

Clare Public Participation Network Report April to June 2021

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES

CLARE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK | Clonroad Business Park, Ennis, County Clare V95 N62T

Introduction	page 1
PPN News	page 2
Overview of work	page 4
Report on events	page 5
Engagement	page 7
Appendix One: Mass email	page 8
Appendix Two: Expenditure	page 9



Image by Sarah Clancy – Finavarra Martello tower

Introduction

It has been a very busy quarter again, from the ongoing PPN review and consultations to online quizzes and a very engaged plenary meeting that gave us plenty work for the rest of the year. Creating Capable Communities, a blended learning course by the Department of Community & Rural Development started with significant uptake and engagement among all PPN stakeholders in Clare. There are also huge plans afoot after two successful funding applications: one for a five year anti-poverty strategy for County Clare and one for the founding and development of the only Traveller specific project in the county - by Travellers, for Travellers. We are very lucky with our collaborators on these projects; Clare Women's Network, West Clare FRC, Shannon FRC, Clare Immigrant Support Centre, Clare Leader Forum and Clare Local Development Company. Watch this space for updates.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact 087 1617375 or sarah@clareppn.ie

PPN NEWS

Surveys of Clare for the disability and LGBTQ+ communities

Clare Leader Forum, in partnership with Clare Public Participation Network (PPN), launched two surveys in May. They were circulated via email and on social media. The first survey on leisure, sport and tourism investigated the range of activities available to people with disabilities and how their choices can be improved when socialising, exercising and while visiting destinations in the county. The findings will be brought before stakeholders in the tourism sector and be a source document for advocacy and representation. The second survey was to provide statistical and anecdotal information for an upcoming book on 30 years of disability activism in Clare, due to be published by Christmas 2021. The book will celebrate the successes of various individuals and groups throughout the decades while highlighting what still needs to be done for full equality in the county. Both surveys were targeted at a population of 13.5% in Clare who according to the Central Statistics Office stated in the 2016 Census that they have a disability.



The need for increased mental health supports and recognition of the LGBTQ+ community in Clare has been identified through a recent survey conducted by the Clare Public Participation Network (PPN) in conjunction with Clare Women's Network, Clare Local Development Company and Rape Crisis Midwest. Recording 50 responses, the survey outlined that 70 per cent of respondents had received discrimination based on their sexual orientation or gender identity. A further 30 per cent felt that their gender identity or sexual orientation is not understood. One of the biggest factors highlighted, was the lack of mental health supports available for those within the LGBTQ+ community in Clare. Quare Clare, a group for LGBTQ+ people living in Clare, was subsequently formed with social media accounts and one online event has taken place already with another planned (see event reports below).

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 in 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/CRCZHLV>

Successful Clare PPN elections

Clare Public Participation Network is delighted to welcome a new secretariat member and two new representatives on board. Cornelia Wahli of Clare Environmental Network has joined the Secretariat as representative of the Environmental College. Colette Bradley of Shannon Family Resource Centre is a social inclusion representative on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Christy Sinclair of Burren Ecotourism Network has returned to the PPN, this time as an environmental representative on the Clare Rural Development Forum.

We would like to thank each of them for putting their names forward to represent their community and we wish them the very best of luck in their new roles. For more information please go to the bio links below.



Cornelia Wahli

<https://clareppn.ie/project/cornelia-wahli/>



Colette Bradley

<https://clareppn.ie/project/colette-bradley/>



Christy Sinclair

<https://clareppn.ie/project/christy-sinclair/>

Representatives of Clare PPN's member groups sit on a wide range of committees. If you would like to be involved with inputting to or discussing the issues raised at these 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 invited to a pre-meeting with your PPN representative on that committee. To join a linkage group, go to this page on our website: <http://clareppn.ie/clare-ppn-linkage-group-registration-page/>



Motion calling for global fracking ban passed unanimously by Clare County Council

Clare County Council has unanimously passed a motion calling on the Irish Government to propose a global ban on fracking at United Nations General Assembly “on climate-mitigation, public-health, environmental-protection and human-rights grounds”.

