



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 29/08/2025

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



Public Participation Network Cork County

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Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:

 CULTURE NIGHT	SEPT 19 10 AM - 12PM
PPN BREAKFAST SHOWCASE	County Hall Foyer

**JOIN US IN THE COUNTY HALL FOYER TO
KICK OFF CULTURE NIGHT,
THIS SEPTEMBER 19TH**

🌍 ALL CULTURES, ALL STYLES, ALL VOICES WELCOME.
★ IF YOU'RE INTERESTED IN TAKING PART IN OUR VIBRANT,
INCLUSIVE SHOWCASE, GET IN TOUCH! WE WANT YOU!

TIME: 10AM - 12PM
DATE: 19 SEPTEMBER 2025
LOCATION: COUNTY HALL FOYER

Interested? Contact: PPN@CorkCoCo.ie or (021) 4285340

 Public Participation
Network Cork County

 Comhairle Contae Chiarraí
Cork County Council

Are you part of a Pipe Band, a Hip-Hop Crew, or a Traditional Dance Troupe?

Do you play the Tin Whistle, the Djembe, the Oud, or the Sitar?

Is your passion Brazilian Samba, Irish Sean Nós, Bharatanatyam, or K-Pop choreography?

Are you a Storyteller, or a Drag Performer?

Do you express yourself through Basket Weaving, Henna Art, Yodeling, or Beatboxing?

Have you got a piece of Art, or an Old Craft method you could demonstrate?

**Whether you're into Afrobeat, Ukrainian folk dance, or Martial Arts—we want to celebrate
YOU!**

Cork County PPN are hosting an event in collaboration with Cork County Council Arts
Office for Culture Night 2025!

Please let us know if this is something you would like to take part in. We will serve big
smiles and refreshments on the day!



Public Participation Network Cork County

Cork County Council ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION



SAFETY SECTION

Is your group interested in a Road or Water Safety Awareness workshop?

Caroline Casey, Cork County Council's Water & Road Safety Development Officer, has kindly offered to work with us from October! Is there anything you would like to learn more about, or raise awareness of?

Let us know!



**Public Participation
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Group of the Week: Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI)



**Alice Griffin (DESSA)
on using the UN CRPD**

***"A Practical Look at the UN Convention on
the Rights of Disabled People."***

 **SHEP Office, The Old Primary school,
Ardfoyle Avenue, Ballintemple
Co. Cork , T12 XDH2**

 **18 Sept, 2 PM**

 **Register: nicolameacle@ilmi.ie**

**All disabled people
welcome!**

ALT text description: Logo of Cork DPO (Disabled Persons Organisation). A large yellow hand with a smaller hand inside it appears to the left of the text. The text reads: "Cork DPO Disabled Persons Organisation" in white and yellow against a purple background.

Cork DPO event:

Alice Griffin (DESSA) on using the UN CRPD for social justice & human rights.

● The Old Primary School, Ardfoyle Ave, Ballintemple Cork

📅 18 Sept, 2 PM

✉ Register: nicolameacle@ilmi.ie or 087 7189237

All disabled people welcome!



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.



Public Participation Network Cork County

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.



Public Participation Network Cork County



Cork County Council has officially opened two flexible work hubs in Mitchelstown and Cobh.

The Mitchelstown hub is located above the library in the heart of the town. It features 36 desk spaces including hot desks, offices for two, three or four people, a large office with space for 10 people, and a meeting room. It is open for use 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Cobh facility is co-located with Cobh Library in the Arch Building on Casement Square. The historic building dates back to the early 1800s and was a former market house and town hall. It has 15 desk spaces and three offices for two or three people.

Both projects were co-funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development under the Town & Village Renewal Scheme and Cork County Council.

Mayor of the County of Cork, Cllr Joe Carroll said, “The flexible work hubs are a wonderful addition to the town centres, providing working facilities and private offices for the local communities. The new hubs will significantly enhance the local capacity to start, expand and scale enterprises. In North Cork, the hub will complement the fantastic work being done by the Mitchelstown Enterprise Centre.”

Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities and with responsibility for Rural Transport, Jerry Buttimer T.D. said, “Remote working hubs, like the new facilities in Mitchelstown and Cobh, help to enhance local economies. They revitalise communities and offer diverse services to remote workers, SMEs and start-ups. These hubs are essential in promoting sustainable, flexible work options. They can also increase productivity, help to improve collaboration and create networking opportunities as well as saving money for businesses and their employees. There are now more than 360 remote working hubs in Ireland, all part of the National Connected Hubs network. We hope that number will reach 400 by the end of this year.



