



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### E - Bulletin Newsletter 30/01/2026

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
Get involved! .....	10
#fundingfriday .....	15
Consultations .....	22

## News & Events:

### PPN Training Needs Analysis 2026

Cork County PPN prides itself on being able to facilitate training for our groups. Last year we ran Strategic Planning, and Volunteer Management training, and we held a series of Social Media trainings - all because YOU asked.

Please see the link to our Training Needs Survey for 2026.

Do let us know what training you think would benefit your group and will we try our best to facilitate it.

<https://form.jotform.com/250073905528053>

The deadline to respond is midnight on Monday 9 February, so get your thinking caps on!

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**Toward the end of last year, the Central Statistics Office and the Southeast Regional PPN network held an information meeting.**

The link to the slides is now available – They include:

- An overview of the upcoming Census 2027 and key changes
- Insights and findings from Census 2022
- A step by step demonstration on how to access and use Census data via the CSO website – useful for reps on Strategic Policy Committees, members writing grant applications, doing feasibility studies, you name it!

**Slides:** <https://wicklowppn.my.salesforce.com>

**Recording:** <https://countywicklowppn.ie/census-roadshow/>



**Public Participation  
Network Cork County**

## Deposit Return Scheme Pilot on the Islands



**Re-turn**, the operator of Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme, has expanded access to its reverse vending machines (RVMs) and recycling infrastructure to three island communities in Ireland. The pilot will see the installation of RVMs on Cape Clear Island in Co. Cork and Arranmore Island in Co. Donegal as well as communal Re-turn collection bins on Inishturk, Co. Mayo, ensuring residents and visitors alike can easily return drinks containers for recycling.

The Islands Pilot Programme will gather information and data, monitoring return rates, machine usage patterns and community feedback to inform wider rollouts of RVMs to island communities in the future.

Island communities face unique challenges in managing waste, including limited transport links and constrained local infrastructure. Providing convenient return points ensures these communities are not disadvantaged in participating in the Deposit Return Scheme and supports equal access to recycling services across Ireland.

For more information visit [www.re-turn.ie](http://www.re-turn.ie)



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## A SHARED VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

20<sup>th</sup> February 2026

### A SHARED VISION FOR AGRICULTURE AND FOOD

STRENGTHENING RURAL LIFE  
FROM FARM TO COMMUNITY

Join us to discuss the challenges facing rural industries and communities in the coming years and explore opportunities for strengthening rural life



**BILLY KELLEHER MEP**  
Member of the European  
Parliament



**JOSEPHINE O'NEILL**  
National President  
Macra



**VANESSA KIELY O'CONNOR**  
Vice-Chair  
West Cork ICMSA



**ENDA BUCKLEY**  
Director of Sustainability  
Carbery Group



**CONOR MULVIHILL**  
Director  
Dairy Industry Ireland



**NIALL WALSH**  
Assistant CEO  
Avondhu Blackwater



**TADHG BUCKLEY**  
Director of Policy  
Irish Farmers Association



**RACHEL MARTIN**  
Farming Editor  
Irish Examiner

HOSTED BY



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí  
Cork County Council



SAVE THE DATE

#### THE DETAILS

20<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026  
MUNSTER TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY  
BISHOPSTOWN  
CORK  
10 AM

**TICKET  
LINK**



Free Registration

<https://farming-rural-life.eventbrite.ie/>

This event is funded by the Ireland Dairy Centre of Vocational Excellence (Ireland Dairy CoVE), contributing to the Erasmus+ European Excellence in Dairy Learning project (Grant number 101055548). Establishment of national Dairy CoVE's is part of an EU-wide initiative focused on strengthening vocational education and training within the dairy and wider agri-food sector. MTU is an Irish partner in the project, which is led nationally by University College Cork.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Cork County Council Launches Pedestrian Safety Campaign



### **Adults Role Modelling Safe Behaviour**

Reminding all adults that the children in your care will copy you. If you make a point of using the crossings they will too. The safest way to cross is the way they learn from you!

### **Use of Pedestrian Crossings**

A Key focus of the launch was to encourage the public to take those extra few steps to get to the designated crossing points to ensure they are crossing safely. Don't be tempted to take a short cut it's not worth the risk.

### **School Warden Service**

Respecting and using the School Warden Service around our Schools was a key focus at the launch. School Warden, John, was on hand to help launch this appeal and demonstrate how the role of the School Warden is so vital to our School Communities. All drivers must obey the signals of the School Warden. Thanks to all involved in the School Warden Service you really are great Road Safety Champions.





