



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 01/08/2025

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 almost 700 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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News & Events: Féile na Laoch



Féile na Laoch (The Festival of Heroes) celebrates our cultural heroes, including storyteller, poets, actors, dancers, singers, and musicians. The féile was inspired by the life and work of one of Ireland's true cultural giants, Seán Ó Riada.

31 July - 2 August 2025

Cúil Aodha, Co. Cork

[Féile na Laoch – Le chéile chun ath-nuachaint an Náisiúin](#)



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**AUGHADOWN IN OLDEN
TIMES**

POP-UP MUSEUM

IN SKIBBEREEN TOWN HALL

FOR HERITAGE WEEK

16TH -24TH AUGUST

FOCUS WILL BE ON

**PAST FARMING, FISHING, FORGES, SHOPS
& PUBS, OLD DOCUMENTS/BOOKS,
FOLKLORE AND MONUMENTS**

If anyone has anything of interest, please contact any ICA
member or 087 9867453.



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CHILDMINDING IRELAND
Supporting Ireland's Childminders; Minding Ireland's Children

Childminding Ireland Art Competition 2025

We are delighted to announce that the [Childminding Ireland](#) Art Competition 2025 is now open! This special initiative is a joyful celebration of creativity and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the artistic talents of both children and childminders.

This year's competition includes:

Children's Art Categories (ages 0–3, 4–7, and 8–12)

Childminder Artwork & Photography Categories

There are fantastic prizes on offer for all winners – including both the children and their childminders!

We would be so grateful if you could help us spread the word within your community.

Click here to learn more about the competition and to watch a short video featuring last year's winning entries. <https://www.childminding.ie/.../art-competition-2025.../>

All entries should be emailed to art@childminding.ie by 22nd August 2025.

Thank you so much for your support – we can't wait to see the creativity and colour that this year's entries will bring!

Don't hesitate to contact Mairead Hurley, Head of Childminding Services at maireadhurley@childminding.ie, phone 01 287 8466 .



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Group of the Week: Cork Against Human Trafficking



It has never been easier to choose our Group of the Week, it simple has to be the **Cork Sexual Violence Centre**, and **Cork Against Human Trafficking (CAHT)**, spear-headed by the incredible Mary Crilly.

CAHT is a collaborative effort involving various agencies dedicated to combating human trafficking, including the Sexual Violence Centre Cork, An Garda Síochána, the Legal Aid Board, and the HSE, among others – and a uniquely singular initiative in Ireland.

Cork is believed to have as many as 100 human trafficking victims at any given time, according to the city's Lord Mayor. This figure was highlighted this week at “**Human Trafficking in Cork: A Refocus**”, a conference in Vertigo, the picturesque top-floor of Cork County Hall. We in **Cork County PPN** were delighted to have the opportunity to host the event, organized to address the issue of trafficking.

Mary Crilly, the CEO of the Sexual Violence Centre Cork noted that the conference coincided with **World Day against Trafficking in Persons**. She thanked our Cork County PPN Coordinator, **Morrin Drislane**, stressing that the event would not have happened without her and said the event was a success, with over 100 attendees who participated throughout the day. She emphasized the importance of collaboration, stating, "We wanted to bring everyone together."



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The conference highlighted the issues of labour trafficking and child trafficking and featured speakers from a Garda Síochána Super-Intendent, the WRC, and Mecpaths.

The Sexual Violence Centre has supported women who have been rescued from brothels during Garda raids.

Concern was raised that many child trafficking cases are likely going undetected in Cork, when compared to the thousands of cases investigated annually in the UK.

Another powerhouse woman we were star-struck to have at the event was Cork Penny Dinners' Catriona Twomey who emphasized that if Mary Crilly says there is a need for more action, then it is time to act.



The event created a strong "call to action" for greater collaboration, and Cork County PPN is delighted that the new Mayor of County Cork, Mary Linehan Foley, is eager to learn more and have Mary Crilly back to speak to the full County Council.

