



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 13/03/2026

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**

News & Events:	3
Get involved!	10
#fundingfriday	16
Consultations	21



Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:



Survey: Biodiversity Week Launch topics

Together with the **Irish Environmental Network (IEN)**, we are putting together the agenda for the upcoming launch of this years **National Biodiversity Week** and want your input! We'd love to hear from you about what topics would be useful or of interest to your group.

What topics would you like to hear about at our upcoming event all about Ireland's biodiversity? What would be useful to your groups work? Is there a speaker your group have been wanting to hear from? Do you have anything you would like to offer for the day, such as a presentation, speaker, guided walk or workshop?

The event is being planned for East Cork/Harpers Island, further details **TBC**.

If you wish to suggest something, please respond to this survey no later than **12:00pm on Thursday, 19 March**.

[Survey for PPN Groups: Biodiversity Week Launch topics](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Free Dementia Awareness Workshops Mallow - April 1 2026



DEMENTIA IS NOT SIMPLY A HEALTH
ISSUE BUT A **SOCIAL ISSUE** THAT
REQUIRES A **COMMUNITY** RESPONSE!



A Dementia Inclusive Community is one in which people living with dementia, their families and carers can live their lives well in an understanding and supportive society.

**HOW CAN YOU (AS AN INDIVIDUAL), YOUR BUSINESS, SPORTING CLUB
OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION HELP CREATE A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE
COMMUNITY IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?**

Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

Book your place for the Dementia Awareness Workshop today!

- Wednesday, 1st April 2026
- 10am to 11:30am -or- 12:30pm to 2pm -or- 3pm to 4:30pm
- Mallow Library, 92 Thomas Davis Street, Mallow, Co. Cork, P51 TW10
- Laura Curtin, 087 3736496 or laura.curtin@alzheimer.ie

CONTACT US TODAY TO LEARN MORE

085 8566478

friendsofasi@alzheimer.ie

www.alzheimer.ie

RCN 20018238 | CHY7868



Public Participation Network Cork County

You and your organisation are cordially invited to the Friends of ASI Mallow Dementia Awareness Workshops which take place on **Wednesday, 1st April 2026**.

To date, the group has successfully hosted several dementia awareness workshops, reaching over 100 individuals from a variety of community and business organisations. Whether you're an individual, business owner, sports club member, community leader / group member, or community development organisation these workshops offer practical insights on how to better support those living with dementia in Mallow and North Cork.

Workshop Topics:

- Understanding Dementia
- Communicating Effectively
- Creating a Dementia Inclusive Community

Participants proudly display the **'Friends of ASI Dementia Inclusive Community'** sticker — a visible sign of support, understanding, and inclusion for people living with dementia. Be sure to look out for these stickers around town and know that these businesses and groups are making a real difference. We would greatly appreciate your support in creating dementia inclusive communities throughout North Cork. I have attached a flyer that gives more details on the workshop and a poster that can be used for sharing on social media.

Reserve your place today and be part of creating a more inclusive Mallow. Contact Laura Curtin, The Alzheimer Society of Ireland's Community Engagement Officer on 087 3736496 or email laura.curtin@alzheimer.ie .



Public Participation Network Cork County

Pop Up Volunteer Centre



Cork
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE CLONAKILTY LIBRARY

31 MARCH
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

EirGrid Powering Up Offshore South Coast – mobile information units

EirGrid has entered Step 4 of the Powering Up Offshore South Coast Project, focusing on identifying the most suitable locations for project infrastructure. Findings from the 2025 marine surveys have helped narrow options for offshore cable routes and landfall locations.

Two landfall areas from the 2024 consultation—**Landfall C (Garryvoe Lower, Ballybutler, Ballycrenane)** and **Landfall F (Bannow)**—continue to score strongly. Additional site surveys will take place **April–September 2026**.

EirGrid’s Public Engagement team will be available to meet communities via a **mobile information unit**, including the following Cork dates:

- **Wednesday 8 April – Churchtown South & Aghada**
- **Thursday 9 April – Garryvoe Beach**

(Additional locations outside Cork: 14 April – Tramore & Bunmahon; 15 April – Carrick-on-Bannow & Fethard.)

A webinar will also be held in April, with details to be shared shortly on EirGrid’s website and social media.

A further project update is expected in **Autumn 2026**.

For queries, contact **Michelle Walsh** (Cork area): michelle.walsh@eirgrid.com | **085 870 4999**



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

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:

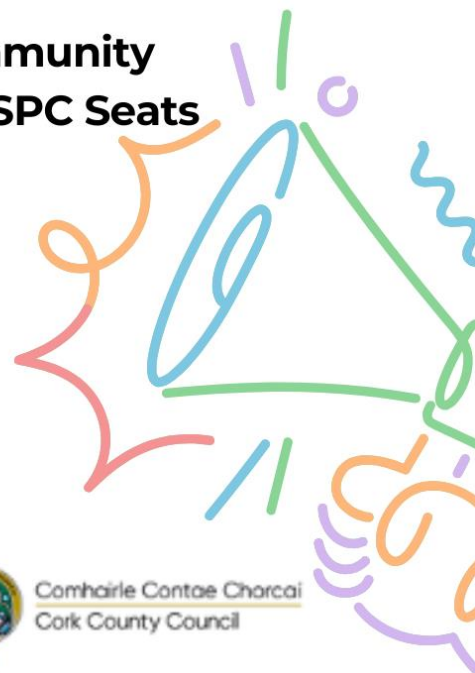
**Voluntary Positions
Available:**

**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**

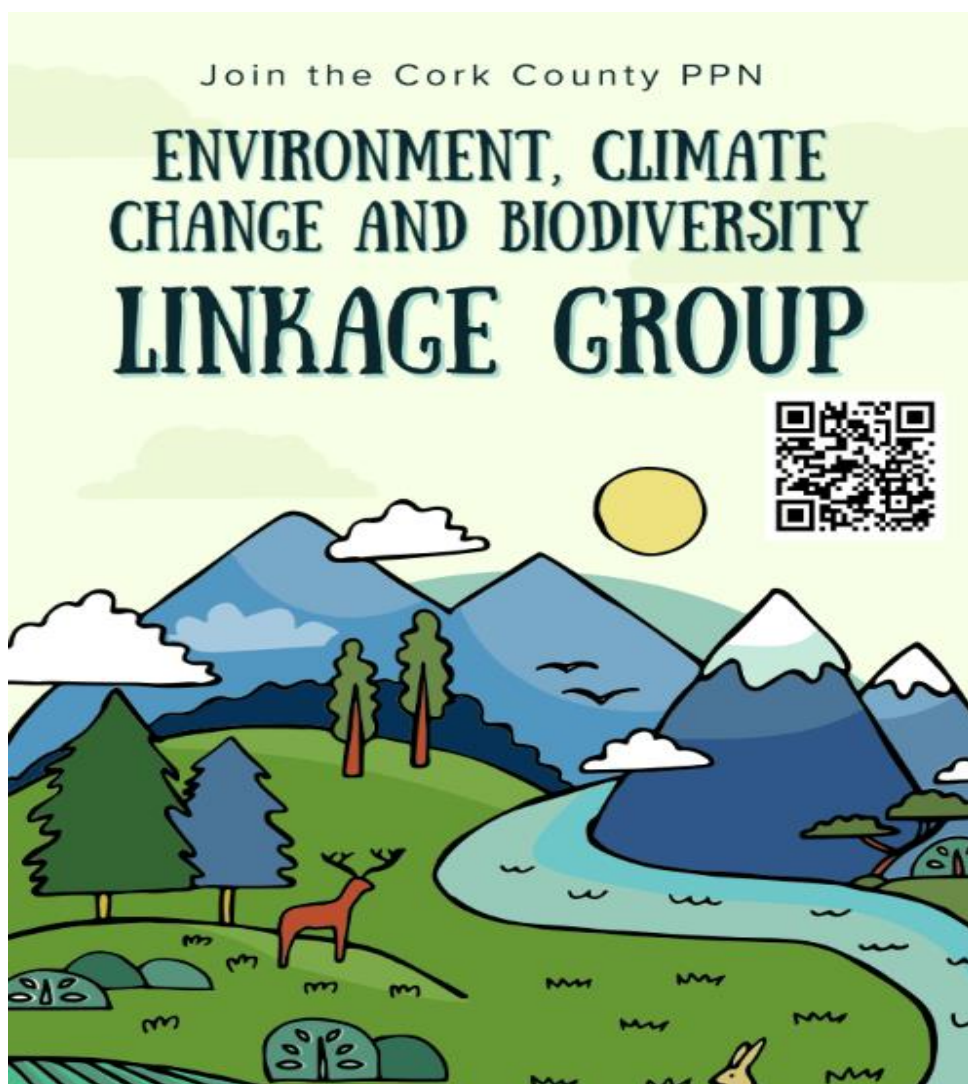
For further info:
PPN@CorkCoco.ie





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.



Public Participation Network Cork County

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**

CESCA GRASSROOTS GRANT SCHEME 2026

CESCA (Cork Equal and Sustainable Communities Alliances) is delighted to launch its Grassroots Grants Scheme 2026, with huge thanks to the HSE Social Inclusion Services in Cork for supporting us with this initiative. Our intention with this one-off small grant is to support initiatives that are working to bring communities together, to promote and progress equality and social justice in Cork City.

Application guidance:

Joint applications with one or more other organisations or groups are particularly welcomed and encouraged.

We again will give priority to applications focused on tackling climate change and/or raising awareness of climate justice. Programs seeking to address socio-economic deprivation will also be prioritized, however we welcome applications seeking to address wider inequalities and injustices.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 20th March 2026.

Further information: [CESCA Grassroots Grant Scheme 2026 - Cesca](#)



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

Public consultation on the next Healthy Ireland Framework

The Department of Health has launched a public consultation survey to inform the development of the next Healthy Ireland Framework.

The Department of Health are inviting stakeholders, partners and members of the public to share their views to help shape future priorities, actions and ambitions for improving health and wellbeing across Ireland.

Your feedback is extremely valuable and will directly inform the development of the new framework.

Please take a few minutes to complete the survey at the link below:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/press-releases/minister-for-public-health-wellbeing-and-the-national-drugs-strategy-launches-public-consultation-on-the-next-healthy-ireland-framework/>

The survey will remain open until **Wednesday 22nd April, 2026**.



Public Participation Network Cork County

ImpactReady

Powered By



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.