

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2022



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our March newsletter.

There has been an overwhelmingly positive response to the arrival in Clare of more than 1,000 refugees from Ukraine. Many members of Clare PPN are assisting people with their arrivals and helping them make sense of their new communities. We congratulate all of you on your efforts.

All community groups will be needed in this response as the weeks go on. Clare PPN is working with Clare Volunteer Centre to organise insurance and safeguarding in relation to the volunteer effort around the county and we will be in touch shortly with details of how you can be involved.

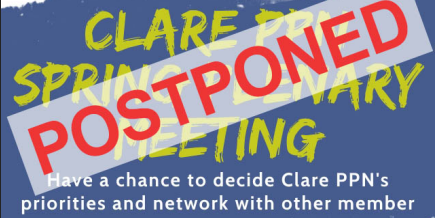
Meanwhile, the project to create a five-year Anti-poverty Strategy for Clare is well underway. There is currently an online survey for groups with an anti-poverty remit, to help us identify the difficulties and gaps in addressing poverty in Clare. See below.

If you'd like to see something included in a future newsletter, please email newsletter@clareppn.ie.

All the best,

Sarah Clancy, Sarah Ferrigan & William Hederman

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CLARE PPN PLENARY POSTPONED

Apologies for the short notice, but we have decided to postpone this week's Plenary meeting, which was due to take place this Thursday, 31st March. This is due to Clare PPN staff and many of our member groups being involved with the community response to the arrival in Clare of refugees from Ukraine. We will be in contact with you soon about a rescheduled Plenary meeting.



ANTI-POVERTY SURVEY

Does your organisation have an anti-poverty remit in County Clare? Would you like to assist in devising a participative five-year anti-poverty strategy for County Clare? If so, you are in an ideal place to identify the difficulties and gaps in addressing poverty in Clare and you are invited to answer the following survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/EYT6JZ9>



JOBS AT CLARE TRAVELLER COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Deadline 8th April: Co Clare Traveller Community Development Project, for which Clare PPN is part of the steering group, wishes to recruit two positions: Project Development Officer (21 hrs per week) and Community Development Outreach Worker (28 hours per week). Clare Traveller CDP has been chosen as one of seven pilots nationally for a Community Development Programme funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Find out more about these roles at: <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/89551-co-clare-traveller-community-development-project-vacancies-x-2>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITIES INTEGRATION FUND 2022

Deadline 6th April: This call is open to local community groups, with grants of between €1,000 and €5,000 available for projects that support migrant integration. This year special priority will be given to initiatives that support the integration of migrant women, children and youth; that support migrants to meaningfully participate in the labour market; and that promote community volunteering. You can access a detailed guidance document and complete an online application form at this link: <https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CommunitiesIntegrationFund2022>



CLÁR PROGRAMME 2022

The Department for Rural and Community Development (DCRD) has announced the 2022 CLÁR Programme. CLÁR provides funding for small infrastructural projects in rural areas that have experienced significant levels of population decline. Community groups are encouraged to apply for funding for projects such as the provision of Youth Hubs, Multi-Use Gaming Areas, Skateboard Parks, Playgrounds, Handball Alleys, Community Cinemas and Gyms. Measure 1 (Developing Community Facilities and Amenities) is delivered by Local Authorities in consultation with local communities. Measure 2 (Mobility, Cancer Care and Community First Responders Transport) and Measure 3 (Our Islands) are administered directly by the Department. Full details on the Department's website: <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/91ba52-clar/>



WHEEL TRAINING LINKS

Deadline 29th April: Training Links 2022–2024 is now open, with grants ranging from €10,000–€50,000. The total fund is €270,000.00. Training Links funds community and voluntary organisations to form Training Networks – groups of at least 10 organisations who come together to undertake training that they may not have the opportunity to do individually – and to design and deliver upskilling programmes to meet their shared training needs. Get in touch by emailing traininglinks2022@wheel.ie or find out all you need to know here: <https://www.wheel.ie/traininglinks-2022-2024>



MORE INFORMATION ON COMMUNITY FUNDING

A useful webinar on the topic, 'Government Supports for Thriving Rural Areas and Vibrant Communities' was hosted earlier this month by the Dept of Rural and Community Development. We have published on the Clare PPN website a short summary of the funds and supports outlined at the webinar. It will be updated as we find out more information: <https://clareppn.ie/government-supports-for-rural-areas-and-communities/>

You can also watch a recording of the webinar here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qTksn88UI20>

