



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 14/02/2025

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



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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 if you have any special requirements.



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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.



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Gavin Falk's Friday Fact:

“it’s now predicted that by 2040 ...only 15 years away!
..... there will be more robots on our planet than
humanoidsi.e. people!!!”

Or if you don’t like the above& you want to live longer?be positive or become more positive, because Japanese research now shows you will live on average 8 more years if you are optimistic or more positive. Seems worth becoming optimistic & happier!!

Thank you, Gavin, we’ll look forward to next week’s tidbit!



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Group of the Week:

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

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.



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(Costs related to the period from 1st June 2024 – 30th May 2025 only eligible under this category to be claimed by 31st October 2025)

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 or contact Cork County Council's Environmental Awareness Office at cefund@corkcoco.ie or 021 4532700.



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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](#)



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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](#)



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RISE COMMUNITY FUND TO AWARD CASH GRANTS THROUGHOUT FEBRUARY

The RISE Community Fund has announced plans to award new cash grants to small businesses, farms, social enterprises, schools, charities and community groups, with funding available to those who can demonstrate innovative plans to use technology to scale the positive impact of their work and benefit the local community.

Applications for the cash grants open today and close on 28 February 2025. Grants of up to €1000 will be available to successful applicants across the country.

Supported by National Broadband Ireland (NBI), the company responsible for delivering the Irish Government's National Broadband Plan, as well as other corporate partners including KN Circet, KPMG, Test Triangle, DreamDev Technologies and TLI Group, the RISE Community Fund has travelled the breadth of the country in recent years to provide a cash injection for community organisations thinking creatively about how they can use technology.

Previous grant recipients include farm owners who are using technologies to improve the productivity and environmental impact of their practice; community groups upskilling local residents in new technologies; schools introducing children to coding and cutting edge advancements; and small businesses using technology to grow their operations nationally and internationally.

The application process is incredibly quick and easy, and successful applicants will be notified in March, with money following in quick succession.

Read more about the RISE Community Fund and gain access to the grant application at riseglobalfoundation.com.



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2025 CHILDMINDING DEVELOPMENT GRANT OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

The Childminding Development Grant provides up to €1,000 to assist both registered and unregistered childminders who are providing a childminding service in their own homes.

Applications for the 2025 Childminding Development Grant open on Tuesday, 4 February and close on Friday, 4 April.

The grant aims to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service through the purchase of toys, childcare equipment, safety equipment, equipment to support inclusion and Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Maths (STEAM) education, as well as IT equipment to assist childminders to engage with training and registration processes.

The grant scheme is open to all childminders, including those who are planning to open a childminding business during 2025. 75% of the grant is paid in advance to help childminders with the upfront costs of purchasing equipment.

Making today's announcement, Norma Foley, Minister for Children, Disability and Equality said:

"I am delighted to announce the launch of the 2025 Childminding Development Grant as one of the first actions in my term of office as Minister.

"Childminders play an essential part in the provision of childcare in all parts of the country, and I am fully committed to recognizing and supporting their important role, and to following through on the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028.

"I encourage childminders to avail of this funding opportunity, whether they are already registered or would like support in advance of registration over the next couple of years.

"The Childminding Development Grant provides funding for quality and safety equipment and can also be used to contribute to IT equipment."

The total budget of €500,000 reflects the high demand for the grant in previous years. It also reflects the Government's commitment to support childminders to prepare for registration with Tusla. In line with the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028, regulations written specifically for childminders came into effect for the first time



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in September 2024, making it possible for all childminders to register with Tusla and take part in the National Childcare Scheme (NCS).

Those childminders who were previously exempt from regulation have a three-year transition period until 2027 during which they are now able to register with Tusla but are not yet required to do so.

For further information about the Childminding Development Grant or the National Action Plan for Childminding 2021-2028, visit www.gov.ie/childminding or contact your local City or County Childcare Committee.



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COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME

An annual grant scheme for community groups and not-for-profit non-governmental organisations around the country for heritage projects.

This scheme is intended to enable communities and heritage non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to continue their work on existing projects or to start new initiatives.

