



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 20/02/2026

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



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Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:

Don't get upset! Ná Bí Buartha!!

Hello everyone! Just a heads up about some admin going on in the background – myself & the Secretariat are updating the PPN membership database, and well, some of your profiles look like this ...

▼ About the Group	
Date Established ⓘ	Governed by rules or a constitution ⓘ
Group's structure ⓘ	
If other group structure, describe ⓘ	
What is the main cause of your group	
Description/Aims	
Notes	

Not exactly overflowing with information!

So, with that in mind, we're reviewing and removing from our database accounts that are deemed to breach our eligibility criteria:

PPNs are meant to be inclusive of the full and diverse range of volunteer-led organisations in their Local Authority area.

Membership is open to groups which:

1. Are active and with a postal address in the Local Authority area. It is the PPNs' responsibility to validate the identity of its Member Groups.
2. Operate on a not-for profit basis.
3. Are volunteer-led (organisations may have paid staff, but must be under voluntary control).
4. Are independent, and this can include local and regional branches of national organisations.
5. Have at least 5 members and are open to new members.
6. Have the details of 1 Main & 2 Alternative Contact persons on file.



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7. Have an appropriate governance structure e.g. set of rules / constitution / financial procedures.
8. Meet regularly.
9. Are in existence for at least six months.
10. Are non-party political.

So, you might have the best group EVER (and we know all our groups are amazing!) but if your membership profile is devoid of information at the moment, or you are deemed ineligible for any of the reasons listed above, you may get deleted in the coming weeks. If this happens, please feel free to reapply!

New applications will be assessed against the above criteria and membership decided by the Secretariat, in the usual way.



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Difig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office

Local Enterprise Week 2026

Social Enterprises play an essential role in communities across Ireland, providing services where they're needed most and creating real social impact every day. They support vulnerable groups, strengthen community wellbeing, and increasingly contribute to environmental sustainability through innovative, planet-friendly solutions.

LEO South Cork is delighted to celebrate the work of our local Social Enterprises and the individuals driving them. This event is designed to bring Social Entrepreneurs, community organisations, and local stakeholders together for an open and engaging discussion.

What This Is All About

1. Sharing the Journey So Far

We will give a clear and accessible overview of the progress made in developing the Social Enterprise sector in Ireland, along with the key principles shaping national policy. This session is ideal for anyone looking to better understand how Social Enterprise is growing.

2. Listening to Your Experience

You will hear directly from Social Entrepreneurs operating in Cork and surrounding areas. Their insights, challenges, and real-world experiences will help inform the type of future supports that matter most. This is an opportunity to understand what's working, highlight what's needed, and help shape a supportive environment for Social Enterprises to thrive.

This event will feature a keynote address from **Giorgia Anile**, founder of **The Toy Library**, whose work offers an inspiring example of community-focused innovation. Giorgia will be joined by a panel of dynamic speakers who will share their insights, experiences, and perspectives on the growing importance of Social Enterprises in Cork. Together, they will highlight the valuable role these organisations play in strengthening communities, supporting local needs, and driving social and environmental impact across the region.

Registration is essential: [Local Enterprise Week 2026 - Rethinking Impact: Why Not a Social Enterprise? - Local Enterprise Office - SouthCork](#)



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Cork
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE MITCHELSTOWN LIBRARY

24TH FEBRUARY
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: gosaia@volunteercork.ie



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Community Energy Grant (CEG) Information Event – Killarney

energywise
Ireland

&

seai SUSTAINABLE
ENERGY AUTHORITY
OF IRELAND

PRESENT:

**THE COMMUNITY ENERGY
GRANT SCHEME EVENT**

*Join Energywise Ireland and the SEAI to learn
how your business can cut energy costs and
access valuable SEAI grants.*

**Friday,
27th February
11:00am**

**Scott's Hotel,
Killarney,
V93 FY7A**

REGISTER HERE:

Community groups and businesses are invited to attend an upcoming Community Energy Grant (CEG) information event, **hosted by Energywise Ireland in partnership with SEAI.**



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Taking place on the **27th February at 11:00am in Scott's Hotel, Killarney**, the event will provide practical guidance on how the scheme works, available grants, eligible works, and more.

The Community Energy Grant (CEG) supports **community-led initiatives to explore, plan, and deliver sustainable energy projects.**

This event is ideal for community groups interested in reducing energy costs, tackling climate action locally, and building long-term energy resilience.

