



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 09/07/2026

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:

Cork Indian Summerfest 2026

CORK INDIAN SUMMERFEST

JULY 11, 2026
10:00 AM - 10:00 PM

*A Celebration of
Culture, Community & Excellence*

EXPERIENCE INDIA IN CORK

- Live Music & Entertainment
- Traditional & Contemporary Dance
- Authentic Indian Food Festival
- Arts, Culture & Heritage Displays
- Family Activities & Children's Zone
- Community & Cultural Stalls

SPECIAL AWARDS CEREMONY

COINNs NURSES EXCELLENCE AWARDS
Recognising nurses whose dedication, compassion and professional excellence have made an outstanding impact on healthcare.

COINNs COMMUNITY HUMANITARIAN AWARD
Honouring exceptional service, leadership and contribution to the community.

**BRINGING COMMUNITIES TOGETHER THROUGH
CULTURE • RECOGNITION • INCLUSION • CELEBRATION**

EVERTON AFC (NEAR THE AIRPORT)
• SUMMER 2026 •

ORGANISED BY COINNs (CORK INDIAN NURSES NETWORK)

COINNs



Public Participation Network Cork County

We in **Cork County PPN** are delighted to be attending this year's **Cork Indian Summer Fest** - a vibrant festival celebrating the rich traditions, culture and diversity of India while bringing communities together across Cork.

The festival will feature live music, dance performances, authentic Indian cuisine, arts and cultural displays, family activities, community stalls and much more.

A special highlight of this year's event will be the presentation of the **COINNs Nurses Excellence Awards**, recognising exceptional nursing professionals, and the **COINNs Community Humanitarian Award**, honouring outstanding service and contribution to the community. We are proud to say that COINNs are members of the PPN!

Enjoy a day of culture, connection and celebration, showcasing the very best of community spirit in Cork.

🚩 **Saturday, 11 July 2026**
🚩 **10:00 AM – 10:00 PM**
🚩 **Everton AFC, Farmers Cross (T12 YF62)**
All Are Welcome

The Edible Town Project: Mitchelstown launches latest Community Event



Mitchelstown Allotments are hosting a community open weekend on Saturday 18th and Sunday 19th July from 2pm-4pm. There will be allotment tours and visitors will get the chance to meet the members, learn about growing your own fruit/veg and joining the allotments.

All ages are welcome; refreshments will be served. This is a collaboration between **Mitchelstown Tidy Towns** and Mitchelstown Allotments as part of **"The Edible Town" Project** of community events.

In 2024, people from across the community came together to form Mitchelstown Tidy Towns group including **Mitchelstown Age Friendly, Business Association, Community Council, Heritage Society and AROMA Residents' Association**. Since then, they have engaged with community groups, schools and sports clubs through a range of community projects including a series of talks and the installation of grow your own planters in schools, a creche and the local day care centre.

"The Edible Town" Project has enjoyed success in the town through engagement with people of all ages within the local community on growing, maintaining and cooking your own produce. The team have worked closely with Michelle Joyce of Open Earth Farm, (a local farmer who grows wholesome food in harmony with nature) in delivering the project.



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Last week, both community groups received funding which was announced under the Local Enhancement Programme 2026.

It follows last week's news story (Irish Independent) that people in towns and villages across Cork County may soon be able to grow their own food in council-run allotments, news which received positive feedback from local County Councillors.

Community Allotments have multiple benefits including boosting health and wellbeing. Mitchelstown Community Allotments have been a huge success in the town since opening in 2015. New members are always welcome to join.

The Allotments are located beside Mitchelstown Playground on Church Hill, P67 FT73.

<https://mitchelstowntidytowns.com/>



**Public Participation
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Cork County Council Launches Residents' Association Quick Guide and Handbook



Cork County Council is pleased to announce the launch of its new *Residents' Association Quick Guide* and *Residents' Association Handbook*, developed by the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development Strategic Policy Committee. (and FYI – it recommends joining the PPN!)

Residents' Associations play a vital role in fostering strong, connected communities by bringing together local people to address shared concerns, enhance neighbourhoods, and promote community wellbeing. Recognising the importance of these groups, Cork County Council has developed these practical resources to support both new and existing associations across the county.

The *Quick Guide* provides an accessible introduction for residents interested in getting involved in their community, offering clear and simple steps on how to establish and run a Residents' Association. The more comprehensive *Handbook* builds on this, delivering detailed guidance on governance, committee roles, effective communication, organising meetings, and accessing funding and supports. It also outlines how



Residents' Associations can work constructively with Cork County Council and other stakeholders.

Developed through the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC – which PPN Representatives, Lisa Manning & Pauline O Dwyer sit on - these resources reflect Cork County Council's ongoing commitment to empowering communities and promoting inclusive, sustainable local development. By equipping residents with the knowledge and tools they need, the Council aims to support stronger participation, collaboration, and community leadership throughout the county.

Mayor of the County of Cork Cllr. Mary Linehan Foley noted '*Residents' Associations are the backbone of strong, connected communities, and these new resources will empower local people across the county to come together, have their voices heard, and play an active role in shaping their neighbourhoods.*'

The Residents' Association Quick Guide and Handbook are now available to download.

[Residents Association](#)

Interested in getting involved with something like this? We have two vacant seats on the Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC!



