



Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 04/09/2026

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.



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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.



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Cork Pop Up Volunteer Centre



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



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Network Cork County**



FAMILY FUN DAY

SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER \\\ 1 – 5pm

BALLINSPIITTE COMMUNITY CENTRE

ALL WELCOME!

**FREE ENTRY
GAMES
CHALLENGES**

**CAKES CREPES
SAVOURIES TEAS
COFFEE + MORE!
MEGA RAFFLE**

ARCHERY STAND | ARTISTS ALLEY

MARTIAL ARTS DEMO

PERFORMANCE BY BREHANE WALSH

FUNDRAISING THE WKSА IRISH TOURNAMENT 2027

WWW.KUKSOOLWONCORK.COM



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Sustainable Sporting Summit 2026 – 19th Sept



SE Systems, a Cork-founded energy company, is inviting sporting clubs and community organisations from across Munster to attend its free Sustainable Sporting Summit at SuperValu Páirc Uí Chaoimh on Saturday, 19 September.

The one-day event will bring together sports clubs, community organisations, funders and sustainability experts to explore practical ways to reduce energy costs, improve facilities and access funding for future projects. The summit will be MC'd by broadcaster Marty Morrissey and is open to clubs of all sports and sizes.

Designed for those involved in managing club facilities and finances, including chairs, secretaries, treasurers, facilities officers and development committee members, the event aims to help clubs navigate the often-complex world of energy upgrades, grants and financing options.

For clubs looking at funding routes, the summit offers a valuable opportunity to meet key organisations face to face, including SEAI, Community Finance Ireland, Grow Ireland, PTSB, Cork County PPN, McSherry Lighting and Platinum Energy.

Representatives will be available throughout the day to discuss grants, loans and other supports available for community and sporting facilities.



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A major attraction of the day is the live prize draw, with three prizes worth a combined €15,000 up for grabs. One club or community organisation will win €10,000 towards an energy project, another will receive €5,000 towards an energy project, and a third winner will receive a professional energy audit worth approximately €3,000.

The prizes could help clubs take meaningful first steps towards reducing energy costs, whether through LED floodlighting, solar installations, heating improvements or energy efficiency upgrades. Importantly, clubs do not need to own their facilities to benefit. Clubs that rent their grounds or buildings are still eligible to win and can use the funding towards improvements at their facility or as leverage when discussing upgrades, rent or lease arrangements with landlords. Every registered club receives one entry into the draw, and a representative must be present on the day for the draw to take place.

Emma Walker, Communities Project Coordinator at SE Systems, said:

"Every club we talk to has the same story. They know the clubhouse is costing them a fortune to heat, they know there is funding out there somewhere, but they have no spare Tuesday night to sit down and work out how to connect the dots. That is the whole purpose of this event. Come and meet us, bring your bills, and leave with a clear idea of how to get started."

Jake O'Connell, Commercial Director at SE Systems, added:

"We work with clubs because the projects are worth doing and because they are genuinely difficult to get off the ground. A club that gets its lighting and heating right frees up money every year for the thing it exists to do. We would rather be in the room helping fifteen clubs work that out than sending fifteen quotes into inboxes."

Whether your club is considering an energy upgrade, exploring funding opportunities, or simply looking for expert guidance on what supports are available, the Sustainable Sporting Summit offers a practical starting point and the opportunity to connect with organisations that can help turn ideas into projects.

Deadline: 19th September 2026

Spaces are filling quickly, register today: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/sustainable-sporting-summit-2026-powering-communities-through-sport-tickets-1995452059827?aff=partners&utm_source=partners&utm_medium=partner&utm_campaign=sss2026



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Relove Fashion 2026 Competition Now Open for Young People Aged 12-19

Relove Fashion Competition 2026 -

The competition, which has just launched for its third nationwide year, invites young people aged 12-19 to create a wearable fashion piece by upcycling unwanted clothes and textiles, promoting creativity, repair, reuse, and sustainable fashion. With finished outfits due at the end of January, it serves as the perfect term project for schools and youth groups.

