



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## E - Bulletin Newsletter 04/04/2025

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 over 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!

Cork County PPN Spring Plenary



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## **Cork County PPN Spring Plenary!**

All our Community & Voluntary, Environment & Social Inclusion Groups are invited to attend our upcoming Plenary. The Plenary is the ultimate decision-making body of the PPN. The Plenary facilitates an update on PPN activity, dialogue on PPN strategy and the highlighting of local issues and success stories.

**Where: "Vertigo" Floor 17 - County Hall**

**When: 1 May 2025, 7PM**

**PPN Members Only.**

**Registration is mandatory**

**We hope to see you on the evening -  
Make sure to remind your Group  
Members & Reps to come along too!**



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## Further information :

**All our Community & Voluntary, Environment & Social Inclusion Groups are invited to attend our upcoming Spring Plenary. The Plenary is the ultimate decision-making body of the PPN. We hold two meetings per year, usually in May and November. The Plenary facilitates an update on PPN activity, dialogue on PPN strategy and the highlighting of local issues and success stories.**

**Where:** "Vertigo" Floor 17 - County Hall

**When:** 1 May 2025, 7.00 PM (Refreshments from 6.00 PM)

**PPN Members Only**

**Prior registration is mandatory**

**Register here:** <https://form.jotform.com/250904368225356>

All member groups of the PPN are welcome to attend the Plenary, with each member organisation having one vote. Cork County PPN invites your group's primary contact to send two representatives to the event – NOTE: If there are more than two groups members wishing to attend - contact us directly and we will create a cancellation list.

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## We need your help !

Do you have a success story about your group that you would like to share at the Plenary?

Have you completed a development project? Did you win a Mayor's Community Award? Have you received a grant or funding? Are you just really proud of the efforts by your Tidy Towns group?

Please email [ppn@corkcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@corkcoco.ie) if you want to share your story on the night. We're asking for just 5 – 10 minutes of your time!



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### While you're thinking of getting involved - 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.

#### **Commitment Involved:**

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.



# Public Participation Network Cork County

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](https://corkcountypn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations)  
- or reach out to [PPN@corkcoco.ie](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie) and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### 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](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie).



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### 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](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie).







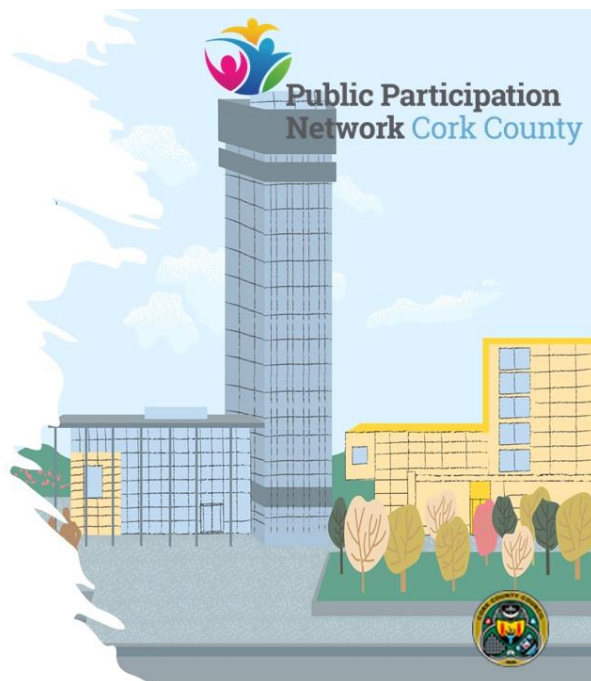
# Public Participation Network Cork County

## 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-pn-nominations/> or email [PPN@corkcoco.ie](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie).





## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Group of the Week: (Your fabulous group could be here!)

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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## Public Participation Network Cork County



Youghal Little Theatre are delighted to announce their upcoming play, Robert Emmet's "Epitaph", A Courtroom Drama based on Historical Events. Friday 25th April & Saturday 26th April 2025.

Tickets can be purchased at Cree's Card Shop (Cash Only, From April 1st) at the door (Cash or Credit/Debit card) or online at <https://ylt.sumupstore.com>.

Note: The only reason YLT are not getting the coveted title of Group of The Week today is because they have won it before! A PPN cohort surprised our very own Liam McCarthy by attending their last play ""Lend Me a Tenor" in October – It was a laugh riot!!