A broad range of project types are eligible for funding under the scheme including:

- Workshops and training events that promote good heritage practice, in particular, we are interested in traditional building skills, craft skills, graveyard recording and biodiversity training.
- Development of Digital Heritage Resources including digitisation, online exhibitions, oral history recordings, podcasts, and films. You need to make sure that the digital outputs you create with grant funding are **available, open, and accessible**.
- Conservation surveys, reports, plans, and audits that will inform the future management of buildings and monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.
- Conservation works to buildings, monuments, habitats, collections, or objects. Conservation works must include an assessment of potential impacts on biodiversity and climate and outline measures to ensure positive outcomes. For example, habitat restoration, sustainable management of invasive species, or improving energy efficiency in heritage buildings.
- Purchase of specialised equipment or items that support conservation or improve access to heritage.

Who can apply?

The scheme is open to:

- Voluntary and community groups for example parish councils, tidy Towns groups, local action groups etc
- Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) including not for profit trusts



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- Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) participants (non governmental organisations only)
- Adopt a Monument Programme participants

The applicant group must have a current bank/credit union account in their name.

The Scheme is **not open** to

- Private companies
- Individuals
- Public bodies or organisations controlled either directly or indirectly by any state or other body.

More information: [Community Heritage Grant Scheme | The Heritage Council](#)



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BRIGHTER FUTURES FUND 2025 – 2028

What is the Brighter Futures Fund?

The Brighter Futures Fund is a three-year fund aimed at improving mental health and wellbeing for marginalised groups in Ireland. We invite applications from projects and organisations that proactively identify mental health challenges within marginalised communities, enabling early intervention that can prevent the escalation of these issues. This fund is created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with an anonymous donor and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Brighter Futures Fund will support organisations representing a diverse range of vulnerable groups in Ireland dedicated to addressing mental health and wellbeing disparities. These may include groups such as LGBTQI+, Traveller, Roma, migrant, or refugee communities and other vulnerable groups.

Whilst this fund aims to support projects and organisations focusing on early intervention, we understand that such a timely intervention is not always possible. Therefore, the projects/organisations who apply for the Brighter Futures Fund can be working across the full spectrum of mental health initiatives, including early interventions, wellbeing and resilience programmes, confidence-building supports, and/or initiatives for fighting depression/social anxiety/loneliness/stress etc. This is not an exhaustive list. We want to back organisations who will equip marginalised communities with the skills they need to improve and maintain their mental health and wellbeing over time.

The Fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial supports to the value of €1.9 million for up to six projects to help them expand and increase their social impact.

This includes:



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- Up to six awards of up to €285,000 (up to €95,000 per year for three years)
- The non-financial supports include:
 - a place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
 - bespoke business and capacity-building supports designed in consultation with successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, maximising your impact, communications, storytelling and fundraising
- Access to Rethink Ireland's networks

** The Rethink Ireland Board will decide how much money to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The final award amount will depend on how many organisations are selected.*

You can apply to the Brighter Futures Fund via the [online portal](#) from Monday, 27 January 2025 to Monday, 24 March 2025.

Want more information? Join one of our application clinics on Wednesday, 19 February, or Wednesday, 5 March. These one-hour webinars provide more details on fund eligibility and the application process and an opportunity to answer any questions. Register for an application clinic here:

- Wednesday, 19 February at 2 pm – [REGISTER](#)
- Wednesday, 5 March at 11 am – [REGISTER](#)

For any questions you may have, please contact: brighterfutures@rethinkireland.ie.



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HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE SCHEME

What the Humanitarian Assistance Scheme

is:

The Humanitarian Assistance Scheme provides income tested financial assistance to households affected by a severe weather event. It is administered by the Community Welfare Service.

The scheme aims to lighten the hardship rather than provide full compensation for damage.

The scheme may cover:

- emergency support payments, such as food, clothing and personal items
- damage to your home and its essential contents, such as carpets, flooring, furniture, household appliances and bedding
- structural damage

The scheme does not cover:

- losses covered by an insurance policy
- loss of items deemed to be inessential or luxury items
- commercial, agricultural or business losses
- structural loss or damage to rented accommodation
- any additional properties that are not occupied and lived in as the primary residence
- repair or replacement of motor vehicles

In dealing with emergency events the department generally adopts a three-stage approach as follows:

- Stage 1 provides emergency support payments (food/clothing/personal items) in the immediate aftermath of the event



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- Stage 2 involves the replacement of white goods, basic furniture items and other essential household items
- Stage 3 is to identify what longer term financial support is required, including plastering, dry-lining, relaying of floors, electrical re-wiring and painting

Income limits for the scheme are:

- €50,000 for a single person
- €90,000 for a couple
- €15,000 per dependent child

Reduced or tapered level of support may be provided in cases where your household income is above the limits.

