



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 22/05/2026

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 our Website [Link](#)

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – [Cork County PPN](#)

Instagram – [@corkcountypn](#)

Happy Friday,

Noelle xx



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

News & Events:	3
Get involved!	12
#fundingfriday	15
Behind the scenes @ PPN HQ	19



Public Participation Network Cork County

News & Events:



Cork
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE KINSALE LIBRARY

JUNE 23
TUESDAY
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: gosia@volunteercork.ie



Public Participation Network **Cork County**



POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE MIDLETON HUB

JUNE 24
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

Traveller Pride Fest

TNC
TRAVELLERS OF NORTH CORK CLG

Traveller Pride 2026

Friday 29th May 2026
10am - 12.30pm

Charleville Town Park
P56 P658

Family Fun

- ★ Ice cream van
- 🎨 Face painting
- 🍔 Food
- 🎵 Music performances
- 🎭 Cultural displays

Funded by:

HE **UCC**
Access UCC

DEPARTMENT TIALE ASTUS ACDS COI COMIGNSNIS
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND QUALITY



Public Participation Network Cork County

What is a DPO – Information Session

What is a DPO?



Information Session

Learn. Connect. Get Involved.

An information session to explain what a Disabled Persons Organisation (DPO) is and how you can get involved.



For disabled people
and allies

YOUR VOICE.
YOUR RIGHTS.
YOUR COMMUNITY.



Friday, 12th June
14:00 – 16:00



The Lombard Room
The Mercy Centre,
Fair Street,
Mallow, Co. Cork,
P51 PF10

To register or find out more:



corkdpo26@gmail.com



Call or text Nicola
087 718 9237



Cork County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí

NOTHING ABOUT US, WITHOUT US.



Public Participation Network Cork County



Bealtaine Evening Cabaret – Tonight !

The **Castlemagner Sinsir Club** is delighted to present its Bealtaine Evening Cabaret on Friday, May 22 at 8 p.m., as part of the annual Bealtaine Festival, in Castlemagner Community Center.

This vibrant evening of entertainment will celebrate the power of group singing. It will feature performances by singing groups from Donoughmore, Tureencahill, Castleisland and Millstreet, alongside the Castlemagner Community Singing Group, each bringing their own unique voices to the stage.

In keeping with the reflective spirit of Bealtaine, the programme will also include a screening of a locally produced documentary exploring the bridges of the River Blackwater from source to mouth.

The event will take place in a warm cabaret-style setting, with the audience seated at candlelit tables and served tea and light refreshments. It promises to be a joyful celebration of the invaluable contribution senior citizens make to our communities, while highlighting the power of music and singing to support wellbeing and mental health.

All are welcome to what is sure to be an uplifting and memorable evening.

The event coincides with Castlemagner Sinsir Club's 20th anniversary.



Public Participation Network **Cork County**

Job Vacancy - **Cumann na Daoine:** **Community Climate Action Worker**



Cork
County Council
Comhairle Contae Chorcaí



Department of Rural and
Community Development



*An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail*

Blue & Green Community Network, an initiative of Cumann na Daoine, is recruiting a Community Climate Action Worker

Youghal Blue & Green Community Network is seeking to recruit an enthusiastic and committed Community Climate Action Worker to support community-led climate action and environmental initiatives in the Youghal area.

The Role

This role will work with local communities, schools and organisations to support community-led and inclusive climate action, helping communities move towards a more sustainable and climate-resilient future.

Key Responsibilities

- Support the development and operation of the Blue & Green Energy Information Hub.
- Work with Sustainable Energy Communities to implement local climate action initiatives.
- Work with network members to increase local transport options.
- Deliver projects focused on renewable energy, biodiversity, clean water, and sustainability.
- Coordinate community engagement initiatives, including Climate Action Week.
- Deliver workshops and awareness campaigns to promote energy transition.
- Support local organisations to build capacity for environmental and sustainability initiatives.
- Identify and apply for funding opportunities and coordinate projects funded by external organisations.



Public Participation Network Cork County

Person Specification

We are seeking an enthusiastic and energetic community-minded professional with a background in environment, sustainability, climate action, or a related field. The ideal candidate is engaging, a strong communicator, and passionate about community development and social inclusion.

Essential Requirements

- A relevant third-level qualification in Environment, Climate Change, Sustainability, Energy, Ecology, or a related discipline.
- Experience in energy transition and community-based work. (paid or voluntary).
- Experience facilitating groups and working with diverse communities.
- Strong communication and community engagement skills.
- Understanding of community development principles and social inclusion.
- Ability to work independently and as part of a team.
- Full driving licence and access to a car for work purposes.

