

Clare PPN Newsletter January 2021

Dear Clare PPN member,

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter of 2021.

We are still working remotely, as we have been for 10 months now. It has been a hugely busy year for staff and volunteers of Clare PPN. Below you can find links to our four quarterly reports for 2020.

We're less than two weeks into January, but already there is lots of news to bring you, including six funding opportunities, both local and national, as well as online talks, remote jobs training, an opportunity to join a Citizens' Jury and more.

We hope you stay safe and well and we look forward to seeing many of you online – and hopefully to meeting in person before too long!

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

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**Clare COVID-19 Community
Response Helpline**



Freephone 1800 203 600

Email: clarecommunityresponse@clarecoco.ie

Clare Community Call helpline

Level 5 lockdown is a very difficult time for many people in our community. This is a reminder that Clare County Council's Community Call helpline for anyone needing support or essential supplies during these restrictions is open from 8am to 8pm, seven days a week. As well as helping with delivery of food, medication or fuel, the helpline can offer someone to talk to and other practical supports. Call 1800 203 600. You can also email: clarecommunityresponse@clarecoco.ie. Please share this information with anyone who might need it. Stay home and stay safe. We can all play our part. More information here:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/covid19/helpline/default.html>

Clare PPN quarterly Work Reports

Our report on our activities in the final quarter of 2020 is now online. Here are links to all four of our quarterly reports for last year. These also provide an overview of our expenditure:

[Work Report Jan-March 2020](#)

[Work Report April-June 2020](#)

[Work Report July-Sept 2020](#)

[Work Report Oct-Dec 2020](#)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Covid-19 Emergency Fund Round 2 - Deadline 7th February



Applications are now open for Round 2 of the Covid-19 Emergency Fund, with total funding of €49,351 available for Co Clare. The fund, which is available to community and voluntary groups for small projects, is provided by the Dept of Rural and Community Development and administered locally by the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC). The grants are aimed at assisting participation in the Government's 'Keep Well' campaign, in particular with the three themes: staying connected, switching off and being creative, and minding your mood. The closing date is 7th February. Details here:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/covid-19-emergency-fund/>

Community Supports Scheme – Deadline 29th January

Clare County Council's Community Support Scheme is available to community and voluntary groups to undertake specific projects. The purpose of the scheme is to encourage and assist community and voluntary groups to take an active part in the development of their communities and to improve the quality of life experience in their areas. The closing date is 29th January. Applications here:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/community-supports-scheme/>

Community Water Development Fund – Deadline 9th February



Grants of between €500 and €25,000 are available under the Community Water Development Fund for 2021, open to all community and voluntary groups. Administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO), the fund supports communities to deliver local projects to address water quality, biodiversity loss and climate change. Projects can include: 1. Capital projects; 2. Awareness raising and information initiatives; and 3. Community benefit and amenity type projects. The closing date is 9th February and full details are here:

<http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund/>

2021 Wind Farm Community Funds – Deadline 5th March

The 2021 Wind Farm Community Funds are now open for applications. The fund is available to community and voluntary groups and will prioritise projects and initiatives that support and benefit the areas surrounding ESB owned/co-owned wind farms, including Moneypoint Wind Farm. The categories include education, skills, health and wellbeing, environment and habitat conservation, energy efficiency, culture, heritage, sport, social inclusion and Covid-19 related supports. The deadline is 5th March and you can apply at:

<http://www.communitybenefitfunds.ie/>



Irish Hospice Foundation Seed Grant Scheme – Deadline 29th January

The Irish Hospice Foundation's Seed Grant Scheme aims to inspire and support creative responses to the themes of dying, death and bereavement during the pandemic. The scheme is a partnership with the Creative Ireland programme, and awards are in the region of €500 - €1,000. The grants will support organisations and individuals in exploring creative initiatives to reflect and remember. This may take the form of new local art projects, or to support existing projects - this may involve artists, crafts people or coders. The funding must be matched by the organisation or individual, in cash or in kind. The deadline is 29th January and you can apply here: <https://hospicefoundation.ie/seed-grants/>

Conservation Grants 2021 – Deadline 22nd January

Minister Malcolm Noonan recently announced funding of €6 million under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures Fund for 2021. Managed by the Planning Department of Clare County Council, Stream 1 offers grants from €15k to €50k aimed at essential repairs and smaller capital works. Stream 2 will offer a small number of grants from €50,000 to €200,000 for larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures; and Stream 3 is a pilot scheme for Vernacular Structures. The closing date is 22nd January, and full details of both schemes are here:

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

'Climate Change and Co Clare' – talk this evening



This evening, Wednesday 13th January at 8pm, the Clare Association of An Taisce hosts a presentation by leading climatologist Prof John Sweeney on 'Climate Change and County Clare', via Zoom. This is an updated version of a presentation made by Prof Sweeney to Clare County Council in March 2020. To take part, email clare.antaisce@gmail.com, mentioning "Climate Change" in the subject line. See also:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/728994944398857/>

Citizens' Jury on Access to Health Information

Would you consider joining a Citizens' Jury to discuss the issue of access to health information? The jury will consider whether our health records should be used only for our individual needs or whether they should be made available for wider societal healthcare needs. The Irish Platform for Patients' Organisations, Science & Industry (IPPOSI) is assembling 25 independent-minded people, aged over 18 and living in Ireland, who are broadly representative of Ireland's population. The jury will sit virtually during April for several two-hour sessions, and participants will receive a €400 gratuity. Apply before 31st January at: www.ipposi.ie/citizensjury

Do you live in Clare? Learn English and make friends



- Have fun and meet new people
- Talk about things that interest you
- Practice your English skills with volunteers

FREE COURSE ON ZOOM
contact: failteisteachennis@gmail.com

Fáilte Isteach – online English classes

Fáilte Isteach is a community project involving volunteers welcoming migrants into the community through conversational English classes. Fáilte Isteach Ennis began in March 2020 and due to Covid has successfully managed to run a series of classes before Christmas, on Zoom. We are starting our second set of classes on Monday, 18th January. Again, the classes will take place on Zoom. The classes will run for eight weeks, every Monday from 7.45pm-9pm. If you (or any of your friends) are interested in improving your conversational English and would like to find out more about these classes please contact us on: failteisteachennis@gmail.com

Electoral Reform Bill to bring big changes

Heads of Bill have been published for the Electoral Reform Bill, which will bring major changes to Ireland's electoral law. These include stricter rules around political ads on social media, a new independent Electoral Commission and the modernising of voter registration. The Bill will also facilitate the holding of elections under Covid-19 restrictions. Changes to the Electoral Register include provisional registration for 16-17 year-olds which would become active on their 18th birthday. Political ads on social media platforms will have to be clearly labelled, including details of who paid for them and any micro-targeting. To have a say on this Bill, you can send a submission to one or more of Clare's TDs – their contact details are here.

<https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/members/tds/?tab=constituency&constituency=/ie/oireachtas/house/dail/33/constituency/Clare>

You can read more about the Electoral Reform Bill here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0dfe8-ministers-obrien-and-noonan-publish-the-general-scheme-of-the-electoral-reform-bill/>

Training: How to find remote work



Grow Remote is an Irish non-profit funded by Enterprise Ireland amongst others to help create employment, with over 70 communities led by local volunteers across the country. This new mini-course on 'How to find remote work in Ireland' is free and is supported with a monthly jobs club. There are 100s of remote jobs available in every community across Ireland today - knowing where to find these jobs is the biggest stumbling block. Read more here:

<https://grow-remote-learning-hub.thinkific.com/courses/how-to-get-a-remote-job>



Hedgerows: Ireland's Green Arteries – Talk on 18th January

Ecologist and broadcaster Anja Murray will give this fascinating talk, at 8pm next Monday, 18th January, on the history, management and wealth of wildlife in Irish hedgerows, exploring the world of some of the plants and animals found there. Anja is an ecologist, environmental policy analyst and an expert presenter on the popular RTÉ1 television series 'Eco Eye'. You can register here: <https://bit.ly/3oFqBlH>

Consultation on National Development Plan – Deadline 29th January

The Department of Public Expenditure and Reform invites submissions as part of the public consultation element of the National Development Plan. This consultation offers the opportunity to inform and influence policy including the distribution of our people, our jobs, businesses, houses, roads, public transport, education and health infrastructure; our social, cultural and sporting facilities. The consultation will run until 29th January - details here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/d3f3a-review-to-renew-the-public-consultation-of-the-review-of-the-national-development-plan/>

Consultation on National Water Resources Plan – Deadline 16th February

In December, Irish Water 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/>



<http://clareppn.ie>