

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our May newsletter!

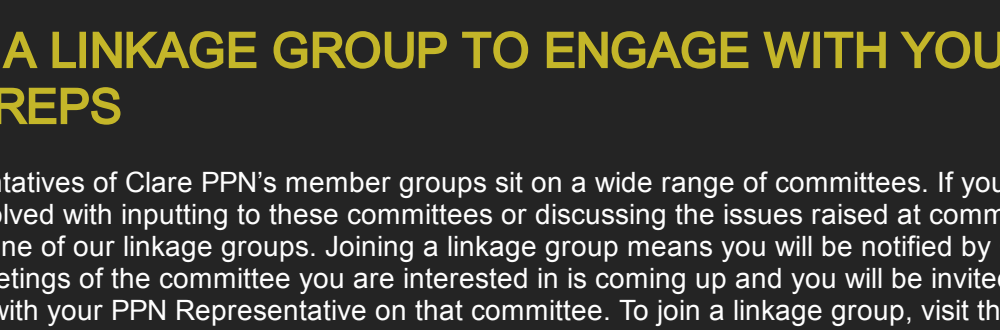
Summer is here, the hawthorn is blooming on the hedgerows, and life is starting to emerge from the shadow of lockdown. There are lots of goings-on to tell you about, including workshops, webinars, the Burren in Bloom festival, a 'Quare Quiz' and two important new surveys for people with disabilities.

We are delighted to welcome three new Clare PPN representatives, and we also have news about a new way for you, our members, to input into the workings of these committees.

Please let us know of anything you would like to see included in our newsletter in future.

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

Clare PPN
Clonroad Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare
V95 N62T
Mobile: 087 1617375



JOIN A LINKAGE GROUP TO ENGAGE WITH YOUR PPN REPS

Representatives of Clare PPN's member groups sit on a wide range of committees. If you would like to be involved with inputting to these committees or discussing the issues raised at committees, you can join one of our linkage groups. Joining a linkage group means you will be notified by Clare PPN when meetings of the committee you are interested in is coming up and you will be invited to a pre-meeting with your PPN Representative on that committee. To join a linkage group, visit this page on our website:

<http://clareppn.ie/clare-ppn-linkage-group-registration-page/>

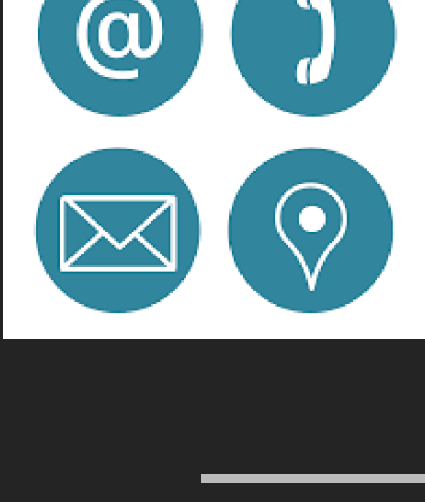
If you have any difficulty with this please email admin@clareppn.ie



NEW CLARE PPN REPRESENTATIVES

At our recent Plenary meeting, Cornelia Wahl was ratified to take up the vacant environment seat on Clare PPN's Secretariat, which helps to run Clare PPN, while the environment seat on Clare County Council's Rural Development Forum goes to Christy Sinden. Cornelia and Christy were both nominated by Clare Environmental Network. The Social Inclusion seat on Clare's Local Community Development Committee goes to Collette Bradley of Shannon Family Resource Centre. A huge thank you to all three for coming forward. You can read more about our new reps here:

