

NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2023



Dear Clare PPN member,

September is here and there is lots happening around the Banner and just beyond its borders. Clare Pride 2023 kicks off on Monday, with a packed week of events leading up to a Pride march on Saturday 23rd September and a big bash at Glor that evening. In the week after that Clare PPN will co-host a free afternoon of workshops and networking for volunteers, community groups and activists. Read on for news of those and of a couple of nature and crafts events in the Gort area – coincidentally where the dragonfly in our image above was spotted.

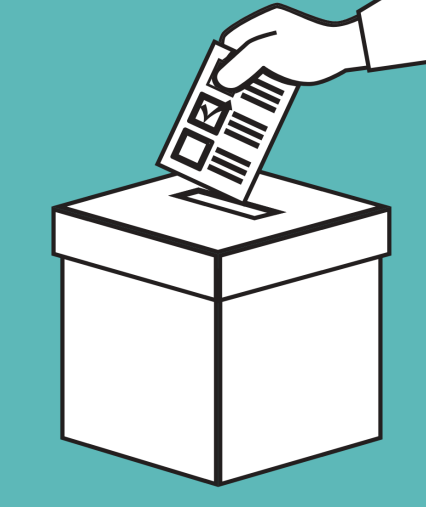
As well as lots of funding news, important consultations have opened on the Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040, and – nationally – on a proposal to allow private companies to build their own power lines, separately from the national grid. Scroll down to our Public Consultations section for details.

Please share this newsletter with the members of your group and 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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COMING NEXT WEEK – CLARE PPN ELECTIONS

Keep an eye on your email inbox – and on our social media – this coming Monday for your chance to become a Clare PPN representative. We will be announcing elections, with roles for Community & Voluntary, Social Inclusion and Environmental representatives across various committees on Clare County Council. Becoming a PPN rep is a great way to contribute to community building.



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES IN CLARE

29th September: Clare PPN is delighted to be involved in hosting this free afternoon of networking and workshops for volunteers, activists, community leaders, charity trustees and members of community groups. After a tumultuous few years that have led to burn-out for some, it's time to rebuild, celebrate our successes to date and to share our suggestions for the future of Clare communities. We are working with Clare Local Development Company and Clare Volunteer Centre to bring you this event.

Why should you come? To be inspired, revitalised, and connected; for practical skills around collaboration, participation, advocacy, communication, inclusion, resilience building, telling your story and more; to meet other people making a difference in the community; to meet the agencies and networks that can give you support; and of course for the craic, the chats and free snacks. It takes place in the Templegate Hotel in Ennis on Friday, 29th September from 3pm to 6pm but places are limited so please reserve a FREE ticket at:
<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/connecting-communities-tickets-708310385457>



CLARE PRIDE 2023

18-24th September: Clare Pride 2023 promises to be even bigger and better than last year's festival, with Quare Clare organising a week's worth of events and activities kicking off on Monday and leading up to the main Pride Celebration on the evening of September 23rd at Glor in Ennis. Events include a queer poetry slam, table quiz, film screening, Pride march, drag night, family day and more. Quare Clare invites members of the LGBTQIA+ community, their families, friends and allies to join them in celebrating diversity, inclusivity, and equality. It's an opportunity to show our support for one another, to celebrate our differences and to continue to work towards a more accepting and inclusive society. You can see the packed schedule and book tickets at Quare Clare's excellent website:
<https://quareclare.ie/clare-pride-2023/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION PROGRAMME

Clare County Council now has a dedicated Climate Action team and they have asked us to flag a new funding stream, with more than €500,000 available for community groups in Clare. The scheme is called the Community Climate Action Programme, and will be formally announced by the Government in the coming weeks. Once announced, groups will have eight weeks to make an Expression of Interest to Clare County Council. The Programme's objective is to support and empower communities to shape and build low-carbon, sustainable communities in a coherent way to contribute to national climate and energy targets. If this is something your organisation might be interested in applying for, feel free to contact the Climate Section on (065) 684 6132 or by emailing communityclimate@clarecoco.ie, and keep an eye out for the programme launch to be announced.



