



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 06/03/2026

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**

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Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:

Pop Up Volunteer Centres



POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE FERMOY LIBRARY

11 MARCH
WEDNESDAY
10:30-12:00



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**



POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE CLONAKILTY LIBRARY

**31 MARCH
TUESDAY
10:30-12:30**



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Any questions? Contact: gosaia@volunteercork.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County


Help Shape an Inclusive Cork – Focus Group & Survey invitation

Engage and Empower: Join Our Focus Group

Cork is evolving, and so should our approach to inclusivity! We want to hear from you about the challenges in engaging people from migrant and refugee backgrounds in your organisation. Your insights are vital in shaping practical solutions.

Pick a Date:

- March 10th - 14:15 - 16:00
- April 1st - 14:15 - 16:00
- April 7th (Online) - 14:15 - 16:00

 **Location:** Cork Volunteer Centre, 13
N Main Street T12 Y6W0

Why Your Voice Matters

Respecting your expertise and the demands of your daily operations, we have one question: How can we lower the barriers for migrants and refugees to better engage with the work you do?



Cork is evolving, and so should our approach to inclusivity! The **Cork Volunteer Centre** wants to hear from local community and voluntary organisations working with volunteers, about the challenges of engaging people from migrant and refugee backgrounds.



Public Participation Network Cork County

Your insights are vital in shaping practical solutions for our city and county.

How to get involved: 📣 **Attend a Focus Group:**

Share your expertise at one of the Cork Volunteer Centre's upcoming sessions:

March 10th (14:15 - 16:00) - In-person

April 1st (14:15 - 16:00) - In-person

April 7th (14:15 - 16:00) - Online

Location: Cork Volunteer Centre, 13 N Main Street (or Online)

Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/r6e6ZbKhvF9WvhT5A>

Take the Survey:

Can't make a session? Share your views via our survey here:

Survey Link: <https://forms.gle/cEYHN9VYjQG4FLuQ9>

Let's work together to lower barriers and empower every member of our community!



Public Participation Network Cork County



Calling all Cork based Organisations, are you looking to recruit new Board Members?

Meet potential new members face-to-face at BoardMatch Live Cork in April

Boardmatch Ireland is delighted to bring its board recruitment event back to Cork on 23rd April. BoardMatch Live offers a unique opportunity to connect face-to-face with skilled, motivated professionals who are actively seeking to contribute their time, expertise and passion at board or committee level.

Why Attend?

- Meet a diverse pool of candidates in one evening
- Streamline your board recruitment process
- Find the right skills and experience to strengthen your board
- Build valuable connections within the local not-for-profit community
- Promote your mission and strategic goals directly to interested volunteers

Places are limited, early registration is encouraged.

Event Details:

Date: Thurs 23rd April 2026

Time: 4.30pm-5pm set up & networking. Candidates arrive 5.30pm. Event closes 7.30pm

Location: Clayton Hotel, Lapps Quay, Cork City

Format: In person Board Recruitment Event

Cost: €80 early bird until 13th March. Full Price €120



Public Participation Network Cork County

[Link To Book your charity's table](#)

More about BoardMatch Live - Cork

At BoardMatch Live (previously known as Charity Trustee Speed Dating), each participating charity/not-for-profit will have an **exhibition table** where you can **showcase your organisation**, meet with prospective trustees and make **valuable connections** that result in new board appointments. Boardmatch recommends that **two representatives attend** from each organisation and strongly encourages that at least **one attendee is a board member**.

[YouTube of Cork Event in 2024](#)

For more info please contact judith@boardmatch.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

Welcome New Groups!

Doneraile For All CLG

Crosshaven Active Retired

Darrara Community Council

Leap Flowery Fun Group

Bantry Marine Activities Centre

Ballymore Community Association

Rusheen Community Group

Lisgoold Leamlara tidy towns

East Ferry Coastal Rowing Club

Kingston Charity Trust

Welcome aboard!!

We had 126 new groups register with us in 2025, and we have already had 40 new groups in 2026 – keep them coming! We love to see the network growing! 🌱 🌿



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
Network Cork County**

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



Public Participation Network Cork County

Further vacancies:

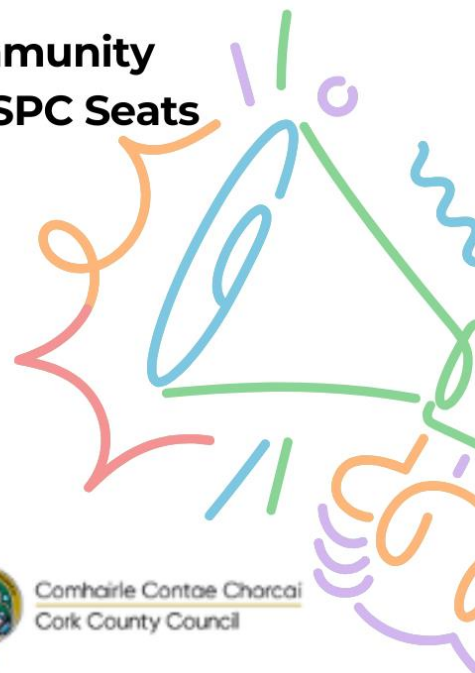
**Voluntary Positions
Available:**

**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
Network Cork County**

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**

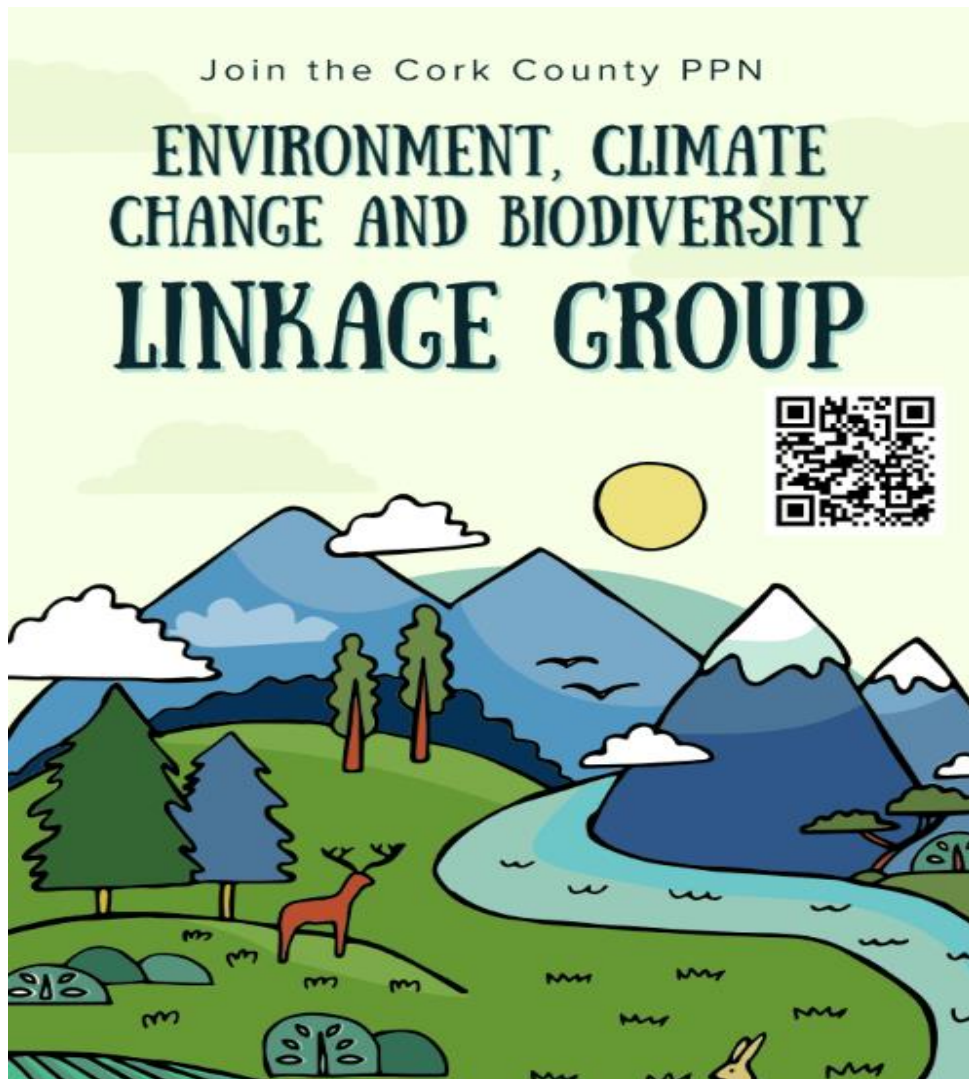
For further info:
PPN@CorkCoco.ie





Public Participation Network **Cork County**

Join Our Linkage Groups!



Special shout out to our **Environment, Climate Change, and Biodiversity Reps** – Maggie, Raffaella, and John , they are playing a blinder, and they want your input!

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

#fundingfriday

OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS: COMMUNICATING EUROPE INITIATIVE 2026



APPLICATIONS DEADLINE: 24 MARCH

Do you have a great idea to raise public awareness of the EU's role in our daily lives? Would you like to connect your community to reliable information on European issues? If yes, the Department of Foreign Affairs' [Communicating Europe Initiative](#) might be for you!

The Communicating Europe Initiative (CEI) funds projects aimed at increasing public awareness of the EU's role in our lives. It also seeks to improve access to information on European matters at local, regional, or national levels. The Department of Foreign Affairs is now accepting applications from voluntary organisations, educational bodies, and civil society groups. Projects should focus on EU issues, the EU's role, and Ireland's place in Europe.