<http://clareppn.ie/welcome-your-new-clare-ppn-representatives/>

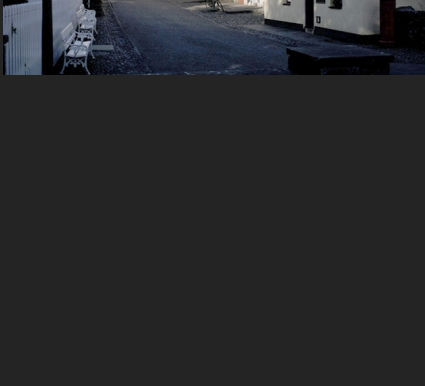


MEMBER GROUPS' CONTACT DETAILS

Several member groups have suggested it would be easier to work with each other if contact details were easily available. Currently Clare PPN does not share contact details when enquiries are made. Instead we forward contact enquiries to the contact question. It was suggested that member groups be given the option to opt in and have contact details displayed on the Clare PPN website. If you do not want your contact details listed you do not need to do anything – we will continue forwarding enquiries as before. However, if you would like your group's contact details listed, please go to this online form:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CRC2H1V>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Deadline 31st May: Clare County Council is advertising for Expressions of Interest for the 2021 Town and Village Renewal Scheme, part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development, 'Realising our Rural Potential'. Grant funding of 90% of the cost of a project will be provided. The remaining 10% must be contributed by the Local Authority and/or the community. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is 31st May. More information:

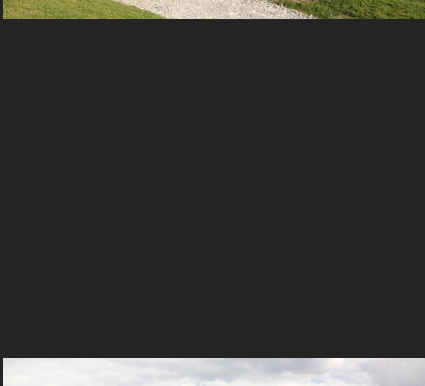
<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/news/town-village-renewal-scheme-2021.html>



1916 BURSARY FOR STUDENTS

Deadline 9th July: The Bursary is targeted at new entry students who are underrepresented in higher education and who are from one or more of the target groups that have low participation rates in higher education. Each student who is awarded the 1916 Bursary will receive €5,000 for each year of their undergraduate programme. Details and the online application form are available at:

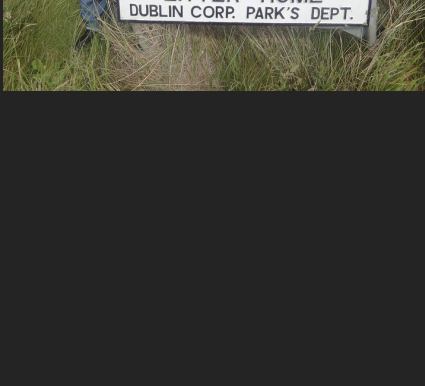
<http://www.nuigalway.ie/accesscentre/scholarships/1916bursary-fund/>



FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY FACILITIES

Deadlines in July 2021: County Clare has been allocated funding of €139,257 through the Community Enhancement Programme (CEP) 2021 to support groups as they reopen facilities that have been closed due to Covid-19. The grants are relatively small but may appeal to those groups ineligible for the Stability Fund. Closing date is at the discretion of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) but will be sometime in July 2021. For more information:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/df30e-ministers-humphreys-and-obrien-announce-45-million-to-improve-community-facilities/>

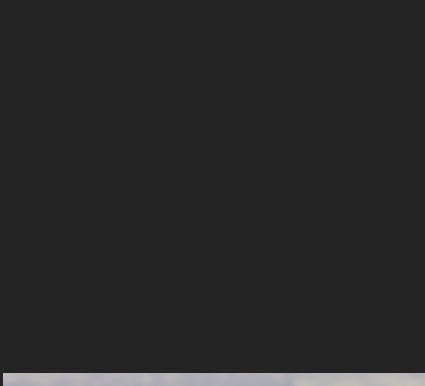


GOOGLE STAFF VOLUNTEER FOR CHARITIES

Here is a funding opportunity of sorts – Google's Dublin office has been in contact about their annual volunteering campaign. It's an opportunity to support a local registered charity by filling in an online form to sign for GoogleServe 2021. They are creating volunteering opportunities for Google staff who want to support charities. Your charity will receive \$10 for each hour a Google person volunteers. To express interest, your charity can fill out this form with the projects that could be a good fit for them, along with any preferences for any specific skills required, timelines, etc:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeY42NMjGd0y4s-nSGC9gjeBYuuWd8HwJUNw-VH45872A/viewform>