# Public Participation Network **Cork County**



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council

## ANTI-LITTER CHALLENGE 2025

TOWNS AND VILLAGES APPLY AT

**WWW.YOURCOUNCIL.IE**



**APPLICATION CLOSING  
DATE  
WEDNESDAY 9TH APRIL**

**ENQUIRIES TO  
litterchallenge@corkcoco.ie  
021 4532758**

**JUDGING DATES**  
First period  
28th April to 7th May  
Second period  
12th May to 21st May  
Third period  
26th May to 4th June

Cork County council's Planning & Environment Directorate launched the 2025 Anti-Litter Challenge recently. This is a community-based competition that rewards local voluntary groups who tackle litter in their communities.

Applications can be made on [www.yourcouncil.ie](http://www.yourcouncil.ie).



**Public Participation  
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***#fundingfriday***

**RETHINK  
IRELAND**

**Connected  
Communities Fund  
2025-2028**

### **Fund Overview**

The Connected Communities Fund is a three-year fund that aims to build inclusive and resilient communities and strengthen social cohesion across Ireland.

This €1.5 million fund is created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with Mason Hayes & Curran LLP and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The new fund is open to organisations dedicated to scaling innovations that strengthen civil society, build community cohesion and empower communities to develop solutions that work for all.

**The fund aims to promote equity and inclusion, encourage media literacy and community awareness initiatives, and empower communities to develop meaningful connections across diverse groups.**

The fund will offer a package of cash grants and non-financial supports to a maximum value of €220,800 each for up to five projects, to help them expand and increase their social impact.

This includes:

- Cash grants of up to €204,000 (up to €68,000 per project per year over three years)\*
- The non-financial supports will include:



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- a place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
- Bespoke business and capacity-building supports designed in consultation with the 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 the level of funding to award, which may be less than the amount requested. The final amount of each award will depend on how many organisations are selected.*

*You can apply to the Connected Communities Fund via the [online portal](#) until Friday, 11 April at 1pm.*

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# RETHINK IRELAND Empower Tech Futures Fund

## What is the Empower Tech Futures Fund?

### Fund Overview

Rethink Ireland with the support of the JP Morgan Chase Foundation, the Department of Rural and Community Development and BNY has created a **three-year Empower Tech Futures Fund** to support up to 5 projects or organisations over 3 years that are supporting vulnerable young adults aged 18-30 into employment, with a special focus on digital and technology skills and the Dublin and/or Cork regions.

The overarching goal of the Empower Tech Futures Fund is to tackle disparities in opportunity and access to employment for young adults at a disadvantage. It will do



## Public Participation Network Cork County

so by supporting organisations working with young people to access employment to scale their reach and impact.

The fund will focus on projects/organisations tailored towards the multiple challenges and barriers facing young adults, which include:

- Limited awareness of career options and jobs
- Lack of general or technical skills or qualifications desired by employers including digital and technology skills
- Insufficient support/social networks to access and thrive in employment

By providing a range of support initiatives for young people, from guidance and coaching to skills development to work placements, the fund aims to reduce barriers to employment and facilitate their smooth transition into the workforce.

### **Target Groups:**

This fund will work with organisations/projects that directly support beneficiaries who are young people aged 18-30 from disadvantaged areas towards and into employment, with a special focus on digital and technology skills and the Dublin and/or Cork regions.

The fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial supports to the value of almost €240,000 per project for up to 5 projects, to help them expand and increase their social impact.

- This includes:
  - Up to 5 cash grants of up to €240,000
  - The non-financial supports will include:
    - a place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
    - bespoke business and capacity building supports designed in consultation with the successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, maximising your impact, communications, storytelling and fundraising.
  - access to Rethink Ireland's networks.

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





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You can apply to Empower Tech Futures Fund via this [online form](#). Please join us for our application clinics on **17th April 2025** to find out more and answer any questions that you have.

For any queries, please contact us at: [empowertech@rethinkireland.ie](mailto:empowertech@rethinkireland.ie)

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## APPLY TODAY FOR THE NON-MAINSTREAM MUSIC EDUCATION BURSARY SCHEME

The purpose of the Non-Mainstream Music Education Bursary Scheme is to provide support to established, smaller-scale, non-mainstream music education or community music initiatives with limited or no access to other forms of public funding, through a cash grant.

Grants can be used to purchase instruments, other equipment and tuition. Grants are not intended for use on capital expenditure such as structural or building costs.

Applications will be considered by the Committee for Non-Mainstream Department of Education funded Music Education. Please note that the Bursary grant award is for 2025 only and the scheme is currently run on an annual basis. The total budget available in 2025 is €100,000.

**Who Can Apply?** Applications will be considered from organisations or groups that:

- have a track record in music education
- provide non-mainstream music or community music education
- deliver non-mainstream music education for young people aged 18 years and younger
- achieve strong learning outcomes for participants,

Preference will be given to those organisations or groups who can demonstrate that they cater for socio-economically disadvantaged groups. Preference may also be given to organisations or groups that are eligible and may not have received funding from this initiative previously.