Salary

€41,000

Hours

Full-time – 35 hours per week

Location

Cumann na Daoine, Catherine St, Youghal, Co. Cork. P36 WY42

Contract Type

1-year fixed-term contract

Full Job Description available on request.

To Apply

Please send CV and cover letter to: sfcumannnadaoine@gmail.com

Please write “Community Climate Action Worker” in the subject line of the email.

Closing Date: Friday, 5 June at 5.00pm.

Cumann na Daoine is an equal opportunities employer.

<https://activelink.ie/vacancies/community/123721-cumann-na-daoine-community-climate-action-worker>



Public Participation Network Cork County

Fair Seas Conference – World Ocean Week 2026

The Fair Seas World Ocean Week Conference will take place on Wednesday, 3 June 2026 in Cork City Hall from 9:30am to 5:00pm.

Organised by Fair Seas, a coalition of environmental NGOs focused on protecting and restoring Ireland's marine environment, the event will bring together national and international experts to explore the future of marine protection in Ireland.

Now three years on from its inaugural conference in Cork, this year's programme will focus on how Ireland can effectively deliver well-managed Marine Protected Areas, in line with the national commitment to protect 30% of its seas by 2030.


This year's conference will explore how Ireland can effectively and collaboratively deliver well-managed Marine Protected Areas, informed by global experience and grounded in governance and stakeholder realities.


Across four sessions, expert presentations and panel discussions will bring together international perspectives alongside Irish experience:


- Marine Protection and Restoration - A Global Perspective
- From Designation to Delivery: Making Marine Protected Areas Effective
- Stewardship, Governance, and Marine Protection
- Shared Seas - Stakeholder Perspectives

Attendance includes a full day of expert talks and panel discussions, refreshments and lunch, and an evening reception on board an Irish Naval Service vessel.

For full details, view [Conference Key Information](#) and the [Conference website](#), which includes current speakers and the agenda for the day.

 Wednesday, 3 June, 2026

 Cork City Hall, 9:30 am – 5:00 pm

 Tickets from €75 | Online participation also available

[Secure your place today →](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Path 4 funding for Level 5 'Certificate in Cultural Citizenship' opportunity

Certificate in Cultural Citizenship

Access to third level education for people with intellectual disabilities

In this course you will experience life on campus and learn about advocacy and communication. You can then choose to study one area: food & drinks (hospitality) or music or sport or art.

You will be on campus one day a week - Thursday in year one. You will get support. You will learn about yourself as a person and how to learn and work with others.

The programme will help you to prepare for getting a job or continue your studies.



This is an NFQ Level 5 programme and it is part-time.



This programme is located on the MTU Bishopstown Campus. If you choose the art elective you will also be in the MTU Crawford College of Art & Design. If you choose the music elective you will also be in the MTU Cork School of Music.



This programme is for people age 18+ with intellectual disabilities who have experience of second level education.



For more information and to apply you can contact the course coordinator Emma.Cubitt@MTU.ie or scan the QR code below.



The course offers students the chance to experience campus life, build confidence, develop communication and advocacy skills, and choose an elective in areas such as art, music, sport, or hospitality.

Programme for Access to Higher Education covers the cost so that adults with intellectual disabilities can take part without fees.

<https://www.mtu.ie/courses/cracuci4/>



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

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](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

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.



Public Participation Network Cork County

#fundingfriday

Nominations Now Open for AIB Community €1 Million Fund 2026

AIB has launched the fifth year of the annual AIB Community €1 Million Fund. The nationwide Fund will support more than 70 charities in 2026, helping to deliver meaningful change at local level.

AIB will donate €760,000 to charities chosen by customers and the community, with a further €300,000 allocated to charities selected by employees.

Nominations will close Friday, 19 June 2026 at 5.00pm - [Read the full details](#)

€750,000 Power to Participate Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations Launched

The Minister for Children, Disability and Equality, Norma Foley and the Minister of State with responsibility for Disability, Emer Higgins have launched a new €750,000 Power to Participate Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations and eligible Civil Society Organisations.

Power to Participate: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement Fund 2026 will make individual grants available to organisations that are led by and include disabled people so they can work with Government Departments on policies and initiatives to deliver on the National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030.

Power to Participate: Strengthening Stakeholder Engagement Fund for Disabled Persons' Organisations and Civil Society Organisations is open now and will close on Friday 26 June 2026.

[Read the full details](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

The Sustainable Step-Up Fund is open for applications

**RETHINK
IRELAND**

Rethink Ireland are delighted to announce the launch of the Sustainability Step-Up Fund supported by Zurich in Ireland and the [Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht](#) ✦

This new €1.5 million, two-year fund is committed to supporting community-led initiatives that will have a social and environmental impact on both urban and rural communities. The fund comes at a particularly important time as communities across Ireland face increasing environmental pressures alongside rising inequality.