NEWS



LGBTQ+ GROUP HOSTS 'QUARE QUIZ' FOR CLARE

Friday 28th May, 7pm: Laughs are guaranteed as Quare Clare, a new group for LGBTQ+ people in the Banner, hosts its first ever social event – an online 'Quare Quiz' on Friday, May 28th, from 7pm-9pm. There are some great prizes to be won, including One For All vouchers and vouchers for lunch in local restaurants, and admission is free! All are welcome but members of the LGBTQ+ community are particularly encouraged to take part. And you don't need to bring a team, people will be allocated to teams on the night. You can register to take part at this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/quare-quiz-a-fun-quiz-for-the-lgbtq-community-in-clare-with-prizes-tickets-154717051867>

Anyone from the LGBTQ+ community in Clare who would like to get involved in the group can email lgbtq.clare@gmail.com to find out more.



CALL FOR UN BAN ON FRACKING

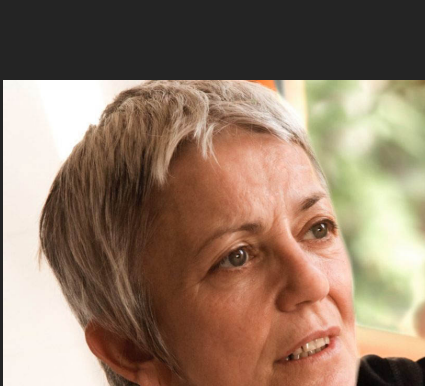
At Clare PPN's last plenary meeting on May 11th, a motion was passed calling for Clare PPN to stand against fracking and to support a proposal to the United Nations to call for a global ban on fracking, on grounds of climate mitigation, public health, environmental protection and human rights.

Clare PPN is now supporting a call for Clare County Council to adopt a similar motion and is also supporting a request to the Irish Government to propose a ban at the UN General Assembly. All community groups are invited to add their names to a global petition at this link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSiGfUdrM6ZnDdXBio2ClUwBA2UwnFz_VV1N9CHYX13sMWTA/viewform

Also, individuals can sign a petition organised by Friends of the Earth Ireland calling on the Irish Government to propose a ban:

<https://www.foe.ie/takeaction/call-on-ireland-to-propose-a-un-ban-on-fracking/>

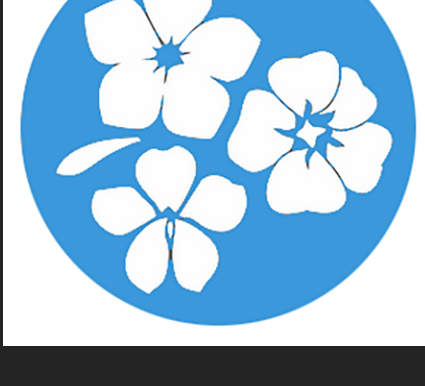


ENNIS WOMEN'S SHED REACHES OUT

Mna Ag Gaire Ennis Women's Shed & Digital Hub are inviting you to join them to learn more about Mna Ag Gaire and their vision for the future. To also see how they, and you as stakeholders, can be beneficial to each other. They are holding a Zoom meeting on Tuesday, May 25th at 11:30am.

