



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 09/05/2025

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



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Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:

Co Cork Beekeepers

Co Cork
beekeepers <http://cocorkbka.org/> will be attending the **Cork Summer Show 14 -15 June**. At our stand we will have live bees in an observation hive, information on learning about and keeping bees, planting for bees and pollinators, wax dipping candle demonstration, rolled candle demonstrations and talk about bees and honey with local honey available.

Cork show takes place 14 -15th June at the show grounds off the South Link Road <https://www.corksummershow.com/>

We were able to attend this this year thanks to sponsorship by Community Foundation Ireland.



Fastnet Trails Walks Group

Launch of the Skibbereen to Kilcoe Trail !

A New Extension of Fastnet Trails - new linkage along back roads –

At the Heritage Centre, Bridge Street, Skibbereen

On 11th May 2025

Time 3pm

William Casey Local Historian will lead a short walk of 3km along the new route. Patricia Bevan retired office of WCDP will be our guest to Launch the Trail.



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Big Bike Ride 2025

Bike Week Cork 2025 is about to kick-off with events commencing this Saturday, 10th May and running until Sunday, May 18th. As in previous years, Cork County Council has again collaborated with Cork City Council and Cork Sports Partnership in organising Bike Week 2025.

This year, there are over 315 events planned across the week. Some events require pre-registration so be sure to check <https://www.corksports.ie/bike-week-cork-events-2025/> for full details of all events and any registration requirements.

Events planned include:

- Ø Daily Cycles throughout the City & County
- Ø Communities Cycling Together events
- Ø Demonstrations & Tutorials on all things cycling
- Ø Bike Maintenance Workshops

Cycle Skills Coaching

- Ø Free Bicycle Hire

Ø Bicycle Related Books & Competitions across all Library Branches in Cork City & County

The Big Bike Ride returns for Bike Week 2025. This year, the cycle will take participants through the city centre and on to Cobh for a tea / coffee / pastry break. The group will then return via the Passage West ferry and greenway. The event is open to all levels of abilities with those using electric bikes also welcome. The event is scheduled for Wednesday next, 14th May 2025 with all participants asked to assemble in the Foyer of County Hall at 9.20am. On return to County Hall, all participants will be provided with a free lunch.

In the words of Freddie Mercury, "Get on your bikes and rideeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeeee!"





Have your say!

Review of Policies & Procedures 2025

- These set out how the PPN operates.
- Essential that they effectively support the working of the PPN.
- They need to respond to change (internal or external).
- Review is to check this and give PPN member groups a chance to feed into their development.

For review:

Constitution	Gathering Signatures
Code of Conduct	Grievance Procedure
Complaints Procedure	Nomination Form
Dignity at Work	Plenary Standing Orders
Electoral Processes	Re-Registration Protocol
Email & Internet Usage	Representatives Reporting Template
Expectations & Responsibility of Committees with PPN Representative	Travel & Expenses Policy
Financial guidelines	Vulnerable Adults Policy

Aim of Review:

Ensure that these are all

- Fit for purpose
- Robust & comprehensive
- “joined up”
- Clear and unambiguous
- Up to date & any gaps are filled



Timetable for Review:

1. PPN member group inputs

✚ All policies are on the website - <https://corkcountyp pn.ie/resource/category/policies/>

✚ Inputs can be submitted direct to - ppn@corkcoco.ie

✚ **Submissions can be made up to 1st July 2025**

2. Policy Revision Member group inputs compiled

All policies & procedures reviewed considering inputs, Departmental guidance, etc.

Draft revised policies made available ahead of Autumn Plenary for member feedback & any re-drafting completed.

Final draft policies and procedures submitted to Autumn Plenary for ratification.



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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.

After our recent Plenary meeting, we are proposing four Linkage Groups:

1. Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety
2. Arts, Community, Heritage and Tourism
3. Climate Change, Water and Environment
4. Social Inclusion, Rural Development, Youth, Enterprise & Recreation

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.



Get involved! Secretariat Vacancies:

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.

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.



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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-pn-nominations/> or email PPN@corkcoco.ie.





