Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 10/04/2026

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 **almost** 800 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 or Website Link

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – Cork County PPN

Instagram – @corkcountyppn

Happy Friday,

Morrin & Noelle

Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events: 3
Get involved! 10
#fundingfriday 14
Consultations 16

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News & Events: Less than 2 weeks to go !

All our Community & Voluntary, Environment & Social Inclusion Groups are invited to attend our upcoming Plenary, where you will hear updates on activities from PPN Staff, and have the opportunity to have your say, hear updates on workplan, hear from our Stakeholders and much more !

Where: Vertigo (Floor 17) , County Hall
When: 23 April 2026, 7PM

This event is open to the public, but registration is essential.

Register here: https://forms.gle/k9YMKNX1rgf4qHmi6

We hope to see you on the evening - Make sure to remind your Group Members & Reps to come along too!

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Please note, we kindly ask that you **only register for this event if you are confident you can attend**. If you've registered and your plans change, please notify us as soon as possible.

This simple action will help us:

- **Minimise food waste.**
- **Allocate our budget more effectively**
- **Ensure that everyone who wants to attend has the opportunity**

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Home Energy Upgrade Event – Cork

Homeowners, residents, and members of the local community are invited to attend an upcoming Home Energy Upgrade Event, hosted by Energywise Ireland in partnership with SEAI.

Guests on the day include representatives from SEAI, Daikin, Cork Energy Consultancy and more.

Taking place on **Friday, 18th April from 10:00am to 3:00pm** at **Energywise Ireland HQ, Hollymount Industrial Estate, Blarney Road, Cork, T23 NA44**, the event will provide practical guidance on home energy upgrades, available grants, eligible works, and how to get started on your journey to a warmer, more energy-efficient home.

This event is ideal for homeowners interested in reducing energy costs, improving home comfort, and taking meaningful action on climate change.

As well as expert talks on the day, there will be **family-friendly activities** including the chance to play basketball with Cork's own Neptune Basketball players, and guests will have the opportunity to test drive an electric vehicle.

All attendees will also receive €100 off a Home Energy Assessment - the first step in the One Stop Shop process. A Home Energy Assessment shows how energy-efficient your home currently is and highlights the upgrades that will make it more efficient.

Attendance is free, and everyone is welcome - whether you're just starting to explore your options or ready to take the next step.

Register here: One Stop Shop Home Energy Upgrade Event

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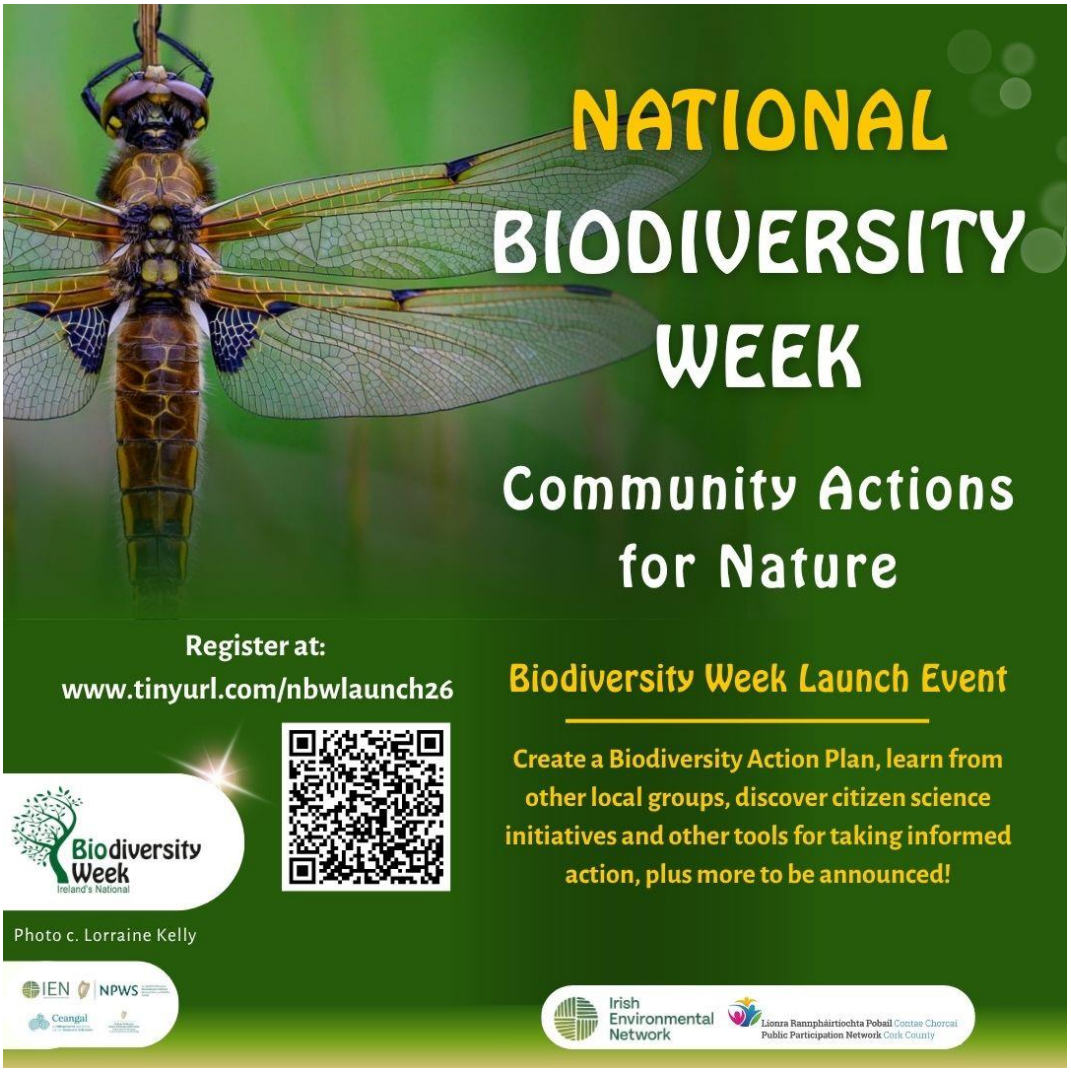