Attendance is free, and all are encouraged to come along and learn more about how the CEG can support their energy ambitions.

Food will be provided on the day.

Register here: <https://forms.office.com/e/Bxr5Jtkrfq>



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

Gay Project Queer Vibes on tour !

**Queer Vibes
ON TOUR**

CLONAKILTY

**1ST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH
5.00PM-7.00PM**

**CLONAKILTY COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE
21 WESTERN ROAD, CLONAKILTY. P85 RW35**

**SOCIAL CAFÉ FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY TO MEET NEW
PEOPLE AND MAKE FRIENDS (18 YRS +). TEA, COFFEE AND SNACKS PROVIDED**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO JOIN AS A VOLUNTEER,
CONTACT KILLIAN AT 085-7851926/KILLIAN@GAYPROJECT.IE**



021 4300 430 / info@gayproject.ie
www.gayproject.ie
RCN: 20078652 CRO:256161



An Roinn Leasraí, Comhionannais,
Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth





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**Queer Vibes
ON TOUR**

CORK COUNTY GROUPS

MALLOW - 1ST WED OF MONTH
CLONAKILTY - 1ST THU OF MONTH
COBH 2ND WED OF MONTH
BANTRY 3RD THU OF MONTH
MIDLETON 4TH TUE OF MONTH

SOCIAL CAFÉ FOR ALL MEMBERS OF THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY TO MEET NEW PEOPLE AND MAKE FRIENDS (18 YRS +). TEA, COFFEE AND SNACKS PROVIDED

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GAY PROJECT 021 4300 430 / info@gayproject.ie
www.gayproject.ie
RCN: 20078652 CRO:256161

An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais,
Míchairne, Láimhdeánacha agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

Gay Project is launching a new monthly LGBTI+ social group in Clonakilty on Thursday 5th of March.

Our Queer Vibes Cafés are now held monthly in five towns across Cork County and weekly in Cork City.

The social cafés are for all members of the LGBT+ community over 18 years of age to meet new people and make friends over tea/coffee.

Mallow – The first Wednesday of each month, 5.30-7.30pm, Mercy Centre, Mallow, P51 PF10

Clonakilty – The first Thursday of each month, 5.00-7.00pm, Clonakilty Community Resource Centre, P85 RW35



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Cobh – The second Wednesday of each month, 5.30-7.30pm, Cobh Community Centre, P24 WP82

Bantry – The third Thursday of each month, 5.00-7.00pm, Bridge Street Community Café, Bantry, P75 EC42

Midleton – The fourth Tuesday of each month, 5.30-7.30pm, My Place, Midleton, P25 TT50

For more information or to join as a volunteer contact Killian at 085-7851936
or killian@gayproject.ie



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Dripsey Ambush Annual Memorial Parade



The **Dripsey Ambush Annual Memorial Parade** is taking place on Sunday March 01 starting in Dripsey Cross at 3.00 pm.



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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!



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Welcome New Groups!

Maple Woods Residents Association
Irish Whale and Dolphin Group
Mitchelstown Community Allotment
Kildorrery GAA Club
Gortroe Community Hall
Lisavaird Womens Shed
Abbeystrewry Hall Committee
Tralahan Development Association
Iveleary GAA Club
Kilworth Dramatic Society
Coachford AFC
Badminton Club Charleville
Art for the Heart Doneraile

DELIGHTED, as always, to see our numbers continuing to grow! 😊

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That said... Are you receiving our Newsletter each week and forwarding it to your colleague, your sister, and “John Down the Road”?

Well, why not get them to register with us also- the more the merrier!



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 and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



**Public Participation
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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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Further vacancies:

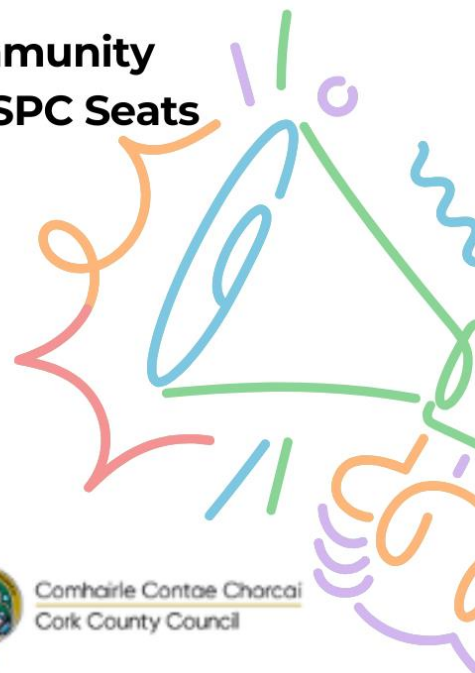
**Voluntary Positions
Available:**

**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.

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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#fundingfriday

