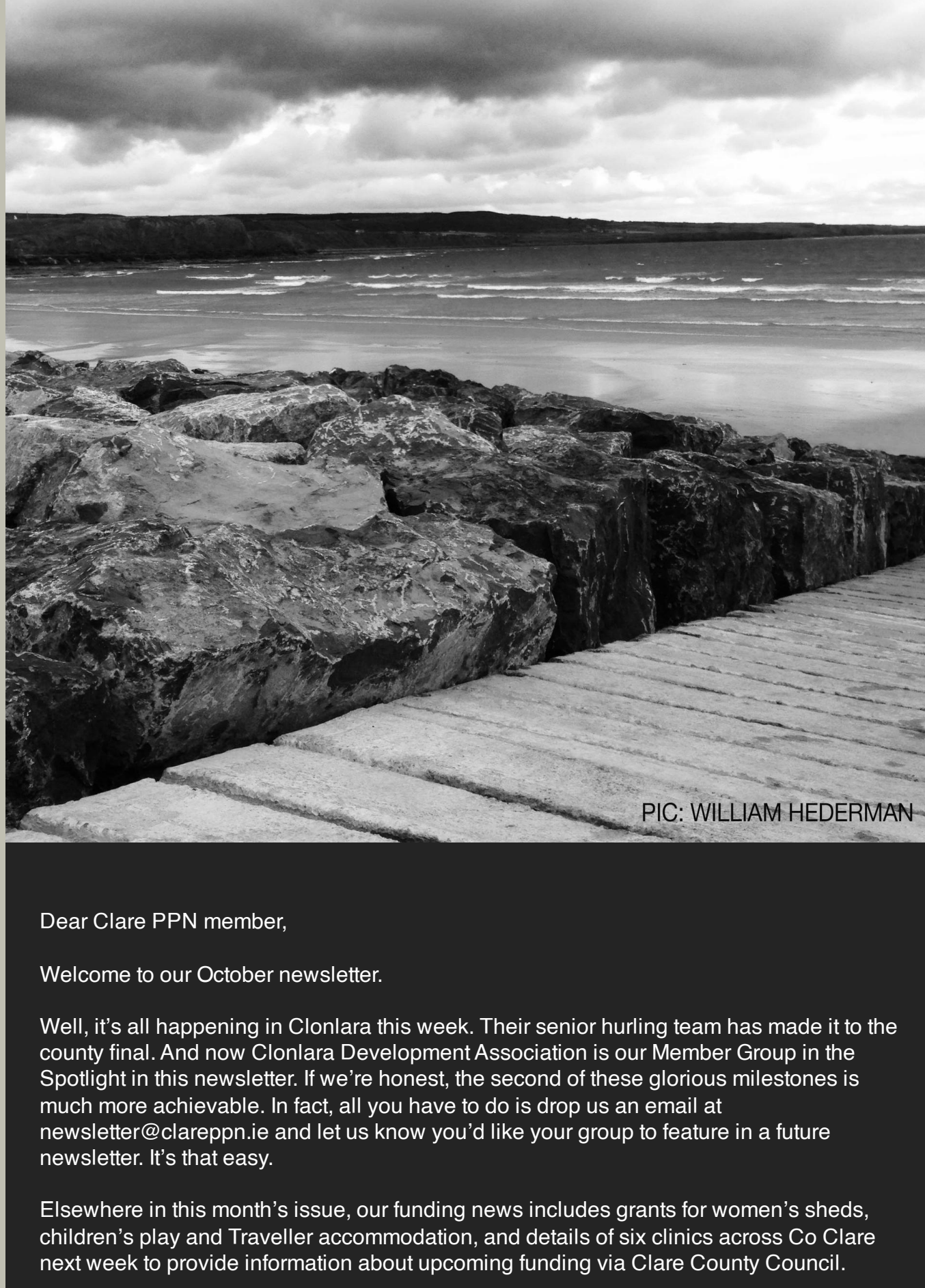


NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2023



PIC: WILLIAM HEDERMAN

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our October newsletter.

Well, it's all happening in Clonlara this week. Their senior hurling team has made it to the county final. And now Clonlara Development Association is our Member Group in the Spotlight in this newsletter. If we're honest, the second of these glorious milestones is much more achievable. In fact, all you have to do is drop us an email at newsletter@clareppn.ie and let us know you'd like your group to feature in a future newsletter. It's that easy.