### **The Seatbelt Sheriff**

The RSA Seatbelt Sheriff played his part at the launch making some short videos with key reminders for pedestrian safety around the roads. He also paid a visit to the local school and the children loved the session he facilitated. Those in attendance all got Sheriff Badges and left full of importance. As they say "Knowledge is Power"!

### **Partnership Approach to Road Safety**

We Thank The Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Linehan-Foley for launching the campaign. The School Warden Service, Primary Schools, Secondary Schools & The RSA along with An Garda Siochana were all in attendance to lend their support and launch this vitally important campaign around Pedestrian Safety.



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

# **Water Safety Appeal for St. Brigids Bank Holiday Weekend 2026**

### **St Brigid's Bank holiday weekend water safety appeal from Irish Coast Guard, RNLI and Water Safety Ireland**

**Following a period of poor weather, storms and heavy rainfall, the Irish Coast Guard, Water Safety Ireland and the RNLI are reminding the public that checking weather and sea conditions is a critical first step before any coastal or water-based activity. Strong winds this weekend are expected to lead to very rough sea states and large swells, making coastal conditions particularly dangerous.**

Storm waters and rising sea levels can quickly cut people off from safety or allow waves to reach places that are normally dry, leaving little or no time to escape. Keeping safe around water is everyone's responsibility and staying back from the water's edge can prevent a tragedy.

Remember too that the edges of waterside pathways may have been damaged in storms and may be unstable.

Year-round swimming and dipping are increasingly popular. Wind conditions can affect waves and swell, create rip currents and poor visibility, and increase cold exposure. Strong winds make open water riskier, even if the sky is clear. Because water conditions can shift quickly, a calm morning can turn dangerous by afternoon. If the water looks rough, murky, or unpredictable, it may not be safe to enter, so err on the side of caution and do not get in.

#### **If swimming at this time of year, remember:**

- **Water temperatures are still cold - wear a wetsuit, brightly coloured swimming cap, and gloves to stay warm**
- **Acclimatise slowly and use a tow float to increase visibility.**
- **Never swim alone and always ensure that a colleague is monitoring your activity.**

For the most up to date information on weather and conditions, always check local forecasts to keep informed. If you see somebody in trouble on the water or along the coast or think they are in trouble; Dial 112 or 999 or use VHF radio CH 16 and ask for the Coast Guard.





**Public Participation  
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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! Is there anything you would like to learn more about, or raise awareness of?

Let us know!



## Public Participation Network Cork County

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



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## **Voluntary Positions Available:**

### **Cork County PPN Secretariat Vacancies Available!**

- 2 x Carrigaline MD vacancies**
- 1 x Cobh MD vacancy**
- 2 x East Cork MD vacancies**
- 1 x Fermoy MD vacancy**
- 2 x Kanturk / Mallow MD vacancies**
- 2 x Environment Pillar vacancies**

For further info:  
**PPN@CorkCoco.ie**



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Cork County Council



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

### **Further vacancies:**

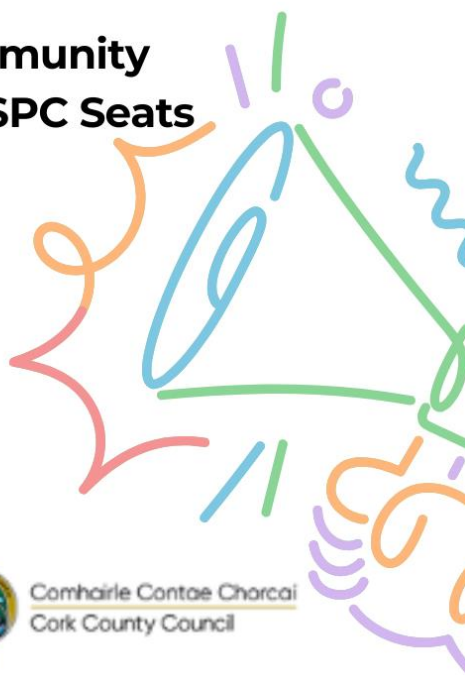
## **Voluntary Positions Available:**

### **Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)**

### **Vacancies**

- 2 x Economic Development & Enterprise SPC Seats**
- 1 x Tourism SPC Seat**
- 2 x Social Inclusion, Community and Rural Development SPC Seats**

For further info:  
**PPN@CorkCoco.ie**





**Public Participation  
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## **Voluntary Positions Available:**

### **Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) Vacancies**



We have a number of **Social Inclusion Rep vacancies** available, in each LCDC area :

- **2 x North Cork representatives**
- **1 x South Cork representative**
- **1 x West Cork representative**

For further info:  
**PPN@CorkCoco.ie**



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## 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.





