

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2022

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our November newsletter.

As community and voluntary organisations deal with rising energy bills, we have news of two separate government funding schemes to help community groups to pay their bills. We also have details of a series of energy workshops over the coming months that aim to help support communities and homeowners with winter energy efficiency tips.

Our Member Group Spotlight this month is on Futureproof Clare, a group of volunteers campaigning on environmental issues locally, nationally and globally. They have several ongoing campaigns around the Shannon Estuary and they welcome new members from all walks of life. If you'd like to see your organisation featured – or to have 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 PLENARIES: ONLINE & IN-PERSON

8th December: Clare PPN warmly invites all member groups to attend one of our final plenary meetings of the year, which will take place on 8th December. We'll hold a Zoom meeting at 2pm and an in-person plenary in Ennis at 7pm (venue to be confirmed). To reserve a space at either meeting please click on the link below. Plenary meetings are the main decision-making forums for Clare PPN. At these meetings all member groups are invited to attend and to put items forward for the agenda or for inclusion in our work plan. The staff and secretariat give an update on Clare PPN's work, finances and activities and present a work plan for discussion. Register here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RX63Y2V>

Any member group can propose agenda items on or before 1st December, by emailing us at admin@clareppn.ie with the subject line: "Agenda Item Plenary Meeting". You can also submit a motion by the same date, by emailing admin@clareppn.ie with the wording of the motion and outlining why you would like to see it passed.

MEMBER GROUP SPOTLIGHT: FUTUREPROOF CLARE

Are you concerned about local environmental issues? Futureproof Clare is a group of volunteers based in Clare and beyond, concerned about environmental issues, locally, nationally and globally. They engage with media; host public meetings, press conferences and events; organise protests and direct actions; and make submissions on environmental issues. They have several ongoing campaigns in Clare and the Shannon Estuary:

- They're taking **Aughinish Alumina to court**. They want to prevent the expansion of this Russian-owned facility which has been polluting the estuary and surrounding areas for years. You can find out more and [donate to the legal fund](#) here.
- They have campaigned against Ennis Data Centre and will host another public meeting soon.
- Tulla/ Clare/ Ireland anti-mining campaign, fighting the prospecting licences being granted throughout the country.
- They opposed a **fracked gas** terminal on the Shannon Estuary for four years – it still has not got the go-ahead.
- They're embarking on a journey committed to the **Rights of Nature** campaign.

They believe everyone has something to contribute and welcome new members from all walks of life. Get in touch by emailing futureproofclare@gmail.com, visit their website: www.futureproofclare.ie or find them on social media.



GREATER ROLE FOR COMMUNITY IN POLICING?

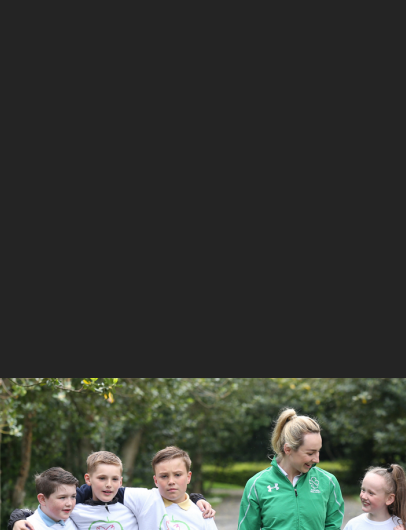
Local communities in Clare are set to have a greater role in community safety and policing, thanks to a new government initiative that will replace the Joint Policing Committee. However, it is vital that the Local Community Safety Partnership (LCSP) has genuine community involvement, as set out in the government's proposal. The LCSP – a proposed partnership between local community representatives and State agencies to identify and tackle community safety issues – has the potential to bring greater democracy to community policing and to be a powerful tool for communities. Clare PPN plans to hold a public meeting early in the new year – date yet to be confirmed – to provide information about, and discuss, the proposed partnership and how it might work in Clare. In the meantime, you can read more about the LCSP in this article on our website: <https://clareppn.ie/lcsp/>



