

NEWSLETTER MAY 2022



Pic: William Hederman

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our May newsletter.

It's been quite exciting to compile this month's newsletter, not just because summer is arriving, but also because we are struck that more and more events are now back in the "real world". As many of us can meet face-to-face again and rediscover the importance of gathering together, it allows us to re-imagine how our communities can be vibrant places to live that bring about positive change and are prepared for future challenges.

We also have lots of environmental news, funding opportunities and more. 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

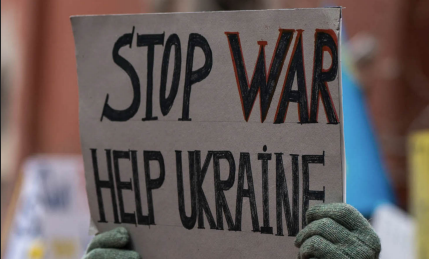
Clare PPN
Clonroad Business Park
Ennis, Co. Clare
V95 N62T
Mobile: 087 1617375



SUPPORTING THOSE ARRIVING FROM UKRAINE

Clare County Council has launched a page dedicated to providing information on various supports for Ukrainians in County Clare. A Ukrainian language version is on the way very soon.

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/ukraine/>



An online platform for businesses to pledge offers of supplies and services to help Ireland's humanitarian response to the Ukraine crisis has been set up by the government. An online form will capture business offers to supply or donate goods or services into a central register to help with the humanitarian effort. Please note, this register is intended for business offers only.

<https://offersofsupport.gov.ie/offers/new>

Members of the public living in Ireland who wish to make a donation/ offer accommodation or other services to help Ukrainians can find out how to do so here:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/47c1f1-how-people-can-help/>

You may also be interested to read a statement issued recently by Clare PPN welcoming the response in Ireland to the arrival of those fleeing the horrors of war in Ukraine, and also calling for the same measures to be extended to all refugees and the 7,000 people living in Direct Provision. Rather than allowing a two-tier system for those fleeing war and persecution to emerge, the response to this crisis should be an opportunity to improve the situation for all. You can read Clare PPN's full statement here: <https://clareppn.ie/ukraine-solidarity>



ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY – SHANNON FOCUS GROUP

16th June: As part of our research towards the creation of a Five-year Anti-Poverty Strategy for Clare, we have been holding focus group sessions, and our next one is in Shannon on Thursday 16th June, from 2pm-4pm. Have you, or anyone you know, experienced poverty while living in Co. Clare? We'd like to hear from you about your experience of accessing services and supports and what additional services and supports you think are needed. If you would like to take part, please email newsletter@clareppn.ie or call 087 286 1238.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY CENTRES INVESTMENT FUND

Deadline 14th July: The new €15 million Community Centres Investment Fund will provide grants of between €10,000 and €300,000 towards capital costs. There will be a two-stage application process with applicants asked to register their organisation as 'users' in advance of the formal application process going live. The closing date for applications will be 14th July. The Department of Rural and Community Development will host a further online information event on 1st June from 2.30pm to 4pm and applicants must register to attend this event. Guidelines and a sample application form are now available at

<https://www.gov.ie/communitycentresfund>



IMPACT FOR MUNSTER FUND

Deadline 14th June: Rethink Ireland are thrilled to announce the launch of their Impact for Munster Fund. This €750,000 Fund aims to support not-for-profit organisations working to enhance the physical and mental health of communities across Munster. Up to 10 awardees will receive a package of supports, including: a cash grant of up to €65,000; a place on Rethink Ireland's capacity building Programme; and one-to-one mentoring support. Applications are invited from projects whose main beneficiaries are disadvantaged or marginalised communities such as Travellers, migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers, Roma people, other ethnic minorities, young adults and teenagers, the elderly and those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. The deadline is 14th June and you can find more info here: https://rethinkireland.ie/current_fund/impact-fund-for-munster-2022/



COMMUNITY SAFETY INNOVATION FUND

Deadline 8th June: Minister for Justice Helen McEntee has announced the launch of the Community Safety Innovation Fund (CSIF) funding call, with €2 million available to support the development of community safety through innovative, local, community-based initiatives. The CSIF aims to allow proceeds of crime to be directed into community projects to support community safety. Activities could include: tackling crime or reducing the fear of crime; improving community safety; supporting the creation of safe and resilient communities; reducing reoffending; diverting vulnerable individuals away from engagement in criminal behaviour. For more information, please visit: <https://www.justice.ie/en/ELB/Pages/CSI-Fund-2022>

NEWS / EVENTS ...