**Public Participation  
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**#fundingfriday**



## **Cork County Council Launches Enhanced Local Festival & Event Fund 2026**

Cork County Council is delighted to announce the launch of the Local Festival & Event Fund 2026, a key investment in Cork County's cultural and tourism landscape. The fund is supported by Fáilte Ireland, reflecting a shared commitment to developing high-quality festivals and events across Cork County.

This enhanced initiative is designed to strengthen communities, support economic growth, and position Cork County as a leading destination for visitors throughout the year.

The Local Festival & Event Fund 2026 is delivered through two distinct funding strands:

### **Strand A - Small/Medium Festivals & Events**

Designed to strengthen local identity and attract domestic visitors, with grants of up to €6,000 available.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Event must take place within Cork County
- Minimum 150 projected bed nights
- Minimum €7,500 total expenditure
- High-quality programme with strong domestic tourism relevance



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### **Strand B - Large-Scale Festivals & Events**

Targeting major events that deliver significant economic impact and elevate Cork County's profile nationally and internationally.

#### **Eligibility:**

- Event must take place within Cork County
- Minimum 1,000 projected bed nights
- Minimum €20,000 expenditure
- Professionally structured, high-calibre programme

Both strands will be assessed on programme quality, marketing and collaboration, delivery capacity, seasonality, visitor experience fit, and sustainability practices.

Welcoming the launch, Mayor of the County of Cork, Councillor Mary Linehan Foley, said:

*"Festivals and events are a central part of Cork County's visitor economy and of what makes the county a strong and distinctive destination. They support local enterprise, sustain employment, and generate economic activity that benefits towns and villages across the county. Cork County Council is taking a strategic approach to supporting festivals and events that are well planned, professionally delivered, and deliver clear value for communities and the wider economy. This enhanced fund supports a sustainable festivals and events sector that strengthens Cork County's tourism offering and helps to extend the tourism season across the year."*

For full details and to apply, visit Cork County Council's website: [Local Festival & Event Fund 2026 | Cork County Council](#)



## Public Participation Network Cork County



### Cash for Clubs – Win Cash and Kits for Your Club

As proud title sponsor of the FAI Club Mark programme, Circle K are committed to supporting grassroots football in communities right across Ireland.

Circle K have launched their newest Cash for Clubs campaign –back for the third year supporting grassroots clubs , with more prizes for clubs to win.

This year, over 20 clubs nationwide will win amazing prizes, from brand new kits to €10,000 in cash. Here's how you and your club can get involved:

#### How It Works:

1. **Download the Circle K App**

Join as a Circle K Extra member and opt into *Cash for Clubs* directly from the app's homepage.

2. **Pick Your Club**

Create your username and select the club you want to support. You can change which team you want to support throughout the campaign.

3. **Earn Points in Two Ways:**



## Public Participation Network Cork County

- **In-Store Scans**

Scan your Circle K app every time you shop:

- €0.01 – €29.99 spend = **250 points**
- €30 – €49.99 spend = **1,000 points**
- €50+ spend = **1,500 points**

*A maximum of 3 scans per day will be valid.*

- **Play the Daily Game**

Open the Circle K app every day to play and collect extra points for you and your club.

**Further info:** [Cash for Clubs | Circle K](#)



## HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme

The HSE offer National Lottery grants to health and social care projects.

Community groups and voluntary organisations can apply.

You must provide health or social care services to the community. For example, you might help people with a disability, older people, carers or disadvantaged groups.

Public bodies, including the HSE, cannot apply for this funding.

### **Important dates**

Wednesday 14 January 2026 - applications for 2026 funding opens.

Friday 13 February 2026, midday - the deadline for applications.

Friday 29 May 2026 - we will contact all applicants to let them know the outcome of their applications.

Further info: [HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme](#)



## 2026 CERV Programme: Calls for proposals on the Funding and Tenders Portal

The Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values (CERV) Programme has published the first 2026 calls for proposals on the [Funding & Tenders Portal](#), with more opportunities set to follow soon. The calls aim to promote Union rights and values while encouraging citizen engagement and active participation in the democratic life of the European Union.

### Key areas of support include:

- Town-twinning & [Networks of towns](#) initiatives
- Remembrance projects reflecting on shared European history
- Citizen engagement
- Rights of the child and children's participation
- Support for European networks, civil society organisations active at EU level and European think-tanks in the areas of Union Values.

