
Clare Public Participation Network's March Newsletter:

Dear Members,

Clare PPN was delighted to welcome our new secretariat member Padraic Hayes to the team at our last secretariat meeting. We are very lucky to have his experience for our Social Inclusion College.

We would also like to thank everyone who stood for election and everyone who voted. We'll keep you all informed of other opportunities to get involved as an elected representative with Clare PPN as they arise. Read on for some notices and reminders that might be of interest to community groups. There's everything from local funding schemes and member groups events to national policy consultations.

Best wishes,

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Events:

March 15th, Clare's Tidy Towns groups invited to information evening:

A Tidy Towns Information evening will take place on Thursday 15 March next at 7.00 p.m. in the Civic Room, Waterpark House, Ennis, Co. Clare.

The event is being hosted by Clare County Council in an effort to provide support to Tidy Towns Groups across the county, who play a direct role on a voluntary capacity, to enhance the County's towns and villages. Speakers on the evening include Janice Fuller, Tidy Towns Adjudicator, and Aileen Campion of Birdhill Tidy Towns (winners of the 2017 Tidy Town's competition). The event will conclude with a questions and answers session which will enable groups to raise issues in relation to Tidy Towns generally with particular emphasis on the Tidy Towns competition.

March 18th, Ennis Tidy Towns and Garden of Eden Project Orchard Care Session:

11am-12.30, Sunday 18th March 2018 Claureen Community Orchard, Lahinch Road, Ennis

Former Orchard Manager with the Irish Seed Savers Association, Cormac Griffith will lead this workshop on orchard care and pruning apple trees. Bring along a secateurs and gloves and help with the pruning and maintenance of the Claureen Community Orchard and learn techniques and tips on how to prune your own fruit trees.

This workshop is organised by Ennis Tidy Towns and Garden of Eden Projects Ireland. Parking available on the day by kind permission of the Inver Garage (please park towards the 1-Mile

Inn, in front of the bike shop, rather than the rear of the garage). All are welcome to this free event.

Contact Féidhlim Harty for more information on 065-6797355 or reeds@wetlandsystems.ie

Also there are some really interesting talks coming up in Ennis as follows:

March 14th Wednesday, Folklore of Local Wildlife by Niall McCoitir

March 21st Wednesday, Gardening for Biodiversity by Aoife Munn

March 28th Wednesday, Edible Wild Plants around Ennis by Oonagh O'Dwyer

Talks start at 7pm at Waterpark House, Drumbiggle. (Old Ennis Town Council buildings)

Admission is free and all are welcome.

March 20th Intercultural and Diversity Education Centre invite you to a workshop on 'Public Sector Duty':

Following the launch of the "Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty" by the "Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission"(IHREC) in November 2017, Intercultural and Diversity.Education Centre-Ireland(IDEC-Ireland) in partnership with the IHREC invite you to the workshop entitled "Implementing the Public Sector Equality and Human Rights Duty". This workshop will take place on the 20th of March from 10 am to 1.30 pm in Clarecare, Harmony Row, Ennis Co.Clare and to reserve a place please call 0858500079

March 26th Invitation to the launch of County Clare's Digital Hub Facilities and refurbished Town Hall:

The Mayor of Clare, Councillor Tom McNamara MCC, Cordially invites you to the Official Opening of the County Clare Digital Hub Facilities and Refurbished Kilrush Town Hall By Minister Pat Breen, T.D., Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection At The Town Hall, Kilrush At 2.30 p.m. on Monday, 26th March, 2018.

RSVP to crutherford@clarecoco.ie or (065) 6846495

Light refreshments afterwards at the Haven Arms.

March 29th Deadline Pride of Place Awards Nominations Sought:

Clare County Council invites expressions of interest from local communities, projects or housing estates who wish to seek nomination to the IPB Pride of Place 2018 in association with Co-operation Ireland. This annual All-island competition, which is run in conjunction with local authorities North and South, aims to recognise and celebrate the vital contributions that communities make to society along with generating awareness, respect and inclusion for every facet of society. All applicants will be informed by end of April as to whether they have been nominated to compete at All-island level. If they have been nominated they will be visited for adjudication over 2 - 3 hours, one day, in the months June to August.

Clare County Council may nominate one group only per category and a maximum of 5 groups overall.