Proposing the motion, Cllr Pat Hayes (FG) pointed out that Clare was the first local authority in Ireland to ban fracking, in 2012, which led to a national ban in 2017. He praised the “wonderful organisations here in Clare who have supported this ban, including Futureproof Clare, Fridays for Future Clare and Clare PPN,” and said the environment was the most important issue for the Council to have on its agenda.

To read the Clare PPN press release in full go here: <https://clareppn.ie/frackingban2021/>

WORK OVERVIEW

Administration:

- Management of finances, banking and invoices
- Processed wages
- Maintained lobbying register
- Produced quarterly report
- Held pre-meetings with reps
- Held three secretariat meetings
- Finalised strategic plan
- Attended two resource workers meetings
- Engaged with auditors re: Audit 2020
- Ran three representative elections
- Finalised Strategic Plan
- Re-established linkage groups around committees/forums

Free English Classes

Practise English conversation

Talk about things that interest you
Have fun and meet new people

ALL LEVELS, SMALL GROUPS, ON ZOOM
contact: clarechat21@gmail.com



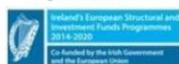
fáilte isteach
Welcoming Migrants through Conversational English Classes



SICAP
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme



Clare Local Development Company



Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programme 2014-2020
Co-funded by the Irish Government and the European Union



EUROPEAN UNION
Investing in your future
European Social Fund



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and co-funded by the European Union under Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

Communications:

- Circulation of grant schemes & event notices
- Three newsletters circulated by email and on social media
- Maintained website (newsletters, reps reports) and social media
- Promoted Mazers PPN review consultations

Submissions/consultations:

- Online Cliffs of Moher consultation for PPN member groups
- Submission on the National Waste Management Plan
- Ongoing consultations on PPN structural review
- Connected communities in Lahinch/Ennistymon with research group

Outreach/Policy Work:

- Updated and circulated Failte Isteach poster
- Compiled focus group questions into SurveyMonkey for Clare Leader Forum
- Attended Clare Leader Forum meeting re: survey
- Attended IHREC meeting re: funding
- Attended Ennis Women's Shed meeting
- Facilitated two Quare Clare meetings
- Held new members meeting

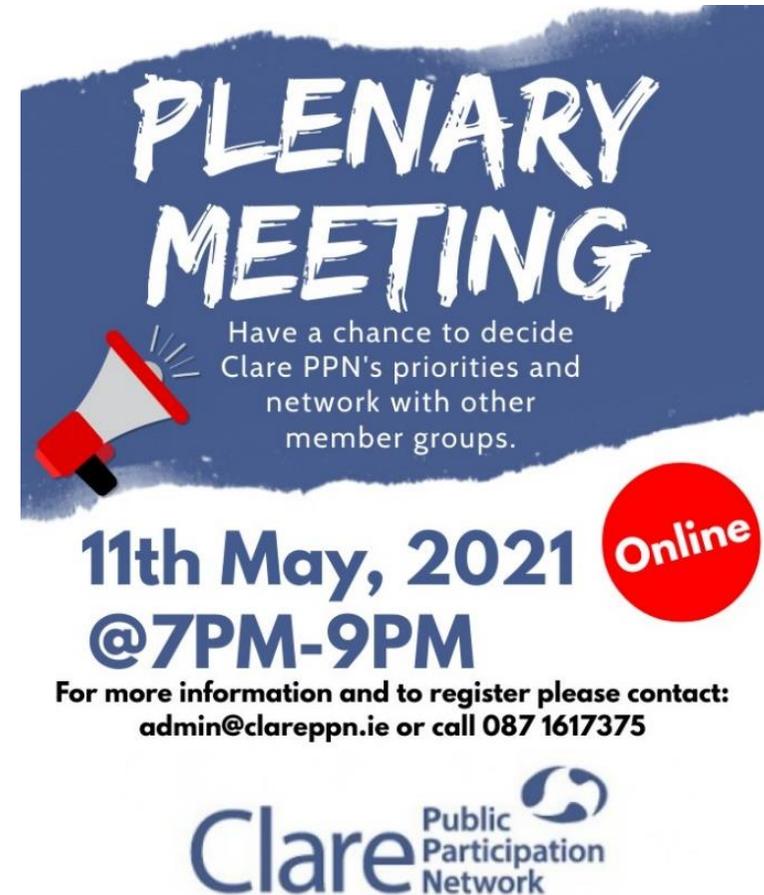
Training/events:

