



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## E - Bulletin Newsletter 26/06/2026

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,

Anthony & Noelle xx



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## Public Participation Network Cork County

### News & Events:

## Cavernoma Awareness Month



### Cavernoma What is it?



A cluster of abnormal blood vessels that can occur in the brain or spinal cord.

These fragile vessels can leak blood, causing symptoms such as:

- Bleeding (haemorrhage)
- Seizures
- Headaches
- Speech problems
- Weakness or paralysis

The genetic form is recognised as a rare disease.



**Cavernoma Awareness Month** takes place in June and aims to raise public awareness of this rare condition affecting the brain and spinal cord, and to support individuals and families across Ireland. The goal is to improve recognition and understanding of cavernoma, and to reach people who may be affected, whether or not they are currently experiencing symptoms.

It is estimated that approximately 8,500 people in Ireland are living with a cavernoma, with around 2,000 experiencing symptoms.

Symptoms can include seizures, headaches, bleeding (haemorrhage) from a cavernoma, weakness, numbness, tremors, speech and vision difficulties, fatigue, memory and concentration problems, and in some cases paralysis. The type, severity, and duration of symptoms vary significantly depending on the location of the cavernoma and the individual.



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The genetic (familial) form of cavernoma is recognised as a rare disease, although the condition may also occur sporadically without any family history.

Cavernoma Ireland is a patient-led organisation that provides information, support, and advocacy for individuals and families affected by cavernoma across Ireland.

More information is available at [www.cavernomaireland.ie](http://www.cavernomaireland.ie)

Cork County PPN were delighted to be able to help **Cavernoma Ireland** to get Cork County Hall lit up in recognition of Cavernoma Awareness Month!

**Facebook: @CavernomaIrelandSupport**

**LinkedIn: @cavernoma-ireland**

**Instagram: @cavernomaireland**

**X: @Cavernomalre**



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Full Circle Awards 2026



**We're delighted to announce the launch of the Full Circle Awards 2026, Circular.ie's celebration of Circular Champions! These awards recognise outstanding individuals and groups who are making reuse, repair, repurposing, sharing and upcycling part of everyday life across the country.**

#### **The winners will receive:**

- €2,000 prize to support their circular work
- Unique handcrafted trophy made from upcycled materials
- Media exposure through Circular.ie and associated press

#### **Award categories include:**

- Repair and Reuse Champion
- Community Circular Champion
- Creative Circular Design
- Circular Living Advocate
- Best Community Campaign
- Circular Sports Champion

The Awards look to recognise people who are genuinely making a difference through their circular practices and inspiring others to follow suit.

Nominate your Circular Champion here: [Full Circle Awards 2026](#)

The nomination deadline is July 24th, so we encourage submissions to be made as soon as possible.



## Public Participation Network Cork County



### **Octocon 2026 – Clayton Hotel Cork City and online Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026**

Octocon, the National Irish Science Fiction Convention, is a celebration of our favourite stories from books, comics, TV, films and games. Science fiction, fantasy, horror, and beyond; Octocon attracts artists, writers, film-makers and fans from across the human sphere of influence.

For one weekend in October, we gather together to talk about all the wonders we have read and watched over the year, share our favourite moments from book, TV, comics and films, delve into the unsung genres and curious concepts of speculative fiction, show off our cosplay, take part in workshops, listen to panel discussions and charming guest speakers, and see what ‘must haves’ are in the Trade Hall. In a nutshell, to experience the fun that is Octocon.

Membership is year-round, offering online hangouts and special events in addition to the Convention itself.

This year we are excited to be in Cork for the first time, located at the Clayton Hotel Cork City as well as online, on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> October and Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2026. Adding to the usual programme Octocon has to offer, our Cosplay Parade will be on Saturday afternoon and we’ve planned a charity table quiz and karaoke for Saturday evening.

Our Guests of Honour this year are award-winning British science fiction and fantasy author Adrian Tchaikovsky and Alaskan-Irish fantasy and mystery author C.E. (Catie) Murphy. We are also thrilled to have Cork local writer and game designer Gareth Hanrahan as one of our in-person guests, with more in-person and online guests yet to be announced.

Octocon is making a limited number of free memberships available to Cork locals, with 2 full adult attending memberships and 3 pairs of Young Adult memberships (aged 13-21) available. If more people apply for memberships than the available number, we will draw them by lottery. The deadline to apply for a membership is August 15<sup>th</sup> 2026, and the application can be found on our website: <https://octocon.com/octocon-community-fund/>

**Wondering where’s the Cork County connection?** Well, Karina, who is involved with Octocon, she and her husband work hard in the background keeping our [Cork County PPN website](#) running smoothly!



