



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### E - Bulletin Newsletter 24/10/2025

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** 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

|                                              |    |
|----------------------------------------------|----|
| News & Events: .....                         | 3  |
| Cork County PPN Winter Plenary .....         | 3  |
| Local Authority Waters Programme .....       | 4  |
| Youghal Pop Up Volunteer Centre .....        | 7  |
| Welcome to our new members: .....            | 8  |
| Get involved! Join Our Linkage Groups! ..... | 9  |
| Secretariat Vacancies: .....                 | 10 |
| #fundingfriday .....                         | 11 |
| Consultations .....                          | 17 |



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

**News & Events:**

## **Cork County PPN Winter Plenary**



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

**\*\*SAVE THE DATE!\*\***

**Cork County PPN  
Winter Plenary**



**Monday, November 24th**



**7 PM - Online**



**All other details to  
follow!**



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Local Authority Waters Programme

#### Bride River Nature Restoration Community Meeting

**Where:** Conna Community Hall P51 RW62

**When:** Wednesday October 29<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm

**Admission:** Free of charge, all welcome



**Calling All Changemakers!**

**From Bottlehill, Glenville, Watergrasshill,  
Rathcormack, Castleyons, Bridesbridge, Conna,  
Tallow and all along the beautiful Bride.**

**This initiative is about taking action. We're calling on local changemakers to help with:**

- ✓ Habitat restoration
- ✓ Invasive species control
- ✓ Citizen science and monitoring
- ✓ Community outreach and education

**Come along, hear from experts, get involved and be a changemaker!**

**Together, we can restore the Bride Valley — for nature, for water, and for future generations.**



# Public Participation Network Cork County

**WATER SAFETY PROMOTION BULLETIN**  
No. 1 of 2025 (Issued on 17/10/25)



## WATER SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR WINTER DIPS



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



### Know before you Go...

Check local tides and weather.

Choose a body of water appropriate for your level.

Do not go out of your depth and swim parallel to shore.

Never swim alone – find a local swimming group or swim with friends and family.

Have a safety plan with fellow swimmers in case of emergency.

**In an emergency call 999 or 112 and ask for the Coast Guard.**

Read safety signage and water safety notice boards.

Make sure you are **Visible** -wear a brightly coloured swim hat & tow float.

Gradually build the amount of time you spend in the water up – Listen to your body & do not get too cold!

Warm up as soon as you get out of the water – keep moving.

Bring a warm drink, warm clothes.



### Cold Water Shock & Hypothermia

#### Symptoms of Hyperthermia

**Fumbles-** dropping things due to loss of fine motor skills & grip strength

**Grumbles-** negative outlook & shivering

**Mumbles-** mental confusion & slurring

**Stumbles-** loss of coordination & muscle function.

### Tips for entering cold water:

Enter the water slowly

Focus on the breath, take slow long and deep breaths, in and out the nose.

Scooping the water up and tipping it onto our forehead and neck- allows us to acclimatise and activates the mammalian dive reflex which slows breathing. More information

available: <https://watersafety.ie/wintersafety/>

SHINE A LIGHT ON WATER SAFETY





## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

**Cork County Council  
ROAD SAFETY PROMOTION**

**VISION  
ZERO**  
NO ROAD DEATHS  
OR SERIOUS INJURIES BY 2020



## **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  
Network** Cork County

## Youghal Pop Up Volunteer Centre



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

# POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE YOUGHAL LIBRARY

**4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER  
TUESDAY  
10:30-12:30**



**A GREAT OPPORTUNITY TO:**

- Speak 1:1 with Cork Volunteer Centre staff
- Find out more about the services Cork Volunteer Centre provides to volunteers and non-profit organisations
- Register as a volunteer and apply for volunteer opportunities
- Advice on recruiting and managing volunteers for community groups



Any questions? Contact: [gosia@volunteercork.ie](mailto:gosia@volunteercork.ie)



## Welcome to our new members:

Muintir Bhaire Community Social Support group

Midleton Marketing and Christmas lights

Youghal Union of Parishes

Youghal Rugby Football Club

Comhaltas Ui Mac Choille

South Coast Triathlon Club

Mitchelstown Musical Society

Midleton Falcons Basketball Club

Fountainstown Community Sports Club

Midleton and East Cork Flood Protection Group

Rainbow Cultures Muid leat Sinawe

Cullen Tidy Towns & Development Association

Ballydehob Tidy Towns

ALONE

Grow Remote



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

### **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](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.



## 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](mailto:PPN@corkcoco.ie) and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

**#fundingfriday**

**#OurEUStory Awards 2025**

**Deadline extended!**

**# APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL FRIDAY, 31 OCTOBER (5pm) #**

The #OurEUStory Awards celebrates the transformational impact that EU-funded projects have on organisations and communities across Ireland.