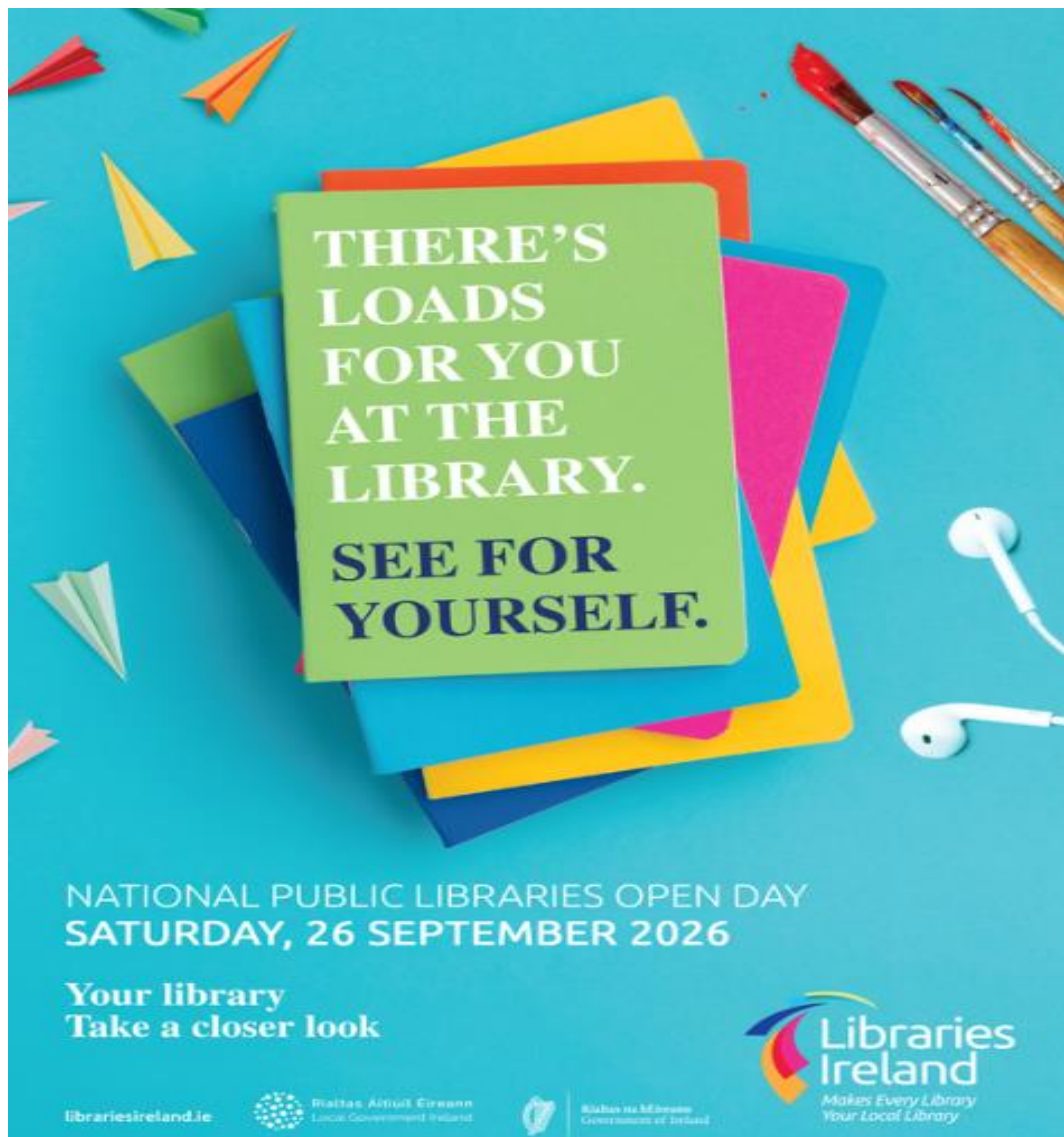


Those who register their interest before 30th September will be entered into a draw to win a sewing machine, and all participants can receive a free bag of unwanted textiles from participating charity shops to upcycle, if they so wish.

Teachers, youth group leaders and teenagers are invited to find out more and register on www.relovefashion.ie.



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National Public Libraries Open Day: Saturday 26th September

National Public Libraries Open Day takes place on Saturday 26th September. On this day, libraries across Ireland will open their doors to showcase the services, resources, and opportunities available in communities nationwide.

Whether you're already a member or haven't visited in years, this is a chance to discover everything your local library has to offer.



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Throughout the day, Cork County Library branches will host events, activities, and exhibitions for people of all ages, highlighting the many ways libraries support learning, creativity, wellbeing, and community life. We will also be highlighting all the great online resources you can access for free with your library membership.

Everyone is welcome!



Autism and Neurodiversity Training Opportunities

A range of Autism and Neurodiversity training opportunities are available this autumn with Evaleen and Aoife in AUsome Training. The training is particularly relevant for professionals, support workers, and anyone working with Autistic children, young people, adults, and families. Topics explored include Autistic communication, sensory and emotional experiences, regulation, relationships, and neuro-affirming approaches to support.

