

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2021



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our April newsletter.

With lockdown lasting longer than any of us had thought possible, it's more relevant than ever for campaign groups to think about building hope and resilience. Clare PPN has teamed up with the Undercurrent Training Collective to offer a series of free online workshops that focus on the power of stories and narratives in creating change.

With several public consultations ongoing on climate and environmental issues – see details below – it's important to question how public participation translates into policy, and how consultations can best serve communities. On 6th May we're hosting a workshop, for a national audience, that aims to answer these questions and to help with writing submissions that will have an impact.

Read on also for news of Clare PPN elections, our upcoming plenary and some training and funding opportunities and webinars.

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

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CLARE PPN PLENARY: 11th MAY

We warmly invite all member groups to attend our first Plenary Meeting of 2021 on Tuesday, 11th May at 7pm. Please reserve your place by emailing your name and member group to admin@clareppn.ie on or before Monday, 10th May. Plenary meetings are the main decision making forums for Clare PPN. It's also an opportunity to network with other member groups. All groups can propose agenda items – please send these by 4th May, using the subject line 'Agenda Item Plenary Meeting', to admin@clareppn.ie

CLARE PPN ELECTIONS

Member groups of our Environmental Pillar are invited to nominate candidates for the following two positions:

- **Environmental Representative on the Clare Rural Development Forum:** This person will have the chance to discuss and influence policy decisions, projects and strategies for the development of County Clare and to network with the other 40 members of the forum.

- **Environmental representative on the Clare PPN Secretariat:** Clare PPN is managed by a Secretariat, which meets four to six times a year. The successful candidate will also be required to attend events and meetings organised by the PPN to consult with member groups. The ideal candidate will be a person well connected with environmental groups in the area.

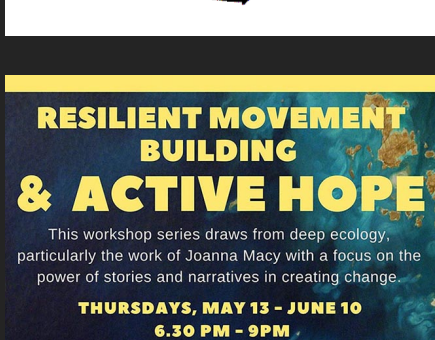
Nominations close on 4th May. More details on how to nominate here:

<http://clareppn.ie/notice-of-clare-ppn-environmental-elections-x-2/>

Member groups of the Social Inclusion Pillar are invited to nominate candidates for:

- **Social Inclusion representative on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):** This is an important committee for Clare PPN and we have 5 seats on it. We encourage nominations from people who do frontline work (voluntary or professional) in the following areas: combating social exclusion, poverty reduction, anti-discrimination policy making, community development, intercultural and anti-racism work. This committee meets 5-6 times a year. Nominations close on 4th May. More details on how to nominate here:

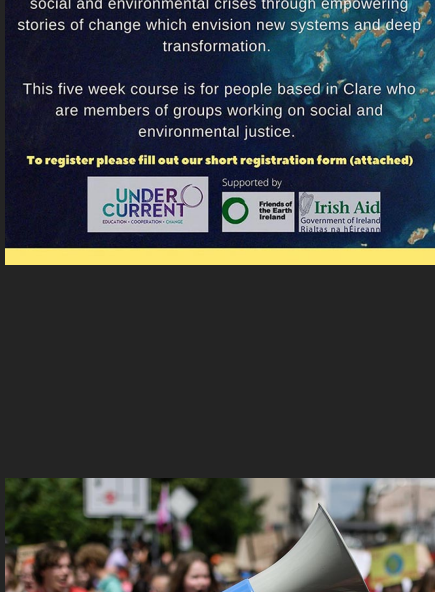
<http://clareppn.ie/notice-of-clare-ppn-social-inclusion-election/>



WORK REPORT JAN-MAR '21

Our first Work Report of 2021 is available to download from our website, with details of the work carried out by PPN staff in the first three months of the year, other activities and a financial report.