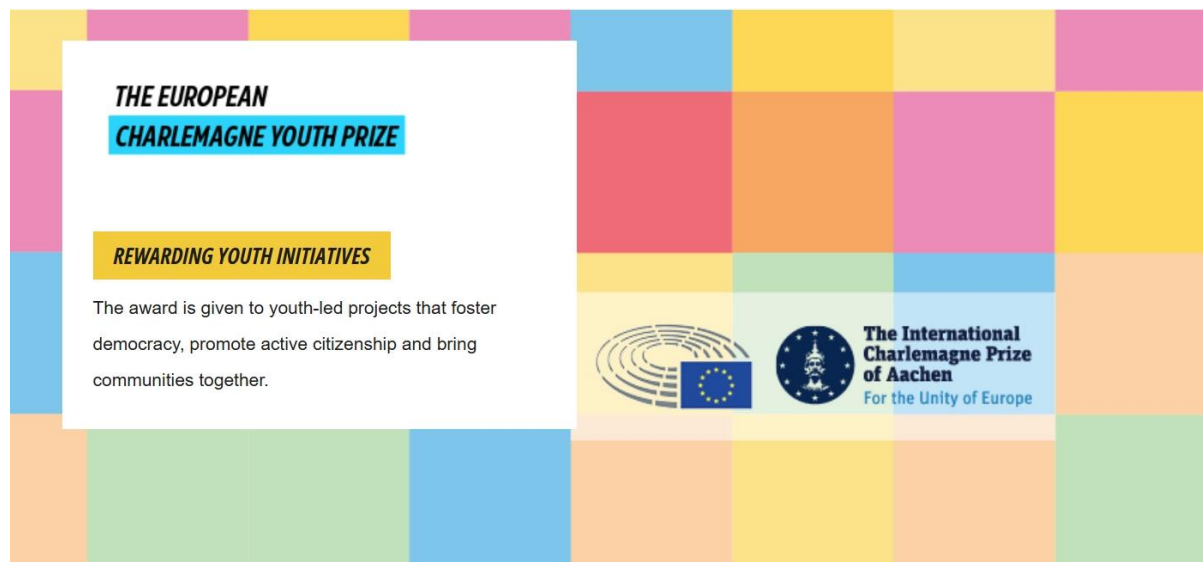
Check the [F&TP](#) for details, deadlines, upcoming calls, application criteria, and further updates.

**Further info:** [2026 CERV Programme: Calls for proposals on the Funding and Tenders Portal - European Education and Culture Executive Agency](#)





# Public Participation Network Cork County



## ABOUT THE PRIZE

The Prize is an award run jointly by the European Parliament and the Foundation of the International Charlemagne Prize of Aachen that highlights projects by young people to strengthen democracy and support active participation.

[Read more about the prize](#)

## HOW TO APPLY?

Are you an EU resident aged 16-30 working on a project that helps change Europe? You could be the winner of the European Charlemagne Youth Prize! Apply with your project, get up to €7500 and get the help you need to further develop your initiative.

[Find out how to apply](#)

**Further info:** [Charlemagne Youth Prize](#) | [Youth Hub](#) | [European Parliament](#) | [Youth Hub](#) | [European Parliament](#)



## Consultations

# Public Consultation on the Draft Cork Wastewater Strategy and associated Environmental Reports

**Uisce Éireann** has commenced an 8-week public consultation on the draft Cork Wastewater Strategy and associated environmental reports.

The Draft Strategy sets out a long-term plan for managing wastewater services across the **Cork Metropolitan Area**, assessing existing infrastructure and identifying the future investment required to support sustainable growth, environmental protection, and climate resilience through to **2030, 2055 and 2080**.

Uisce Éireann will be consulting with a wide range of environmental and public bodies to progress this comprehensive assessment of all existing wastewater infrastructure and set out a vision for future development. Members of the public and all interested stakeholders are also invited to participate in the consultation and make a submission.

**Submissions are invited from all interested parties for eight weeks from 22 January to 19 March 2026.**

This is an important project for the people of Cork, the first of its kind undertaken. Uisce Éireann is proactively looking ahead to identify the needs of the area, and the community, as far forward as 2080.

In developing the draft Cork Wastewater Strategy, Uisce Éireann has prepared key environmental reports including a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) Natura Impact Statement (NIS).

**Documents are available to view and download from** <https://www.water.ie/CWS>

To make a submission please send it to Uisce Éireann by email or post by 19 March 2026.

**Email:** [CWS@water.ie](mailto:CWS@water.ie)

**Post:** Cork Wastewater Strategy, Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork City.

**Online:** [consult.water.ie](https://consult.water.ie)

Uisce Éireann will also host a **webinar** during the consultation period. Details and registration information will be available on the website.