



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 25/04/2025

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
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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!**

**The Public Service
Provider
Ombudsman, Ger
Deering will give a
presentation on
their role on the
evening, AND we
will have a short
Social Media Hints
& Tips training !**

**Set to be a great
evening !**

Also, our Plenary coincides with the Alzheimer's Society "Tea Day", and we will have a fundraiser on the night. Do not feel under any pressure to donate, we are just giving you a heads up – if like me



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(Noelle) you haven't carried cash since 2020, if you have change down the sofa, or flung about the car, nows your chance to rid yourself of it !

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.

The final date for Late Registration is Tuesday 29 April at 12.00 Midday.

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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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.



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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 and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



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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://corkcountyppn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/> or email PPN@corkcoco.ie.





Group of the Week: Craobh Eochaille CCE

Ambitious Summer Campaign for Brú na Si/ Craobh Eochaille CCE

Everything about a Brú na Si trip is exciting. On the 23rd April 26 members teenagers and Adults will travel to our Twin Comhaltas Branch in Wales . Once we return from Cardiff we are planning affordable trips to Spike Island Cobh, Cork City, Wexford and Dublin. Some of these trips will include our under 12s musicians and dancers, not forgetting our adult beginners. Something for everyone.

There is no doubt that Covid did unsettle our resilience but the upcoming trip to Wales does allow us to dream big once again. Craobh Eochaille and Amerigin the Gale branches wish to seize this opportunity to energise both branches following a period where both branches felt challenged in a changing society.

Our Annual Summer Tóstal will incorporate educational activities, workshops, Summer Camp. cultural integration activities, instrument taster camp, open day, concerts and Seisiun .

We have 8 weeks for the next term of classes bringing us to the end of the educational year. This is happening at time when we face social uncertainty, and economic fragility. In terms of a summer performances, we are embarking on a new Tóstal Lár Baile series against a background of declining tourism numbers. Whatever about the external world we can only be responsible for our own actions here at Brú na Sí. First of all, we travel to Wales where we will celebrate the Irish Diaspora with our twin branch of Comhaltas Amerigin the Gael.

But we can't lose our focus in terms of the challenges. On our return from our Cultural Excursion, we face into the final educational leg of the 2025. We will endeavour to help our members remain focused and keep them at the heart of our organisation as we promote our Irish authentic culture.

According to a recent survey, the biggest reason younger members opt to join an organization is for ongoing education. To this end we have been planning the new curriculum and performance opportunities, so that learning outcomes can be measured.

One suggestion that would provide us with a learning metric is the Pléaracha type performance which provides activity and learning outcomes for as wide a range of



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members as possible. It encourages a goal driving initiative in the presentation of Irish traditional music, song, dance, storytelling and recitation.

The goal of this challenge is to elevate group repertoire so that as many as possible can participate. They can then confidently participate in our Summer Activity series , enjoy playing along with friends, and engaging with visitors when they arrive.

Travel is always educational and we will organise a number expeditions to the Munster Fleadh in Cork City and Fleadh na hÉireann in Wexford . Local one day trips will include our underage members.

A one day a week summer performance season is important to keep every body's hand in . It also helps with the Profile of Brú na Si in terms of reaching out to audiences and to potential new members.

As funding accrues in our favour, we will assemble various activities as part of Tóstal Lár Báile. This will be in partnership with Cork County Council and Youghal Town Centre Stakeholder Initiative . We will showcase a collaborative partnership between Restaurants and Arts & Culture. It will promote a series of one day a week Trad events including workshops. Performances, concerts and pub sessions throughout the town

We plan to raise €20,000 to fulfill our commitments over the summer months.



Kindly brought to you by

A dark green rectangular box containing a white, cursive signature that reads "John McCambridge".

Childline by ISPCC are inviting you to get involved in something really special in support of children and young people across Ireland.

They are inviting community groups, clubs, creches and schools to host their own Childline Breakfast—a simple, joyful moment of connection over breakfast, all in aid of Childline's 24/7 listening service for children.

Click here to find out more - <https://childlinebreakfast.com/>

It could be a lovely opportunity for bringing people together, encouraging conversation, and raising vital funds so no child ever feels alone.

Childline are also delighted to offer free McCambridge bread delivered directly to participating groups, to enjoy together on the day.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach to breakfast@ispcc.ie.