Lord Mayor of Cork, Fergal Dennehy, also spoke at the event, urging Cork residents to "be aware, be vigilant, and don't be afraid to ask questions or report concerns." He concluded with a message to victims: "you're not invisible, you are not alone."



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Get involved! Join Our 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.



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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](#)



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- 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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#fundingfriday



Small Town, Big Difference

The *Small Town, Big Difference* campaign highlights stories of community groups, organisations, clubs, schools, and societies across Ireland that are raising funds and creating meaningful impact for their local area through the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS).

Submit your story for the chance to win €2000 for your Community!

[Small Town, Big Difference - Re-Turn](#)



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The What Works Enhancing Quality Fund 2025 is Accepting Applications

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, TD has announced the creation of a new fund under the *What Works* prevention and early intervention initiative, which is funded through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The *What Works* Enhancing Quality Fund has been established under the Quality strand of the *What Works* initiative. The aim of the Quality strand is to align, enhance and sustain quality in prevention and early intervention as it relates to the development and delivery of policy, provision and practice for children and young people.

The 2025 Enhancing Quality Fund aims to promote continuous improvement and innovation using a process of problem-solving in prevention and early intervention services for children and young people. Successful applicants will support the *What Works* initiative to build on the development of implementation structures and learning harnessed from over a decade of investment in prevention and early intervention in order to improve outcomes for children, young people and their families.

The fund is open to practitioners and service providers in not-for-profit organisations working with children, young people and their families and who have a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention. The total value of the fund is €300,000, and organisations may apply for funding up to a maximum of €30,000.

The deadline for applications is **5pm, Friday, 22 August 2025**. Applications should be submitted to whatworks@dcde.gov.ie. Hard copies delivered via post will not be accepted.

Full details available here: <https://whatworks.gov.ie/enhancing-quality-fund-2025/>

You can read more about the Minister's new suite of prevention and early intervention measures at <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/>



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Tips & Tools for Successful EU Partnerships

Effective partnership management is essential for successful EU projects because strong cooperation, clear communication, and mutual trust directly affect project delivery and long-term impact.

Whether you're coordinating a consortium or participating as a project partner, this session will provide concrete guidance and resources to help you start strong, collaborate effectively, and manage common challenges.

What to expect:

- **Best Practices for Partnership Success:** Discover how to build trust, align visions, and define clear roles from day one.
- **Practical Tools & Templates:** Access a toolkit of digital project management tools and templates to support effective coordination and communication.
- **Inspiring Case Study:** Hear firsthand how one organisation successfully navigated the dynamics of an EU-funded partnership.
- **Q&A:** Get your questions answered in a Q&A session.

This online event is ideal for civil society staff involved in project development, EU funding, partnership management, or strategic planning. Whether you're just starting out or looking to sharpen your skills, this session will leave you better prepared and more confident.

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.

Register here: [Tips & Tools for Successful EU Partnerships | The Wheel](#)



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The Killarney coffee cup project is an example of a grass root organisation leading transformative change with over 70 business in Killarney partaking in this initiative. A case study on the Killarney coffee cup project was commissioned by the Department of Climate, energy and the Environment. The results of which are now available as part of an information kit available in the following link: <https://localprevention.ie/topics/killarneycoffeecupproject/>

Part of the information kit includes an Insights document which outlines the strategic objectives for both Killarney and other towns throughout Ireland. The information kit is a valuable resource for other towns and communities across Ireland who may wish to replicate this initiative.



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Consultations:



Stakeholder Consultation on the Development of New Strategy to Support Community & Voluntary Sector Launched

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Jerry Buttimer TD, has announced the commencement of a stakeholder consultation on the development of a new Government strategy to support the sector.

The consultation will give organisations across the community and voluntary sector an opportunity to contribute to the new strategy.

You can access the survey and find more information below:

[Public Consultation on a new Strategy to support the Community and Voluntary Sector in Ireland](#)

The deadline for submissions is 15 August.



