

Clare PPN Newsletter December 2020

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our December newsletter.

2020 has been a very busy and challenging year, and we'd like to start by saying a big thank you to our Secretariat members and Representatives, who have been so generous in giving their time as volunteers on behalf of their communities. Their expertise and commitment are crucial in the functioning of Clare PPN.

We'd also like to wish all of you, our members, a very Happy Christmas and best wishes for the new year. We hope you all have an opportunity to rest and regenerate before embarking on 2021.

This month we held our final Plenary of the year, at which we presented our Work Report for the year and draft Vision for Community Wellbeing Statements - see links below for all these. We also co-hosted a successful TD lobby for climate action, and several online training sessions.

Read on also for details of funding opportunities, public consultations and other news.

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Clare PPN Work Report for 2020

Voter registration - February



Clare PPN is committed to ensuring that the democratic process is accessible to all and were delighted to partner with Clare County Council and An Garda Síochána to facilitate a one stop shop voter registration event for the Supplement to the Register in advance of General Election 2020.

This made it very easy for people to register to vote and the promotion of this facility helped to remind people to check the register in time for the election.

Our Work Report for 2020 is now online, with an overview of the myriad activities undertaken by Clare PPN staff and volunteers during this most unusual year. It's hard to believe how much we did this year! The report also brings you up to date on who our new Reps and Secretariat members are. You can read the Work Report here:

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Clare-Public-Participation-Network-plenary-work-presentation-2020-1.pdf>

December Plenary meeting

Thank you to all those who took part in Clare PPN's final plenary meeting of 2020. We had some really useful discussions, including about our priorities for 2021. We also gave away two prizes in our end-of-year-draw: Niall Burke of Doora Barefield GAA won a €100 voucher for Hotel Doolin, and Martin Tobin of Clare Leader Forum won a €50 voucher for Rowan Tree cafe. You can read minutes of the plenary here:

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Notes-and-links-from-Clare-PPN-Plenary-Meeting-Dec-8th-2020.pdf>

Draft Wellbeing Vision Statements now online

Draft Wellbeing Vision Statement for County Clare:

Clare is a county that values, protects and restores its unique landscape, environment and biodiversity, where sustainable livelihoods are prioritised for this and future generations and where citizens, migrants, ethnic minorities and people of all abilities, age-groups and genders are able to reach their potential in an atmosphere of support, respect and inclusion, and where Local Government is open, transparent, accountable and committed to reducing poverty and marginalisation within the County; our vision is for a County to be part of and a County to be proud of.

Back in September we launched an online survey, asking, "How can we make Co Clare the best it can be for this and future generations?" This was the first step in creating Wellbeing Vision Statements for Clare and for each municipal district,

which will guide the work and priorities of Clare PPN. Following the survey, we held two online meetings for each municipal district to discuss and add to the findings. We then drafted Vision Statements and you can read these drafts at the link below. Thank you to all who participated in this project so far and we encourage you to send any further thoughts or input by email to sarah@clareppn.ie by January 15th, after which these statements will be deemed adopted.

<http://clareppn.ie/draft-wellbeing-vision-statements-for-clare-and-municipal-districts/>

Climate action lobby with Clare TDs



Last week Clare PPN co-hosted online meetings with each of Clare's TDs, as part of a nationwide 'TD Lobby for Faster & Fairer Climate Action', organised by Stop Climate Chaos. Nationally, almost 1,000 people took part. There was also a great turnout in Clare and we had very useful discussions with our four Dáil representatives. The key demand was for TDs to sign a letter, to be sent to Micheál Martin, Leo Varadkar and Eamon Ryan. The letter highlights concrete steps the Government can immediately take to kickstart a decade of faster and fairer climate action, including closing the glaring loopholes in the Climate Bill and acting urgently to cut emissions in all sectors. All four Clare TDs said they would read and consider signing the letter. Follow-up meetings with the TDs are planned. Read more here:

<http://clareppn.ie/td-climate-lobby/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Heritage Sector Support Fund

The Heritage Sector Support fund is now open for applications. This Heritage Council scheme aims to support not for profit, heritage-focused organisations to recover from the economic impact of the pandemic and to deliver programmes that contribute to heritage priorities at a national level. The deadline is 15th January. A separate grant scheme for community organisations will be announced in early 2021. Full details at:

<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/heritage-sector-support-fund-2021>



Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Schemes

The 2021 Historic Structures Fund and Built Heritage Investment Schemes is now open for applications. These schemes will assist hundreds of labour-intensive projects to repair and conserve our historic built environment. The projects will also give significant support to local jobs in conservation, traditional skills and construction, providing a total of some 30,000 days of employment. The deadline is January 29th. More details here:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/planning/news/2021-historic-structures-fund-and-built-heritage-investment-schemes.html>

