

## Clare PPN Newsletter November 2020

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our November newsletter.

We've had very busy month, as several important public consultations arrived in quick succession. With the help and expertise of lots of our member groups, we have made a range of detailed submissions in the past couple of weeks to Clare County Council and other public bodies. A big thank you to those of you who took part. All our submissions are available on our website and you can find links to them below.

Coming up later this month and in early December, we have free online training sessions on good governance and on how community groups can use FOI (Freedom of Information) and AIE (Access to Information about the Environment) requests.

We'd also like to encourage all our member groups to attend our next Plenary Meeting on Tuesday, 8th December, at 7pm which will take place online.

Read on for lots of other news.

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman  
On behalf of Clare PPN Secretariat

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## Clare PPN Plenary, Tuesday 8th December



All member groups are encouraged to attend our Plenary Meeting on Tuesday, 8th December at 7pm, via Zoom. Plenary meetings are the main decision-making forums for Clare PPN - member groups can put forward items for the agenda and will agree priorities for Clare PPN's work programme for 2021. The plenary will begin with a brief introduction to the PPN. Please reserve your place by emailing your name and member group name to [admin@clareppn.ie](mailto:admin@clareppn.ie) on or before Monday December 7th. More details here: <http://clareppn.ie/invitation-to-clare-ppn-plenary-meeting-december-8th-2020-7pm-online/>

## TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES



### Information access: how to use FOI & AIE

We are delighted to offer this free seminar on when and how community groups can use Freedom of Information or Access to Information on the Environment requests. It will be delivered by Ken Fox, a writer, researcher, teacher and a founding director of transparency group Right to Know ([www.righttoknow.ie](http://www.righttoknow.ie)). Thursday, 3rd December, 7-9pm, via Zoom. To reserve a place, please email [admin@clareppn.ie](mailto:admin@clareppn.ie) as soon as possible. More details at this link:

<http://clareppn.ie/training-seminar-access-to-information-in-ireland-foi-and-aie-requests/>

### Training: Get to Grips with Governance

Clare PPN is working with Caroline Egan from CramdenTech to offer a free, two-part training opportunity for community groups who need to get to grips with governance. The sessions will take place via Zoom from 7pm-8.30pm on Monday, 30th November and Monday, 7th December. To reserve a place please email [admin@clareppn.ie](mailto:admin@clareppn.ie). Places are limited and participants should be available to attend both sessions.

#### Session 1: Introduction to Governance

**Monday 30th November, 7pm-8.30pm**

Training focuses on the key skills all boards and committees need to master the effective running of their voluntary groups. Key topics include annual work planning, roles and responsibilities of committee members, tips for chairing meetings and how to take meeting minutes.

#### Session 2: Governance Health Check

**Monday 7th December, 7pm-8.30pm**

Training focuses on the legal responsibilities of boards and charity

trustees. Key topics include Companies Registration Office and the Charities Regulation Act, compliance, communications planning, board succession planning, board member recruitment and risk management.

Read more about the training sessions and about Caroline at this link:  
<http://clareppn.ie/governance-check-in-training-for-community-groups/>

## SUBMISSIONS

### Environmental submission on County Development Plan

Our thanks to all the members of our Environmental College and of Clare Environmental Network who gave their time and expertise in contributing to our submission on the next Clare County Development Plan for the years 2022-2028. You can read our joint 24-page submission at this link:

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Clare-PPN-CEN-Environmental-Submission-for-CDP-2022-2028.pdf>



### Social inclusion submission on County Development Plan

Clare PPN's Social Inclusion College also made a submission as part of the pre-draft stage of the Clare County Development Plan 2022-2028. Our thanks to all those who contributed. This submission, which focuses on social inclusion, is available here:

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Clare-PPN-Social-Inclusion-Submission-to-Clare-County-Development-Plan-2022-2028-November-2020.pdf>

### Limerick Shannon transport strategy

In a submission on the Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS) 2040, we have called for the strategy to be re-opened for wider and more meaningful public consultation. You can read it here:

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Clare-PPN-Submission-to-Limerick-Shannon-Metropolitan-Transport-Strategy-29th-October-2020.pdf>

## Submission on Climate Action Bill

Finally, Clare PPN made a submission to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action which has been considering the Climate Action Bill. Our concerns are: resourcing of Local Authorities; public participation provisions need to be strengthened; the need for 'Just Transition' measures to be detailed.