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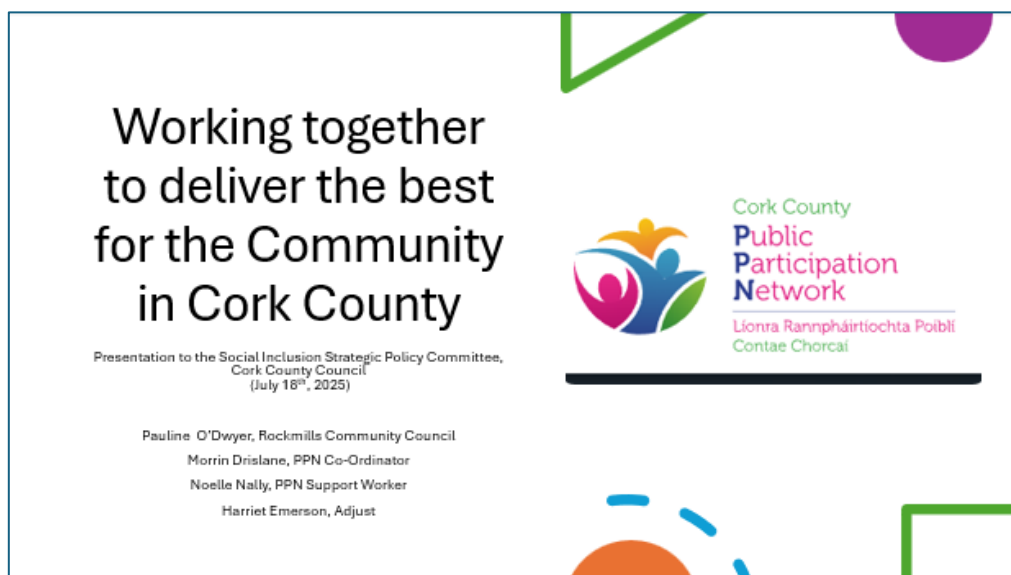
Youghal Residents Called to have their say in Transport Study!

Kieran Harrahill is a researcher in the School of Geography in UCD. He is working on a research project focusing on improving transport in small and medium towns in Ireland.

Youghal is one of three towns that has been selected to take part in this research. The aim of the project is to take a citizen-led approach to identifying challenges and opportunities relating to transport in Youghal.

If you or your Community Group is interested in engaging with the project, email Kieran at kieran.harrahill@ucd.ie

PPN News: SPC Presentation



Yesterday, Morrín & I, our Secretariat Chairperson, Pauline O Dwyer, and PPN Facilitator, Harriet Emerson, we were grateful to have the opportunity to speak at Cork County Council's Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC.

The Cork County PPN is interested in securing the very best for communities around the County. This is also the primary focus of Cork County Council.

Building on this understanding of common interests, and the nature of the PPN, we explained that the PPN is not (& should never be) a nodding dog!

BUT - nor are we a bunch of of nay-sayers to miss the opportunities to work collaboratively for the best outcomes for communities in the County.

We asked that there be some **RECOGNITION** of the voluntary nature of our representative's participation, even to the point of trying to hold meetings at times that enable people to attend around work commitments. In addition, that the contribution of the PPN representatives is **RESPECTED** – much as these representatives themselves must respect other Committee members. Finally, we asked for **AMBITION** in terms of what can be achieved if we work together ! The PPN is keen to build a collaborative relationship with a view to achieving more – for achieving the best possible – for the County and hopes that the members of all Strategic Policy Committee are open to actively pursuing this!



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PPN Emergency Response:



Cork County PPN is currently engaged in a national PPN initiative on emergency response; working to ensure we can be prepared to be as effective and useful in whatever emergency situation arises in future as possible (& our contribution around the country in response to Covid, the war in Ukraine, and storm damage is well documented).

Following a meeting of representatives from all PPNs in Portlaoise two weeks ago, we are compiling a report for our Minister. Our hope is that we will be able to move on then to meeting and working with other emergency response partners, most significantly the Local Authorities. We believe we can ensure the best possible supports for communities if we work together to deliver these.

As you can see, we have been very busy !!



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Enjoy the Long Weekend

everyone!