NATIONAL PPN CONFERENCE

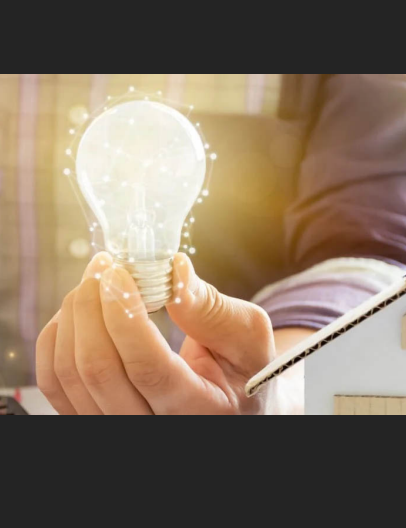
In October, Laois PPN in collaboration with Laois County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development, welcomed hundreds of delegates from all 31 PPNs, representing 18,000 groups nationally for a two-day National PPN Conference in Co Laois. The event was a big success and a great opportunity for networking and catching up. You can download a report on the conference here: <https://www.laoisppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/AQIS-PPN-NATIONAL-CONFERENCE-REPORT-2022-8.pdf>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



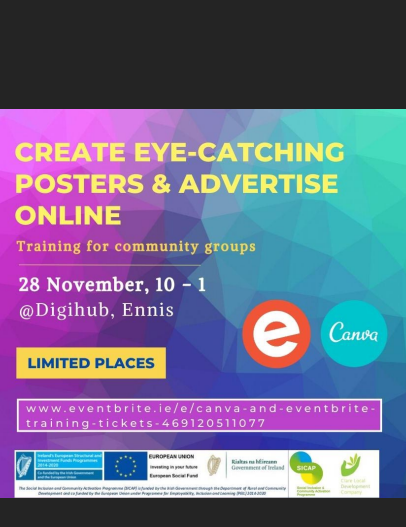
COMMUNITY SUPPORT FUND

A new €10 million fund has been announced to support thousands of local community & voluntary groups with their energy bills, with €301,925 allocated to Co Clare. The Community Support Fund will provide small grants to a wide and diverse range of local community groups to assist with their running costs. Funding will be available to support parish halls, community centres, local development associations, social clubs, ICA groups, senior citizen groups, men's sheds, women's sheds and much more. The new scheme has been devised to support groups with their energy costs who may not have been deemed eligible under previous Government schemes. Groups can also use the funding to carry out small upgrade works and to purchase equipment. The once-off fund will be allocated under the Department's Community Enhancement Programme and will be administered locally by the Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs). Groups in Clare should contact Clare LCDC for further details of the fund: 065-6821616



ENERGY SUPPORT SCHEME

Deadline 2nd December: Announced in Budget 2023, the Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESSE) provides for a once-off payment to incorporated organisations and registered charities within the community and voluntary sector for their energy costs for 2022. An allocation of up to €10 million is being made available to deliver this scheme, which will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development. Groups are advised to check their eligibility via the link below. All relevant information is here: <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/community-and-voluntary-sector-energy-support-scheme/>



THATCHED ROOFS AND SHOPFRONTS

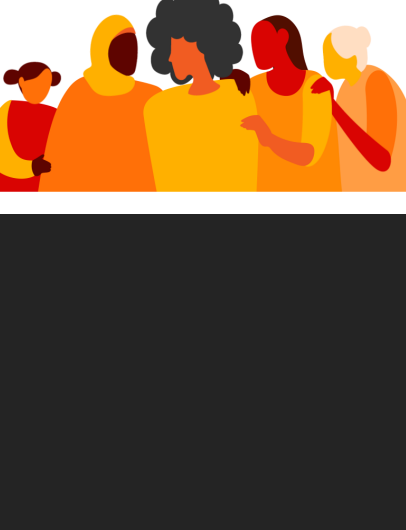
Deadline 31st January: Applications are now open for the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and the Historic Structures Fund (HSF), which will benefit owners and custodians of protected structures, including shopfronts. The funding targets traditional structures and shopfronts in the Irish language. It is hoped the schemes will assist hundreds of small-scale, labour-intensive projects as well as larger-scale projects to repair and conserve our historic built environment. Applications must be made to Clare County Council, by a deadline to be set by the Council, which will be no later than 31st January. The Council is expected to announce details soon, and in the meantime you can read more information here: <https://www.mirrormaker.ie/news/national-news/96813/thatched-roofs-and-shopfronts-to-benefit-from-9m-in-built-heritage-funding.html>



