



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 07/03/2025

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

Come along!

Bandon Concert Band

TWO GREAT BANDS!

Bandon Concert Band

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS
ST. NICHOLAS BRASS BAND

MOVIE THEMES & MORE

Sat 22nd March 2025, 8pm
The Munster Arms Hotel, Bandon
Under 16's free of charge
(Accompanied by an Adult)

Tickets €20

- Eventbrite
- O'Farrell's and Hickey's, Bandon
- At the door on the night - cash and contactless accepted.

Email: bandonconcertband@gmail.com

MN
Music Network



Bandon Concert Band is a community band and not for profit charity. They are a group of 40 volunteers, from 9 years to retired who share their music with the community. Their band is a welcoming space and provides tuition to all ages in brass and woodwind instruments.

ref: bandonconcertband.org and find us them Facebook - [Bandon Concert Band](#) , and other social media.

Their annual concert is 22nd March. The County Mayor, Joe O' Carroll will be in attendance to promote the band and to launch their fundraiser for a new Euphonium.



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Cork Volunteer Centre – Pop up Volunteer Centre !



March 25, 11:00-14:00/ Mitchelstown Library



**POP UP
VOLUNTEER
CENTRE**

- 01 HAVE A CHAT WITH OUR PLACEMENT OFFICER
- 02 LEARN ABOUT SERVICES PROVIDED BY CORK VOLUNTEER CENTRE
- 03 POST YOUR VOLUNTEER ROLE
- 04 LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT
- 05 ASK QUESTIONS ABOUT VOLUNTEER MENAGEMENT

Contact: Gosia@volunteercok.ie to book your meeting



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Seachtain na Gaeilge :

Biongó Teaghlaigh / Family Bingo
for
Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025

Family Fun Bingo Organised by
Conradh na Gaeilge Carrigtwohill



- Text 0876402230 to reserve a place - Sinéad
- Saor in Aisce – Free of charge
- Use Gaeilge in Carraig Thuathail and celebrate Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2025
- Prizes – Easter Eggs
- Thursday 13 Márta 2025
- 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Áit : Mary Geary's Childcare
- Eircode – T45 VY29
- Paistí Bunscoile agus tuismitheoir le chéile – Primary school children with a responsible adult
- A fun night using simple Gaeilge in a non-school setting
- Gaeilge bheo!

Carrigtwohill Conradh na Gaeilge are running 2 activities for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 as follows:

On Saturday March 8th 10am-12.00 there will be a '*Ciorcal Comhrá: Tae agus Plé*' in Carrigtwohill GAA Club house.

On Thursday March 13th 7.00-8.30pm there will be '*Biongó Teaghlaigh / Family Bingo*' in Mary Geary's Childcare, Carrigtwohill.

Please see details on the poster!!



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Bantry Goes Green Festival

Bantry Development Group are having their annual Bantry Goes Green Festival from 14th - 17th March, with our St Patrick's Day Parade on 17th March.

The weekend events include

- Scoraiocht Straide
- Imaginative Ways to Recycle
- Children's Programme
- Family Walk
- Irish Music in bars and hotels
- Baking Demonstration

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/BantryGoesGreenFestival>

Knocknagree Fair Field Tidy Towns

Knocknagree Fair Field Tidy Towns committee have been working very hard this year organizing their St. Patrick's Day Parade.

They are feeling very privileged this year to be the proudest smallest rural village to host 4 Grand Marshalls who are playing Gaelic Football. Knocknagree men Daniel O Mahony, Eoin Mc Sweeney and Patrick Doyle play for the Cork Seniors and Katie Horgan plays for the Cork Ladies Senior .

It's going to be a very proud day for their Village.

Parade starts at 11.00 sharp .

**Anything we've missed ?? Let us
know !!**



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Group of the Week: Green Skibbereen



Interreg  Co-funded by the European Union
Northern Periphery and Arctic

FORESTCARBOVISION

Empowering Communities through Forest Carbon Farming

FORESTCARBOVISION helps communities fight climate change by improving forest carbon farming.

We use drones, AI, and blockchain to measure carbon capture accurately.

Three countries work together to create tools for landowners and policymakers.

This project will make forests stronger, reduce carbon emissions, and bring sustainable practices to protect nature and support local communities.