NEWS / EVENTS



ENNIS REGENERATION INFORMATION EVENING

31st March: A Public Information evening on the next phase of the Ennis Public Realm Regeneration will be hosted by Clare County Council this Thursday, 31st March. The Public Realm Regeneration will improve accessibility for pedestrians through the introduction of shared surface arrangements and by increasing footpath widths where possible. It will result in the rejuvenation of the Town Centre, making it more attractive. This event will be held on Thursday 31st March at the Civic Room, Buttermarket Building, Clare County Council, Drumbiggle Road. You can attend anytime between 5.30pm and 8.00pm. <https://www.clarecoco.ie/your-council/news/ennis-public-realm-regeneration-public-information-evening.html>



CLARE CULTURAL COMPANIONS

Cultural Companions is an Age & Opportunity initiative comprising a network of older people interested in arts and culture who attend events together as a group. All members receive a calendar of events, posted out by Clare County Council, and independently book and pay for those events they wish to attend. The members can meet up at an allocated time prior to events and attend together, usually with a social get together built in. There is an emphasis on peer support, independence and choice, and members are part of a larger network. Find out more and apply to join by contacting Helen Moloney at clarecoco.ie or calling 065 6846240 or at this page: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/culturalcompanions>



FAIR SEAS CAMPAIGN

Fair Seas is a new campaign from the Irish Environmental Network (IEN) to protect, conserve and restore Ireland's oceans. Fair Seas seeks to build a movement of ocean stewardship across the island of Ireland. The aim is to see Ireland, with a renewed appreciation of the ocean, become a world leader in marine protection, giving our species, habitats and coastal communities the opportunity to thrive. The campaign is calling for greater Marine Protected Areas that will benefit both people and planet. You can follow the campaign on social media and read more at: <https://www.fairseas.ie>



COLLABORATE WITH MOUNTSHANNON ARTS

Preparations are in full swing for Mountshannon Arts Festival, starting on 27th May. You can contribute to an art installation to celebrate the local community. They are asking everyone for an unwanted item that embodies their unique perspective of Mountshannon. (The pieces donated are non-returnable) Examples might include old photo frames, crockery, Irish dancing medals, a sock. Donation boxes are at the Iniscealtra NS and The Snug until 4th April. And you can join CocoNut (Mel & Gilly) on 4th and 5th of June to build the installation: <https://www.mountshannonarts.ie>



'HOP TO IT' NATIONAL FROG SURVEY

It's that time of year when frogspawn appear. Ireland has only one native frog species, the Common frog, 'Rana temporaria'. It is listed as an internationally important species and is protected under the Habitats Directive and the Irish Wildlife Act. Irish Peatland Conservation Council's 'Hop To It' survey helps to map the distribution and habitat preferences of the Common Frog. If you spot frogs at any stage of their life-cycle, please fill in this short survey: <http://www.jpcc.ie/help-jpcc/hop-to-it-national-frog-survey-irelandcard/>



TOWN CENTRE FIRST POLICY DOCUMENT

The Town Centre First policy aims to create town centres that function as viable, vibrant and attractive locations for people to live, work and visit, while also functioning as the service, social, cultural and recreational hub for the local community. The policy sets out a range of actions centred around improving our knowledge and understanding of our towns and what they need, building new structures at national and local level, and ensuring that funds are co-ordinated and targeted towards the implementation of Town Centre First in each town. You can read the policy document here: https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/215052_3402995b-3045-4e7a-b639-12ca21a02611.pdf

CONSULTATIONS



ENHANCEMENT OF SCARIFF MARKET SQUARE

Deadline 4th April: Last year, an initial public consultation was held to capture the local community's thoughts and ideas on enhancement of Scariff Market Square and, following review of this feedback, several design proposals were developed, four of which were selected by the town teams for public consultation. You can download a PDF of these design proposals from the survey link below, where you can also give your views. The presentation boards are also displayed at Market House, open from 11am to 3pm weekdays, until the 4th April. Take the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Scariff/>



BALLAGHAFADDA AMENITY AND RECREATION PLAN

Deadline 5th April: The Draft Ballaghafadda Amenity and Recreation Plan sets out a vision to enhance the site's natural beauty, enrich its ecological value and encourage engagement with the landscape, lough & its surroundings. Submissions can be made before 5pm on 5th April: <https://yoursay.clarecoco.ie/ballaghafadda-amenity-and-recreation-plan>



DRAFT RIVER BASIN MANAGEMENT PLAN

Deadline 31st March: Last chance to have your say on Ireland's Draft River Basin Management Plan. Good water quality sustains jobs in urban and rural communities and the Government is seeking your views on Irish water quality. Have your say by March 31st at: <http://gov.ie/draftRBMP>