



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 21/08/2026

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:

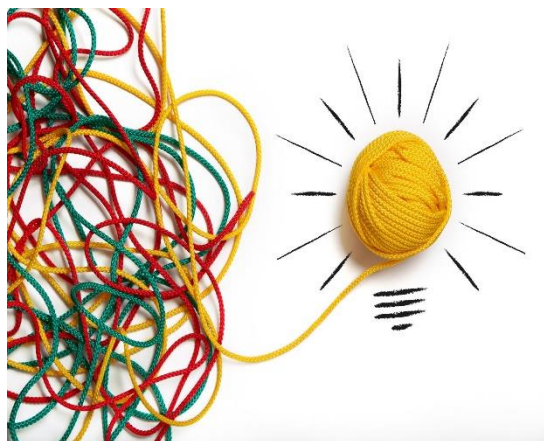
Linkage Groups Launch / Workshop



We are taking an important step forward this September, with a dedicated Linkage Group Workshop –

The initiative will begin with a workshop on **Saturday, 5 September 2026, at the Talbot Hotel, Midleton**, bringing together members to help shape how our Linkage Groups will operate within the network.

Facilitated by Jamie Moore, who has extensive experience supporting PPNs and participatory structures across the public sector, the workshop will explore the role of Linkage Groups in connecting member organisations with PPN representatives and decision-making structures. Participants will examine PPN governance, representation on bodies such as SPCs, LCDCs and Community Safety Partnerships, and contribute ideas on the future design of Linkage Groups in Cork County.



We hope the session will be highly interactive, providing opportunities for discussion, collaboration and shared learning. It will also focus on practical skills for our representatives, including the “Listen, Discuss, Represent and Feedback” model, meeting preparation and effective reporting.



Tea & coffee at 9.45am, with the workshop running until 3.00pm.

Prior registration is essential: Members wishing to attend are asked to confirm their attendance by emailing ppn@corkcoco.ie.

Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

Interested in Joining 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**

Cork Pop Up Volunteer Centre



Cork
Volunteer Centre
Ionad d'Obair Dheonach Corcaigh

POP UP VOLUNTEER CENTRE YOUGHAL LIBRARY

8TH SEPTEMBER
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: gosia@volunteercork.ie



Public Participation Network Cork County

A creative escape to imagine and grow Autumn / Winter 2026

ONLINE Creative Workshops & Camps

For young people living with long-term health conditions. **Free art box** delivered to you.



Ages 6-8

Ages 8-12

Ages 13-16

helium
Inspiring life through art

Free to attend.
Book today at www.helium.ie

Bookings are now open for Helium's **FREE** workshops in for **children and young people with long-term physical health conditions**.

Mallow - Autumn Camp

Location: Big Blue Cube, Dates: 28-30 October

Ages: 8-12 years

[Book your Cork space HERE!](#)

Online Workshops-

If you can't make it in person - [Book your ONLINE space here!](#)



**Public Participation
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Supporting Nature Through the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan

Pollinators such as bees, butterflies, hoverflies and moths play a vital role in our ecosystem, helping to pollinate wild plants and many of the fruits and vegetables we rely on every day. Yet across Ireland, pollinator populations are under increasing pressure due to habitat loss, changes in land management, and reduced availability of food and nesting sites. Around one-third of Ireland's wild bee species are threatened with extinction.



The **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (AIPP)** is an island-wide initiative coordinated by the National Biodiversity Data Centre. It brings together communities, local authorities, businesses, farmers, schools and individuals to create a landscape where pollinators can survive and thrive. The Plan provides practical actions that everyone can take, from reducing mowing and allowing native

wildflowers to grow, to planting pollinator-friendly flowers and protecting existing habitats.

Launched in 2015, the initiative has grown into one of Ireland's most successful biodiversity programmes. The latest phase, the **All-Ireland Pollinator Plan 2026-2030**, aims to create “pockets of nature every 200 metres” across the island, helping to connect habitats and support healthy pollinator populations.

Community groups have a particularly important role to play. Simple actions such as leaving areas of grass uncut, planting native species, reducing pesticide use, and raising awareness locally can make a significant difference. Every pollinator-friendly space, no matter how small, contributes to a wider network of habitats that supports biodiversity and strengthens our natural environment.