DISADVANTAGED CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

Deadline 24th November: Applegreen, in partnership with the Irish Youth Foundation, is providing €100,000 to fund not-for-profit voluntary and charitable organisations supporting children and young people experiencing disadvantage nationwide. The Applegreen Blossom Fund will offer grants of up to €10,000 to projects and programmes that support successful transitions through education for children and young people at risk of early school leaving. Registered organisations working with children and young people in the Republic of Ireland aged 6-18 years are eligible. For more information please visit: <https://yif.ie/applegreen-blossom-fund/>.

NEWS / EVENTS ...



SEAI WINTER WORKSHOP SERIES

A series of energy workshops hosted by SEAI over the coming months aims to help support communities and homeowners through winter energy efficiency tips to reduce bills, and tips on keeping well and warm. The workshops will run online across winter into spring 2023. Remaining workshops in the series:

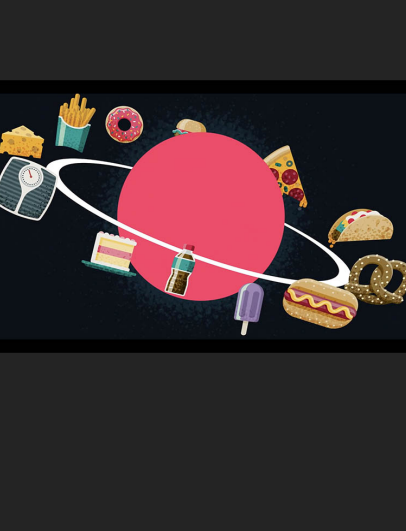
Energy Saving Lightbulbs | 28th November
Manage Your Energy Use | 8th December
Building Energy Ratings (BER) | 12th January
Insulation and Ventilation | 9th February
A Guide to Heat Pumps | 9th March
Solar Electricity: PV for Homeowners | 23rd/30th March
Sustainable Transport | 20th April
Community Energy Generation | 27th April

Find out more and register here: <https://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com/Event/seai-winter-workshop-series>



CANVA & EVENTBRITE TRAINING

28th November: This in-person training event in Ennis will show you how to create eye-catching designs for posters, Eventbrite, Instagram and Facebook that will help you promote your events online and offline. This three-hour session hosted by CLDC will also show you how to create an Eventbrite organiser's profile and introduce you to organising events with online registration. To benefit most from this course you should be familiar with email and using the Internet. Attendees will need to bring a laptop to the training with the ability to connect to the Internet. Places are limited – you can register here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/canva-and-eventbrite-training-tickets-468120511077>



BURIENBEO HERITAGE KEEPERS

Deadline 30th November: 'Heritage Keepers' has incorporated its resolve to do more to educate, lead and take part in projects in its community, said a community group member. This free programme enables schools, youth groups or communities to work together to explore the built, natural and cultural heritage of their local place and then plan an action or actions to enhance their place. In-person, online and blended learning options are available. Last year 20 schools and communities took part, with most going on to complete a local project or actions, including pond building, local heritage trails, signage for biodiversity, oral history projects and local heritage booklets. You can submit an 'Expression of Interest' for five two-hour workshops in spring 2023. Have fun, learn something new, make a difference. More info here: <https://burienbeo.com/hk>



ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE MANUAL LAUNCH

28th November: The Manual of Environmental Justice is a digital toolkit that aims to resource and connect organisations and communities across the island of Ireland on intersectional environmental issues. It will be launched via Zoom on Tuesday 28th November, from 11am-12pm. The Manual has been developed as a result of a comprehensive needs assessment which found that 78% of respondents cited 'lack of accessibility to expertise and/or information' as a main obstacle to carrying out their work. This assessment helped inform the design of the manual but also gave us insights into the broader needs of NGOs, activists, academics and broader civil society engaged in environmental and social justice advocacy. Register here: <https://environmentaljusticemanual.eventbrite.com>



