requires more info, email [Hannahcoleman@boardmatch.ie](mailto:Hannahcoleman@boardmatch.ie).



## Public Participation Network Cork County



### Public Affairs Ireland Accredited Training

Public Affairs Ireland hold their three most popular listings in early 2025:

1. Certificate in Effective Leadership
2. Certificate in Human Resource Management
3. Certificate in Corporate Governance.

Please register your interest at [jcoonan@pai.ie](mailto:jcoonan@pai.ie), and see [www.pai.ie](http://www.pai.ie).

The Leadership Academy have partnered with PAI to provide a 33% discount until the week they commence.

Join for networking and peer learning opportunities!



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### Certificate in Charity Law, Trusteeship and Governance 2025

The charity sector has faced many challenges in recent times which have had a particular impact on fundraising, governance and service continuity. Additionally, the long-awaited enactment of the Charities (Amendment) Act 2024 herald a period of significant changes to the sector in Ireland.

This course, which represents a collaboration between the Law Society of Ireland and The Wheel, provides practitioners and those working in charitable, social enterprise and community organisations with an overview of the law and best practice in the relevant areas. The course has a very practical emphasis and will equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to maintain integrity and uphold standards.

Find out more and book directly with The Law Society [here](#).



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

From all in Cork County PPN, especially our Secretariat Chairperson, Pauline O Dwyer –  
Happy St. Brigid's Day and have a lovely Bank Holiday Weekend!