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Clare-Public-Participation-Network-Submission-to-Committee-on-Climate-Action-2020.pdf>

## FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

### Community Education Grants Scheme 2021

Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) is offering an opportunity for community groups to apply for tutor hours so that they can run training. The purpose of this scheme is to assist community and voluntary groups to deliver a range of educational activities for disadvantaged adults within their own communities in Clare. Funding will be made available in the form of tuition hours and tutors will be paid directly by LCETB. The closing date is 4th December. For more information email [breda.odriscoll@lcetb.ie](mailto:breda.odriscoll@lcetb.ie) or call 087-4137189.

## NEWS

### ‘Together Apart’ – raising community spirits



First up, check out this one-minute film made by the young people of Clare Youth Action as a quick community response aimed at raising the spirits of their community to work together to beat this pandemic:

<https://youtu.be/23GRCNBpM6M>

### Are you registered to vote? Check the register

The Draft Register of Electors for 2021/2022 has now been published and can be inspected at Post Offices, Garda Stations, Clare County Council offices and online at <http://clarecoco.ie> and <http://checktheregister.ie>





## PPNs represent 15,599 member groups

Public Participation Networks (PPNs) across Ireland had 15,599 member groups in 2019, according to the fourth Annual Report on the PPNs, which was launched today (Thursday) by Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien. Nationally, 928 PPN representatives gave volunteer-led groups a voice on 424 local authority boards or committees.

Speaking at the launch, Minister O'Brien said the figures were "a great indicator of the vibrancy and energy of the community and voluntary sector, especially at a local level, and the role played by PPNs in local policy making and networking... Several PPNs consulted with and welcomed asylum seekers, while others focussed on making public spaces accessible to people with disabilities. And this is only a small sample of the important ways in which they contribute to their localities."

The report can be downloaded here:

<https://assets.gov.ie/97524/ef218a52-f895-492e-b7bf-f7da5374589f.pdf>

## Better mental health services – public meeting

Do you want better mental health services for Clare? Join Mental Health Reform for an online public meeting at 2pm on Tuesday, 24th November to see how you can get involved in making mental health a priority in the Mid-West. RSVP by emailing Elisa at: [eodonovan@mentalhealthreform.ie](mailto:eodonovan@mentalhealthreform.ie)

## Petition on transport for disabled people



In 2013, the Motorised Transport Grant and the Mobility Allowance were both suspended, resulting in many people, especially in rural areas, being left with no means of transport. Clare PPN Secretariat member Padraic Hayes has launched a petition calling on Taoiseach Micheál Martin to re-instate the Motorised Transport Grant, the Mobility Allowance and/or the issuing of Primary Medical Certificates for disabled drivers and passengers. You can find the petition here:

<https://my.uplift.ie/petitions/don-t-leave-disabled-drivers-and-passengers-without-transport>

## Waste reduction workshop

As part of Clare Waste Awareness Week, this evening (Thursday) VOICE with Clare County Council present a workshop covering what goes into the household recycling bin and how to reduce your waste. Thursday, 19th November, 7pm. Register online at <https://bit.ly/3lozHlv> For more information contact Greener Clare at [greenerclare@clarecoco.ie](mailto:greenerclare@clarecoco.ie) or at 065 6846331

## Consultation: Galway Bay tidal, wave & wind energy test site to expand

Research into tidal, wave and offshore wind energy is carried out at the SmartBay test site in Galway Bay, near Spiddal. The Marine Institute wants to upgrade and extend the test site. For this they need a foreshore lease, and a public consultation has been opened. You can make a submission by Friday, 11th December. For details see:

<https://www.housing.gov.ie/planning/foreshore/applications/marine-institute-spiddal>



<http://clareppn.ie>