More Information: gov.ie - [Humanitarian Assistance Scheme](#)



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Have your say!

**AIR QUALITY
&
MENTAL
HEALTH
SURVEY**

5th FEBRUARY 2025 - 30th APRIL 2025

Are you living, studying or working in
Dublin, Cork or Limerick?

Join the survey!
You will help to uncover the potential "invisible"
culprit responsible for our mental health well-
being.

Visit:

OR [HTTPS://SPRW.IO/STT-LXUPT](https://sprw.io/stt-lxuPT)

**SHARE YOUR VOICE—BECAUSE
YOUR VOICE MATTERS!**

Contact: info@mhandairsurvey.com

TU DUBLIN **ESHI** **Taighde Éireann** **DCU** **Maynooth University**
Research Ireland

Survey: Air Quality & Mental Health - Your Voice Matters!

Researchers at TU Dublin are seeking **participants for a study on mental health and air quality** in Ireland. This research examines how stress, anxiety, and depression affect individuals living in Dublin, Cork, and Limerick and explores whether external factors, such as urban environments and air quality perceptions, play a role in mental well-being.

The survey takes 10-15 minutes and is open to adults aged 18 and over. As a thank you, participants can enter a draw to win a €100 One4All gift card or a €50 Amazon gift card.

Closing Date: 30 April

To contribute to this research, go to: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/remarcsurvey>

To learn more, go to: <https://padlet.com/rwccppn/climate-action-environment-natural-heritage-linkage-group-fg2tsw0sms2hr68p/wish/94PGWnzJqI74WLRV>



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PPN News

Welcome to our new groups:

Freemount Women's Shed

Tiny Feet Fairy Garden Macroom

Castlehaven GAA

Knockaverry Residents Association

The Schoolyard Theatre

Clonakilty Boxing Club

Youghal Credit Union Ltd

Kilcorney Community Development Association Ltd

Corkbeg AFC

Clonakilty Community Resource Centre

Pobal Ar Aire Ballyvourney/ Kilnamartyra

Glanworth Heritage Group



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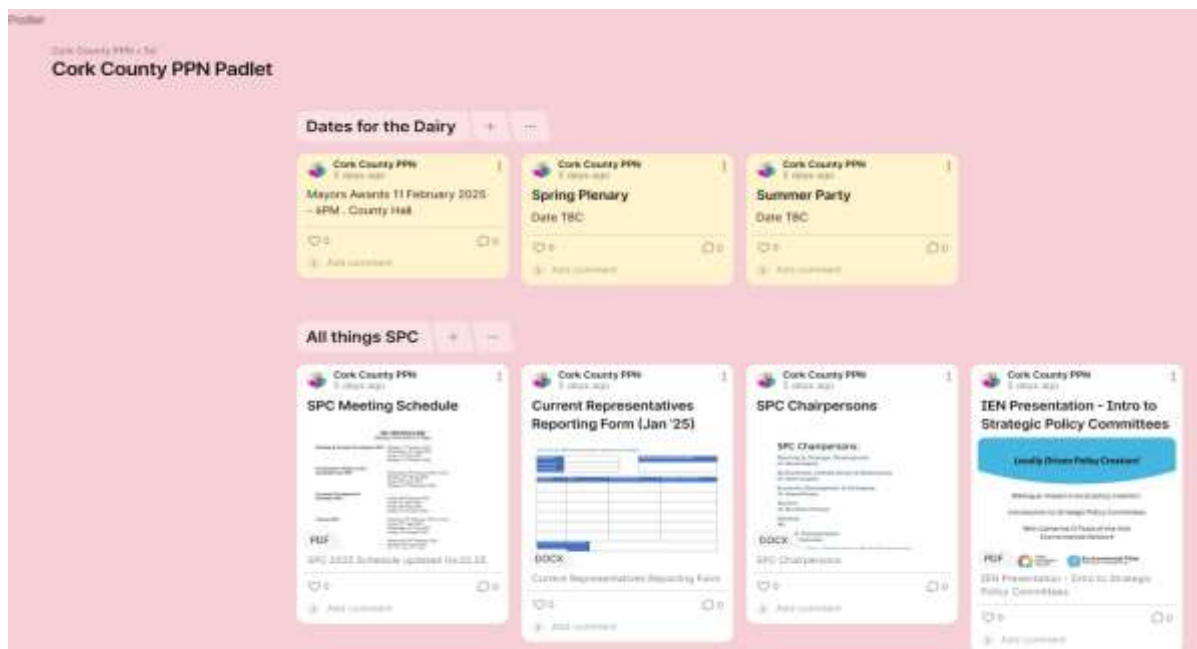
Check out our Padlet!