Climate change and resources sufficiency

Partnership

Natural Resources Institute Finland, Finland
Oulu University of Applied Sciences, Finland
Agricultural University of Iceland, Iceland
Green Skibbereen, Ireland

Budget

Total budget € 987.378,79
NPA Funding € 633.833,71

Duration

05/2025 - 04/2028



www.interreg-npa.eu



Green Skibbereen, in partnership with groups across Europe, are engaged in a vitally important Carbon Capture project! Well done guys !!



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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

LIDL GREEN FUND OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

The Lidl Green Fund is a new community sustainability initiative from Lidl Ireland. The Green Fund aims to support, promote and empower environmentally conscious and healthy local community projects across the Republic of Ireland.

Lidl has created this €100,000 fund to support communities take an active role in championing sustainable living.

Community groups, schools and charities across the country can apply for funding through the application portal. Shortlisted groups are selected per county by Lidl employees and independent judges and the winners are selected by publicly nominated voting in Lidl stores through the Lidl Plus App.

Community groups, primary and post primary schools and charities must [complete the online application form here](#). This is the Application for the Lidl Green Fund Republic of Ireland.

Before submitting your application please download the [Guidance Document](#) and read the [FAQs](#). You must complete all fields in the form to submit your application.

For more information on the fund and your application, please contact csr@lidl.ie

Applications close 24 March 2025.



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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 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."*



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Deadline for application is March 14, 2025.

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



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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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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
Research Ireland** **DCU** **Maynooth
University**

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/94PGWnzJql74WLRV>



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nWc

Women's Health Forum

Share your experiences of accessing health services in Ireland as a woman impacted by domestic, sexual, or gender-based violence. Your voice matters in shaping our future healthcare policies

1 to 1 interview by Zoom or by phone at a date/time that suits you

Contact Doireann Crosson (NWC Women's Health Coordinator)
doireannc@nwc.ie
087 266 7214

Scan QR for more information

Participate in Interview: Women's Health Forum

Share your experience of accessing health services in Ireland as a woman impacted by domestic, sexual or gender-based violence. Your voice matters in shaping future healthcare policies.

The National Women's Council is carrying out 1 to 1 interviews by zoom or phone at a date/time that suits you.

Contact
doireannc@nwc.ie or
087 266 7214.



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PPN News - Vacancies GALORE !!

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs , but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

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

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available

The poster features the PPN logo on the left and a scenic illustration of a coastal town with colorful buildings, a church spire, and a boat on the water. The text is overlaid on the left side of the illustration.

**Public Participation
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**Secretariat Positions
Available :**

- 2 x Vacant seats – Carrigaline Municipal District
- Vacant seat – West Cork Municipal District
- Vacant seat – Macroom Municipal District
- Vacant seat – Bandon/Kinsale Municipal District
- Vacant seat – East Cork Municipal District
- Vacant seat – Environmental Electoral College

• For further information, and if you are interested in applying, see <https://corkcountypn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/>, or email PPN@corkcoco.ie.



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**Local Community
Development
Committee (LCDC)
Vacancies Available !**

**1 x Social Inclusion – North Cork
seat**

**2 x Social Inclusion – South Cork
seats**

For further information, and if you are interested in applying, see <https://corkcountypn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/> or email PPN@corkcoco.ie .



Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) Vacancies Available!

Positions available across various committees :

- Planning & Strategic Development
- Environment, Climate Action & Biodiversity
- Economic Development & Enterprise
- Tourism
- Roads & Transportation
- Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development
- Arts, Culture & Languages

For further information, and if you are interested in applying, see <https://corkcountypn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/> or email PPN@corkcoco.ie .



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International Women's Day (IWD) 2025



Cork County PPN is so lucky to work with incredible community and voluntary, social inclusion, and environmental groups.

Within these groups, the contributions of women are invaluable, driving positive change and strengthening community resilience.

Recognizing this, International Women's Day serves as a crucial moment to celebrate the achievements of women in these community groups, and to reinforce the importance of their continued leadership and participation within the Cork County PPN network, and in all aspects of community life.

Here's to our fabulous Secretariat Chairwoman, Pauline O Dwyer, matriarchs like Brid Coakley & Ena Howell, and all the amazing women involved with the PPN !

Lots of love, Morrin & Noelle xx