



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

### **E - Bulletin Newsletter 11/04/2025**

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, where you will hear updates on activities from PPN Staff, and have the opportunity to have your say, sign off on your Representatives, hear from Stakeholders and much more !

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

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

**Registration is mandatory**

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



### 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)

**This event is open to the public, Only PPN members may vote on the evening.**

**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://corkcountyppn.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://corkcountyppn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/> or email [PPN@corkcoco.ie](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie).

### Further Vacancies:







### **StreamScapes is Hiring!**

We're excited to announce **two new opportunities** to join the StreamScapes team, working to connect communities with nature and water stewardship.

- ◆ **Communications Officer**

Funded by The Heritage Council, this position will play a key role in shaping and delivering StreamScapes' communications strategy—developing digital content, managing social media, and engaging with stakeholders to promote environmental awareness and community outreach.

- ◆ **Blue Dot Outreach Coordinator**

Supported by LAWPRO, this grant-funded position will lead community engagement around Ireland's Blue Dot water bodies—organising outreach activities, educational events, and citizen science initiatives to promote conservation and foster local stewardship.

For more information and to apply, visit [streamscapes.ie](https://streamscapes.ie) or contact Maggie McColgan at [info@streamscapes.ie](mailto:info@streamscapes.ie)

(Maggie is one of our FABULOUS SPC Reps, we couldn't recommend working alongside her enough!)



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Volunteer Expo 2025

**VOLUNTEER**

**EXPO**

**28th of May 2025**

**Millennium Hall**

**12.30 - 16.00h**

 **Cork Volunteer Centre**  
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

 **Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí**  
**Cork City Council**

Cork Volunteer Centre, in partnership with Cork City Council, is delighted to host **Volunteer Expo 2025**.

With over 50 organisations from across the city and county taking part, it's a fantastic opportunity to discover how you can get involved and make a difference in your community.

**Join us on 28th May at Millennium Hall, Cork City.**

Register here: <https://forms.gle/srt4co4KmjqgN1z76>



## **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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***#fundingfriday***

# **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 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



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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.*

**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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## Grant Scheme for Irish Language Events and Initiatives launched by Mayor of County Cork



Cork County Council has launched its Irish Language Events and Initiatives Grant Scheme for 2025. This is the third year of the programme, launched in 2023 to provide funding for Irish language events, projects, and initiatives within the County of Cork.

It supports projects that utilise and promote the Irish language, including festivals, concerts, family friendly community days, conferences, films, plays, or any art form that celebrates and encourages the use of Irish in a way that benefits and includes the community.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr. Joe O'Carroll welcomed the return of the scheme,

"I am encouraging organisations throughout the county, who may be in the process of organising events through Irish, to apply for this grant. Whether your organisation is based within the Gaeltacht, or whether it is in another area of the county, or in a school or sports club, or anywhere that Irish is being spoken and used as an integral part of your event, it would certainly be worthwhile considering this grant."

Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Moira Murrell added,

"Cork County Council is proud to support Irish language events. Grant schemes help groups to organise events and initiatives which celebrate the Irish language. The increase in



## Public Participation Network Cork County

applicants and grant recipients last year is very encouraging, in total, 16 events and initiatives were supported in 2024, up from 11 in 2023.”

The successful projects in 2024, included local conversational groups and activities in Beara, Ballinhassig and Kilmurry; two film festivals in Youghal and Schull; a conference; an Irish language play in Castletownbere; arts projects, festivals, and exhibitions on Cléire, Bere Island and in Cobh; as well as musical events at Fota House and in the Múscaí Gaeltacht.

The maximum amount granted for any event is €1,500 under this scheme. Organisations may apply for more than one event within the application period, and these will be considered subject to availability of funding and the initiative meeting the grant criteria.

**This scheme is open to applications until close of business on Friday May 9th, 2025.** Further information and details on how to apply please click the link –

[grant-scheme-for-irish-language-events-and-initiatives-2025.docx](#)

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## County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme Open for Applications

💛 Community and voluntary groups can now apply for funding to protect and promote their local heritage.

✅ The scheme can support video documentaries, conservation plans, exhibitions, archives, natural heritage projects, heritage publications and much more.

📌 **Closing Date: 17:00 on Thursday 17th April 2025**

ℹ Information and application are available on the website - [Cork County Council Announces the County Cork Heritage Grant Scheme 2025 | Cork County Council](#)



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## BE SUN SMART THIS SUMMER

### Facts about Sunscreen

Choose a broad-spectrum (provides UVA and UVB protection) water-resistant sunscreen:



SPF 30 plus for adults  
SPF 50 plus for children  
SPF protects against UVB



Reapply every 2 hours,  
or more often after  
swimming, towel drying  
or sweating



Star rating of 4 or more  
to protect against UVA  
or has a UVA logo on  
the bottle



The higher the price of  
sunscreen **does not mean**  
a better product or better  
protection



Apply 20 minutes  
before going into  
the sun



No sunscreen offers 100%  
protection from UV radiation;  
it should be used as the last  
line of defence after clothing,  
a wide-brimmed hat,  
sunglasses and shade.



Apply generously  
and use more than  
you think you need



Check the sunscreen's  
expiry date and store in  
a cool dry place



Follow the SunSmart  
5 S's to reduce your  
risk of skin cancer



**S**lip on clothing that covers  
your skin



**S**lop on sunscreen on exposed  
areas using factor 30+ for adults  
and 50+ for children



**S**lap on a wide-brimmed hat



**S**eek shade – especially if outdoors  
between 11am and 3pm



**S**lide on sunglasses

Do not deliberately try to get a suntan.  
Avoid getting a sunburn. Never use a sunbed.



For more information on being SunSmart visit [www.hse.ie/sunsmart](http://www.hse.ie/sunsmart)

Be SunSmart  
[www.hse.ie/sunsmart](http://www.hse.ie/sunsmart)







# Public Participation Network Cork County



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áiríúil agus Oldhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage



## Induction Training to Members of Local Authority 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**

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## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

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## Public Participation Network Cork County



# RAINBOW ROADSHOW

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

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

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



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 Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,  
Míchumais, Láimhdeiríochta 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=bWV0OWgx dnN0ajlr&img\\_index=1](https://www.instagram.com/p/DHEexa8tteb/?igsh=bWV0OWgx dnN0ajlr&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)

**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>



## **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



Morrin & I had the pleasure of attending the **Cork Social Inclusion Forum Preparatory Workshop** in Blackpool Community Centre this week.

It was a highly informative, lively discussion on the Social Inclusion issue facing society – and the EAPN will be integrated into the report the EAPN will give on the 8th May at the Social Inclusion Forum.

(This picture was taken just before Morrin had to make a dash across the City to the CUH – her poor little boy Freddie broke his arm on the schoolyard !!)