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To learn more about how you, your community group, or your organisation can get involved, visit www.pollinators.ie, where a wide range of free resources, guides and practical advice are available. Together, we can help ensure that Ireland's pollinators continue to flourish for future generations.



**Nature
Network
Ireland**

Nature Network Ireland events happening this August

Bug Hunt at Beaumont Quarry

Saturday 22nd August

1pm - 4pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2338394>

Tralee Bay, protecting species, from river to sea

Sunday 23rd August

1 -4pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2316113>

Beaumont Quarry clean-up

Wednesday 26th August

10am - 1pm

Ticket Tailor link:

<https://buytickets.at/naturenetworkireland/2261608>



Public Participation Network Cork County



**An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe
agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta**
Department of Rural and Community
Development and the Gaeltacht

PPN Stakeholder Training

We would like to remind you that the online only self-paced videos programme for PPN stakeholders has been developed with SJI. Registrations for the online only training is now open. Social Justice Ireland is providing this training on behalf of the Department.

The online only training covers the following:

- An Introduction to the PPNs (2 Modules)
- Local Government Budgets
- PPNs and Local Government
- Effective Participation in Consultations
- Effective Facilitation
- Strategic Planning
- Measuring Outcomes and Impacts

This is online only training and is intended for self-directed learning at the learner's own pace. Social Justice Ireland will provide some support via the webform on each Module page. There are no scheduled classes as part of this training.

This training is available to the following PPN Stakeholders:

- PPN Workers
- PPN Secretariat Members
- PPN Representatives
- PPN Member Groups
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Councillors

To register, please complete the Registration Form at the following link : [Register for Training | Social Justice 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 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: 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](#)



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#fundingfriday



Developed with [Quality Matters](#) and [The Wheel](#), the [NCI Certificate in Nonprofit Leadership and Management](#) (Level 9) has been running for over ten years and is filling up quickly.

This Level 9 Certificate is practical, aimed at enhancing specific managerial and leadership skills for managers and executives in Irish nonprofits. The course blends academic, evidence-based practices with insights from experienced practitioners.

Bursary Available:

As part of The Wheel's commitment to diversity and inclusion, we aim to offer bursaries for affiliated programs where possible. These bursaries help individuals from traditionally marginalised backgrounds who find the course fee a barrier.

The Wheel have one bursary place available for a successful applicant, covering the full cost for the Autumn 2026 [NCI Non-Profit Leadership and Management](#) course. To apply, please email ciarapower@wheel.ie for the application form.

This bursary place is reserved and will be available for September 2026, even if course places fill up before the application deadline.

Bursary applications will be accepted until 9am on Monday, 31 August. Successful applicants will be notified by The Wheel. The course starts on Monday, 14 September 2026.

Any questions? Please feel free to contact: ciarapower@wheel.ie.



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Energy for Generations Fund to Open Soon

The Energy for Generations Fund has announced the opening date for its second funding round of 2026, with applications set to open on Monday 10 August and close at 5pm on Monday 24 August.

The fund distributes **€1 million annually** through two funding rounds, supporting charities across Ireland that are working to tackle social exclusion. Funding is focused on initiatives that improve access to education, increase employment opportunities, and address homelessness.

The programme supports projects that align with the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, with a particular focus on **SDG 4 (Quality Education)**, **SDG 5 (Gender Equality)**, **SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth)**, and **SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities)**.

Charities interested in applying for the second 2026 funding round are encouraged to submit their applications before the deadline of **17:00 on Monday 24 August**.

For information, go to: <https://esb.ie/who-we-are/our-story/efg-funds>



Public Participation Network Cork County



Funding: Tuath Housing Climate Action Fund 2026

Tuath Housing has invited residents to apply for funding to support community-led projects focused on climate action and sustainability.

The organisation has launched its Climate Action Fund for 2026 and is now accepting applications from residents with sustainable ideas for their communities.

Closing Date: 26 August

For more information, go to: <https://tuathhousing.ie/news-stories/tuath-opens-applications-for-climate-action-fund-2026/>



Funding: Huawei Solar Sports Scheme

The Huawei Solar Sports Scheme grant programme is designed to support and invest in **grassroots sports clubs** across the community.

The Scheme will award five (5) cash grants of €10,000 each, totalling €50,000 in available funding, to eligible sports clubs that **demonstrate a clear need for financial support** and the capacity to **deliver meaningful benefit** to their members and the wider community.