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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

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.



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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](#).

For any queries, please contact us at: empowertech@rethinkireland.ie



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RETHINK IRELAND

Hi Digital Fund

Fund Overview

The Hi Digital Fund is aimed at addressing the digital skills gap among Ireland's ageing population.

The Hi Digital Fund is aimed at addressing the digital skills gap among Ireland's ageing population.

We invite applications from projects and organisations that innovatively work to empower Ireland's older adults to enhance their digital literacy, as well as improve social inclusion and quality of life through the use of technology, to ensure that no one is left behind as we transition to a more digital society.

This €540,000 two-year fund is created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Vodafone Foundation, SmartSimple, private donors and the Department of Rural and Community Development via the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund offers a package of cash grants and non-financial supports for up to five projects to help them expand and increase their social impact.

This includes:

- Up to five awards of up to €70,000
- The non-financial supports include:
- A place on Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme
- Business and capacity-building supports designed in consultation with successful projects on topics such as strategic planning, impact management, communications, 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.



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You can apply to the Hi Digital Fund via this [online application](#) from Monday, 14th April 2025 to Friday, 23rd May 2025 at 1 pm.

Want more information?

Join one of our application clinics on **Wednesday 30th April** and **Tuesday 13th May**. These one-hour webinars will provide information on fund eligibility and the application process and offer an opportunity to answer any questions you have. Register for an application clinic here:

- **Wednesday 30th April at 10am** – [Register here](#)
- **Tuesday 13th May at 3pm** – [Register here](#)

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

CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) Scheme

The CLÁR Scheme 2025 has been launched by the Department of Rural and Community Development. This scheme makes provision for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of de-population. It promotes sustainable development, and it aims to attract people to live and work in the areas it covers. The closing date for receipt of completed project application forms is **Friday 09th May 2025**.

For further information: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/resident/municipal-districts/clar-ceantair-laga-ard-riachtanais-scheme>



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Community Safety Fund 2025 launches



The nationwide funding call for the Community Safety Fund 2025 has launched.

The annual fund allows for the proceeds of crime, seized by the Criminal Assets Bureau (CAB) and An Garda Síochána, to be directed into local projects to support and enhance community safety.

This year, €4 million is available, which is double the original allocation of €2 million when the fund first opened for applications in 2022, and grants range from €20,000 to €150,000.

The call for the Community Safety Fund is open for six weeks from today Monday 7 April, **closing on Friday 16 May.**



More information on Community Safety can be found at: www.gov.ie/communitysafety.

The Fund:

- allows proceeds of crime to be directed into projects to support and enhance community safety
- ensures that the most appropriate proposals to improve community safety will access the funding they need
- allows best practice on community safety and youth justice to be shared with other partnerships and communities nationally as new proposals are developed
- benefits from the success of An Garda Síochána and the Criminal Assets Bureau in seizing the proceeds from criminal activity

Projects that have previously benefited from the funding supported initiatives that:

- reduce the fear of crime; improve community safety and feelings of safety
- support the creation of safe and resilient communities
- reduce reoffending
- divert vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour



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ROCHTAIN

DEMOCRATISING ADVOCACY



Political Communications and Advocacy Skills Workshop

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) with support from St.Stephen's Green Trust are delighted to offer a **free** online political communications and advocacy workshop on **Tuesday May 20 , 18:00-20:00**

This workshop is aimed at PPN members in the Munster area and will cover topics such as;

- ***Understanding the political system***
- ***Knowing when and how to effectively communicate with TDs and senators***
- ***How to research and present information on your causes to enhance political impact***
- ***Understanding your lobbying obligations***

To register for this free event please [click here](#).

More information on Rochtain can be seen by [clicking here](#).



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Environmental Pillar

How to make impactful contributions to the SPCs as a PPN Representative

Catherine O Toole & the IEN are delighted to invite you to the next webinar for PPN Representatives where we will hear about creating impactful contributions to the Strategic Policy Committees as a PPN Representative.

What: How to make impactful contributions to the SPCs as a PPN Representative

Where: Online

When: Monday 12th May, 7pm

Register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/D-1pNy82THeMpufE2lhatw>

Please register to receive a link to join the meeting, and share this invitation with other SPC Reps, and interested parties in your county. This session will benefit anyone who is serving on an SPC, whether you are new to the role or have been on an SPC for some time. All are welcome to attend.