How do we find balance within our eco-system? Learn how to take action for nature in your community at our Biodiversity Week launch!

Cork County PPN are delighted to host the **Irish Environmental Network** to launch **Biodiversity Week.**

Where: Little Island Sport Complex, Little Island, Cork (Well served by public transport!)
When: Sunday, May 10 10 AM - 4 PM

Why attend this event?

Join us to learn how to take action for nature in your community. Humans have the power to shape their landscape for better or worse, creating or destroying habitats that support the wildlife around us and support our own survival.

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Through local collective action we can make a huge difference to our eco-system that we rely on for clean air, fresh water, high quality food, and our physical and mental health. How can we live side by side with our wild neighbours so that we can all thrive? Find out at our launch event for National Biodiversity Week!

What will the day include?

Learn how to create a plan of action and explore ideas for your own community with a workshop on creating a Biodiversity Action Plan led by ecologist Karen Loxton.

Hear from a local group, Green Skibbereen, who has the experience of creating their own plan. They will showcase their own actions and ideas that can be applied to other areas. In addition we will hear of their work as the Irish partners for the Forestcarbovision project.

Discover how to identify and catalogue the wildlife in your area through Citizen Science initiatives. We are joined by Rachel Hayden of the National Biodiversity Data Centre who will show us how to record wildlife and help us in the field later in the day.

Lunch and refreshments included.

Who is this event for?

Whether you are a seasoned wildlife enthusiast or are a completely new explorer, everyone is welcome! The day will teach you how to take action within your community, so anyone involved in a local group of any kind or who wants to get involved in something locally are encouraged to join us for the day.

Further information:
National Biodiversity Week takes place this May, Friday 15th - Sunday 24th with free events around the country. Find out more here: www.biodiversityweek.ie

Register here: Community Actions for Nature Tickets, Sunday, May 10 • 10 AM - 4 PM | Eventbrite

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This weekend! East Cork Songwriting Festival –

Unleash Your Musical Potential!

East Cork Songwriting Festival Website

Get ready for **East Cork Songwriting Festival**, a vibrant one-day event that celebrates the art of songwriting! Scheduled for April 11th, this festival offers a unique opportunity for musicians of all levels and backgrounds to learn, collaborate, and perform in a supportive atmosphere.

Event Details:

- **Date:** April 11th
- **Location:** Sirius Arts Centre, Cobh
- **Featuring workshops from:** Cormac O Caoimh, Lynda Cullen & Nicole Maguire
- **Ticket Price: €40** per person
- **Age Requirement:** 18+
- **Organisers:** East Cork Songwriting Group, with support from Cork County Council & IMRO

Participants will enjoy **two hands-on workshops** led by experienced mentors, allowing them to explore essential songwriting techniques and ignite their creativity.

Workshops Offered:

Songwriting Techniques & Methods - Cormac O'Caoimh

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Discover various songwriting techniques that will help you find your unique voice, regardless of your instrument proficiency.