Elsewhere in this month's issue, our funding news includes grants for women's sheds, children's play and Traveller accommodation, and details of six clinics across Co Clare next week to provide information about upcoming funding via Clare County Council.

There is also news of several really interesting and important webinars, an event in Ballyvaughan this Thursday to draft the town's Low Carbon Plan, a guided mindfulness walk in Vandealeur Woods this Sunday, a Canva & Eventbrite training in Ennis next week, and lots 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



MEMBER GROUP IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CLONLARA DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Clonlara Development Association (CDA) has been actively working for the enhancement of the community and its environment since March 2019. With a hard-working committee of 14 members and several sub-committees, it has been the driving force in the community involving various groups: GAA at all age levels, the local youth club, scouts, drama group, 40 volunteers and St Senan's primary school all participating in various projects, establishing a sense of pride and place.

Clonlara, a quiet backwater that lies off the R463 between Kiltalee and Limerick, has a growing community and needed a voice to highlight issues. CDA has successfully secured local funding and continues to lobby for change and development to the prosperity of the village.

The group's recent achievements include the establishment of Clonlara Heritage Group, a Biodiversity Group and a First Responder programme. The heritage group has implemented a mapped heritage walk/cycle, a community archive website, clonlara.clarheritage.org and annual Heritage Week events. The Biodiversity Group took part in 'Be a Leader for Biodiversity in your Community' courses and designed and erected an information board along the Errina Canal walkway. The First Responder volunteer training is on going, forming a community response network, a vital lifeline for those living in a rural areas.

Clonlara Development Association promotes its events through Facebook, Instagram and an opt-in Text Alert system. New volunteers are always welcome! If you'd like to get involved or contribute in any way, please drop them a line at: clonlaradevelop@gmail.com

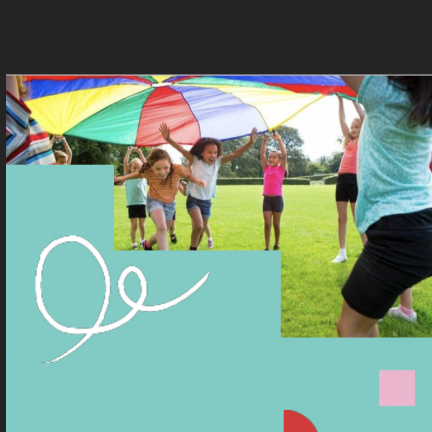
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



INFO CLINICS: FUNDING FOR CLARE COMMUNITY GROUPS

Community and voluntary groups across Clare are invited to attend one of a series of six information clinics being held around the county next week in relation to future funding opportunities. Clare County Council's Rural Development Directorate will meet the walk-in events in Kiltalee, Ennistymon, Scariff, Tulla, Ennis and Shannon where attendees will be offered expert guidance on project development and funding opportunities in the areas of Community, Climate Action, Biodiversity and Heritage. The clinics take place in advance of calls for applications from the Community Climate Action Programme, Clare Local Area Grants Scheme (CLAGS) and the Heritage Council's annual grants programme.

The six information clinics begin on Monday 16th October at Treacy's Oakwood Arms Hotel in Shannon (10am-2pm) and the Buntermarket Civic Room in Ennis (2pm-5pm), followed on Wednesday 18th October by clinics in the Scariff Area: Office (10am-1pm) and Choc na Gaoithe in Tulla (2pm-5pm). Finally, on Thursday 19th October clinics take place in Kiltalee Town Hall (10am-1pm) and Ennistymon Digital Hub (2pm-5pm).



OUR RURAL FUTURE: WOMEN'S SHEDS

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has announced a new fund of €100,000 to support Women's Sheds. The initiative, the first of its kind, is in recognition of the growing number of Women's Sheds across the country. Unlike Men's Sheds, Women's Sheds do not operate under a single national representative body, which makes it more difficult for them to avail of supports such as government funding.