I'm proud that my Department and the Programme for Government continues to support initiatives like this in Cork"

Chief Executive of Cork County Council, Moira Murrell added, "The hubs will contribute to vibrant and inclusive local economies by nurturing an ecosystem and offering workers the freedom to choose where they live and work. These initiatives can have a positive impact on personal and family lives, as well as promoting economic growth and fostering opportunities for sustainable development."

Daily, weekly and monthly rentals are currently available. Enquiries and reservations for a desk or office can be made through the [Connected Hubs website](#)

For further information contact the Economic Development and Strategic Planning Directorate at economicdevelopment@corkcoco.ie



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

Singing for the Brain

Do you enjoy singing?

Do you like meeting other people?



Songs, Stories & Smiles

TASTER SESSION

Singing for the Brain Ireland is an arts and health initiative providing supportive and inclusive social music groups in the community. Each group meets weekly and participants are welcome to share a song or simply observe.

Date?

Wednesday, 10th September 2025

Where?

**The Castle Hotel, Main Street,
Macroom, Co. Cork, P12 X293**

What time?

11am to 1pm

The programme recognises the therapeutic effects of music on the brain and body and utilises singing as a means to stimulate memory and promote health and wellbeing. Each group is led by a musical facilitator and supported by a specially trained coordinator.

Everyone is welcome, no singing experience necessary!

Refreshments provided

**Booking required due to limited capacity - call Lucy O' Driscoll on
087 6114282 to book in for these sessions.**



CÚRAM SLÁINTE POBAIL
CORCAIGH CIARRAÍ
CORK KERRY
COMMUNITY HEALTHCARE



Songs, Stories & Smiles



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

#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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Ireland Against Racism Fund

The Ireland Against Racism Fund (IARF) provides funding for national and regional projects that aim to combat racism and foster racial equality and community cohesion. The Ireland Against Racism Fund supports the implementation of the National Action Plan Against Racism and the achievement of its objectives.

2025 Funding Call

On 16 July 2025, the Minister of State for Migration Colm Brophy, announced up to €1 million in funding under the 2025 Ireland Against Racism Fund.

The funding call will be based on five thematic pillars:

- **Being Safe and Being Heard** – Supporting people who experience racism and protecting people from racist incidents and crimes
- **Being Equal** – Addressing ethnic inequities
- **Being Seen and Taking Part** – Enabling minority participation
- **Being Counted** – Measuring the impacts of racism
- **Being Together** – A shared journey to racial equality

The fund has two Schemes:

- **Scheme A** for projects seeking grants between €40,000 to €100,000.
- **Scheme B** for projects seeking grants between €5,000 to €10,000.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-justice-home-affairs-and-migration/campaigns/ireland-against-racism-fund>



Public Participation Network Cork County

HERITAGE KEEPERS **ROUND 5**

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Free workshops and a grant to support local heritage action and fieldtrip for community groups and primary schools nationwide



Visit heritagekeepers.ie for more information



Applications will close in September



APPLY NOW



heritagekeepers.ie



burrenbeo trust
connecting people and place



Sunflower
Charitable Foundation

The new round of the National Heritage Keepers Programme under the Environmental NGO Burrenbeo Trust is open for applications! This programme is a great opportunity any community group across the country to celebrate their local heritage.

The programme consists of 5 short online workshops, followed by a €1000 grant for the group to carry out an action (and optional fieldtrip) for any aspect of local heritage, for more information on the programme visit www.heritagekeepers.ie.



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Fund to Support the Integration and Employment of Migrants

Up to €2.7 million available under the Employment, Inclusion, Skills and Training (EIST) Programme

Fund is open to non-government and community organisations providing projects to increase the employability of people who moved here as migrants

Fund helps people overcome barriers to employment including language difficulties, lack of training or social exclusion

The Minister of State for Migration Colm Brophy today (31 July) announced funding of up to €2.7 million for projects that aim to increase the integration and employability of people who have moved here as migrants. Funding is being made available under the Integration and Employment of Migrants action of the Employment, Inclusion, Skills & Training (EIST) Programme 2021-2027.

The Programme is jointly funded by the European Union, through the European Social Fund Plus (ESF+), and the Government of Ireland. Announcing the fund, Minister Brophy said:

“I am very pleased to announce that regional and national organisations can now apply for funding through the Employability, Inclusion, Skills and Training Programme.

“People who move here as migrants bring skills and experience that are much needed in the current labour market. However, some people may find it difficult to find employment because of language difficulties, lack of training or social exclusion.