# **Public Participation Network** Cork County

[Octocon.com](https://www.octocon.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/octocon>

<https://instagram.com/octoconirl>

<https://bsky.app/profile/octocon.bsky.social>

<https://twitch.tv/octoconirl>

<https://youtube.com/@OctoconIRL>



## Public Participation Network Cork County



### Corkbeg AFC - Press Release - June 2026

#### Corkbeg AFC, Whitegate, Co.Cork - Cork County Council Funding

Corkbeg AFC was founded in 1968 and today has over four hundred playing members and twenty teams ranging in ages from U6 up to adults. The club ethos is community based focused on player development, participation and engagement.

Corkbeg AFC is very proud of its schoolboy / schoolgirls academy along with the club's competitive girls & boys teams through U12 to U18 and its adult team.

The exponential growth of soccer in the locality, driven by the club through its volunteers and underpinned by generous grants from Cork County Council over the last 5 years.



In 2025, Cork County Council granted funds to support club development through the Capital Fund Scheme, the funds went towards maintaining playing surfaces, improving changing rooms and maintenance of the amenity. Corkbeg AFC found out about the fund through this very newsletter!

Jim Reaney, Corkbeg AFC Club Chairperson, commented;



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*“Thanks to Cork County Council and on behalf of all members, the club wishes to express its gratitude to Cork County Council and to the East Cork Municipal District Council members who have been incredibly supportive of Corkbeg AFC and its initiatives to maintain and improve the amenity in Whitegate, Co.Cork.”*

Jim went on to say;

*“With support from Cork County Council we can sustain and grow the huge numbers of young girls and young boys and their desire to play soccer , the core driving factor in the need to upgrade our amenity is to facilitate the youth in our community to play and have fun. We hope that our enhanced facilities will be of benefit to our community and most importantly the youth of our vibrant community”.*



## Public Participation Network Cork County



### 2026 Cycle of Hope Mizen to Malin Challenge

5th -12th September 2026

**Hop on your bike & join us for  
World Suicide Prevention Day**

Register Now

[WWW.CYCLEAGAINSTSUICIDE.COM](http://WWW.CYCLEAGAINSTSUICIDE.COM)

## Cycle of Hope-Mizen to Malin Challenge - September 6th to 11th

World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, is a global reminder that suicide prevention is everyone's business. It is a day to raise awareness, challenge stigma and encourage conversations that can save lives.

This year's theme, "Changing the Narrative on Suicide," calls on all of us to replace silence with understanding, stigma with compassion, and isolation with connection. By creating a culture where people feel safe to talk and seek help, we can give hope to those who may be struggling.



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, Cycle Against Suicide invites you to join our Cycle of Hope: Mizen to Malin Challenge, taking place from 6th-11th September. (Travel days Saturday 5th & 12th).

Whether you ride for a day, a few days or the full journey, you will be part of a powerful movement bringing communities together, supporting those impacted by suicide and promoting help seeking behaviour.

Register today: <https://eventmaster.ie/event/RK6KuL5h76/bORUr1sQ>



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Pollinator Guide for Community Gardens



On Saturday 20th June, **Community Gardens Ireland**, in collaboration with the **National Biodiversity Data Centre**, launched a new pollinator guide for community gardens at Greystones & Kilcoole Community Garden in Co. Wicklow.

The guide is the result of a three-year project which began at a Community Gardens Ireland gathering, where discussions highlighted concerns around pesticide use in community gardens and allotments. Following this, the National Biodiversity Data Centre partnered with Community Gardens Ireland to develop the initiative.

Over the course of the project, both organisations worked together, with contributions from members of the Community Gardens Ireland committee, to produce the guide.

The resource outlines best practice for creating pollinator-friendly community gardens, offering practical advice on supporting biodiversity. This includes guidance on habitat creation such as ponds, bird and bat boxes, as well as the elimination of pesticide use.

The guide aims to encourage and support the development of more pollinator-friendly community gardens across the island of Ireland.

Further information is available here:

- [Pollinator Guide for Community Gardens](#)
- [Launch details from Community Gardens Ireland](#)



# 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](mailto: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:** 1 seat vacant

**Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC:** 2 seats vacant

**Arts, Culture & Language SPC:** 1 seat vacant

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](mailto: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**

## **SPAR EUROSPAR Team Ireland Community Fund**

SPAR and EUROSPAR, proud partners of Team Ireland, are delighted to launch the Team Ireland Community Fund – a €60,000 fund designed to support local sports clubs across Ireland. We're looking for clubs that are Hungry for Success – groups that are making a real difference in their communities and could benefit from funding to help them go further.