WEBINAR: UN DAY OPPOSING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

25th November: It's time to talk about pornography and violence against women, including image-based sexual abuse. This free webinar to mark UN Day Opposing Violence Against Women will take place from 11am to 1pm on Friday, 25th November. Speakers include: Minister for Justice, Helen McEntee; Richard Hogan, family psychotherapist and author of 'Parenting the Screenager'; Dr Gail Dines, founder & president of Culture Reframed; Sarah Benson, chief executive of Women's Aid; Prof Clare McGlynn of Durham University; Alexandra Ryan, Founder and CEO of Goss.ie. The event will be chaired by Ailbhe Smyth, chairperson of Women's Aid. Register here: https://us06web.zoom.us/join/register?wn_wf_b6biq3a2nlp3Lwvx6g



COMMUNITY-LED CLIMATE ACTION – PPN SPEAKERS AT OIREACHTAS COMMITTEE

Representatives of three PPNs testified before an Oireachtas Committee this month on the Irish experience of community-led climate action and opportunities for its enhancement. Clare PPN co-ordinator Sarah Clancy was representing the Resource Workers Network of the PPNs across Ireland, while Charles Stanley-Smith and Cliona Keilher spoke on behalf of Tipperary PPN and Kildare PPN respectively. You can read the opening statement on behalf of the PPN Resource Workers Network here: <https://clareppn.ie/opening-statement-for-the-joint-committee-on-the-environment-and-climate-action/>

And here you can watch a video of the (three-hour) Committee session: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/oireachtas-tv/video-archive/committees/6721>

CLARE PPN SUBMISSIONS ON BIODIVERSITY

Biodiversity loss poses a huge threat to future of life on earth. Communities can play an important role in protecting biodiversity. This month Clare PPN's Environmental College made submissions as part of two separate consultations on biodiversity, one to the Citizen's Assembly on Biodiversity Loss, the other on the 4th National Biodiversity Action Plan. You can find both of them here: <https://clareppn.ie/biodiversity-nov2022/>

OVEREATERS ANONYMOUS

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) is a 12-step programme similar to that of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA), but for those struggling with food-related issues such as compulsive overeating, under-eating, purging, over-exercising or using other excessive means to control one's weight. OA has been in Ireland for many decades. There are face-to-face OA meetings around the country, as well as many online meetings. There are also many international meetings available online via zoom. There are no dues or fees for OA membership – they are self-supporting through members' voluntary contributions. Find out more at their website: <https://www.overeatersanonymous.ie/>

CONSULTATIONS

TOURISM SURVEY FOR CLARE RESIDENTS

Deadline 21st December: A new countywide survey has been launched to inform the local tourism sector as it pursues a strategy developing Clare as a globally recognised tourism destination. The resident survey is one of a number of measures that Clare County Council, the Burien and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark, Visit Clare, and the Clare Tourism Advisory Forum are implementing to measure and monitor tourism impacts on Clare's economy, communities, heritage and environment. Visitors to the county were surveyed this summer and tourism businesses will be surveyed early next year. The survey can be accessed at this link: <https://app.smartsheet.com.au/form/a64461d5f17444caa5efdf20d062ad51f>

SIXMILEBRIDGE – YOUR TOWN YOUR PLAN

Deadline 12th December: Six Milebridge has been chosen as a key town under the first phase of the National Town Centre First initiative, which means a vision and plan will be developed to revitalise the town centre. Your feedback is welcome on how you think Six Milebridge can be improved as an attractive and vibrant place to live, work and spend time. Your views will help shape the vision and strategy of the masterplan. You can complete a survey at the link below, or you can make submissions and observations, up until 5pm on Monday 12th December: <https://you.say.clarecoco.ie/sixmilebridge-td/>