“The projects that will receive funding through this initiative will play a vital role in equipping people with the skills to overcome these obstacles and increase their employment opportunities.”

Organisations can apply for funding for projects supporting:

EEA Nationals who are resident in Ireland;

Third Country Nationals with permission to enter employment in Ireland, including people who are Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection fleeing the war in Ukraine.



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The funding will support a small number of significant projects and €200,000 is the minimum grant that can be applied for.

All applications must be submitted by email to iem@justice.ie.

Applications for funding will remain open until **noon on Thursday, 11 September**. Further information and the application form are [available online at gov.ie](#).

Additional Fund Info: [Minister Relaunches Fund to Support the Integration and Employment of Migrants | The Wheel](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County



**Cultúr Éireann
Culture Ireland**

Promoting Irish Arts Worldwide for 20 years

Culture Ireland operates a range of funding programmes to support and promote the presentation of Irish arts internationally. The current initiatives include a Regular grants round, the See Here scheme, Delegate Scheme and a Showcase programme.

[Support Schemes - Culture Ireland | Cultúr Éireann](#)

Arts & Disability Ireland

Arts and Disability Connect funding, including Mentoring, Training, New Work, and Research and Reflection awards for individual artists with disabilities.

<https://adiarts.ie/artists/funding/connect/>



Strategic Funding 2026

Strategic Funding supports key arts organisations, ensuring their sustainability and capacity to deliver high-quality arts experiences.

[Strategic Funding 2026 - The Arts Council / An Chomhairle Ealaíon](#)



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

The HSE has developed a Free, easy-to-access online programme called 'Balancing Stress' to support people across Ireland in managing everyday mental difficulties such as stress, anxiety, low mood and worry.

The Balancing Stress programme offers six online video sessions (each around 35 minutes) covering key topics including managing stress, worry, anxiety, low mood, and relationship stress. This online programme offers people evidence-based tools to manage stress effectively and enhance their mental wellbeing.

You can watch the videos at your own pace, on your own time, using a phone, tablet or laptop.

The easy to use QR code will take you directly to the programme.

If you require further information, see: [Balancing Stress - A HSE Resource for sharing with PPN staff & Representatives - Cork County PPN](#)



Balancing Stress

Practical skills to cope with stress



- 1 Understanding stress
- 2 Managing worry
- 3 Managing anxiety
- 4 Managing low mood and depression
- 5 Stress and relationships
- 6 Balancing stress now and into the future



A free HSE online stress management programme

What is it?

Balancing Stress is the HSE's free online programme to manage stress, worry, anxiety, low mood and relationship difficulties.

How do I take part?

www.hse.ie/balancingstress
No registration is required. There are six sessions you can watch anytime, at your own pace.

Presented by:

Dr Niamh Clarke
HSE Principal Psychologist





Applications Open: Arts & Culture — Bereavement & Grief Training Course

Irish Hospice Foundation is delighted to announce applications are now open for our [Arts and Culture — Bereavement and Grief training course](#) commencing October 2025. This part-time blended course, running over two full weekends and four mid-week evenings, explores the many roles of arts and culture in contemporary dying, grief, and bereavement.

Irish Hospice Foundation developed the Arts and Culture – Bereavement and Grief course in association with staff from Helium Arts, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland (RSCI), LauraLynn Children's Hospice, St Francis Hospice, Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists (ICAT), SoloSirens, and Réalta (the national arts and health development agency). It is designed to raise awareness and understanding, while providing an introduction to basic skills.

Who is this course suitable for?

Applications are invited from professionals and volunteers in the arts, culture, or health sectors who support, or are interested in supporting, people of all ages experiencing dying, death, grief, and loss. We seek a diverse range of expertise and experience as this enriches the learning experience for all.

Our last course attracted practitioners and researchers involved in oncology, perinatal loss, psychology, primary schools, social work, and acute hospital management, along with creatives involved in dance, music, movement, and literature.

Places are limited to 14 people to facilitate experience, exploration and discussion. The course fee is €500. Given the level of interest and number of applicants, selection is competitive.

"There was space to learn, to converse, and to consider the many points of view that arise for artists, care workers, families of those near end of life or experiencing grief. The sessions were open enough to allow opinion and to get to know one another, and structured enough to feel complete and walk away with new knowledge and understanding." - **Past course participant**

Applications are now open for the course running 25th October to 9th November 2025.



Public Participation Network Cork County

The application deadline is 17th September 2025 at 5:00pm. Notification of places will be on or before 26th September 2025.

To learn more about the course and to apply, visit the course webpage: [Training Course: Arts and Culture – Bereavement and Grief.](#)

Questions?