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Meet your PPN Reps:

After our recent Plenary, and six months of intensive recruitment – we are delighted to have filled the majority of our LCDC & SPC Rep positions.

SPC Committee/ Pillar	Name
Economic Development	
Community & Voluntary	Vacant
Social Inclusion	Tadgh Quill Manley
Environment	Vacant
Environment, Climate & biodiversity	
Community & Voluntary	John Lyons
Social Inclusion	Ana Ospina
Environment	Raffaella Valenti
Housing	
Community & Voluntary	Doug Lucey
Social Inclusion	Jose Ospina
Environment	Phoebe Bright
Marine, Coastal & Flooding	
Community & Voluntary	Christine Lane
Social Inclusion	Oscar Daly
Environment	Maggie McColgan
Planning & Strategic Development	
Community & Voluntary	Neil Kane
Social Inclusion	Karl Shane Diskin
Environment	Miles Harrigan
Roads & Transportation	
Community & Voluntary	Noel Walsh
Social Inclusion	Eoin O Callaghan
Environment	Darran McAdam O Connell
Social Inclusion	
Community & Voluntary	Nina Orteu Pons
Social Inclusion	Jithin Regani
Environment	Eimear Kenneally



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Tourism	
Community & Voluntary	Bill Power
Social Inclusion	Vacant
Enviroment	Trish Lavelle
Arts Culture & Languages	
Community & Voluntary	Mairead Johnston
Social Inclusion	Diana Skalkos
Enviroment	Marc O Sullivan

LCDC Reps:	North Cork	South Cork	West Cork
Social Inclusion			
	Jess Angland	Jason Sheehan	Ray Murnane
	Vacant	Vacant	Vacant
Community & Voluntary			
	Bríd Coakley	Liam McCarthy	Eileen O Shea
	Lilian Meade	Tom Howard	Noel Forde
Environment			
	Ted Bradley	Caroline Ní Nualláin	Bernadette Connolly

Congratulations all! We're so looking forward to working with you !



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#fundingfriday

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

Hi Digital Fund

Fund Overview

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

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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.



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

You can apply to the 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 .

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:



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- 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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Training:



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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Leadership and Volunteer Management Training

We are delighted to be invite you to "Leadership and Volunteer Management" Training, delivered by Dr. Clodagh O'Reilly.

Clodagh is a social enterprise practitioner turned academic researcher.

Along with being a qualified accountant, Clodagh has over 15 years' experience in leadership in the not-for-profit and social enterprise sector, both in Ireland and internationally. Clodagh has developed expertise across diverse areas, including community development, youth justice and creative arts. Her unique combination of financial acumen, governance knowledge, and practitioner experience gives her a holistic understanding of the broader social enterprise ecosystem.

Clodagh is passionate about the pivotal role that the charity sector can play in addressing complex challenges and shaping the future of Ireland.

Register here: [Leadership and Volunteer Management Training Evening - 29 May 2025, 7PM online.](#)



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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>



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

PPN News



Spring Plenary

Thank you to all who came to Spring Plenary on 1st May. The weather was 25 degrees and sunny, so we are so grateful to all who took time out of their day to County Hall to be our decision-making body.

We had an informative presentation by the Public Service Ombudsman, Ger Derring, and a social media Hints & Tips training from Karen at the Communications Hub.



Our Plenary coincided with Alzheimer's Society of Ireland annual "Tea Day", so we had a collection box on the evening, as raised €71.10. Thank you to all for your generosity!



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Meet & Greet

The day of the Plenary was a busy one – We also met with University of Groningen students Paulo, Nina & Hidde.

They came to Cork as part of a Fieldwork Abroad program. They were interested in learning about the structure of PPNs and how we connect communities and other social groups.

The interviewed us to gain a deeper understanding of our mission, the challenges we address, and the impact of our work on Cork's community. They were particularly interested in how we approach acting as an information hub and how we encourage members to show more public engagement.

We also talked 99s and the Cork City FC vs Shamrock Rovers fixture they were heading to, and they had the privilege of meeting County Mayor, Joe Carroll!