- Attended five DRCD blended learning sessions
- Hosted Climate Consultations workshop
- Hosted community energy webinar
- Held online quiz for Quare Clare

EVENT REPORTS

Climate Consultations – ‘How to make your submissions work’

In response to the Government's Climate Dialogue, to consult the Irish public on the Climate Action Plan 2021 and the Climate Action Fund, Clare PPN hosted a workshop to ask how we can use climate consultations to bring about real policy change. Taking place in May, it explored whether public participation translates into climate policy and how consultation processes best serve communities. It also gave advice on what kind of submissions have the greatest impact; and how communities and campaigners can come together to demand a just transition. Panellists included Seán McCabe, author of 'The People's Transition' report for TASC, and Theresa O'Donohoe of Clare PPN, Clare Environmental Network & An Taisce.



PLENARY MEETING

Have a chance to decide Clare PPN's priorities and network with other member groups.

11th May, 2021 **Online**

@7PM-9PM

For more information and to register please contact:
admin@clareppn.ie or call 087 1617375

Clare Public Participation Network

Quare Quiz

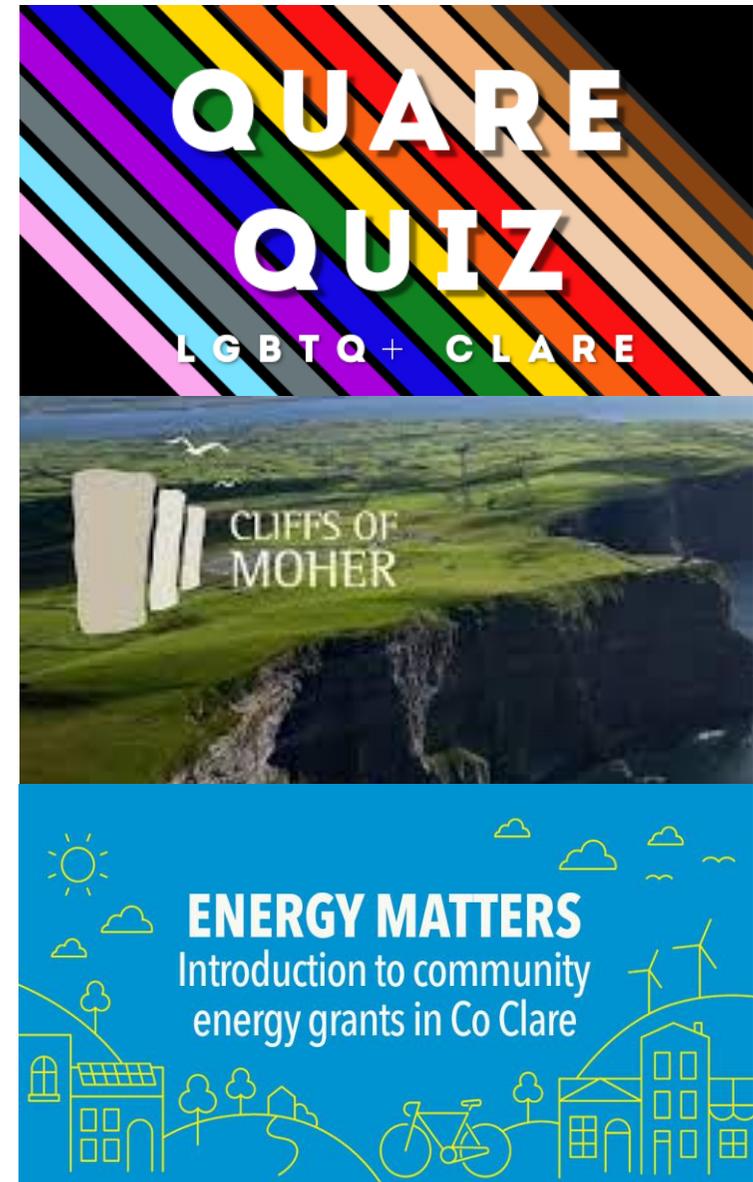
Laughs were had as Quare Clare, a new group for LGBTQ+ people in the Banner, hosted its first ever social event – an online 'Quare Quiz' in May. There were some great prizes to be won, including One For All vouchers and vouchers for lunch in local restaurants, and admission was free. All were welcome but members of the LGBTQ+ community were particularly encouraged to take part. Five teams were randomly allocated which led to new friendships and connections. More events are planned for the future to keep an eye out.