The Sustainability Step-Up Fund seeks to tackle these challenges head-on by supporting up to five community-led local organisations including social innovations that have a social and environmental impact by working in the space of the circular economy, climate stewardship, action and education, biodiversity restoration, community development or sustainable practices



Awardee organisations will receive financial support alongside tailored business supports as part of Rethink Ireland's Accelerator Programme to help them scale their impact and strengthen their long-term sustainability 🌱

Learn more about the fund and join one of the application clinics :

<https://lnkd.in/ezS4Xz2s>

Applications open until 1pm 28 May 2026 📅



Public Participation Network Cork County

Creative Start-up Scheme 2026 - Cork County Council and Creative Ireland

Cork County Council is inviting applications for the Creative Start-up Scheme.

The 2026 scheme welcomes proposals for permanent, temporary or seasonal pop-up shops in vacant retail spaces. It also encourages applications from small retailers who wish to expand their offering by featuring more artists or makers or enlarging their current retail footprint. Each approved project may receive up to €5,000 in funding.

In addition to financial support, successful applicants will receive business guidance and mentorship from the Local Enterprise Office. All applications will be assessed on a competitive basis.

Aims

- To assist, artists, arts collectives, designers and crafts people in securing retail space.
- To support public access to cultural and creative production by the creative design sector in Cork County.
- To assist the viability of the County's creative industries.
- To add to the diversity of local outlets/attractions, while at the same time, reducing the impact of empty retail spaces.
- Please note that this Scheme is geared primarily towards not-for-profit groups and organisations and Projects of a Creative or heritage focus will be given priority.

The deadline for applications is Friday, 5th June at 5:00 PM.

Further information: [Creative Start-up Scheme 2026 | Cork County Council](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

€10 million Capital Scheme for Early Learning and Childcare Services

Minister for Children, Disability and Equality Norma Foley has announced the opening of a €10 million capital funding scheme to deliver a significant number of additional early learning and childcare places.

The Building Blocks Extension Scheme Phase 2 will provide grants for community and private early learning and childcare services who are Core Funding partner services to increase their capacity by means of extensions to their existing premises.

Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 and €530,000 to extend their existing premises. Private providers can apply for a capital grant of between €50,000 and €265,000 to extend their existing premises.

All projects will be required to deliver net increases in full-time places for one to three-year-olds. Projects will also be required to incorporate Universal Design Guidelines.

There are two strands to the Scheme, as follows:

Community strand:

- Community providers can apply for a capital grant of between €100,000 (minimum) and €530,000 (maximum) to extend their existing premises.
- Match funding is not a requirement.
- Project values between €100,000 and €680,000 will be eligible.
- Any additional project costs between €530,000 and €680,000 must be funded by the provider.

The closing date for applications is 31 July 2026. This will ensure that all applicants have sufficient time to engage with their design teams and their solicitors prior to the closing date. The outcome of the appraisal process will be communicated to services in September 2026.

[Full details here](#)



Public Participation Network Cork County

Behind the scenes @ PPN HQ



Thank you for joining us!



A message from Catherine O Toole in the IEN: “Thank you! Firstly I'd like to thank all our speakers: Karen Loxton, Mark Robbins, Michelle McKeown, Julia Cooper, Rachel Hayden, Jim Wilson, Paul Moore and Ailbe Ryan. Thank you so much for your time, expertise and enthusiasm!



Public Participation Network Cork County

I also want to thank Cork County PPN for their help in putting together and hosting such a wonderful day! In particular, Noelle Nally, Noel Forde and Carol Harper.

My thanks also to Alannah and Marta from Cork City PPN for their help in getting the word out about the event, to Ciaran Brennan of the IEN for his help on the day, and a shout out to our wonderful venue and caterers: Little Island Sports Complex and Fitzpatrick's Catering Food Store.

Thank you once again to you as well for attending! You made my day!



Speaker	Topic	Presentation / Links to further resrouces
Mark Robbins	Green Skibbereen - Biodiversity Action Plan in practice and the Forest CarboVision Project	Beyond the Plan - presentation ForestCarboVision - presentation



Public Participation Network Cork County

		Follow Green Skibbereen - Facebook - Instagram
Michelle McKeown	Nature Based Solutions	Presentation
Julia Cooper	Ocean Wildlife through Photography	Wildlife of West Cork
Rachel Hayden	Citizen Science Initiatives from the National Biodiversity Data Centre	Presentation Start recording! Other Surveys Resources and Training
Jim Wilson, Paul Moore, Ailbe Ryan	Harper's Island Wetlands Walk	Website Join their work mornings: info@harpersislandwetlands.ie





Public Participation Network Cork County