ROSIE & JIM LAUNCH CHARITY & COMMUNITY FUND 2026

Rosie & Jim, an Irish family business, is excited to announce the launch of its 2026 Charity & Community Fund. The organisation has a strong commitment to supporting local causes and charities throughout Ireland.

In 2026, the fund will welcome all registered Irish charities to apply for one or more initiatives. With a total of up to €40,000 available, the fund aims to help charities nationwide create meaningful impact.

This initiative allows Rosie & Jim to support a broader range of charities. The organisation looks forward to receiving applications from all sectors.

Who can apply?

- Registered Irish charity (CHY/CRA number)
- Project delivered in Ireland for communities in Ireland
- Project can start within 3 months and finish within 12 months of award
- Appropriate governance, safeguarding, financial controls
- It must be clear that this fund will be exclusively used for a specific project and not for general operations.

Not eligible: individuals, political activity/parties, primarily religious promotion, projects outside Ireland, retrospective costs, general appeals, debt relief, capital-only requests without clear community benefit, or activities with unmanaged safety risks.

Learn More / Apply:

Full applications details are [available here](#).

The deadline for application is **4 March 2026**.



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Network Cork County**

CHILDMINDING DEVELOPMENT GRANTS FOR 2026 LAUNCHED

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley has announced the opening of the 2026 Childminding Development Grant.

Applications for the 2026 Childminding Development Grant start on Wednesday, 11 February and close on Wednesday, 15 April.

The Childminding Development Grant provides up to €1,000 to assist childminders, who are providing a childminding service in their own homes. The Grant scheme is open to all childminders, including registered childminders, those that are yet to register, and those who are planning to open a childminding business during 2026.

The Grant aims to support childminders to enhance quality and safety in their service through the purchase of toys, childcare equipment, safety equipment, equipment to support inclusion and STEM and the Arts education (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) as well as IT equipment to assist childminders to engage with training and registration processes. 75% of the Grant is paid in advance to help childminders with the upfront costs of purchasing equipment.

[Read more here](#)



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APPLY FOR A NEW SOLUTIONS PILOT GRANTS TODAY!

The [New Solutions Pilot Grants](#) funding call is now open for applications. This funding aims to support organisations testing innovative ideas that address key social challenges in Ireland.

The Pilot Grants help social innovators trial new products, services, practices, or models to achieve better outcomes in areas like:

- Increasing access to employment for disadvantaged groups
- Improving access to education for under-served communities
- Enhancing personal and social development for at-risk youth
- Using sport for social inclusion and wellbeing.

What's on offer:

- Cash grants of €70,000 – €100,000 over two years
- Access to the New Solutions Social Innovation Hub network and support services
- A chance to pilot real-world solutions with lasting social impact.

Deadline: 13 March 2026 at 6pm

Full details here: www.new-solutions.ie/pilotgrants

Whether you're part of a charity, social enterprise, community group, or nonprofit, this is a great chance to bring your innovative idea to life and create positive change in communities across Ireland.



Public Participation Network Cork County

Consultations



National Community Safety Survey

The National Office for Community Safety is leading on the development of the first National Strategy for Improving Community Safety, on behalf of the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration. For more information on this Office [click here](#).

They are inviting the public to contribute to the development of this new National Strategy by taking part in our **National Community Safety Survey** which is open until 27 February 2026.

Click [here](#) for more information and to take part in the survey.

People have different experiences of community safety. The National Office want to hear from people of all ages, backgrounds, and experiences living in the Republic of Ireland today. It takes just 10 to 15 minutes and is your opportunity to share your experience and to help public service agencies and communities to work together to make communities safer.

The National Office have tried to make this survey accessible as possible. If you experience any difficulties and require accessibility assistance, please contact accessofficer@justice.ie or call 01 602 8632.