

Clare PPN Newsletter September 2020

Dear members,

Welcome to our September 2020 newsletter.

We've had a busy start to autumn at Clare PPN. Our online training series has proved very popular - places are still available for the session next Wednesday (30th September 30th) on Understanding Clare's County Development Plan. This has suddenly taken on extra relevance, as Clare County Council has just opened a consultation process for a new County Development Plan 2022-2028. See below for how to make a submission.

Our 'Vision for Community Wellbeing' survey has drawn a great response, with people across the county sharing their ideas, hopes, suggestions and aspirations for a better community and a better Clare. We'd especially like to hear from more people in the Killaloe and Shannon Municipal Districts.

The Clare PPN Plenary is also coming up on 12th October. And read on for news of several initiatives as part of Positive Ageing Week, as well as details of funding opportunities.

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

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The community response in Clare to Covid-19

Since March, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, Clare PPN has been working closely with Clare Volunteer Centre, Clare County Council and other organisations as part of the Clare Community Response Team. The team has been supporting and co-ordinating the most appropriate community response to the needs of isolated or vulnerable people where their

usual sources of support were unavailable. To mark National Volunteering Week this week, we wanted to acknowledge the amazing work done by volunteers, communities and organisations during the initial response to Covid-19. The image below is part of an infographic that reflects some of the impacts and outcomes. The full infographic is at:

<https://www.facebook.com/ClareVolunteerCentre/photos/a.343603842365365/3361139630611756/>

What did we do?

- ↑ Garda Vetting of 400+ Covid Response Volunteers
- ↑ Insurance for all community groups responding to Covid-19
- ↑ Safeguarding Protocols
- ↑ ID Badges
- ↑ PPE
- ↑ Foodbank
- ↑ Access to online counselling
- ↑ Online groups for older people
- ↑ Local awareness campaigns
- ↑ Identify areas where additional community supports were required
- ↑ Support for older and vulnerable people to get online
- ↑ Accessed funding for phones to support older people getting online
- ↑ Organised flask visits for people living alone
- ↑ Local weekly phone support



Clare PPN online training sessions

We've had a big turnout for our series of online training sessions. Places are still available for session 4, next Wednesday, September 30th, 7pm, via Zoom: **Understanding Clare's County Development Plan**. A planning expert from Clare County Council will answer your questions on the Plan and how to make the most of the consultation process that has just opened for the new Plan 2022-2028. To reserve a place, please email admin@clareppn.ie.

Our **Media for Community Activists** training with journalist Andy Hamilton booked out very quickly and we plan to hold another round. Dates to be announced.

What kind of Clare do you want to live in?



Vision for Community Wellbeing survey - win €500 for your organisation

Have you thought about the kind of Clare you'd like to live in? What does your community need to make it the best it can be for future generations? These are among the questions we're asking as part of our landmark survey to create a Vision for Community Wellbeing, which will be a kind of proclamation for Co Clare. We've had a great response, but we're particularly keen to hear from people in the Killaloe and Shannon Municipal Districts. You can nominate your organisation for our €500 prize. The survey is open until Tuesday, October 6th: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Clare_Wellbeing

Clare PPN Plenary Meeting - 12th October



Clare PPN's Plenary Meeting will take place on Monday 12th October at 7pm, via Zoom. Plenary meetings are the main decision making forums for Clare PPN and we'd be delighted if as many of our member groups as possible nominate at least one person to attend. (This wonderful photo is from a Clare PPN Plenary that happened well before the pandemic.) Please reserve your place by emailing your name and organisation name to admin@clareppn.ie on or before October 11th. All details, including what to do if you need help with Zoom and how to submit agenda items, can be found here:

<http://clareppn.ie/calling-all-members-ppn-plenary-meeting-october-12th-2020-7pm/>

Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) meetings

Next Monday, 28th September, your PPN representatives will be in action at meetings of two Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) of Clare County Council. While these meetings are closed to the public, if there are issues or questions you would like raised, please email them to sarah@clareppn.ie on or before this Sunday, 27th September, and your representatives will do their best to raise them. Here is some information on each meeting:

Economic Development SPC

Your PPN representatives are Elaine D'Alton and Emma Karan.

The agenda includes: Climate Change and Biodiversity; Presentation by Climate Action Regional Office (CARO); LEO; Government's July Stimulus update; Brexit Preparation; Planning presentation on the review of the County Development Plan; Ennis 2040 Economic & Spatial Strategy; Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS).

Physical Development SPC

Our PPN representatives are Pdraic Hayes, James Giller, Aisling Wheeler and Damon Matthew Wise. The agenda includes: Presentation on LSMATS; Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Biodiversity.