About this session

Councillor Dermot 'Daisy' O'Brien will share his wealth of experience and insight into the Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs).

Learn tips and tricks on how to shape your input to be impactful during an SPC meeting.

Dermot will be speaking from his experience as a Councillor serving on Wicklow's Strategic Policy Committees, and from his experience as a community representative.

SPCs can be daunting when trying to understand how to make the most of your time during these meetings. How do you get your voice heard effectively. How do you ensure your community's issue is given space at the meeting? What are the dynamics of an SPC meeting and how do you negotiate these?

Dermot has spent a large part of his life serving the local community, being involved in a wide area of youth work and sport, including youth mental health, trauma informed practice, youth participation, community education and training. He was first elected in Wicklow in 2019, re-elected in 2024, and is currently serving as the Cathaoirleach of Bray.



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The Wheel: Getting started with EU Partnerships Training

Building a strong EU network is essential for unlocking funding opportunities, sharing expertise, and creating meaningful partnerships.

Whether you're new to EU partnerships or have some experience, this session will equip you with the tools to find the right partners, build trust, and strengthen long-term cooperation.

What to expect:

- Understand the essentials of EU-funded projects, partnership principles, and how to map your organisation's strengths and needs
- Learn five key steps to identify and connect with EU partners using essential tools and resources
- Gain real-world insights from Perrine Cesbron, Programme Officer at The Wheel, who will share experiences from the baSE Erasmus+ project
- Get your questions answered in a Q&A session.

Don't miss this chance to expand your EU network and take your organisation to the next level!

This event is brought to you by [Access Europe](#), The Wheel's EU funding support service funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

How to register

- You can book places for yourself and/or colleagues by clicking the button below.
- This event will take place on Zoom.
- Closed captions can be enabled by participants.
- Please email matthew@wheel.ie if you have any special requirements.
-

Venue: Zoom

Event Date: 20 May 2025 – 10:00am to 11:30am

Register: <https://www.wheel.ie/training/2025/05/getting-started-eu-partnerships>



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Have your say!

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.

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.

Housing Reps, Doug Lucey & Jose Ospina, shared with us the points they submitted to the Housing SPC this week for inclusion on the Work Plan:



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1. Tackling homelessness (including hidden homelessness)
2. Proper, suitable and focused zoning of land for housing, including smaller sites in Towns and villages, particularly concentrating on delivering cost-effective social and affordable housing
3. Providing sheltered housing for older people with lifelong and family connections to Cork towns/villages
4. Lack of proper infrastructure in villages. This should be in place before, not after developments take place, and sometimes does not occur
5. Correlation with Cork County Council Planning and other departments, as well as third parties for balanced, effective, efficient housing policy
6. Working strategically with AHBs in the County (at the moment its very unclear how they work, who gets land, who gets support, etc.)
7. Bringing empty properties back into use, incentives and enforcement– current schemes and progress to dates
8. Repurposing of commercial premises for housing (there are many commercial properties standing empty and unused)
9. Purchase of second-hand properties for social housing (by AHB's and CCC) – current scope and prioress
10. Retrofitting of existing properties, both councils AHB and private, homes progress and obstacles
11. Social and affordable housing on the islands – Sherkin Island and Cape Clear, progress and proposals
12. Discontinuing of the Tenants in Situ scheme- reasons and consequences

Well done to Doug & Jose on their hard work!

Last but not least this week :



**To our newly
registered
groups :**

Womanagh Community Hub

Ballymacoda Ladysbridge Community Council

Bantry Inshore Search & Rescue Association CLG

Cairde (Parents Association) Gaelscoil Mhainistir na Corann

Youghal Sea Swimmers

Araglen Community Hall

MIDLETON JUVENILE ATHLETIC CLUB

Over The Rainbow

Castlemartyr GAA

Carrigtwohill Community College Parents' Association

Scoil Chlochair Mhuire Parents' Association

St Fergals NS killeagh Parents Association

Bishop Ahern NS (Leamlara) Parents Association

Ballinacurra GAA

Carrigtwohill Ladies Football

Inch United

Cloyne Union of Parishes

Carriganima community development group

Ballineen & Enniskeane Tidy Town