**[Apply now](#)**

## **What is the #OurEUStory Awards?**

By entering the #OurEUStory Awards, you'll have the opportunity to demonstrate how EU-funded projects have benefitted your community while inspiring your peers to take advantage of all the opportunities that EU funding offers!

All entries must take the form of a video posted to the entrant's LinkedIn and/or Facebook page that is **no longer than 140 seconds** and includes the hashtag **#OurEUStory**. The video must touch on the assessment criteria outlined in the **[Terms and Conditions](#)** and the **[FAQ](#)**.

**Remember:** your video doesn't need to be fancy or professionally shot - it's about **telling the story of your EU project journey!**



## **Public Participation Network** Cork County

All three winning entries will win a prize: **€1,000 for first place and €500 each for second and third places**. We'll announce the winning entries at our Access Europe Showcase on 27 November in Dublin!



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Community Climate Action Programme, Strand 1 Call 2

Cork County Council is delighted to announce that applications will open for the **Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) Strand 1, Call 2** on **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October 2025** for a period of **8 weeks**, with a closing date of **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2025**. Applications can be made through [YourCouncil.ie](https://yourcouncil.ie).

This Programme will provide targeted funding to community groups through a competitive application process to deliver community climate action.

The Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP) in partnership with Cork County Council, aims to support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities to contribute to national climate and energy targets.

Strand 1, Call 2 of the CCAP will provide funding to community organisations in Cork County to deliver a local climate action project or initiative, and eligible community organisations can apply for up to 100% funding across three categories:

- Small scale projects: Up to €20,000
- Medium scale projects: €20,000 to €50,000
- Large scale projects: €51,000 to €100,000

Proposed projects should address one or more of the following five themes:

- community energy
- travel
- food and waste
- shopping and recycling
- local climate and environmental action.

Cork County Council has, once again, been allocated **€1.24 million** by the Department of Climate, Energy & the Environment to deliver the second call of the CCAP.

Cork County Council are hosting eight in-person project clinics at the following locations:

|                     |                                              |
|---------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Macroon Library     | Wednesday 29th October 11am - 1pm            |
| Carrigaline Library | Wednesday 29th October 3pm - 5pm             |
| Mallow Library      | Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> October 11am - 1pm |
| Midleton Library    | Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> November 3pm – 5pm   |



## **Public Participation Network** Cork County

|                    |                                               |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Skibbereen Library | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 11am – 1pm |
| Bandon Library     | Wednesday 5 <sup>th</sup> November 3pm – 5pm  |
| Fermoy Library     | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 11am – 1pm  |
| Cobh Library       | Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> November 3pm - 5pm   |

These project clinics will provide an opportunity for prospective applicants to discuss the CCAP and their proposed project on a one-to-one basis.

Contact [climate@corkcoco.ie](mailto:climate@corkcoco.ie) to book a one-to-one meeting in advance.



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## **PARENT PEER SUPPORT FUND NOW OPEN**

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley, has announced that a €150,000 parent peer support fund is now open for applications.

Parent peer support is when parents support each other by sharing knowledge, reducing feelings of isolation, and providing encouragement to navigate challenges and achieve well-being.

Grants of up to €5,000 can be provided to organisations working with parents and/or carers to support them to develop parent peer support initiatives. This includes peer support for parents who share similar life experiences, such as raising a child with complex needs or a mental health condition.

The Parent Peer Support fund will be made available under two tiers of funding.

- Tier 1 will provide grants of €2,500 to 37 successful applicants who either currently operate or wish to establish a new parent peer support project.
- Tier 2 will provide grants of €5,000 to 12 successful applicants who wish to scale up an existing parent peer support project, which is already having a positive impact on parents.

### **How to apply:**

Application forms for the €2,500 and €5,000 funding tiers, along with the funding Guidance and Terms and Conditions can be found [here](#).

**Applications must be submitted by Friday 31 October 2025.**

Full details here <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/publications/202526-parent-peer-support-fund/>



## RURAL ACTION AWARDS FOR 2025/2026 OPENS FOR APPLICATIONS

For the 4th year running, the Rural Action Awards Scheme 2025/26 is currently open for applications and will randomly select 4 successful recipients after the current **closing date of 20 November 2025**.