Transitional LEADER Programme announced

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys this week announced details of the Transitional LEADER Programme, which will come into effect in April 2021. She also announced some flexibilities in relation to the finalisation of the current LEADER programme. An initial allocation of €20 million will be available to cover both new projects and the administration costs of the Local Action Groups who deliver the programme. Project approvals under the Transitional Programme will begin from 1st April 2021, but Local Action Groups can work on identifying potential projects from 1st January. Funding will also be provided in 2021 to the Local Action Groups for the management and delivery of projects still running under the 2014-2020 programme. A key focus of the Transitional Programme will be building capacity within communities that have not received LEADER funding to date.

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/c44cc-minister-humphreys-announces-details-of-transitional-leader-programme/>

NEWS

FoodCloud seeks charities to partner with local retailers



Join hundreds of Irish charities and community groups who are making a difference in their communities by redistributing surplus food to the individuals they support. Surplus food is perfectly good food that for a number of reasons can't be sold by the retailer. When you work with FoodCloud to collect this surplus, you're not only helping to ensure good food doesn't go to waste, you may also save on your food budget and enhance the services you offer. FoodCloud is looking for registered charities in your area to partner with local retailers. Please get in touch by registering with FoodCloud:

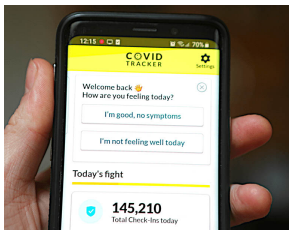
<https://food.cloud/our-charity-partners/>

Alternatively contact our Community Team on 01 5313478 or at charities@foodcloud.ie

App-y Christmas from Clare Library

Clare County Library this month announced a range of new activities and services. The Library has has a new app to allow you check in and check out your own books, update your loans, search the catalogue, reserve books and more. You can now order your books online and there is a range of e-books and e-audiobooks to choose from. Also, the library is offering a range of family events online in December to promote the importance of reading at home. For more information on all Clare County Library services, visit www.clarelibrary.ie

Older-age friendly guide to Covid Tracker App



The HSE and Age Action Ireland have launched an older-age friendly guide - 'How to Use the Covid Tracker App'. The app helps to slow the spread of Covid-19. The 'How To' guide helps someone put this free app on their mobile phone and use it. The guide is free via post by calling Age Action on 01-8730372 and leaving your name and address. The How to Guide can be downloaded from [ageaction.ie](https://www.ageaction.ie). For more support, Age Action can match you with a volunteer tutor. For more, see: <https://www.ageaction.ie/how-we-can-help/getting-started-kit>

Leaflet for Pavee mothers and babies

The HSE and Pavee Point have developed a leaflet for new mothers about COVID-19 and how to protect themselves and their babies, and what to do if they have symptoms. The 'Information for Pavee Mothers and Babies' leaflet is available as a PDF on the HSE website. [Click here.](#)

10-Year Strategy for Adult Literacy



SOLAS, the Further Education and Training Authority, is developing a new 10-year Adult Literacy, Numeracy and Digital Literacy (ALND) Strategy, and a public consultation has just been opened. If you take a few minutes to have your say, it will help SOLAS create an environment where all adults in Ireland have the necessary literacy, numeracy and digital literacy to fully participate in society. Full details of the ways you can have your say are at the link below, along with a consultation paper and a short video. The closing date is 31st December. If you have any queries, please email roisin.doherty@solas.ie <https://www.solas.ie/alnd-strategy/>



Consultation on national water resources

This week the EPA released its Water Quality in 2019 report, revealing that more than a third of rivers and a quarter of lakes fail to meet their environmental quality standards for nutrients, with serious consequences for the health of Irish waters. Meanwhile, Irish Water recently opened a 10-week consultation on their National Water Resources Plan (NWRP), which is a 25-year strategy to “provide a safe, sustainable, secure and reliable water supply to our customers for now and into the future whilst safeguarding the environment”. You can have your say, before February 16th - see this link:

<https://www.water.ie/projects-plans/our-plans/nwrp/>

Clare Environmental Network newsletter

The Clare Environmental Network is looking for items for its upcoming newsletter. If you have any relevant news you'd like included, please email Theresa at: clareenvn@gmail.com

Short survey on public transport and disability

The National Transport Authority is running an important survey on how people with disabilities experience public transport in Ireland. It only takes a few minutes to complete. Open until 31st December. [Click here for survey.](#)



<http://clareppn.ie>