Meeting of Clare's Joint Policing Committee

On Monday, 12th October, there will be a meeting of Clare's Joint Policing Committee, at which a work plan for the remainder of 2020 and for 2021 will be approved. Your PPN representative Madeline McAleer will be attending on your behalf. If you have any comments or suggestions you would like to raise, please contact us at sarah@clareppn.ie on or before Monday, October 5th. You can also submit a question directly to the Committee by emailing clarejpc@clarecoco.ie before September 30th. You can find the Draft Work Plan at this link:

<http://clareppn.ie/draft-joint-policing-committee-work-plan-2020-2021/>

Transport strategy for Limerick Shannon area



There is currently an open consultation, until October 30th, on a draft 20-year Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS). Your PPN representatives can raise questions about this strategy at two SPC meetings on Monday - see our item above. You can also make your own submission in regard to this Strategy, which applies to Shannon, Sixmilebridge, Clonlara, Bunratty and Parteen, as well as the areas in between. See LSMATS consultation here:

<https://www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations/publication-of-the-draft-limerick-shannon-metropolitan-area-transport-strategy/>

County Development Plan open for submissions

A reminder that Clare County Council has begun the process of developing the new Clare County Development Plan (2022-2028), which sets out an overall strategy for the proper planning and sustainable development of the county over a six-year period. You can read details of Stage 1 of the consultation process at this link and you have until November 16th to make submissions:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/news/news-stories/hpgnewshighsrow1/have-your-say-on-the-new-clare-county-development-plan.html>

Make Way Day highlights public access issues for people with disabilities



#MakeWayDay is back this Friday, 25th September, with a national day of local action. Mayor of Clare, Cllr Mary Howard, will host speakers from disability organisations including Clare Leader Forum, Shine and the Irish Wheelchair Association in a virtual meeting on Friday at 11am. The event is open to everyone to view online. You can register by emailing: makewayday@clarecoco.ie.

For a sobering insight into the reality of using a wheelchair in Co Clare, check out this excellent video in which Padraic Hayes, a member of the Clare PPN Secretariat and Clare Leader Forum, takes us around his hometown of Shannon, where much of the infrastructure is unusable for people with mobility challenges:

<https://youtu.be/SM0bl8vCLGs>

Let's plan Climate Action - online workshop



Are you interested in more community-led climate action? The many serious issues we face today are all connected and so we need our whole community involved in addressing them. This Friday, 25th September, sees the second of two online workshops, 'Face it Fridays', from 12pm-2pm. All part of the European Day for Sustainable Communities and the launch of Communities For Future across Europe. These are delivered by www.climatecare.ie, funded by Clare County Council and the Dept of Climate Action under the Climate & Environment Fund. You can book here:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/climate-and-community-workshops-face-it-fridays-tickets-119577905735>

AgeWise - workshop on combatting ageism

Ageism is the most common form of workplace discrimination in Ireland, affecting one in five people. Ageism also affects older people in health, social care, financial services, education & training and even volunteering. This AgeWise workshop, which marks Positive Ageing Week, has particular relevance for employers and anyone providing services to, or formulating policy for, older people. Run by Age & Opportunity, the workshop challenges negative stereotypes and aims to raise

awareness of ageism. Dates: 30th September or 1st October, 2-4pm via Zoom. To book, please email: agefriendlyclare@clarecoco.ie or telephone 065-6846240.

Smartphone classes for older people



Clare County Library is running what looks like a great series of smartphone classes for older people, starting on Tuesday, September 29th. Starting in Positive Ageing Week, the daytime classes will take place in Ennis, Shannon, Scariff, Kilkee and Ennistymon libraries. The four-week programme includes a session on Zoom video conferencing and Whatsapp. The classes are aimed at those who are new to smartphones or do not yet have a smartphone. Attendees will also receive Age Action 'How to Guides' developed during Covid on use of different technologies. Contact your local library or see:

http://www.clarelibrary.ie/eolas/library/events/library_events_sep.htm

Champions Café - 'Let's talk about dementia'

September is World Alzheimer Month and the theme of this year's Champions Café is 'Let's talk about dementia'. The Champions' Café launched last year as a series of regional get-togethers for local champions, employees and volunteers. This year sees the first Virtual Champions' Café, next Wednesday, September 30th, from 12.30-1.30pm. The pandemic has been particularly difficult for people living with dementia, their family and friends. No better time to get together online and to listen to people talk about their experience with dementia and the actions we can all take to support them. Please book your place at:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MnUXcY0JQ8mlnutmkgKNpg

FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

Funding for employment for carers and people with a disability

Funding of up to up to €50,000 is available for local organisations to support and improve employment opportunities for family carers, including young carers and people with a disability. The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection is providing the funding to assist the above groups to build and retain contact with the labour market and training/educational opportunities. A national organisation can apply for funding of €75,000 to €200,000 and a local organisation for between €20,000 and €50,000. The deadline is 30th September. Application information here:

<https://staging.pobal.ie/programmes/dormant-accounts-fund-daf/how-to-apply-to-daf/>
