

**Dear Members,
Notice of Plenary Meeting:**

Please be advised that Clare Public Participation Network's Second **Plenary Meeting of 2017 will take place on November 30th at 7.30 pm in Waterpark House Drumbiggle Rd, Clonroad Beg, Ennis, Co. Clare.** All members are invited to attend. The plenary meeting is a key opportunity for member groups to influence the work and activities of Clare PPN for the year ahead and to be updated on work and progress to date. Any member group who wishes to put something on the agenda for this meeting please e-mail sarah@clareppn.ie on or before November 18th 2017.

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Please see below for notices of events coming up from our member groups and other agencies:

Please note that 3 of these events begin this Thursday 26th October 2017:

Lisdoonvarna Economic Vision at the Pavilion on Thursday Oct 26th at 11am

The transition year students from Mary Immaculate Secondary school took a trip to Cloughjordan Eco village recently for an introduction to local economy and the Sustainable Development Goals. They will be working hard on 5 shop fronts over the coming days and will renovate the Pavilion town hall for the launch of their Economic Vision for Lisdoonvarna.

On October 26th at 11am they will showcase their community cafe, bakery, food co-op, community bank and eco-tourism office. Everyone is welcome to attend this economic vision for Lisdoonvarna. There will also be relevant projects students have entered into the Young Scientist and Young Environmentalist competitions on display. We have a lot of very visionary and capable entrepreneurs in Lisdoonvarna!

At noon a few guests will give feedback and share their insight with the students. These include Fergal Smyth, Moy community farm; Sarah Clancy, Clare Public Participation Network; Padraic McElwee Local Enterprise Office; Burren Ecotourism Network; Karen Foley, Clare County Council Environment Section and Leonard Cleary, A/Director of Service, Rural Development.

At 1pm we will have some locally sourced refreshments.

Everyone welcome.

For more info contact Theresa O'Donohoe - theresaodonohoe@gmail.com

Public Meeting on the Draft River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021)

Everyone interested is invited to the final public meeting this Thursday evening on the Water Framework Directive - Draft River Basin Management Plan (2018-2021). Feedback will be given on the 'Recommended Priority Water Bodies for Action' in County Clare and the 2017 Public Consultation process.

Where: Templegate Hotel, Ennis, Co. Clare

When: Thursday 26th October 2017

Time: 8.00pm (for approximately 1 hour)

The public information meeting will present the 'Recommended Priority Water Bodies for Action', in County Clare and provide feedback on the River Basin Management Plan and the public consultation process. **There will be an opportunity at the meeting for discussion and to review the 'Recommended Priority Waterbodies for Action' and the rationale used in their selection and to make a submission on the night or for up to 14 days after the meeting.**

The EPA, local authorities and public authorities have engaged in Catchment Assessment Workshops throughout the country during 2016 and 2017 to characterise waterbodies and assess pressures on river, lake, coastal, transitional and groundwater water bodies. The draft River Basin Management Plan 2018 – 2021 was published in February 2017 and went out for public consultation until 31st August 2017. Five public meetings were held throughout County Clare to engage with communities and other stakeholders.

For any further information please get in touch with Ruairi O'Conchuir roconchuir@lawco.ie

Burren Winterage School 26th / 27th / 28th October 2017

The Burren Winterage School (26th-28th October, 2017) is a unique event which brings together a truly diverse range of stakeholders – farmers, researchers, public servants and others – to move beyond their 'silos' and share perspectives and ideas on sustainable pastoral land management. The School takes place every year in a community setting in the beautiful Burren.

This year's Burren Winterage School will focus on the theme of *Community-inspired innovation for sustainable farming systems*.

The Burren Winterage School 2017 will begin on the evening of Thursday October 26th in the Community Hall of the picturesque village of Ballyvaughan on the northern edge of the Burren and conclude with site visits to Burren farms on Saturday October 28th. Friday 27th will be a day-long series of presentations and workshops in the village. Booking for the Burren Winterage School is essential and places are limited. A delegate fee of €75 will apply to cover costs (incl. lunches) for this non-profit event with a discounted rate of €45 for farmers, students and Burrenbeo Trust members.

To go directly to booking the event, please visit <https://burrenwinterage.eventbrite.ie>

For more information on the draft programme, speakers etc, please visit www.burrenwinterage.com

The Burren Winterage School is sponsored by the Dept of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and co-ordinated by the Burrenbeo Trust.

Clare Garda Divisional Youth Awards:

Do you know a young person under 19 years of age on September 1st 2017 who deserves an award for their community engagement, volunteering or personal achievements? If so you can nominate them for the Clare Garda Divisional Youth Awards. The application form is attached to this email and the Closing Date is October 31st. Entries must be posted so don't delay!!

Clare Tourism intend to produce a **Clare Festival & Events Guide for 2018**. If you wish to have your Festival or Event listed free of charge on this guide, please forward the following information

Name of Festival/Event:

Name of Town where Festival/Event takes place:

Two lines providing information on your Festival/Event:

Festival/Event Date(s):

Contact Details to appear on Guide (Festival/Event Website Address or Facebook Page):

to claretourism@clarecoco.ie before **Friday, 3rd November 2017**. Listings received after this date may not appear on the guide.

Biodiversity workshop for Clare's Tidy Towns groups November 4th Arus Contae an Chlair, New Road Ennis 10.30 – 1.00 PM

Clare County Council will host this community training and awareness raising workshop. It will feature a slide show presentation, talk and a local walk focusing on biodiversity and birdlife and how Clare's Tidy Towns groups can achieve higher marks in the annual competition as well help protect birdlife in their local communities.

Instruction will be given by experienced BirdWatch Ireland staff and local volunteers. Where there is local interest to erect nest boxes, guidance will be given on physical projects involving erection of Swift boxes and caller systems.

BirdWatch Ireland will be outlining details of the SwiftConservation Project which is aimed at reversing the decline in population numbers throughout Ireland. The recent Bird Atlas 2007-11 shows there has been a substantial loss in range in Ireland since 1970, while the latest Countryside Bird Survey data shows an alarming 39% decline between 1998 and 2013. Reasons for their decline remain unknown, but it is thought that the loss of available nest sites due to the renovations of old buildings and the impacts of climate change could be significant factors. Tidy Towns groups or organisations interested in attending the upcoming workshop are asked to contact Congella McGuire, Heritage Officer, Clare County Council, on cmcguire@clarecoco.ie or 065 6846408.

Consultation:

There is a consultation going on concerning the management plan for **The Burren National Park** and submissions can be made until November 14th all details at the link below.

<http://www.burrennationalpark.ie/events/119-burren-national-park-management-plan-for-consultation>

'Stories and Conversations for a Sustainable Clare' November 15th 7.30 – 9.30 in Glor Theatre Ennis and still in planning is:

(Note this event is being organised by Cultivate and Clare County Council Environmental Officer and Clare PPN is supporting)

This evening event aims to inspire increased engagement in community-led initiatives, social enterprises, climate actions and wellbeing projects. A scene-setting presentation framing local action for the UN Sustainable Development Goals will be followed by a facilitated presentation where local projects will pitch their own story. The café conversation will aim to bring a deeper understanding of common ground and actions to enable more local initiatives.

For those of you interested in contributing to this event- discussing your group's work or any good examples of sustainable practices in Clare please get in touch with **Davie Philip** davie@cultivate.ie