<http://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/Work-report-for-Clare-PPN-January-to-March-2021.pdf>



FREE WORKSHOP SERIES: RESILIENT MOVEMENT BUILDING & ACTIVE HOPE

13th May to 10th June: Clare PPN is excited to offer a series of free online workshops for groups in Clare working on social and environmental justice. Entitled 'Resilient Movement Building & Active Hope', and delivered by Jacinta Fay and Aine Treanor of the Galway-based Undercurrent Training Collective, the five workshops are based on the work of Joanna Macy. Drawing from deep ecology, they will focus on place, and the power of stories and narratives in creating change. The workshops will be held via Zoom on Thursdays, from 6:30-9pm, from 13th May to 10th June. To register, please fill out Undercurrent's short registration form by Friday, April 30th:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdE9T3mJB2j8fZa4pID_b9NGomuADoZqPHTY9w3VgUUNISFQ/viewform



CLIMATE CONSULTATIONS – MAKE YOUR SUBMISSION WORK

6th May, 7pm - 8:30pm: The Government is currently running a consultation on the Climate Action Plan 2021 and Climate Action Fund – but does public participation translate into climate policy? And how can consultation processes best serve communities? This workshop, hosted by Clare PPN, will ask how we can use climate consultations to bring about real policy change; what kind of submissions have the greatest impact; and how communities and campaigners can come together to demand a just transition. Panellists include Seán McCabe, author of 'The People's Transition' report for TASC, and Theresa O'Donoghue of Clare PPN, Clare Environmental Network & An Taisce. Followed by Q&A / discussion. This is part of a series organised by Stop Climate Chaos. You can register here:

<https://www.stopclimatechaos.ie/calendar/2021/04/20/climate-action-plan-consultation-workshop-series/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



CREATIVE CLIMATE ACTION

Deadline 21st May: The arts, culture, heritage and wider creative communities have a vital role to play in bringing the urgency of climate change to the forefront. The €2 million Creative Climate Action Fund, from the Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Dept of Environment, Climate & Communications, is for big creative projects that meaningfully connect people with profound changes we need to make. Proposals should use creative and artistic approaches to transform connection and awareness into climate action and behaviour change. More information here: https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/app/uploads/2021/03/Creative_Climate_Action_Brief_final.pdf



CLAR 2021 FUNDING SCHEME

Deadlines 23rd April – 21st May: A reminder that the CLAR 2021 funding scheme has several deadlines coming up. The scheme funds small infrastructural projects for schools and community projects in areas of greatest population decline.

- 23rd April: Schools/Community Safety measures; Outdoor Community Recreation Facilities; Community Gardens & Allotments.

- 7th May: Meals on Wheels & Mobility Cancer Care Transport.

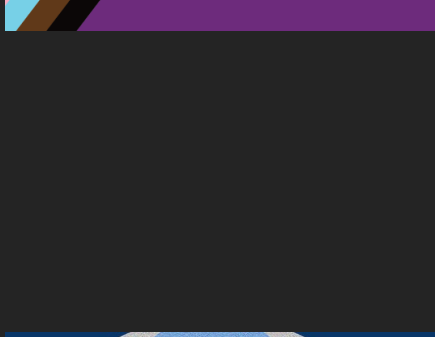
- 21st May: CLAR Innovation Fund (new for 2021). Guidelines and application forms are available at: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/clar/>

NEWS



FÁILTE ISTEACH ENGLISH CLASSES

Mondays 7.45pm-9pm via Zoom: Fáilte Isteach Ennis has lots of volunteer tutors and is looking for more learners. Fáilte Isteach is a community project involving volunteers welcoming migrants into the community through conversational English classes. They are now on their third set of classes which will run to mid-June. Classes take place on Zoom, from 7.45pm to 9pm on Mondays. To find out more about these classes please contact us on: failteisteachennis@gmail.com



LGBTQ+ CLARE SURVEY

Clare PPN is one of the organisations behind a new initiative, LGBTQ+ Clare. Last month we asked the LGBTQ+ community in Clare to fill out a survey, tell us a bit about themselves and what supports, actions and activities they would like to see in Clare and the results are in. You can read about the survey results here:

<http://clareppn.ie/lgbtc-survey-results/>

LGBTQ+ Clare is now planning its next steps. If you are part of the LGBTQ+ community and would like to be part of the organising group or you would like some more information, please get in touch by emailing: lgbtc.clare@gmail.com



STALKING – WHAT NEEDS TO CHANGE

6th May at 7pm: To mark the launch of Stalking Ireland, (www.stalking.ie), there is a webinar exploring the lived experience of stalking in Ireland, the legal situation and what needs to change. There is currently no law that defines stalking as a crime in Ireland. Link to register: https://us02web.zoom.us/join/register/WN_qib33a1ITV-ARAFp61ofdQ

There is also an Uplift petition, calling on the Government to urgently enact clear and concise stalking legislation: <https://myuplift.ie/petitions/legislation-for-stalking-in-ireland-now>



WEBINAR ON DISABILITY

5th May at 3pm: Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) invites you to a webinar, 'Everything you wanted to know about disability but were afraid to ask', via Zoom, at 3pm on Wednesday 5th May, which is European Day of Independent Living. Hear about the social model of disability and how that informs the UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities. Sponsors include Maggie Cameron, Des Kenny, Selina Bonnie and Amy Hassett. A unique opportunity to listen directly to disabled activists and hear about the issues facing disabled people through an equality and human rights lens. To register, please email info@ilmi.ie by 4th May at 12pm.