NCP MIGRANT NATIONAL FORUM

26th May: Sorry for the short notice on this one! You are invited to NCP Migrant National Forum's online launch this evening, Thursday 26th May, from 6pm-8pm. The main aim of the event is to create a platform where migrant communities, community workers and service providers can assess their needs in the area they live, as well as discuss barriers which hinder social inclusion, integration, and engagement with Local Authorities. NCP has undertaken consultations to organise local migrants support groups with a view to set up regional committees which will then select their regional representatives to sit on NCP Migrant National Forum. All welcome to join the discussion on Zoom. Register here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82637156692%23success>



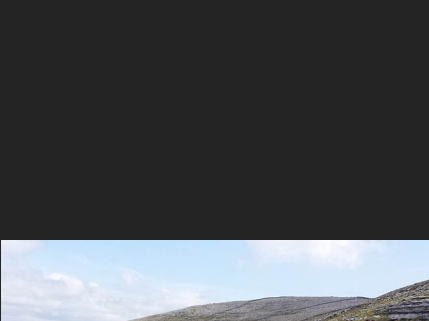
SHE – GETTING MORE WOMEN INTO POLITICS

We were delighted and proud to see lifelong activists and Clare PPN Reps Theresa O'Donoghue and Ann Marie Flanagan speaking about women's representation in politics and decision-making at a recent event at Glór in Ennis. Also speaking on the day were Bridgie Casey of the new Clare Traveller Community Development Project, for which Clare PPN is part of the steering group, and Elaine D'Allon of Women's Collective Clare. The event, 'Promoting Gender Equality & Diversity in Local Government', was hosted by SHE (See Her Elected), an award-winning Government funded project which aims to encourage women from rural areas to engage in local politics, and was covered in the Examiner newspaper: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/ariid-40875380.html>



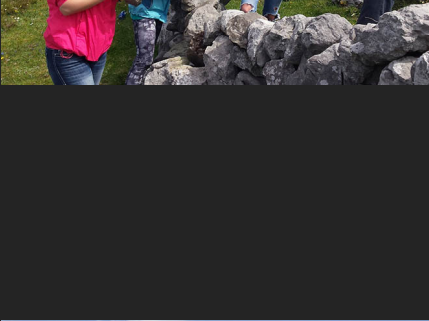
KNOW YOUR LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS

1st June: How can we deal with local environmental concerns, such as water/air/noise pollution, or illegal dumping? How can we have our say in the planning process and in environmental decision-making in Ireland? Join Community Law and Mediation on Wednesday 1st June from 9.30-10.30am for a webinar: 'Know Your Environmental Rights - at the Local Level'. Their line-up of expert speakers includes Michael Kinsley, BL; Phoebe Duval, Planning Officer with An Taisce. Register at this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ekw2HF9TbuWR0zAzOBBA



LEARNING LANDSCAPE SYMPOSIUM

17th-19th June: Burrenbeo Trust will host the 11th annual Learning Landscape Symposium from 17th to 19th June, in Kinvara, Co. Galway and outdoors in the Burren. It will bring together leading change-makers and educators on the theme of From Learning to Action. It's open to anyone with an interest in communicating natural, built, or cultural heritage and sustainability to their audiences and inspiring action. More information can be found on: <https://burrenbeo.com/lls/>



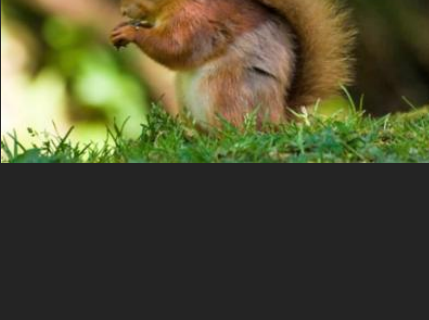
ELEMENTS OF CHANGE FESTIVAL

25th-26th June: Exciting news as the Elements of Change Festival, hosted by Cultivate at Cloughjordan Ecovillage in Tipperary, is finally back in the field this year. It's a community-led, family-friendly sustainability festival celebrating culture, creativity and climate action. Be part of discussions, offer a workshop in Open Space Slots, bring instruments, talents, get involved in meitheals, host your own conversation cafes, mingle in the diversity of the festival and then share your insights. Weekend tickets are €50, but €35 early bird tickets are available until this Friday, 27th May. Find out more at: <http://cultivate.ie/community-resilience/1330-elements-of-change-festival-2022>



IRISH WILDLIFE TRUST CLARE BRANCH?

