



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 30/10/2025

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



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**Public Participation
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News & Events:

Cork County PPN Winter Plenary



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council



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

**Cork County PPN
Winter Plenary**



Monday, November 24th



7 PM - Online



**All other details to
follow!**



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Halloween Events



👻🍊 Check out some of the Halloween festivals that have received funding through Cork County Council's **Local Festival and Event** Fund which is managed by the **Tourism Unit** (who share an office with us in PPN HQ!)

- 👻 Doneraile Samhain Festival - 29 Oct - 02 Nov
- 🍁 Spirit of Samhain - Youghal - 30 - 31 October
- 🍊 An Tulca Halloween Festival - Kinsale - 31 Oct - 01 Nov
- 👻 Ffarmoy - Fermoy - 31 October
- 🍁 Malloween - Mallow - 26 Oct - 01 Nov
- 🍊 Leap Scarecrow Festival - Leap - 20th Oct – 01 Nov
- 👻 Bandon Banshee Festival - 31 Oct - 03 Nov
- 🍁 Samhain - Clonakilty - 07 - 09 November



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**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!



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Youghal Pop Up Volunteer Centre



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

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE YOUGHAL LIBRARY

**4TH 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



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**Volunteer
Ireland**
Obair Dheonach Éireann

Sarah Sheridan of Volunteer Ireland has reached out to us. Sarah is currently compiling a nationwide list of voluntary transport services that assist individuals in traveling to and from healthcare appointments. She is seeking input from community networks and organisations across Ireland.

If your group is involved in such a voluntary transport scheme, or if you are aware of any services—local, regional, or county-level—that provide transport specifically for health-related appointments, Volunteer Ireland would greatly appreciate your assistance.

They are not requesting any personal data, only the names of relevant services. Follow-up contact will be made directly with those services if needed.

Additionally, if you know of any useful directories, contacts, or publications that could help identify these services, please feel free to share them.

For further information or to submit details, you can contact: **Sarah Sheridan**
Corporate Intern, Volunteer Ireland

✉ corporateintern@volunteer.ie

🌐 www.volunteer.ie



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[The Wheel](#) is delighted to invite you to attend the [Access Europe 2025 Showcase](#), taking place **in person** at the **Dublin Royal Convention Centre** on **Thursday, 27 November** from **11.00am to 2.30pm**.

This event is designed for organisations at all stages of their EU funding journey—from those just starting out to those looking to expand their involvement. Attendees will have the opportunity to engage directly with **Irish National Contact Points** for various EU funding programmes, explore funding pathways, and network with experts and peers.

A highlight of the day will be the [#OurEUStory Awards 2025](#) ceremony, celebrating organisations that have demonstrated the transformational impact of EU-funded projects in their communities. There are **three cash prizes** to be awarded. PPN members are encouraged to submit their entries by **31 October** via this link.

This is a **free event**, but **registration is essential** as places are limited. To secure a spot, please book your place now.

For updates and more information, PPN members are also encouraged to connect with [Access Europe on LinkedIn](#).

We hope many of you will take advantage of this valuable opportunity to learn more about EU funding and celebrate the achievements of community organisations across Ireland.

For further information contact:

Emily Nelson

EU Programmes Manager, The Wheel

✉ training@wheel.ie

☎ (01) 454 8727

🌐 www.wheel.ie



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THE WHEEL INVITES YOU TO THE NEW SOLUTIONS HUB LAUNCH - 3 NOV

You are invited to a landmark event in Ireland's social innovation calendar: the [launch of the New Solutions Social Innovation Fund Hub](#) and the announcement of the **Scaling Up Grantees**.

Date: Monday, 3 November 2025

Time: 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

Venue: Nemo Rangers GAA Club, Mount Vernon Crescent, Ballinlough, Cork, T12 R2PC.

This special event will bring together people, ideas and organisations that are driving positive change across Ireland.

You can look forward to:

- ✚ Opening remarks from Jerry Buttimer, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, and the Department of Transport.
- ✚ The official launch of the *New Solutions Hub*, a new national platform providing support and pathways to funding for the Irish social innovation sector.
- ✚ The announcement of the *Scaling Up Grantees*, showcasing inspiring organisations expanding proven solutions to Ireland's most pressing challenges.
- ✚ Opportunities to network with changemakers and connect with the new Hub community.
- ✚ Refreshments and a light lunch provided. The venue is fully accessible and ISL interpreters will be present.

Why Attend: if you are involved in community development, social enterprise, public policy or simply passionate about building a better Ireland, this event is for you.



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Reserve your spot today:

Places are limited, so we encourage you to [register early.](#)

Hope you can join us in Cork to celebrate this exciting next chapter for social innovation in Ireland.



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](#)

- 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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#fundingfriday

#OurEUStory Awards 2025

Deadline extended!

APPLICATIONS OPEN UNTIL TOMORROW – 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!**

All three winning entries will win a prize: **€1,000 for first place and €500 each for**



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second and third places. We'll announce the winning entries at our Access Europe

Showcase on 27 November in Dublin!



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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 28th October 2025** for a period of **8 weeks**, with a closing date of **Tuesday 23rd 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 th October 11am - 1pm
Midleton Library	Tuesday 4 th November 3pm – 5pm



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Skibbereen Library	Wednesday 5 th November 11am – 1pm
Bandon Library	Wednesday 5 th November 3pm – 5pm
Fermoy Library	Thursday 6 th November 11am – 1pm
Cobh Library	Thursday 6 th 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 to book a one-to-one meeting in advance.



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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.



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To support the incredible work that so many charities do Movement for Good invites you to **nominate a charity** close to your heart for the £1,000 donation draws.

The **Movement for Good Awards** is an annual programme of giving that anyone can get involved in.

Closing Date: 15 December

For more information, go to: <https://movementforgood.com/>



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ECO-UNESCO runs the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), a free all – Ireland programme that **supports young people aged 10 – 18 to design and lead environmental action projects** in their schools and communities.

Closing Date: 30 November

What are the Young Environmentalist Awards? ECO-UNESCO runs the Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA), a free all – Ireland programme that supports young people aged 10 – 18 to design and lead environmental action projects in their schools and communities. Since 1999, the programme has celebrated youth-led solutions to real-world environmental challenges, from climate change and biodiversity loss to waste reduction and sustainable living.

By taking part, young people gain the tools and support to raise awareness, take action on issues they care about from biodiversity loss to climate change and inspire others to do the same. Over 70,000 young people have participated in the programme, gaining valuable life skills while driving positive change at both a local and national level. The YEA programme is a fun and exciting way to empower young people to become better citizens.

Who can enter? The YEA is free to enter and open to any group (2-25 members) of young people aged 10-18 years based in the Republic of Ireland or Northern Ireland.

There are three age categories:

-  Super Junior Group: 10-12 years
-  Junior Group: 12-14 years
-  Senior Group: 15-18 years

Already entered a science, sustainability or innovation competition? You can enter the same project into YEA to increase its impact and reach.

For more information, go to: <https://ecounesco.ie/young-environmentalist-awards/>



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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.



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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](#)



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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](#).



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Happy



Halloween

From all in
Cork County PPN!