For those who prefer the flexibility of learning from home or cannot attend in person, a variety of **Autistic-led online courses, training programmes, and practical resources** are also available. These online options provide an accessible way to deepen understanding of Autism and Neurodiversity and develop more inclusive practices. [\[Autism and...and online | Outlook\]](#)

Find out more:

- [Online Autism Training for Professionals](#)
- [Cork In-Person Course Details](#)



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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

Opinion:

Innishannon Cannot Wait Another 40 Years



By Gavin Falk

For decades, the people of Innishannon have been living with heavy traffic passing through the heart of our village. A recent local count recorded more than 1,200 heavy goods vehicles travelling through Innishannon on a typical working day, in addition to cars, vans, cyclists and pedestrians.

More than 40 years ago, local residents were told that Innishannon would be next in line for a bypass after Youghal, Ballincollig and Macroom. Those projects have since been completed, yet Innishannon is still waiting.

The continued delay affects road safety, quality of life and the future development of our community. It is time for renewed focus and action to deliver a long-promised solution. The people of Innishannon have waited patiently. Now they deserve progress.

The PPN PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK SHOULD ASSIST THIS DEVELOPMENT to take place NOW!!

Is traffic an issue in your area? Would you like to collaborate with Gavin & other PPN members?

Join our **Housing, Planning, Transport and Community Safety** Linkage Group!



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Get involved!

Secretariat Vacancies:

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Commitment Involved:

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website [Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN](#)

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.



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Current Vacancies:

2 x Vacant seats – Carrigaline Municipal District

Vacant seat – East Cork Municipal District

Vacant seat – Kanturk/Mallow Municipal District

Vacant seat – Macroom Munciple District

2 x Vacant seats – Environmental Electoral College

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

Further vacancies:

SPC Vacancies:

Economic Development & Enterprise SPC: 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

New Grant Round to Support Biodiversity Action Across Ireland

Communities across Ireland are being invited to apply for funding to protect and restore local biodiversity through a new grant round from Community Foundation Ireland and the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

[Read Article](#)

Still Time to Apply for MACE Community Grants 2026

MACE has launched the second year of the MACE Community Grants initiative where they invite local groups and clubs across Ireland to apply for a share of a €50,000 fund designed to support projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

[Read Article](#)

Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2027 to Open in September

The Heritage Council has announced that its Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2027 will open for applications on 18 September 2026, offering funding to community groups and not-for-profit NGOs working to protect, celebrate and share Ireland's heritage. Grants will range from €800 to €25,000.

[Read Article](#)



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Airbnb Rural Tourism Fund Offers Grants of Up to €20,000

Airbnb has launched a €200,000 Rural Tourism Fund to support projects that strengthen rural tourism and deliver wider benefits to communities across Ireland. Grants of up to €20,000 are available to local organisations and groups working to create memorable visitor experiences while supporting rural communities and local economies.

[Read Article](#)



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Consultations:

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:



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<https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-climate-energy-and-the-environment/consultations/public-consultation-on-the-national-food-waste-prevention-roadmap-2026-2028/>



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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](#)



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Job Vacancy:



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

REQUIRES

- **RETAINED FIREFIGHTER AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:**
 - **CASTLETOWNBERE (26/067)**
 - **DUNMANWAY (26/068)**
 - **SCHULL (26/072)**
 - **SKIBBEREEN (26/069)**
 - **CARRIGALINE (26/070)**
 - **CROSSHAVEN (26/071)**

Closing date for the receipt of completed application forms is 4pm on Thursday, 8th October 2026.

Further details and application forms for the above posts are available on the careers' section of the website: www.corkcoco.ie; or by e-mailing: recruitment@corkcoco.ie

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES EMPLOYER



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TÁ COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ

AG LORG

- **COMHRAICEOIRÍ DÓITEÁIN AR ÁIRITHÍOCHT – INS NA H-ÁITEANNA SEO A LEANAS:**

- - Baile Chaisleáin Bhéarra (26/067)
 - Dhún Mánmhaí (26/068)
 - An Scoil (26/072)
 - Sciobairín (26/069)
 - Carraig Uí Leighín (26/070)
 - Bun an Tábhairne (26/071)

Ní foláir foirmeacha iarratais chomhlánaithe a chur isteach roimh 16:00 iarnóin Déardaoin, 8ú Mí Dheireadh Fómhair, 2026.

Tá foirmeacha iarratais agus tuilleadh eolais ar fáil anseo - www.corkcoco.ie; nó trí ríomhhost a chur chun: recruitment@corkcoco.ie

IS FOSTÓIR COMHIONANNAS DEISEANNA Í COMHAIRLE CONTAE CHORCAÍ