Closing Date: 31 August

For information, go to:

<https://solar.huawei.com/ie/events/huawei-solar-sports-scheme/terms>



€4.5million Integration Fund for 2026 launched

The fund, which brings together the full suite of exchequer funded Integration themed funding calls will enable communities across Ireland to play a greater role in promoting the integration of migrants.

Funding is made available to organisations to carry out integration projects at a national, regional or local level. Organisations eligible to apply include local community groups, charities, faith-based groups, formal and informal schools and cultural organisations.

Applicant organisations must operate on a not-for-profit basis.

There are three streams of funding available for applicants;

- Scheme 1 will provide grants of between €100,000 and €300,000 for large scale integration projects run over a period of up to three years.
- Scheme 2 will provide grants of between €15,000 and €100,000 for large scale integration projects run over a period of up to one year.
- Scheme 3 will provide grants of between €1,000 and €10,000 for local community integration projects.

All applications must be submitted electronically.

Applications for funding will remain open until noon on Wednesday 2 September 2026. Groups can access a detailed guidance document and complete an online application form at the following link: [Integration Fund](#)

Under the 2025 Integration Fund, 117 projects nationwide were awarded a total of €3.6m in funding.

More information: [€4.5million Integration Fund for 2026 launched](#)



**Public Participation
Network** Cork County

Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2027



NBHS

An tSeirbhís Oidhreachta
Tógtha Náisiúnta
National Built
Heritage Service

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2027 (BHIS) is for the repair and conservation of structures that are protected under the Planning and Development Acts.

This scheme aims to support:

- a significant number of projects across the country
- the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftspeople and tradespersons in the repair of the historic built environment

Grants of between €2,500 and €50,000 are available.

The scheme also incorporates streams for vernacular buildings and historic shopfronts, which were previously part of the Historic Structures Fund, as well as a 'micro' grant stream for works of routine maintenance and minor repairs.

The fund is administered through Local Authorities.

How to apply

You can apply through your [local authority](#).

More info: [Built Heritage Investment Scheme \(BHIS\)](#)



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Consultations:



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

The National Screening Advisory Committee (NSAC) is open to submissions of proposals for the introduction of a new screening programme or for a change to be made to one of Ireland's six existing screening programmes.

Ireland's six existing screening programmes are:

- [National Newborn Bloodspot Screening Programme](#)
- [National Newborn Hearing Screening Programme](#)
- [BreastCheck](#)
- [CervicalCheck](#)
- [BowelScreen](#)
- [Diabetic RetinaScreen](#)

Closing Date: 28 August

For more information, go to: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-health/publications/call-for-submissions/>



Public Participation Network Cork County

Public Consultation to inform the review of the Disability Act



Consultation: To Inform Review of the Disability Act 2005

Disabled people, families, carers and representative organisations are invited to share their views and experiences. Accessible formats include Braille, ISL, Easy-to-Read, audio and video submissions.

Have your say and help shape the future of disability policy in Ireland.

Closing Date: 9 September

For more information, go

to: <https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-children-disability-and-equality/consultations/public-consultation-to-inform-the-review-of-the-disability-act-2005/>



Consultation: National Food Waste Prevention Roadmap 2026-2028

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment is inviting members of the public and stakeholders to help shape the actions needed to reduce food waste, cut emissions and support Ireland's transition to a more circular economy.

Closing Date: 4 September

To make a submission, go to:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/consultations/public-consultation->



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[on-the-national-food-waste-prevention-roadmap-2026-2028/](#)



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>



**Public Participation
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An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Consultation on draft National Standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Minister Butler encourages parents, young people and mental health professionals to participate in consultation on draft National Standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Minister for Mental Health, Mary Butler TD, is encouraging the public to participate in the public consultation on the draft National Standards for CAMHS, asking children and young people, parents, carers, mental health professionals and service providers to share their views.

Minister Butler legislated for the regulation of CAMHS for the first time in the recently passed Mental Health Act 2026 and requested the Mental Health Commission prioritise the development of the necessary standards for CAMHS as part of the implementation of the new Act.

The new standards represent an important step in strengthening quality, consistency and accountability across Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services and form a key part of the new regulatory framework established under the Mental Health Act 2026. The draft standards place a strong emphasis on children's rights, safety and wellbeing, responsiveness of services, and accountability.