The Rural Action Awards Scheme is aimed at supporting rural communities celebrate their own achievements:

- Rural community-based organisations in Northern Ireland, or the border region of Ireland have the opportunity to apply for and be in with a chance of securing £1000 or €1000 towards their chosen community project
- The scheme is open to constituted rural community-based organisations including charities, not for profit community groups, sporting and cultural organisations, heritage groups, Parent Teacher Associations, youth groups/clubs and social enterprises
- 4 recipients chosen at random for this call
- Simple application form and verification process with evidence of constitution and bank account in group name required if successful
- The scheme seeks to support practical, tangible and timebound projects where the project must complete within 12 weeks
- The scheme is open for applications now and will close on 20th November 2025.

For Terms & Conditions and how to apply visit <https://ruralaction.co/what-we-do/rural-action-awards-scheme/>

Keep an eye on our social media ([Facebook](#)) for updates and details of successful awards.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Consultations

**Last Chance to Participate !!**

## Critical Research on the Challenges Facing the Community Sector

### Community Groups' Greatest Challenges



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

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.



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

### **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.

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>



## Shaping the New National Volunteering Strategy

Ireland's National Volunteering Strategy 2021-2025 is due to expire, and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht is seeking ideas, and guidance from across the community in developing its successor. The strategy aims to recognise, promote, and grow volunteering, acknowledging its vital social, cultural, and economic contributions, and provides a framework for government support and collaboration with organisations like The Wheel and our colleagues throughout the voluntary sector.

### **Your voice is important!**

The impact of volunteers is felt across our sector. Whether your organisation relies on the efforts of drivers, gardeners, fundraisers, youth leaders, or befrienders, or if your only volunteers are your board of trustees - volunteers shape so much of what we do as charities, community groups and social enterprises.

Please take a few minutes today to share your thoughts. The survey is just four questions but your contribution is invaluable. It's vital we have a volunteer strategy that truly reflects the experiences and the needs of volunteers themselves, those who benefit from their efforts, and the organisations, large and small supporting and coordinating them.

**[Shaping the New National Volunteering Strategy](#)**



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## **Public Consultation to inform Ireland's Social Climate Plan**

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE) is currently developing a national Social Climate Plan which will set out measures to be financed from the EU Social Climate Fund over the period 2026 to 2032.

We are writing to you to draw your attention to a public consultation to inform the development of this Plan. The consultation was launched by Minister Darragh O'Brien on 11 September that will conclude on 23 October.

The EU Social Climate Fund is the first EU fund developed with the explicit purpose of alleviating potential energy and transport poverty occurring from the transition towards clean mobility and a decarbonised built environment. The focus of Ireland's Plan will be investment in long-lasting, socially fair measures aimed at supporting those who may be most vulnerable to energy and transport poverty arising from the rise in the price of carbon and consequent rise in fossil fuel prices.

DCEE is working closely with relevant Departmental stakeholders and with the European Commission to ensure that the Plan developed will meet the requirements of the governing Regulation. We are committed to developing robust and high-quality measures, guided by meaningful stakeholder input, to ensure that the funds are appropriately targeted to those most vulnerable. In this context, two consultation processes at key points in the development of the Plan are planned.

The first of those is the following open public and stakeholder consultation which is designed to capture information on what the public and stakeholders see as the priorities for investment under this Plan. The second consultation, being planned for November, will be a public event, with European Commission officials present.

Commenting on the consultation, Minister O'Brien said:

"Over the longer-term, we will have a much more sustainable, secure and efficient transport and heating system, but in the here and now, I recognise that the transition can be difficult for people and that it impacts people unevenly. We have a fantastic opportunity now, with the support of this significant EU co-financing, to develop measures that will have a lasting impact on the wellbeing and comfort of those most vulnerable to energy and transport poverty while also having decarbonisation co-benefits.

While this is an open consultation, I particularly encourage all those impacted by energy and transport poverty, and the groups that represent them, to participate in this consultation."



## **Public Participation Network** Cork County

It is in this context that we invite you, and your network of contacts and stakeholders, to participate in this consultation found on the Departmental website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/press-releases/minister-obrien-launches-consultation-on-irelands-social-climate-plan/>



**Public Participation  
Network** Cork County

**DCU**

Ollscoil Chathair  
Bhaile Átha Cliath  
Dublin City University

We'd like to invite you to take part in a [short survey](#) (5–10 minutes) being carried out by researchers at Dublin City University.

The study looks at how false or misleading information (misinformation and disinformation) is affecting Ireland's voluntary and community sector – especially charities and organisations working on issues such as gender, race, and migration.

The survey covers:

- What kinds of false stories or harmful narratives are targeting the sector
- How these impact organisations' ability to do their work
- What supports or resources could help groups respond more effectively.

All responses will be anonymous. The findings will be published in a report early next year to highlight the impact of misinformation on our sector.

Please [complete the survey here](#).