If you have a query regarding the Arts and Culture – Bereavement and Grief training course, please email: arts@hospicefoundation.ie.



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Consultations:

Public Consultation on a Potential Ban on Commercial Sunbed Use in Ireland



**An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health**

Minister of State Ms Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD, with special responsibility for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy has launched an online public consultation seeking the views and opinions of the public and industry on a proposed ban on commercial sunbed use.

The views and opinions collected will be considered and will be used to inform future policy and legislation regarding a potential ban on commercial sunbed use.

Complete Survey: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/b2334e70-6b00-8174-0e4b-e24bc70a4485>



Public Consultation on New National Obesity Strategy

The Minister for Public Health, Well Being and the National Drugs Strategy, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor has launched a [public consultation](#) to inform the development of Ireland's next Obesity Policy and Action Plan.

This consultation invites individuals, communities, healthcare professionals, and organisations to share their insights, experiences, and recommendations in shaping a new, inclusive strategy to tackle obesity. All submissions will be reviewed and compiled into a report, that will guide the drafting of the new strategy.

The consultation is open until 18 September 2025.

Complete survey:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/NationalObesityStrategyPublicConsultation>



Public Participation Network Cork County

Critical Research on the Challenges Facing the Community Sector

Community Groups' Greatest Challenges



Atlantic Technological University, in partnership with Sligo PPN, is conducting vital research to identify the key challenges facing the community and voluntary sector. Your input is essential to building a strong evidence base that will drive advocacy for better support and resources for our sector.

The survey takes just 15 minutes to complete, and every response counts.

Your voice matters. Together, we can advocate for a stronger, more supported community sector.
Thank you for your time and commitment!



For many years, PPNs have heard and witnessed the growing pressures on the community and voluntary sector. The network has consistently advocated on behalf of the sector, but success has been limited - in part due to a lack of solid evidence with regard to the direct impact of these challenges on the operation of community organisations.

Under the Power to Change initiative, Sligo PPN have partnered with Atlantic Technological University to undertake a piece of research to form a solid evidence base on the key challenges facing the sector and what this means to grass roots community activity and volunteering.

This survey aims to:

- collect the evidence needed to highlight and stress to Government the challenges faced by community groups,
- to demonstrate that additional and better coordinated supports are needed for groups to operate successfully and thrive.



Public Participation Network Cork County

More and more is being asked of the community sector, including taking a leading role on climate action. What support does the community sector need to make this workable?

The survey was co-designed with community organisations as well as colleagues across the PPN network.

While led by Sligo PPN and ATU under the Power to Change initiative, this research is intended to be of benefit to the entire PPN network and the broader community sector.

The survey will go out across the entire PPN national network as well as other key community based networks. The more feedback we receive, the stronger our case will be for advocating for positive change in the sector.

Every response we get is vital and we thank you in advance for taking the time to contribute to this important research.

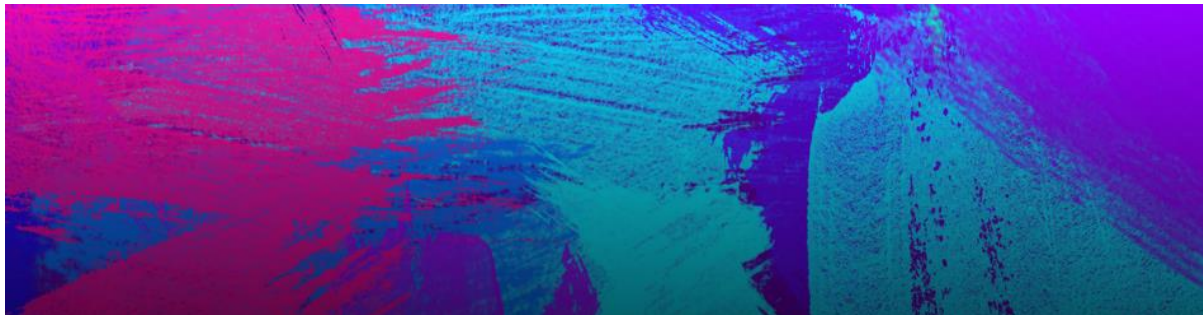
Please feel free to share far and wide.

To complete the survey go to:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NHFCGGT>



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**



Vacancy: 25-080 Assistant Arts Officer

Please note that the following position is currently advertised:

- **25-080 Assistant Arts Officer.**

Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is **4:00p.m. on Friday 26th September 2025.**

Application Form and Details are available on the Cork County Council Website – Careers Section.

<https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/council/careers>