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Our selection of proposals will also be informed by:

- geographic national spread
- a range of music genres
- a balance of practical and theoretical approaches.
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**So, how do you apply?** Full guidance and application forms are available here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/1a8cf1-non-mainstream-music-education-bursary-scheme/>

**The deadline for all applications is 10 April 2025.**



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Cork County Council “Green Your Festival” Toolkit

Festival season is fast approaching and while there is so much to think about, making a festival or event sustainable has many benefits.

To help festivals and events become more sustainable we have outlined some practical steps to help you get started and eliminate much of the unnecessary waste. Many of these steps were implemented by festivals all over Cork County in the last number of years. We also have a [Green Festival Toolkit](#) on our website to help festival organisers implement waste reduction initiatives at their events.

Here are some practical steps to help make your event more sustainable!



### 1. **Segregated Waste Stations**

Consider having Segregated Waste Stations at your event to improve recycling and reduce contamination. Better still get some volunteers to monitor the bin stations and engage with people to help them understand where their waste should go.

A great example is the impactful segregated waste stations at the Cork

Summer Show in 2024 where they used the MyWaste.ie signage on their bins and their staff engaged with the public to help them understand where to place their rubbish.



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### 2. Mobile Water Refill Truck



Consider having a mobile water refill truck for your event/festival bringing 1000's of litres of filtered water to event goers. This eliminates the need to sell bottled water, instead advertising in advance for people to bring their reusable bottles. It is a popular stand at all events Busking in the Woods in Castlemartyr hired one in 2024 and were delighted with the uptake and the elimination of over 300 single use plastic bottles.

### 3. Reusable Cup Scheme

Instead of using 100's or 1000's of disposable cups, you could rent reusable cups for your festival or event. These cups are washed and stored and reused over and over again at other events/festivals throughout the country.

Ballymaloe Festival of Food implemented the Reusable Cup Scheme in 2024 and as a result eliminated over 4,000 single use plastic cups. [Click here to find out what they did.](#)

### 4. Mobile Hydration Stations

Ideal for sporting events or events that cover a large area, these mobile hydration stations come prefilled with filtered water and can be set up around your festival or event.

To get the most out of the mobile hydration stations, event organisers need to promote the offering in advance and encourage attendees to bring their reusable water bottles.





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Rowing Ireland have used them for the last two years and have found them very beneficial as they can place multiple units around a large area. They promoted it very well in advance to race participants and attendees.

### 5. Deposit Return Bins



Just because we are at a festival or event doesn't mean we can't take part in the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). We encourage all event organisers and any vendors to ensure that they are compliant with the scheme.

Contact [Re-turn.ie](http://Re-turn.ie) for more information on the DRS at festivals.



# Public Participation Network Cork County



An Roinn Tírbhochtá,  
Rialtais Áiríúil agus Oldbheachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



## Induction Training to Members of Local Authority Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)

**STRATEGIC POLICY  
COMMITTEES (SPCs)**

**Webinar Induction Training**

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April

10.00am - 12.00pm  
(online)

**REGISTER NOW** ➔

The **Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage** are pleased to announce the commencement of specialised induction training for all members of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) within local authorities. This training is being delivered in conjunction with the *Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)* and the *Institute of Public Administration (IPA)*.

The objective of this induction training is to equip SPC members with the knowledge, skills, and competencies necessary to effectively contribute to policy development and strategic decision-making.

### Course content that will be covered on the day will include:

- Overview of Local Government, Legislative Framework, Relevant laws, regulations, and governance principles
- Role of SPCs - Structure, configuration, role, purpose and nomination process including from PPNs
- SPC Members Roles and Responsibilities: Understanding the function of SPC members including link with LA Plenary Council and Decision Making
- Overview of SPC Review & SPC Guidelines and SPC Work Programme
- Policy Development Process: How policies are formulated, reviewed, and implemented
- Meeting Procedures and Protocols: Effective participation in SPC meetings
- Ethical Standards and Code of Conduct: Transparency, integrity, and accountability

This Induction Training will take place on **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 from 10am to 12pm** and will be held online. Registration for the event is free, and **participants may register for the webinar by clicking the below link:**

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_9FTSXbc2RBaxO4cKJEVY7g](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_9FTSXbc2RBaxO4cKJEVY7g)

For further information please contact [localgovernment@housing.gov.ie](mailto:localgovernment@housing.gov.ie) or [info@ailg.ie](mailto:info@ailg.ie)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

We have received information from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage on their specialised induction training for all members of Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs), with a request that it be circulated to all PPNs.