Please let them know if a representative from your group can attend, by calling or texting 087-2835769 or 087-2740079. Here is the Zoom link for the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84083034781?pwd=VU5UdVdSVEdSk1cnV4dkM2aWJkdz09>



BOOK CLUB – AS IF BY MAGIC

Tuesday, 28th May: To celebrate Bealtaine, Ireland's celebration of creativity as we age, DeValera library in Ennis will host a special Book Club meeting via Zoom. They will be reading Paula Meehan's new poetry book, 'As If By Magic'. Places are limited and copies of the book are available to borrow from DeValera. Contact the library at 065-6846353 or email devalera@clarelibrary.ie



BURREN IN BLOOM

There are some really interesting looking events in this year's Burren in Bloom Online – a virtual celebration of the wonderful wildlife of the Burren as it emerges into its full seasonal glory. The annual festival is co-ordinated by the conservation charity, Burrenbeo Trust. 'Whittled Away' author Pádraic Fogarty will speak on the hot topic of Farming vs Rewilding, and he will be joined by botanist Clippan Roden, from 8pm this Saturday, 22nd May. See the full list of events and registration links here:

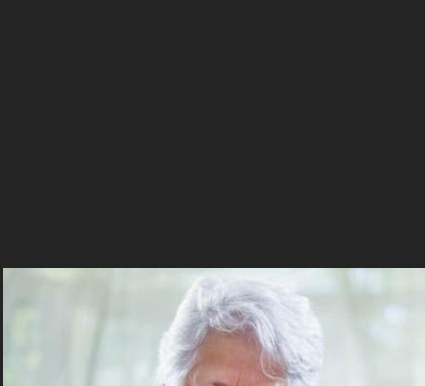
<https://www.burreninbloom.com/programme>



CYCLE AGAINST SUICIDE

Cycle Against Suicide is working to train and deploy a network of 'Community Buddies' in Communities across Ireland. The training to become a Community Buddy is two full days or four evenings, delivered via Zoom. Community Buddies are educated on how stress and mental health problems can affect individuals, and are instructed in the skills of active listening. Full details at:

<https://www.cycleagainstsuicide.com/community-buddy-club/>



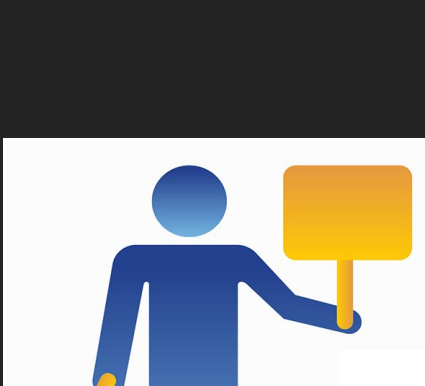
SURVEYS ON DISABILITY IN CLARE

Deadline 5th June: The Clare Leader Forum is a Disabled People's Organisation working to achieve human rights for people living with disabilities in Clare. They have devised two surveys with Clare PPN and are inviting the 15,000 people living with a disability in the county to take part in this important research. The first survey is on sports, leisure, tourism and amenity access and will be used to inform policy, submissions and advocacy.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/8DPC162>

The second survey examines what life is like in Clare for people with disabilities and how they engage in advocacy and activism. It will form part of an important and exciting book, 'Nothing About Us Without Us', which is due for release in December 2021:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/JYFY2R>



DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES FOR AGEING WEBINARS

May 21st at 12:30pm: The World Health Organisation's Digital and Assistive Technologies for Ageing (DATA) aims to produce more integrated and cohesive services to enable the older population to live well in their communities. The first webinar brings together nine large-scale projects to show how a wide range of digital and assistive technologies can be used together to enhance smart and healthy ageing in communities. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84083034781?pwd=VU5UdVdSVEdSk1cnV4dkM2aWJkdz09>



NCBI SEEKS LOCAL ADVOCATES

The National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI) is asking for help to promote its advocacy network to people who are blind or vision impaired. NCBI would like to expand its PPN representation as it establishes local advocacy networks (LANs) across Ireland. NCBI would appreciate if you could share this information with people in County Clare who are blind or vision impaired and who may be interested in being a local advocate. Find out more at:

<https://www.ncbi.ie/policy-advocacy/become-an-advocate/>



SUPPORT FOR RENTERS

Threshold would like to remind any one who is renting and needs support or advice, that although their outreach service in Ennis remains closed until further notice, the organisation is still offering help and advice to all renters. You can call their housing advisers by calling their freephone helpline on 1800 454 454, which is open Monday – Friday, 9am to 9pm, or using their chat service via their website: <http://threshold.ie>

CONSULTATIONS



LCETB CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

June 14th at 11am: Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board (LCETB) is working on its Implementation of the Public Sector Duty – the human rights framework for the Public Service – and they would like to invite local organisations working on equality, human rights and social inclusion to a consultation workshop on Monday, June 14th, from 11am-1pm. If you would like more information, please contact Aislinn Harvey at LCETB: aislinn.harvey@lcetb.ie. You can register for the workshop at this link:

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?Id=AU0CH-6T78U_-H7evW1KIS-g2U16tIFISGdKz9u9UQY1W0DZTDeVWNEUD3SjH0FRNNZu10M1du



POLICING PRIORITIES FOR 2022

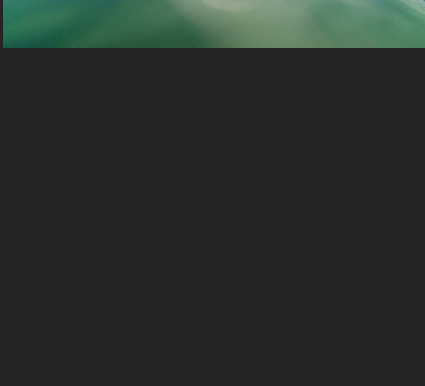
Deadline 31st May: The Policing Authority has launched a Public Consultation on Policing Priorities for the Garda Síochána for 2022, using a new online tool, which allows you to spend 'points' on the areas of policing you consider a priority. It takes about 12 minutes to complete, and there is a short, optional survey at the end. The consultation will run until Monday, 31st May. If you have any queries, please contact consultation@policingauthority.ie



ACTION PLAN AGAINST RACISM

Deadline 14th July: Racism is a serious issue in our society, and can manifest in many different aspects of people's lives. The Anti-Racism Committee's Public Consultation on a new National Action Plan against Racism for Ireland is now open and will run until July 14th. It gives everyone an opportunity to have their say about how we can effectively tackle racism in all its forms in Ireland today. The Committee have prepared a Consultation Document to explain what the consultation is about, which you can access, along with the Committee's Interim Report, and find out how to make a submission at this page:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/017c9-towards-a-national-action-plan-against-racism-for-ireland-public-consultation-2021/>



IDENTIFICATION OF BATHING WATERS

Deadline 17th June: Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so that they can be monitored for safety, water quality and their level of use. Clare County Council is asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment. More information at:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/news/news-stories/hqonewshighsrow2/public-participation-identification-of-bathing-waters.html>



DRAFT AGRI-FOOD STRATEGY 2030

Deadline June 16th: A Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been carried out on the draft Agri-Food Strategy to 2030. The public and stakeholders are invited to make submissions or observations. This stakeholder-led strategy is a significant milestone which will feed into sectoral emissions ceilings under the Climate Action Bill. This is also an opportunity to give views on how climate ambition might be further increased. More information here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/bd894-public-consultation-on-the-environmental-assessment-of-the-draft-agri-food-strategy-to-2030/>



EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Deadline 30th June: The Government is seeking your views on how we can encourage learners of all ages to engage with Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), as part of a lifelong learning process. A stakeholder consultation paper provides background information on ESD and guidance on the format for submissions. Submissions should be no longer than 2,000 words, emailed to: ESD@thersa.gov.ie or esd@education.gov.ie by 30th June 2021. More info at:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/8bce5-joint-public-consultation-on-a-national-strategy-on-education-for-sustainable-development-esd-to-2030/>