The following categories apply: -

Population Category 1 up to 300 people

Population Category 2 between 300 to 1000 people

Population Category 3 between 1000 to 2000 people

Population Category 4 between 2,000 to 5,000 people

Population Category 5 over 5,000 people

Category 6 Theme Category "Creative Place Initiative"

Category 7 Theme Category "Community Wellbeing Initiative"

Category 8 Theme Category "Community Tourism Initiative"

Category 9 Housing Estates (not population specific)

Category 10 Islands and Coastal Communities (not population specific)

Category 11 Urban Neighbourhoods (not population specific)*

*An urban neighbourhood is a defined area of a city, town or suburban place

The Expressions of Interest will be assessed, per category, based on the Co-Operation Ireland criteria available on request from this office and at www.prideofplace.ie. Community group winners, runners up and special award recipients receive a trophy and small monetary prize at a special awards ceremony, which will be hosted in Cork City, in November. Groups interested in being considered for nomination are asked to submit a written expression of interest, detailing their preferred Category with a one page typed summary (no more than 150 words) setting out their proposal to:

Nicola Killeen, Pride of Place Coordinator, Rural and Community Department, Rural Development Directorate, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare.

Closing date for receipt of expression of interests is 4.00pm on Thursday, 29th March, 2017.

Funding from Clare County Council

March 16th Shannon Municipal District Grants Deadline this Friday!

Clare County Council is inviting applications from community groups in the Shannon Municipal District to the 2018 Community Grants Scheme before the deadline of 16 March 2018. The €41,500 scheme aims to support community groups engaged in a wide range of cultural, artistic, heritage, sporting, educational and community work. Cathaoirleach of the Municipal District, Cllr. Mike McKee said, “This is the third such grants scheme for the Shannon Municipal District and I have no doubt that this one also will be taken up widely within the District by community organisations”.

“The scheme is used mainly to encourage existing groups to develop and enhance their current activities, whilst also encouraging them to develop new and innovative ideas. The scheme is now open for applications from community groups for projects and special initiatives they are undertaking in 2018,” he added. The eligibility criteria and guidelines for applicants are available from the Shannon Municipal District office on 061 478081 / poneill@clarecoco.ie and are downloadable from Clare County Council’s website www.clarecoco.ie.

The closing date for the completed application form to be submitted to the Meetings Administrator, Municipal District of Shannon, Clare County Council, Shannon, County Clare is on or before Friday, 16 March 2018.

April 3rd Deadline Arts Festival Grants

<http://www.clarecoco.ie/community/news/local-festival-participate-events-programme-for-county-clare-2018.html>

April 20th Deadline, Irish Language Grants:

[http://www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/\[forms\]/sc-im-deontais-na-gaeilge-2018-irish-grants-scheme-2018.html](http://www.clarecoco.ie/recreation-culture/[forms]/sc-im-deontais-na-gaeilge-2018-irish-grants-scheme-2018.html)

Voice Ireland New Community Grant

Small Grants available to communities who want to raise awareness about recycling - VOICE and Repak have developed this grant to support community groups to engage with their neighbours to clear up the confusion around recycling through local face-to-face discussions, and to help with research into current recycling behaviour and barriers by conducting a paper survey in their community.

The Grant may be used for a specific sustainability focused project to take place between May-July 2018. Groups must commit to sharing photographs and a report on their event and the recycling message on their social media. Preference will be given to projects with a waste reduction or recycling focus. In addition, we are asking groups who receive the grant to commit to:

- Carrying out 50 recycling behaviour & barriers surveys
- Identifying local groups or events interested in receiving a free workshop from a Recycling Ambassador

All details here <http://voiceireland.org/new-community-grant/>

Consultation:

March 16th Deadline - Social Inclusion Consultation

The National Action Plan for Social Inclusion 2007-2016 (NAPinclusion), identified a wide range of targeted actions and interventions to support the overall objective of achieving the National Social Target for Poverty Reduction (NSTPR). The Plan adopted a life-cycle approach with goals set for each group: children; people of working age; older people, people with disabilities and communities.

The Plan was updated for the period 2015 - 2017 to reflect the current issues and interventions to tackle poverty. There was a greater focus on modernising the social protection system, improving effectiveness and efficiency of social transfers and strengthening active inclusion policies. The Updated Plan contained 14 reformulated goals which include a focus on early childhood development, youth exclusion, access to the labour market including measures for people with disabilities, migrant integration, social housing and affordable energy.

The Programme for Partnership Government includes a commitment to develop a new Integrated Framework for Social Inclusion, to tackle inequality and poverty.

www.taoiseach.gov.ie/eng/Work_of_the_Department/Programme_for_Government/A_Programme_for_a_Partnership_Government.pdf

The purpose of this consultation exercise is to gather views as to how the new National Action Plan/Integrated Framework should look.

<http://www.welfare.ie/en/Pages/PublicConsultation-for-newNationalActionPlan-forSocialInclusion2018-2021.aspx>