Cliffs of Moher Consultation

Clare County Council is working with a multi-disciplinary consultancy team led by Haley Sharpe Design, to prepare the Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040. Clare PPN requested an online consultation in June with the consultancy team for PPN member groups which took place on Zoom and was well attended by members throughout the county.

Community Energy Webinar

An introduction to community energy was provided for communities, householders and small businesses in the form of an 'Energy Matters' webinar in June. The webinar was chaired by Theresa O'Donohoe of Clare Environmental Network and one of the founding members of Clare PPN. Gloria Callinan of the Clare Local Development Company spoke about Sustainable Energy Communities and how hundreds of communities in Ireland are already working together to become more sustainable in how they use energy. Guest speakers also included Christy Leyden of Clarecastle Community Development and former Clare PPN rep, David Flannery of superhomes.ie, Cllr Cillian Murphy (FF) and Cllr Joe Garrihy (FG). Christy spoke on 'Green Your Festival' training programme, David discussed the joint venture between superhomes.ie and Electric Ireland to retrofit 35,000 homes. Both Cllr Murphy and Cllr Garrihy shared their experiences of working with sustainable energy communities in Kilkee and Lahinch respectively.



ENGAGEMENT

Membership by college:

Clare PPN currently has 321 member groups:

Community and Voluntary College 252

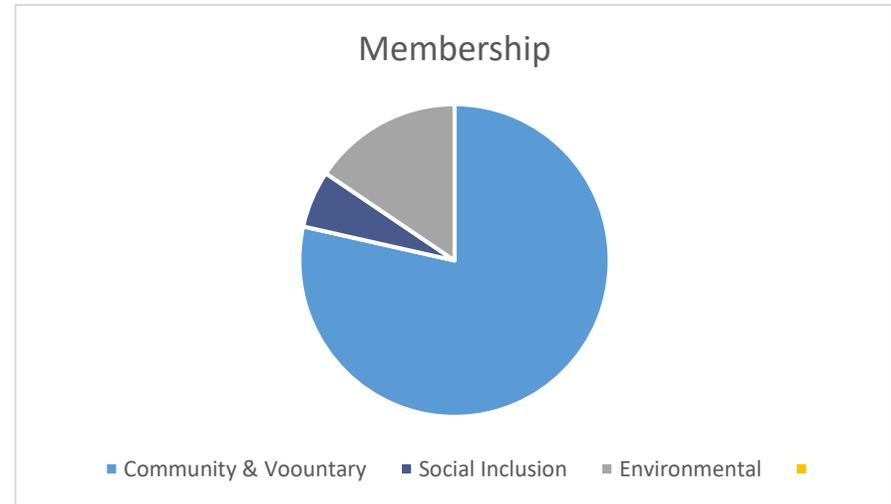
Environmental College 19

Social Inclusion College 50

Social Media:

Twitter followers 1,399

Facebook followers 1,970



Appendix One:

Clare PPN mass communications with members – April to June 2021

Date	Subject line	To	Details
1st April	Notice for those who may have travelled from Brazil - for onward circulation	All contacts	HSE notice
6th April	seeking input re funding application to be made by Clare PPN	Social Inclusion pillar	Input for finding application
19th April	Notice of Plenary Meeting: Tuesday, 11th May 2021, 7pm (online	All contacts	Plenary notice
20th April	Notice of Clare PPN Social Inclusion election	Social Inclusion pillar	Election notice
20th April	Notice of Clare PPN Environmental elections x 2	Environmental pillar	Election notice
20th April	Free workshops on 'Movement Building & Active Hope	Environmental pillar	Training notice
22nd April	Clare PPN Newsletter April 2021	All contacts	Newsletter
26th April	New members meeting	All contacts	Training notice
26th April	Environmental elections	Environmental pillar	Election notice
26th April	Reminder of Social Inclusion representative election	Social Inclusion pillar	Election notice
26th April	Submission on Waste Management & other environmental news	Environmental pillar	Submission notice
28th April	Petition for UN Resolution calling for a global ban on fracking	Environmental pillar	Petition request
6th May	Election Results, Plenary Meeting Reminder and Clare PPN Draft Strategic Plan 2021-2026	All contacts	Supplementary newsletter
10th May	Important surveys, funding and consultation notices	All contacts	Supplementary newsletter
11th May	Plenary meeting reminder 7pm	All contacts	Plenary notice
18th May	Plenary notes and some very important notices for our member groups	All contacts	Plenary follow up
20th May	Clare PPN Newsletter May 2021	All contacts	Newsletter
24th May	Call for Expressions of Interest for Youth Participation Project for Community Groups in Clare	All contacts	as per subject line
26th May	Surveys & call for agenda items	Secretariat	Secretariat meeting notice
1st June	Clare PPN member group invite from Cliffs of Moher consultants	All contacts	Consultation
3rd June	Pre-meeting Economic Development SPC	Economic Dev LG	SPC pre-meeting
8th June	Ennistymon/Lahinch research on commuting	Lahinch/Ennistymon	Consultation
10th June	Annual report input from reps	Representatives	Annual report information
12th June	Reminder about LCETB Human Rights Consultation Monday 11- 1 pm	Social Inclusion pillar	Consultation
14th June	Community Grants, Sustainable Energy Webinar, Save Our Shannon, and Survey on PPNs	All contacts	Supplementary newsletter
14th June	Correction! Community Enhancement Programme Grants Deadline is JULY 15th	All contacts	grants notice
17th June	Invitation to a Webinar on 'Our Rural Future' with Minister of State Joe O'Brien	All contacts	Online meeting notice
21st June	PROPOSED PART VIII O'CONNELL STREET Public consultation	Ennis MD	Consultation
21st June	Webinar tomorrow – Community Energy Grants, with Clare PPN and CLDC	Environmental pillar	Training notice
24th June	PPN structural review survey closes tomorrow 25th June	All contacts	Reminder
24th June	Clare PPN Newsletter June 2021	All contacts	Newsletter
30th June	Invitation to participate in PPN review focus	All contacts	Mazers review notice
30th June	Seeking environmental volunteers for PPN review focus group session	Environmental pillar	Mazers review notice

Appendix Two:

Clare PPN income & expenditure – April to June 2021

Financial report

Wages	25,162.73
Travel and expenses	-
Rent and Rates	-
Telephone and postage	94.89
Heat & Light	382.94
Insurance	-
Bank charges	79.10
Auditing	-
Training & development	-
IT	-
Marketing, promo, advertising	-
Projects & events	428.95
Meeting costs	51.63
	<hr/>
	26,200.24
	<hr/>