The theme for the 2026 programme is Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union. Proposals should highlight how specific EU policies have affected Ireland and how Irish policies have influenced the EU. Projects can also promote citizens' awareness of and participation in EU policymaking. Ideas involving youth, schools, third-level institutions, and inter-generational engagement are welcome.

The CEI has an allocation of €465,000 for 2026. While the number and size of grants depend on the proposals received, the maximum grant will likely be €10,000. **The application deadline is 24 March 2026.**

The Wheel's Access Europe team is hosting an **online advice clinic on 11 March** for interested applicants. This session will provide more details on the CEI and tips for successful applications. [Register for the clinic here.](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Music Capital Scheme Piano Award

Applications are now open for the Music Capital Scheme Piano Award to support the purchase/refurbishment of concert standard grand pianos by arts venues and music presenters.

The total funding available for the current round of The Music Capital Scheme Piano Award is €300,000.

The Music Capital Scheme is supported by the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport and provides funding for musical instruments.

We are seeking applications from organisations that provide a year-round high quality music programme, support the work of professional musicians (e.g. professional development opportunities such as artist residencies, masterclasses etc.), and have a strong track record in audience and community engagement.

There will be an online information session for applicants on Tuesday 3 March at 11am. **[You can register to take part here.](#)**

The deadline for applications is 2pm, Thursday 2 April 2026.

More information about the award and how to apply is available at **[MusicNetwork.ie](https://www.musicnetwork.ie)**.



Public Participation Network Cork County

APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR HEART OF THE COMMUNITY FUND

This year, The Ireland Funds will award \$1 million in grants through two targeted rounds of the Heart of the Community Fund.

For the first open call grant round of the Heart of the Community Fund 2026, The Ireland Funds will prioritise applications from organisations working in two areas:

1. Education: This priority focuses on organisations providing access to learning, both formal and informal, across all age levels.
2. Innovation: This priority supports organisations taking innovative approaches to address a problem, either by creating something new or enhancing an existing solution.

All details can be found here: [Grants - The Ireland Funds, Progress through Philanthropy](#)

Deadline: Friday, 20 March 2026

Online Webinar Information Session

Monday 16 March at 12:00 pm

[REGISTER HERE](#)

CONTACT DETAILS

Please contact grantsinfo@irelandfunds.org if you have any queries



Public Participation Network Cork County

Pride in our Community

Prize Fund €10,000

Muintir na Tire Cork - PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITY COMPETITION

Sponsored by Cork County Council and Cork City Council.

Open to all Community and Voluntary groups Cork City and Cork County.

Prize Fund of over €10,000

[Are you a Group in the process of improving your area?](#)

Are you planning Community walks and trails? -Playgrounds, Community Fields?

Community Centre renovations? -Upgrades to monuments and amenity areas?

River clean-ups, -Community Signs, Murals? -Biodiversity areas, Community gardens, allotments? -Graveyard restoration? -Floral displays on streetscape?

All weather facilities, tree planting, Floral bedding etc?

If the answer to any of the above questions is yes, then feel free to enter this Competition

Click below to enter Pride in our Community 2026

[Entry form Pride in Our Community 2026](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Consultations



S3 Solutions are delighted to have been appointed by **Sport Ireland** to undertake an important research study on the **Diversify the Volunteer Base in Sport Insights Report**, which aims to broaden the volunteer base.

The input of individuals (both volunteering and non-volunteering) from across the country is vital to inform the development of this research, which will directly influence practice within the sports sector at a local, regional and national level. S3 are looking for input from any stakeholder organisations who serve the needs of underrepresented groups, such as Women, People with Disabilities, Ethnic Minorities, LGBTQI+, Traveller/Roma Communities, Youth, and Older People.

S3 are keen to see the views of those currently volunteering and those who face barriers to volunteering reflected in the report recommendations.

This survey will provide insights into the experience of volunteers and non-volunteers as well as underrepresented groups which improve our understanding of the barriers to participation and the value gained from participation in volunteering also. It will take approximately 8 minutes to complete. **The survey can be accessed via the following link and will close on Monday 13th April 2026 at 5pm.**

<https://app.voiceform.com/to/4cVPosigareRuir9>



Public Participation Network Cork County



In collaboration between the DCU's STARDUST and PERMOTOX projects — the DCU Water Blitz Team are conducting a short survey titled *“Voices on Water: Understanding Public Perspectives.”*

The survey explores how people perceive water quality in Ireland, awareness of challenges facing our rivers, lakes, and coastal waters, and how citizen science can strengthen environmental research and public participation.

[Link to Survey](#)

The survey takes just a few minutes to complete, and we would greatly value your perspective. Any responses would be amazing, and we encourage you to please share with any groups, friends, or people in your life who may have an interest in Ireland's Water Quality!

Thank you again for your continued support and involvement. Should you have any queries please let us know!

Kind regards,
DCU Water Blitz Team.