What is a Padlet, you say?

An online collaborative noticeboard

Padlet is an online collaborative noticeboard. It allows users to create walls where they can share various types of content, such as videos, images, documents, and audio. It is often used for collaboration in educational settings, allowing students, teachers, and parents to participate and share information.

We are going to start using our padlet more and more as a one stop for Dates For Your Diary, Newsletters, relevant documents – you name it!
See our Padlet here - [Cork County PPN Padlet](#)





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



Public
Participation
Networks
Ireland

Public Participation Networks Annual Report 2023



Public Participation Networks – 2023 Annual Report

The Department of Rural and Community Development has published the PPN Annual Report 2023.

"By the end of 2023, over 19,063 community and voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations were members of a PPN. Over 926 PPN representatives were elected to over 343 committees on issues such as strategic policy, local community development, joint policing and so on."~@socialjusticeirelandofficial

To read the report and accompanying infographic,
visit: <https://www.gov.ie/en/news/b4571-public-participation-networks-latest-news>



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Mayors Community Awards 2025



The PPN Staff, and some of our Secretariat had the pleasure of attending the Mayor's Community Awards on Tuesday evening.

🏆 The Mayor's Community Awards is a chance to recognise just some of our many community heroes each year.

🏆 The Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Joe Carroll, presented a total of 11 awards, with Donal Kelly from Castletownbere winning the overall Individual Award and Bantry's West Cork Jesters taking home the overall Community Group award.

Mayor Carroll said, "The commitment by volunteers and community leaders in County Cork to making their local areas better for all is unparalleled. Their resilience, dedication and community spirit is truly inspiring and these awards are about recognising and celebrating our exceptional nominees. The standard of entries was remarkably high, and it is an honour to witness the incredible work taking place in



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towns and villages across the county. These awards are a small token of appreciation for the immeasurable impact each nominee and winner has on their community."

A massive congratulations to all the winners tonight.

A recap of some of the incredible 2025 winners:

🏆 Carrigaline Men's Shed

🏆 Upstart Festival Committee

🏆 Timoleague Educational Garden

🏆 Kinsale Youth Community Centre

🏆 The Board of the Schoolyard Theatre

🏆 Mitchelstown Community First Responders

🏆 West Cork Jesters

Interested in getting involved in the PPN?

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

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



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Upcoming Training Opportunities



Strategic Planning for Nonprofits & Community Groups for Cork County PPN Members

Creating a plan might sound scary but putting in place a practical plan for your projects, fundraising and organisation over the next year makes you much more likely to achieve your goals.

Time & Location

27 Feb 2025, 19:00 – 21:00 GMT

Zoom

About the Programme

Strategic Planning for 2025 for Cork County PPN



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Creating a Plan might sound scary but putting in place a practical plan for your fundraising, projects and organisation for the next year makes you much more likely to achieve your goals.

This workshop will walk you through the key steps to creating a practical, realistic plan that you can achieve in 2025 (and help you avoid some of the big mistakes)

We'll cover:

- Setting goals
- Being clear on your chosen direction
- Diversifying income - corporate, events, online, grants, appeals etc
- Planning your projects and timelines
- Adapting to change

Course Tutor: Kevin Delaney

Kevin has over 16 years' experience working with and for nonprofit organisations in Ireland, New Zealand and across the world. He has an in-depth knowledge of the theory and practice of fundraising and nonprofit leadership combining 10 years of delivering training with hands-on experience of nonprofit senior management, fundraising, volunteer management and strategy.

Kevin has addressed conferences in Dublin, London, Amsterdam, Rome, Nashville & Oslo and is widely recognised as an engaging, knowledgeable and inspiring tutor.

Register here : <https://www.academystreetworkshop.com//strategic-planning-for-nonprofits-community-groups>



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HAPPY
Valentine's
DAY

This Valentine's Day let's not forget to celebrate the love we have for our communities! Cork County PPN *loves* seeing the incredible work of all the community groups across Cork, who pour their *hearts* and energy into making our localities lovely places to live. Just like a good relationship, a strong community thrives on connection, support, and shared

goals. Today, as we think about love, let's also think about how we can show our love for our community by getting involved, volunteering, and supporting the vital work of our local groups. Let's build stronger, more caring communities together!