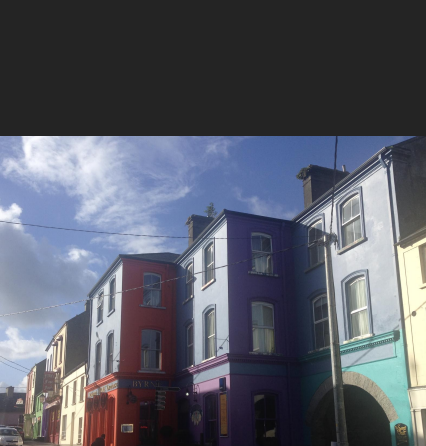
BIODIVERSITY FUND

Deadline 13th October: This fund from Community Foundation Ireland aims to breathe new life into common and public areas which were often going to waste and becoming devoid of life. Vibrant green areas, riverbanks, parklands and forests not only help many of our plants, insects and animals they also benefit people of all ages. As usual, this year's Biodiversity Fund has two strands:
1. Funding to work with an Ecologist to draw up a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for your targeted area.
2. Funding (up to €6,000) to implement recommendations contained in an existing CBAP.
To qualify for the second strand, you must have already sent your CBAP to CFI and the National Biodiversity Data Centre. Groups can only apply to one strand. For more information, visit this page and scroll down:
<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/apply-for-funding/>.



RISE COMMUNITY FUND

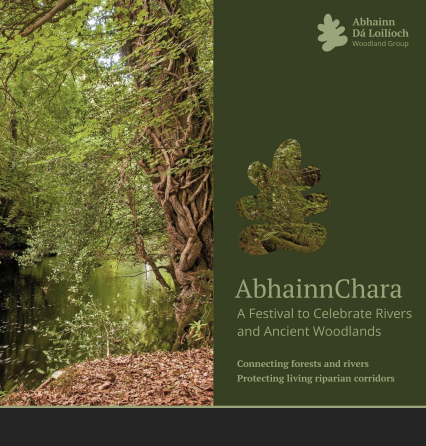
Deadline 30th September: The RISE Community Fund has announced that applications for its grants to small businesses, farms, community groups and social enterprises are open throughout September in Clare. Supported by National Broadband Ireland (NBI) and Granahan McCourt, RISE is awarding up to five grants of €1,000 to local communities seeking to boost their digital ecosystems. Small businesses, farms, community groups and social enterprises with plans to use technology to scale their operations and bring tangible benefits to their local communities are encouraged to visit the following link for entry forms and guidelines.
www.riseglobalfoundation.com



TOWN AND VILLAGE RENEWAL SCHEME

Deadline 6th October: A reminder about the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, which supports small to medium capital projects which enhance the environment of town or village centres. Grant funding for projects will range from €20,000 to €300,000. You can submit an expression of interest to Clare County Council until 4pm on Friday, 6th October. Email to: townandvillage@clarecoco.ie. Read more here:
<https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/townandvillagerenewal/>

NEWS / EVENTS ...



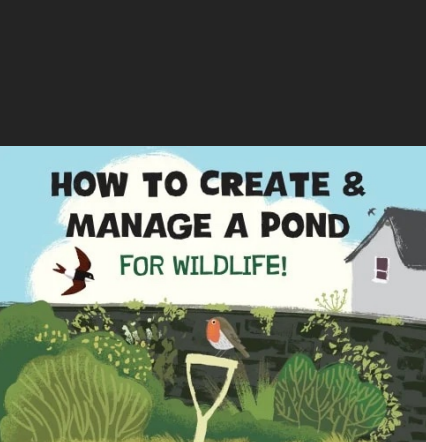
ABHAINN-CHARA: RIVERS & WOODLANDS FESTIVAL

15th September: It's short notice (starts this evening!) but this three-day festival in the Gort area looks like a wonderful event. Join the Abhainn Dá Lioich Woodland Group (native woodland and river valley) for this Festival to Celebrate Rivers and Ancient Woodlands – Nurturing Living Riparian Corridors. Lots of talks, walks, family picnic, ceol and community fun. Includes some great speakers, music, poetry and picnics in the woods, a photography competition and a full-day offer workshop! You can email adhwoodlandgroup@gmail.com or call 087 2031764 or check out the programme here:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/981751806277380/>