A total fund of €60,000 is available, with 30 clubs set to receive €2,000 each.

If you're involved with a local sports club, now is your chance to apply for funding to support your future plans – whether that's new equipment, facility upgrades, or initiatives to help your club grow.

### **How to Enter:**

Simply complete the short entry form using the link below, telling us about your club and why they are Hungry for Success?

The competition will run until Wednesday 8th July 2026 at 11.59pm, don't miss your chance to be part of the Team Ireland Community Fund.

**Further information:** <https://www.spar.ie/communityfund/>



## **Public Participation Network Cork County**

### **Consultations:**

## **Research Project – Community Voices in Marine Spatial Planning**

A Master's student in Marine Policy and Governance at University College Cork, Laetitia Gaubert, is currently undertaking a research project focused on improving social sustainability in marine policy. The project aims to explore ways of strengthening local communities' voices and influence within marine management processes.

As part of this work, the study seeks to map how the communities of Carrigaline, Crosshaven, and Ringaskiddy use and value the coastal and marine environment around Cork Harbour for recreational purposes. The findings will help inform future planning processes, supporting greater community input at earlier stages, rather than relying primarily on focus groups established after projects are already underway.

PPN member groups and individuals, particularly those based in or connected to the Carrigaline, Crosshaven, and Ringaskiddy areas, are invited to take part in an online survey. The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and is fully anonymous.

Members are encouraged to participate and to share the survey link within their communities where relevant.

Here is the survey link:

<https://arcg.is/j85fq5>



## Public Participation Network Cork County

# Public consultation on Ireland's draft National Nature Restoration Plan

The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage has launched the first public consultation on Ireland's draft National Nature Restoration Plan, developed in response to new EU legislation aimed at restoring degraded ecosystems. The plan will outline how Ireland will contribute to EU targets, including restoring at least 20% of land and sea areas by 2030 and all ecosystems in need by 2050.

Stakeholders and members of the public are invited to provide feedback to help shape the draft plan, with submissions open until **1 July 2026**. Input received will inform the final plan, which is due to be submitted to the European Commission in 2027.

You can get involved by completing [the online consultation form](#), emailing your submission to **[nationalrestorationplan@npws.gov.ie](mailto:nationalrestorationplan@npws.gov.ie)**, or posting it to the National Parks and Wildlife Service in Dublin.

Feedback received will inform the development of the plan, with a final version due to be submitted to the European Commission in 2027.



## Public Participation Network Cork County

### Behind the scenes @ PPN HQ

### New staff member alert!

Hello everyone,

My name is **Anthony Hussey**, and I am delighted to introduce myself as the interim **Public Participation Network (PPN) Co-ordinator**.

I'm a Cork City native but now enjoying a more rural life in North Cork.

I bring over 20 years of experience in public service, community engagement and service delivery, having worked with both Citizens Information and, more recently, Limerick City and County Council. Throughout my career, I have been passionate about supporting people, building strong relationships and ensuring that communities have a voice in decisions that affect them.

I am looking forward to meeting and working with you all over the months ahead. Working together to strengthen participation, encourage collaboration and support the valuable work being carried out by member groups throughout the county.

The PPN plays a vital role in connecting communities with local government, and I am excited to help build on that work while ensuring that the voices of our members continue to be heard and represented.

Away from work, I'm a keen foodie who enjoys exploring all that Cork County has to offer. From discovering local cafés and restaurants to attending community events and visiting different towns and villages.

**Anthony Hussey**  
PPN Co-ordinator



# Public Participation Network Cork County

## Cork Summer Show

The PPN was once again delighted to attend this year's Cork Summer Show, where we hosted a stand and engaged with a wide range of community members. The event provided a great opportunity to connect with the public, raise awareness of the PPN, and highlight opportunities for involvement in local decision-making. It was a positive and enjoyable weekend, with strong interest in the work of the PPN and valuable conversations with groups and individuals from across the region.

We could not have asked for nicer weather, as evidenced by our Secretariat Chairperson, Noel Forde, who was making a bid for Best Dressed in his sun hat & shades! He's pictured here alongside Secretariat members Deirdre Hickey, Ena Howell and Liam McCarthy, and our new Coordinator, Anthony!





# Public Participation Network Cork County

We were honoured with a visit from this year's Cork Rose, Lexi Linnane! Best of luck to Lexi at the Rose Dome in August!

