

Clare PPN May 2019 Newsletter

Dear Members,

This Friday you will all have the chance to vote for who you would like to represent you for the next term of office in Clare County Council and in the EU Parliament and to give your view on the regulation of divorce. Clare PPN would like to encourage everyone in the county to get out and use their vote. We would like to see local government strengthened and one of the best ways we can do this is by engaging with it outside of elections and by turning out in numbers to vote at election time. The EU parliament elections too are extremely important and will be even more so for us given the situation with brexit which will leave Ireland as the only English speaking country in the EU so we encourage all our members to ensure they use their vote in this election. As an organisation part funded by the Department of Community and Rural Development Clare PPN is not permitted to take a position on any constitutional referendum so we encourage all our members to check out the referendum commission's information on the referendum on the regulation of divorce which can be found here

<https://www.refcom.ie/current-referendums/regulation-of-divorce/overview/>

and as with both elections above to use their vote! We can say vote early and often this Friday, without even joking.

Please see below for news of funding, awards and events:

Big Hello Intercultural Picnic May 4th

Clare PPN and our colleagues in Clare Immigrant Support Centre and Clare Women's Network had a great day and fabulous food at the event we organised for the Department of Community and Rural Development's Big Hello initiative. We had more than 120 people of all ages and from places such as Sudan, Ghana, Syria, Poland, Britain, Egypt, Morocco and the USA. The weather was lovely and it was fabulous for us to be able to welcome such a huge group to the event. Thanks to Clare County Council for the grant that allowed us to do it. We look forward to working as hard as we can to ensure that people from all backgrounds and cultures can benefit from and contribute to Clare PPN.



Clare PPN welcomes Sue Considine:

We are delighted to welcome Sue Considine as our newest member of staff. Sue will be taking up the role of Support Worker. Sue has extensive experience in community development and in working at all levels of local government. We are sure we'll keep her extremely busy and that Clare PPN will benefit greatly from having her on board.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme deadline for expressions of interest this Friday May 24th

The Rural Development Directorate of Clare County Council is inviting expressions of interest from new and established business and community groups across Clare in relation to the Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2019, the main focus of which is on public realm type activities and the enhancement of town centre amenities.

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/news/council-seeks-town-and-village-renewal-scheme-proposals.html>

Environment and Nature Fund – develop a Community Diversity Plan with an ecologist.

The Community Foundation of Ireland has a new grants scheme devised to enhance biodiversity in communities throughout the country by combining the expertise of qualified ecologists with the skills, experience and enthusiasm of local community groups. This year, they have established a fund of €200,000 and are inviting community groups to apply for grant funding to engage an ecologist and develop a Community Biodiversity Plan (CBP) for their local area. It is open for applications and the closing date for 2019 is June 28th at 4pm

<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/insights/news/environment-and-nature-fund-2019>

Heritage Ireland 2030 Update-

Clare PPN members made a submission to the Draft Heritage Ireland 2030 strategy earlier this year and we have been informed by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht that they are holding an update session where they will discuss the submissions they received and provide an opportunity for networking next Tuesday 28th May 2019 in Dublin. This event will be livestreamed and so those of you who are interested can view proceedings from here in Clare by going to the department's website here <https://www.chg.gov.ie/heritage/heritageireland2030/>

Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards 2018-2019 **Deadline Extended to May 31st**

The Age Friendly Ireland Programme, a shared services centre within Meath County Council, is delighted to announce that Dublin City Council | Dublin City Age Friendly Programme are hosting the National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards for 2018/2019 on 14th November 2019 in Dublin. This is the fourth annual Awards event for the Age Friendly Ireland Programme and the awards ceremony itself will be held amid an evening of entertainment in Dublin's Croke Park (more to follow). The primary aim of these awards is to recognise and reward achievement in age friendly initiatives around Ireland. **We are calling for organisations, individuals, agencies and communities to submit applications on projects or programmes that they consider to be Age Friendly.** More details and application form can be accessed here:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=gq3Fw8ZpW0epTbeGPqYcEFjYWrcRmOhHj9QghU-t23hUNUw5UjVYOE51R1I3Q1JBNTZKRjNJQUhSWi4u>

Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme 2019 – Deadline extended to May 31st- Funding of between €1,000 and €25,000 available.

The Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme will support in 2019 a diverse range of initiatives from events, education programmes, conservation management plans, public amenity and recreational measures to invasive species and fire control measures near/within raised bog Special Areas of Conservation/Natural Heritage Areas or other raised bog areas and which will encourage communities to enhance their natural surrounding areas and raise awareness of environmental issues and concerns.

<https://www.npws.ie/peatlands-and-turf-cutting/peatlands-community-engagement-scheme-2019>

Clare Local and Community Development Committee Health, Wellbeing and Quality of Life Survey Findings:

The Clare Survey, a strategic action of the Local Economic and Community Plan, will be used by Clare County Council to strengthen national funding applications such as the Rural and Urban Regeneration Funds and to direct resources to those areas of the county most in need. The survey will also be utilised as a benchmark to measure progress for strategies such as Local Economic and Community Plan and the Healthy Clare Strategy.

Clare County Council says the localised information contained in the survey results will complement data available under the Census and the Survey of Income and Living Conditions.

The survey, which was conducted by independent market research agency Behaviour and Attitudes Ltd. in late 2018, explored topics such as Education, Employment Status, Health & Well-being, Attitudes to Mental Health, Social Engagement, Technology and Transport. For those interested findings of the survey can be read at the link below

<http://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/news/lcdc-publishes-clare-survey-findings.html>

A survey on how Ireland is doing:

Clare PPN Members are invited to participate in the Community Foundation of Ireland's 'Vital Signs' survey. All of those who complete the survey can nominate a charity of their choice to be in a draw to win a €1000.00 donation. Link to survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/vitalsigns19>

And that's it for now. Please don't hesitate to get in touch if you'd like us to share any news or events for your group and don't forget to like us on facebook at www.facebook.com/clareppn/ and to follow us on twitter at @clare_ppn where we share community related news on a regular basis.

Sarah Clancy, Clare PPN Coordinator.