The public consultation is seeking feedback from children and young people with experience of CAMHS, parents and carers, mental health professionals, advocates, peer supporters, service providers and the wider public. Feedback will help inform the final version of the standards before they are introduced.

Encouraging participation in the consultation, Minister Butler said:



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“I recently passed the Mental Health Act 2026 through the Oireachtas which legislates for the regulation of CAMHS for the first time, fulfilling a major commitment in the Programme for Government.

“I requested the Mental Health Commission prioritise the development of these new standards for CAMHS which are an important step towards improving mental health services for children and young people. I encourage everyone with an interest in children’s mental health to take part and help shape the future of CAMHS.”

The draft standards have been informed by expert advice, evidence, policy developments and engagement with stakeholders including people with lived experience. They are designed to support safe, person-centred and rights-based mental health services for children and young people.

The Minister is particularly interested in views on whether the standards cover the key aspects of care, use clear and accessible language, and can be delivered effectively in practice.

Minister Butler added:

“Children and young people must be at the centre of these standards. Their experiences, along with the views of families, carers and frontline staff, are vital in making sure CAMHS services meet the needs of the children and families who use them.”

“I want to thank everyone who has helped develop these draft standards so far. The feedback received through this consultation will help strengthen the final standards and support better mental health services for children and young people across Ireland.”

The consultation will remain open for public submissions for the next six weeks. Feedback received will be used to refine the standards before they are finalised and implemented.

[New draft standards for Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services \(CAMHS\) Public Consultation | Mental Health Commission](#)



**Public Participation
Network Cork County**

Public consultation on mandatory folic acid fortification of flour

Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Jennifer Murnane O'Connor TD has launched an online public consultation seeking the views and opinions of the public and of industry on the mandatory fortification of non wholemeal flour with folic acid, to help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland. Neural tube defects include conditions such as spina bifida, anencephaly, encephalocele and iniencephaly.

Neural tube defects can occur when the spinal cord does not develop properly during early pregnancy. Ireland has a higher-than-average rate of occurrence of neural tube defects compared with the rest of Europe. Research has shown that sufficient folic acid intake may help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects.

This public consultation provides an important opportunity for members of the public, to provide their views on the proposed fortification of non wholemeal flour with folic acid to help reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland. We are also interested in the views of 'food industry' and related business operators to know how flour fortification with folic acid may affect their activities, along with input on any measures that could help businesses adapt to the new fortification requirements.

Submissions received through this process will be considered and may be used to inform future policy and legislation regarding mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.

Minister Murnane O'Connor said:

"Neural tube defects can have a profound impact on patients, their families and the health service. People living with neural tube defects often face significant challenges in terms of impacts on health and disability, social inclusion and quality of life.

"Research has shown that up to two thirds of neural tube defects can be prevented by consuming folic acid before and during the early stages of pregnancy. Women typically cannot get enough folic acid through diet alone, so fortified foods and folic acid supplements are needed to help reach the required levels.

"We hope to reduce the incidence of neural tube defects in Ireland in the future by increasing dietary intake of foods which have been fortified with folic acid, and by encouraging folic acid supplementation.



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“I would like to encourage individuals and businesses to contribute their insights by making a submission on the Public Consultation: Mandatory fortification of flour with folic acid.”

This call for submissions will remain open for 12 weeks, closing at 17:00 on 05 October 2026. Further information on the submission process is available [here](#).



Social Justice Ireland Wellbeing Survey

Social Justice Ireland is inviting individuals and organisations to participate in its latest **Wellbeing Survey**, aimed at improving understanding of quality of life and wellbeing across Ireland. Building on research undertaken in 2022, the survey seeks to explore how people's priorities and perspectives on wellbeing may have evolved over time

The survey also invites respondents to share their views on potential environmental, social, and economic sustainability indicators within key wellbeing dimensions, recognising their importance in supporting long-term wellbeing.

Participation is open to all interested individuals. The survey takes approximately 20–30 minutes to complete, although many participants may finish it more quickly. Only a small number of questions are mandatory, and respondents are welcome to answer only those questions on topics they feel familiar with or wish to comment on.

The insights gathered will contribute to Social Justice Ireland's ongoing work in developing an alternative wellbeing framework and informing discussions on the factors that matter most to people living in Ireland.

To take part in the survey, visit: [Wellbeing: Measuring What Matters Survey](#)