WEEKEND IN THE HILLS

23rd-24th September: Anyone who has been on this event in the lovely Slieve Aughty Mountains near Loughrea will recommend it. It's a weekend of craft learning and community building at the Slieve Aughty Centre. You can learn a new skill – or improve on an existing one, with a fascinating range of traditional crafts: Mixed Metal and Silver Jewellery, Longbow Making, Glass Bead Making, Herblore, Bushcraft Survival for adults, Woodcarving, Willow Weaving, Sheepskin Tanning, Sùgán Chair Making, Bowl turning on a Foot Powered Lathe, Leather Work. A range of accommodation is available, from en suite rooms to bring-your-own-tent, and delicious organic food is served. Find out more and book a place:
<https://www.celticnet.org/weekend-in-the-hills>



HOW TO CREATE A POND FOR WILDLIFE

We came across a lovely poster/pamphlet that shows you how to create and manage a pond for wildlife. Ponds are great for biodiversity and make a lovely addition to any garden. Published by An Taisce's Legacy4LIFE Ponds for Biodiversity team, the pamphlet contains four A4 pages on the importance of ponds for wildlife and exploring the weird and wonderful plants and animals that call ponds their home. The pamphlet folds out into an A2 poster lovingly illustrated by talented children's book illustrator Brian Fitzgerald. It is one of two posters about ponds you will find for download at this page: www.antaisce.org/ponds



WORLD MENTAL HEALTH MONTH

October is World Mental Health Month, this year's theme is 'Mental Health is a Universal Human Right', and October 10th marks World Mental Health Day. Mental Health Ireland have created a suite of resources and events for people to get involved. Visit their website to find out about ways you or your group can get involved, including in-person events, a toolkit for people to host a Connect Cafe, and a range of free downloadable resources. We can all play a role in increasing our awareness of mental health, to have open conversations about mental health and in reducing the stigma attached. There will be information sessions about hosting a Connect Cafe on September 18th, 20th, 26th and 28th. More info here:
<https://worldmentalhealthmonth-mhi.ie>

CONSULTATIONS



'PRIVATE WIRES'

Deadline 13th October: 'Private Wires' is a proposal to allow private companies to build their own power lines connecting them to electricity generation such as wind farms – effectively a private electricity grid. This would mark a major shift in policy – since the foundation of the state, only the ESB has been permitted to build power lines. The consultation document prepared by the Dept of Environment, Climate and Communications warns that Private Wires are likely to lead to increased energy consumption by 'Extra Large Energy Users' such as data centres and thus increased carbon emissions; could result in higher electricity bills for ordinary customers; and could impact on the security of supply and on future national grid development. Read more and find out how to make a submission here:
<https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/63e1c-private-wires-consultation/>



CLIFFS OF MOHER STRATEGY 2040

The Preliminary Draft Cliffs of Moher Strategy 2040 has been published online. See link below. It provides a long-term vision for the sustainable development of the world-class visitor attraction over the next 20 years, while also aiming to extend economic benefits across the wider region. The documents also have been made available for public viewing at the West Clare Municipal District office in Ennistymon, and at library branches in Ennistymon, Lisdoonvarna, Corofin and Miltown Malbay. A public information evening offering members of the community the opportunity to hear directly from key personnel involved in the development of the strategy will be held at the Falls Hotel in Ennistymon on Wednesday, 20th September at 6.30pm.
<https://www.cliffscliffmoher.ie/about-the-cliffs-of-moher-cliffs-of-moher-2040-strategy/>



IRISH PEATLAND RESEARCH

The Peat Hub Ireland project has created a survey and invites anyone with an interest in Ireland's peatlands to complete it. The survey aims to collect the insights and experiences of a wide range of people, including the public and private sectors, NGOs and farming and community organisations across civil society. Sustainable peatland management provides multiple benefits for people and peatlands. Peat Hub Ireland is a 1-year project funded by the EPA and Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, which aims to collate and summarise evidence for the sustainable management of Irish peatlands. Take the survey here:
<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/NDBFB9W>



GET IRELAND CYCLING

Here's a short survey about cycling – and there's a prize draw! Cycling Ireland is promoting the Get Ireland Cycling (GIC) initiative to get more people into cycling. They want to hear from as many people as possible to help picture cycling at the moment and how to get more people onto bikes. Endorsed by Sport Ireland and Healthy Ireland, they are researching Local Sports Partnerships, schools, cycling clubs and the wider community. You can help by completing this Community Survey.
<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GetIrelandCycling-Community>