Public Participation Network Cork County

New Solutions Social Innovation Lab



OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

The New Solutions Social Innovation Lab is a practical, step-by-step programme designed to help you turn ideas for social change into real, testable solutions. The Lab is a structured development programme made up of 8 workshops, combining online sessions with in-person events, delivered by experienced practitioners, social innovation mentors, and subject experts.

SESSIONS BEGIN Q4 2026

Attendance is **FREE** but spaces are **LIMITED**

LEARN MORE AND APPLY NOW AT

new-solutions.ie/social-innovation-lab

ENGAGE to develop real, actionable, and sustainable solutions

LEARN what you need to plan, deliver, and measure social impact

WORK with like-minded people on similar journeys

BUILD a network that can support you and your community

UNDERSTAND social innovation and how to apply it

INTERACT with flexibility through online and in-person sessions

WIN a **€5,000** seed grant to support the development of your idea



The **New Solutions Social Innovation Lab** is a new initiative designed to support people to develop innovative and practical solutions to challenges that impact them, their communities, or society more broadly. It is aimed at people who are relatively new to social innovation or social enterprise, and no previous experience is required. Instead, the programme is open to anyone who is motivated to make their community a fairer, more inclusive place to live and work.



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The Lab will comprise 8 workshops, delivered in blended format (primarily online) beginning in October. Participants will be supported to develop a deeper understanding of the issues they are seeking to address and will be guided through a process of designing practical, community based solutions.

Participation is free and participants will receive a small bursary to support attendance at the in-person sessions. In addition, seed grants of €5,000 will be awarded to up to five participants to help develop their ideas beyond the Lab.

Further information, including details of how to apply, is available at <https://www.new-solutions.ie/social-innovation-lab>.



National Social Enterprise Awards 2026

The National Social Enterprise Awards 2026 will showcase the impact of Ireland's social enterprise community, and celebrate the people and organisations that make it all happen.

The initiative is being delivered on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht by Local Development Companies Network, Irish Social Enterprise Network, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland and The Wheel, and is being sponsored by Community Finance Ireland.

Categories and Prizes

Winners across eight categories will receive monetary prizes of €1,000 each, which will be handed out - along with Social Enterprise of the Year, Social Enterprise Volunteer of the Year, and Lifetime Achievement awards - at an awards ceremony to take place in October, with exact date and venue to be confirmed.

Summary of Key Dates	
Applications Open	22 nd June
Informational Webinar	11 AM, 29 th June
Deadline for Questions	11.59 PM, 24 th July
Application Deadline	11.59 PM, 31st July
Awards Event	October (Date and Venue TBC)

Find out more

For more information on eligibility, award categories and how you can apply, visit:

www.ldcn.ie/awards



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.



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** (1 Social Inclusion vacancies)

Please submit your nomination by completing this form:

[Cork-County-LCDC-Nomination-form](#)



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

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](#)



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



Improving Children's Futures

What Works in Communities Fund 2026

This funding represents a strategic investment in children, young people and families across Ireland. Prevention and early intervention approaches help address challenges before they escalate and ensure that children and families receive the right support at the right time.

Grants of between €10,000 and €40,000 will be made available to community and voluntary organisations delivering prevention and early intervention initiatives for children, young people and families.

Closing Date: 31 July

For more information, go to: <https://whatworks.gov.ie/announcement-of-2026-what-works-in-communities-fund/>



**Public Participation
Network** Cork County

Carmichael's Good Governance 2026



Carmichael.

Enter Now!

Open for entries from today
www.goodgovernanceawards.ie



Any nonprofit organisation in Ireland, whether a charity, company, sports club or community association, can enter its annual report and financial statements into the Awards for free and it will receive individual feedback to help improve future annual reports.

Closing Date: 10 September

For more information, go to: <https://goodgovernanceawards.ie>



Public Participation Network Cork County

Consultations:



CHILDMINDING IRELAND

Childminding Ireland has launched a **National Survey for parents who currently use a childminder**. The findings will provide vital evidence to inform discussions with Government and policymakers around the introduction of mandatory childminding regulations, due to come into effect in September 2027. As decisions are being made about the future of childminding in Ireland, it is essential that the experiences and perspectives of parents are part of that conversation.

As a Public Participation Network, you play a vital role in connecting with families and communities across your area. We would be very grateful if you could share this survey with parents and families in your network, through whatever channels work best for you - newsletters, social media, community groups, or direct communications.

Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NKDTV9W>



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Help Build the Case for Investment in Youth Work

The National Youth Council of Ireland (NYCI) has developed a national research study to **assess the socio-economic value of youth work in Ireland**. We are asking **youth services** across Ireland to share the [survey](#) with the young people they work with.

Closing Date: 31 July

By **encouraging young people to take part**, you will help create evidence that services can use to demonstrate impact, strengthen funding applications and influence future investment in youth work. The club, group or programme with the highest number of completed surveys will receive €250.

For more information, go to:

<https://www.youth.ie/articles/have-you-received-the-youth-work-value-survey-your-input-is-critical/>



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**



Comhairle Contae Chorcaí
Cork County Council

Determine Demand for Affordable Housing in Cork County

Cork County Council is asking participants to provide details such as income levels, family size, disability status and other relevant information. The data gathered will be used to build a clearer picture of affordable housing need and to support informed decision-making on the scale, design and location of future developments.

For more information, go to: <https://www.corkcoco.ie/en/news/cork-county-council-launches-survey-to-determine-demand-for-affordable-housing-0>