This training is being delivered in conjunction with the *Association of Irish Local Government (AILG)* and the *Institute of Public Administration (IPA)*.

The Induction Training will take place on **Thursday 17th April 2025 from 10am to 12pm** and will be held online. Full details and how to register can be found below.

For further information please contact [localgovernment@housing.gov.ie](mailto:localgovernment@housing.gov.ie) or [info@ailg.ie](mailto:info@ailg.ie).

The training is open to anyone, whether you are a sitting SPC Rep, or just interested in becoming one in the future!

### **Induction Training to Members of Local Authority Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs)**

#### **Webinar Induction Training**

Thursday 17th April 10.00am - 12.00pm (online)

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## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

- Overview of SPC Review & SPC Guidelines and SPC Work Programme
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Registration for the event is free, and participants may register for the webinar by clicking the below link: [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)





## Public Participation Network **Cork County**



# RAINBOW ROADSHOW

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**WE'RE SEEKING VOLUNTEERS TO WORK WITH OUR  
STAFF IN EXPANDING ACCESS TO LGBTI+ GROUPS,  
EVENTS AND SERVICES IN CORK COUNTY.**

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**ARE YOU IN NORTH, EAST OR WEST CORK AND  
WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US?**

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**CONTACT KILLIAN AT  
KILLIAN@GAYPROJECT.IE OR 085-7851926**

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021 4300 430 / [info@gayproject.ie](mailto:info@gayproject.ie) / [www.gayproject.ie](http://www.gayproject.ie)  
Sawmill Street, Ballintemple, Cork.  
RCN: 20078652 CRO:256161



An Reim Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Láimháríochta agus Oige  
Department of Children, Equality,  
Disability, Integration and Youth



Cork Gay Project are expanding their services across Cork County with a Rainbow Roadshow. They would really appreciate help in spreading the word – to your networks via email, on social media and on physical noticeboards.

In the first instance, they are looking for help in recruiting volunteers. This is with a view to beginning LGBTI+ groups in the summer. They are hoping to engage volunteers who might be able to help them with facilitating the groups; setting up the space, welcoming people, running the group, maybe a bit of advertising. They will be arranging a volunteer training day in the summer for everyone who signs up. And



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

when they get groups set up the Gay Project will be co-facilitating with the volunteers during the group sessions, at least in the beginning.

Facebook Link:

<https://www.facebook.com/GayProjectIRL/posts/pfbid0AccBJ2RCmzWqVB6h7Ug1YqhofCpUDhojn7bQLdSK7jxSebTrQCVaN2AVfP87V62MI>

Instagram Link:

[https://www.instagram.com/p/DHEexa8tteb/?igsh=bWV0OWgxdnN0ajlr&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DHEexa8tteb/?igsh=bWV0OWgxdnN0ajlr&img_index=1)

If you have any questions, please contact Killian Atkinson - [killian@gayproject.ie](mailto:killian@gayproject.ie) .



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### 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](mailto:info@mhandairsurvey.com)

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

### 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>



## Public Participation Network Cork County

**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@nwci.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@nwci.ie](mailto:doireannc@nwci.ie) or  
087 266 7214.



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## Linkage Groups

**Linkage Groups** bring together stakeholder organisations and groups who are members of the PPN with a common interest to discuss their diverse views and interests in a specific policy area.

This is a pathway for such organisations and groups to have a real input into policy in their respective area of operation.

Linkage Groups are an essential component of the work of the PPN.

They are independent networks of community groups who are interested in a common theme such as Arts, Community, Environment, Heritage, Housing, Planning, Social Inclusion, Transport or Tourism (and more).

Linkage Groups work to influence change. They do this through advocating for policy changes on behalf of the community through PPN Reps engaging with Cork County Council and other bodies appropriate to the issue or subject matter of advocacy.

**There are five (5) principal Linkage Groups operating at a Cork County Council area level:**

1. Housing, Planning and Transport.
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Sports.
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth and Enterprise (including Economic Development and Tourism).
5. Community Safety

Please let us know if your group would like to join to any of these Linkage Groups, by emailing [ppn@corkcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@corkcoco.ie) .

By making submissions to a Linkage Group, you can support our SPC and LCDC Reps and give them a mandate to bring to the Council.





# Public Participation Network Cork County

## PPN News



We were delighted to have the opportunity to connect with Ministers Dara Calleary TD and Jerry Buttimer TD in sunny Ballincollig lately! Morrin and I had fantastic discussions with the Ministers, and we're so grateful for their support.

Minister Calleary was incredibly generous with his time and keen to review our PPN Business Plan, and we're thrilled Minister Buttimer has offered to meet with us soon – Exciting times ahead for Cork County PPN!