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

Global Action Plan offers online sustainability training to community groups looking to make their work more impactful. Engaging with issues such as poverty, hunger, health, climate action, and gender equality, our hands-on workshops raise awareness of local and global challenges, exploring root causes and facilitating group action. Funding available for underserved communities. Email sdgs@globalactionplan.ie or read more at: <https://globalactionplan.ie/education/action-on-global-goals/>



WEBINAR ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

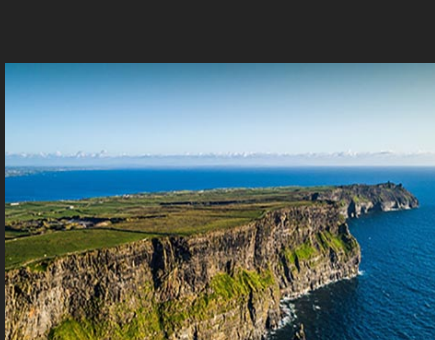
12th May at 1pm: Would you like to discuss Marine Protected Areas in your area and learn more about the public consultation that is currently open? Irish Wildlife Trust is holding a series of Town Hall meetings in all the major coastal counties to address questions and concerns the public may have about marine protected areas and the report on 'Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Area Network'. The Co Clare event will be on 12th May, from 1-2pm. More information and how to register here: <https://iwt.ie/virtual-townhall-meetings-on-mpas/>



TOWN HALL WEBINAR ON RENEWABLE ENERGY

27th April at 7pm: The Department of Climate is hosting a town hall webinar on Tuesday 27th April at 7pm to discuss the Community Benefit Funds that are a mandatory element of the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme. These Funds will see hundreds of million euro distributed into communities nationwide over the next two decades. The Department has published a consultation on how these funds can best be operated to maximise the benefits for communities. Registration details can be found with the consultation here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/consultation-public-consultation-on-community-benefit-funds-ress-tickets-148722724673>

CONSULTATIONS



CLIMATE ACTION PLAN 2021

Deadline 18th May: The Climate Action Plan 2021 will be Ireland's roadmap towards a climate neutral future, and the Dept of Environment & Climate wants your input. The Climate Conversation asks citizens and communities to join on the journey to net-zero emissions. The Department's consultation platform offers several ways to input into this process – they want to know how Government action can support individual action: <https://climateconversations.citizenspace.com/decc/climateactionplan2021/>



FUTURE OF CLIFFS OF MOHER

Members of the public, community organisations and tourism stakeholders across Clare will soon be asked for their input on the formulation of a long-term strategy for the Cliffs of Moher. Geraldine Enright, director of the Cliffs of Moher Visitor Experience, said the consultation will take many forms including online workshops, feedback sessions, focus groups, written submissions and surveys. This process will begin in late April or early May with display information and online question and answer sessions. You can contact the consultation team on com2040@haleysharpe.com or read more about Cliffs of Moher 2040 strategy here: <https://www.cliffsofmoher.ie/public-consultation-on-future-strategy-for-the-cliffs-of-moher/>



MARINE PROTECTED AREAS

Deadline 30th July: A Public Consultation on Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and the MPA Advisory Group report entitled 'Expanding Ireland's Marine Protected Area Network' is open until Friday, 30th July. This important consultation dealing with marine area-based conservation in Ireland asks: 'What should be protected. Why should it be protected and How it should be protected?' For more information, see: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/45271-public-consultation-on-expert-advisory-group-report-entitled-expanding-irelands-marine-protected-area-network/>



EIRGRID RENEWABLE ENERGY

Deadline 14th June: To achieve at least 70% clean electricity by 2030, EirGrid needs to add more energy from wind and solar. This means Ireland's electricity grid will need to carry more power from renewable energy sources that vary, depending on the weather, and this power will need to be carried over longer distances. As a result, they need to make the grid stronger and more flexible. They have created four draft proposals to reach the 2030 target. A public consultation is open until 14th June: <https://consult.eirgrid.ie/consultation/public-consultation-shaping-our-electricity-future>



WASTE MANAGEMENT CONSULTATION

Deadline 6th May: The National Waste Management Plan for a Circular Economy, to replace the existing Regional Waste Management Plans, will be subject to a Strategic Environmental Assessment and an Appropriate Assessment. A Briefing Note and the current Regional Waste Management plans can be viewed at www.mywaste.ie. Written submissions can be made to info@srwmo.ie and/or by completing a questionnaire on www.mywaste.ie by 6th May. <https://www.mywaste.ie/pre-draft-consultation/>