Overcoming Writer's Block - Lynda Cullen
Break through creative barriers with practical strategies to spark new ideas and rediscover the joy of songwriting.

Songs from the Inside Out - Nicole Maguire
Engage in collaborative work while also developing your own creative expressions in a fun and supportive environment.

Tickets are limited, buy yours today - East Cork Songwriting Festival Tickets

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"Borrow, Use, Return" Reusable Party Pack Initiative

Communities across County Cork are set to benefit from "Borrow, Use, Return", a reusable party-pack initiative designed to help reduce single-use plastics and support more sustainable celebrations. Cork County Council has begun distributing reusable party packs to groups across the county, including rugby, soccer and GAA clubs. The scheme is part of a wider initiative launched by Local Authorities across the Southern Waste Region to promote simple, practical circular living within communities.

Each party pack contains reusable cups, plates, cutlery, jugs and bowls. It also includes colourful bunting created by Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) using upcycled textiles. All items are washable, durable and designed for repeated use within the community. The packs can support any type of gathering, from birthday parties and coffee mornings to sports celebrations and school events and can be shared among families and neighbours to maximise community benefit.

When a celebration or event is planned, residents can borrow the pack from the participating group. After the event, the items must be cleaned, dried and returned, ready for the next occasion. This cycle of borrowing, using, and returning keeps the pack in circulation, reduces reliance on single-use items and supports a circular community by keeping resources in use for longer. By cutting down on single-use catering products, the initiative also helps reduce local waste management costs.

"Borrow, Use, Return" is a collaborative project led by the 10 Local Authorities from the Southern Waste Region with funding support received through the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) National Waste Prevention Programme.

For more information, please email **eao@corkcoco.ie.**

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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.

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Current Vacancies:

2 x Vacant seats – Carrigaline Municipal District

Vacant seat – East Cork Municipal District

Vacant seat – Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

Vacant seat – Macroom Munciple District

2 x Vacant seats – Environmental Electoral College

Cork-County-Secretariat-Nomination-form

Further vacancies:

SPC Vacancies:

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC: 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

Tourism SPC: 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC: 2 seats vacant (any pillar)

Arts, Culture & Language SPC: 1 seat vacant (any pillar)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

Cork-County-SPC-Nomination form final

LCDC Vacancies:

- **North Cork** (2 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **South Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)
- **West Cork** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form

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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

2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Scheme Outline and Application Form

CLÁR 2026 has been launched by The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Dara Calleary TD. Please find the link to the Press Release: Media Release: Minister Calleary launches CLÁR 2026 programme - Cork County PPN

The Local Authority is responsible for the administration of **Measure 1: Developing Community Facilities & Amenities** applications which will be accepted on a prioritised basis. The Measure 1 Scheme Outline, application form, and municipal offices contact details are available at CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) Scheme | Cork County Council.

Points to note

Complete project applications should be submitted to the relevant Municipal Districts Office.

Complete project applications must be submitted on or before Friday 29th May 2026. Incomplete applications should be avoided and will be returned.

After evaluation of the projects, the Community, Tourism & Rural Development directorate will submit the top 16 projects (2 of which must be Gaeltacht areas) for approval to the Department.

For your information, please find:

- **CLÁR County Map Cork** - https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/E1P8aXpDJqrNawA9
- **2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Scheme Outline** - https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/R7dXadNJ305mZ6bl

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- **2026 CLÁR Measure 1 Application Form**
  - https://padlet.com/ppncorkcoco/cork-county-ppn-padlet-trroleenakwu6432/wish/lDK1ZRLxnq5OaJ9z

Measure 2 and 3 Scheme Outlines seek applications directly to the Department to assist groups and community organisations. Please feel free to bring these Measures to the attention of all relevant groups and community organisations in your area. The scheme outlines and application forms are available at CLÁR Measures

For all queries on Measures 2 and 3, please contact **CLAR@drcd.gov.ie**

Public Participation Network Cork County

Consultations

AI Discovery Survey – Your Voice Matters!

Rethink Ireland is developing a new capacity-building initiative (AI for Good Fund) to empower the nonprofit, social enterprise, community, and voluntary sectors in Ireland.

To make sure this work truly supports the sector, we would love to hear from you.

We're inviting workers and volunteers to complete our (brief) AI Discovery Survey (approx. 5 minutes). **The survey is available in both English and Irish, and open for responses till April 15.** Your invaluable insights will help shape how AI can be harnessed in ethical, inclusive, and impactful ways.

Here's the link:
English: AI Discovery Survey
Irish: Suirbhé Follasaithe IS

Public Participation Network Cork County

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**.

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S3

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