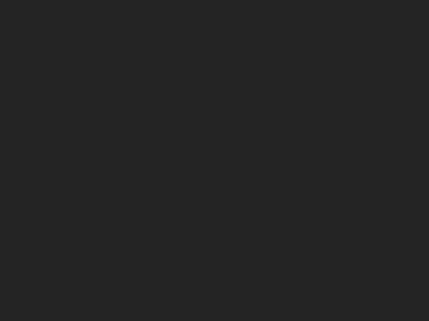
Are you passionate about nature? Would you like to get involved in setting up and running a Clare branch of the Irish Wildlife Trust? The IWT is keen to see a branch formed in Clare and is seeking people with an interest. If you would like to find out more about this, contact Samantha Morrissey by emailing giveinok@gmail.com or calling 086 3719248. To find out more about the Irish Wildlife Trust and its work, visit their website: <https://iwt.ie>



AGE FRIENDLY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

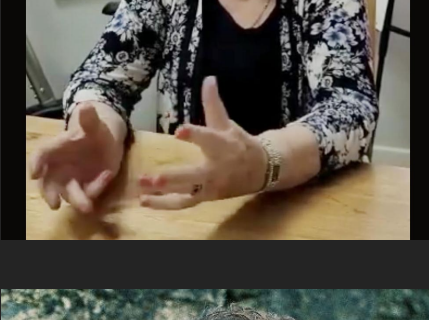
Deadline 30th June: The National Age Friendly Recognition and Achievement Awards are back with the first live awards event since 2019. Each year a local authority hosts the awards and we are delighted that Clare County Council are hosting the National Awards event for 2022 on 27th October in Dromoland Castle. The primary aim of these awards is to recognise and reward achievement in age friendly initiatives. Organisations, members of the public, agencies and communities can submit applications on age friendly projects or programmes, especially those that have supported older people through the pandemic. The application form is here: <https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/LDTVSL3>

For more information please visit: <https://agefriendlyireland.ie/agefriendlyawards2022/>



VIDEO: LET'S DISCUSS LONELINESS

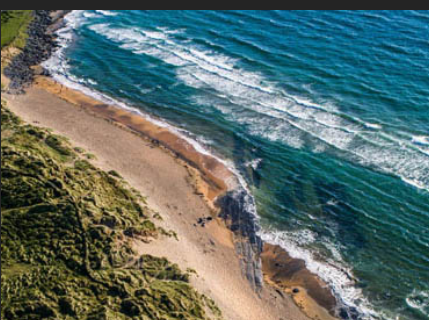
ClareCare put together a lovely short film highlighting the effect of loneliness on mental health. As a contribution to Mental Health Awareness Week earlier in May – for which this year's theme was 'Loneliness' – ClareCare made the video with some of its clients from the Over-65s Club in Ennis. Let's reduce the stigma and raise awareness. Let's talk about it because together we can tackle loneliness. <https://fb.watch/dQX6QXSeXf/>



DEMENTIA AND STORYTELLING

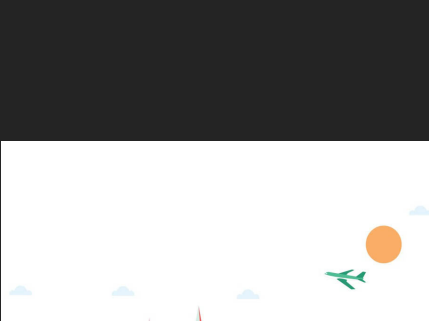
Lahinch-based author and campaigner Ruairi McKernan was guest speaker at a recent event, 'Dementia: Understand Together Community Champions', attended by champions from seven counties. A recording of the event is available. Ruairi spoke about the importance of story-telling and how our stories and actions can inspire others to get involved, join the movement and take actions themselves. They also let people in the communities know we are working to make them inclusive. The recording and event videos are here: <https://www.understandtogether.ie/training-resources/helpful-resources/understand-together-resources/videos/community-champions-get-together-may-2022.html>

CONSULTATIONS



IDENTIFICATION OF BATHING WATERS

Deadline 9th June: Local authorities must identify official bathing areas in their area every year so 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 or change official bathing area designations to popular swimming spots. If you are a regular swimmer and you wish to propose your favourite beach/river etc as a new bathing water site or comment on an existing site please contact enviroff@clarecoco.ie. The closing date for submissions is 9th June. Read more at this page: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/news/news-statement-nyctwshgtrstrow1/public-participation-identification-of-bathing-waters.html>



LIMERICK SHANNON TRANSPORT STRATEGY

Deadline 10th June: The National Transport Authority invites written submissions or observations on the Revised Draft Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (LSMATS). The draft LSMATS sets out a framework for investment in transport for the Limerick Shannon Metropolitan Area for the next 20 years and includes proposals for the significant development of the cycle network and enhancement of bus services and infrastructure. Read more here and find out how to make a submission: <https://www.nationaltransport.ie/consultations/publication-of-the-revised-draft-limerick-shannon-metropolitan-area-transport-strategy/>