The grants, in the region of €1,000-€2,000, could be used to assist Women's Sheds to expand within their communities, to run activities or to help them with running costs. Any Women's Shed interested in availing of funding should get in touch with the Dept of Rural and Community Development via womenssheds@droc.gov.ie



IRELAND COMMUNITY PLAY FUND

The €80,000 Ireland Community Play Fund will enable communities across Ireland to start proven learning through play projects. The new fund, which will be administered by non-profit community engagement platform ChangeX, will support up to 36 teams across Ireland to start new community projects. Groups can choose from a portfolio of 13 proven play ideas that have had a positive impact in communities globally. This fund will enable communities across Ireland to start proven learning through play projects and empower community groups, parents and caregivers to create more playful experiences for children. Supported by the LEGO Foundation as part of its Build a World of Play campaign. Find out more:

<https://www.changex.org/ie/funds/community-play-fund-ireland>

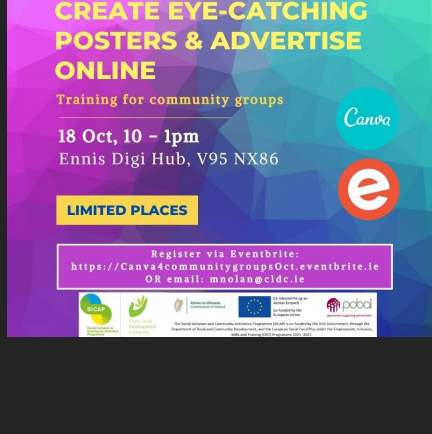


TRAVELLER ACCOMMODATION: SMALL GRANTS SCHEME

Deadline 22nd October: St Stephen's Green Trust (SSGT) is committed to supporting the provision of culturally appropriate, secure, quality accommodation for Travellers by strengthening organising and campaigning. As part of this work, SSGT is offering small grants of up to €6,000 with the aim of supporting groups who are leading on the issue of Traveller accommodation to accelerate and strengthen their campaign work. Interested groups should read the guidelines for applicants in advance of making an online application here. If you have any queries about the scheme or your group's eligibility to apply, please contact info@sgt.ie. The deadline for applications is 22nd October 2023. Find out more here:

<https://www.ssgt.ie/grant-programmes-traveller-accommodation/>

NEWS / EVENTS ..



ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?

Clare County Council has launched a campaign encouraging everyone, including those already registered to vote, to go to checktheregister.ie and either confirm or update their details, by providing their PPS number, Eircode and date of birth. A referendum is due in the new year, as well as local and European elections. Neither PPS numbers nor dates of birth will ever appear on the electoral register, but their inclusion will assist in improving the integrity of the register.

You can also give information about other necessary changes – for example, family members who are deceased but are still on the register. A paper form will remain available for those who wish to use it, either with a PPS number or with an in-person identity check at a local Garda station, similar to the previous process. You can check the register at: <https://checktheregister.ie>



MENTAL HEALTH WEEK

Did you know that this is Mental Health Week? The wonderful people at West Clare Mental Health Association have organised a series of events, culminating this Sunday 15th October in a Guided Mindfulness Walk in Vandealeur Woods near Kiltalee. This will be a gentle walk, starting at 11am, during which Ellen Chambers will show you some mindfulness techniques. Meet at the woods, Eircode V15 2735. For all enquiries, email: westclaremha@mentalhealthireland.ie or call: 085-8559511. Read about other events at this link: <https://westclarementalhealth.ie/services/mental-health-week/>



CANVA & EVENTBRITE TRAINING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

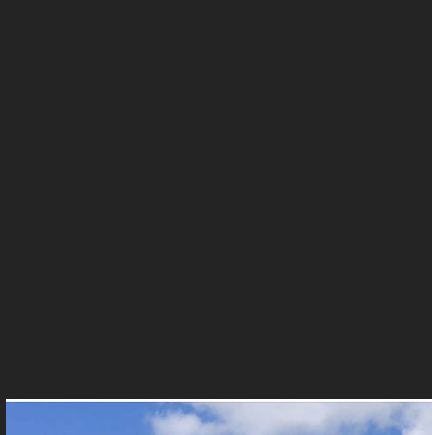
18th October: Would your community group like to use online tools to promote your events and activities? Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) invites you to free online training on how to use Canva and Eventbrite to create eye-catching posters and to advertise online. The training takes place on Wednesday 18th October, from 10am to 1pm, in the Quin Road Business Park in Ennis. CLDC is a local, community-led organisation, committed to the support and empowerment of communities and individuals in Clare. They work collaboratively to deliver programmes that support equality, diversity, inclusion and environmental sustainability. Places are limited so register ASAP here: <https://canva4communitygroupsOct.eventbrite.ie>



DIRECTORY OF SERVICES FOR OLDER PEOPLE

The Clare Age Friendly Programme, supported by the Clare Older People's Council, has developed a comprehensive guide to the essential services and supports available for older adults and their families in the county. The Directory of Services for Older People features contact details for public services, community and voluntary organisations and some community based social groups across the county, as well as guidance around entitlements, safety and security, transport and health. Copies of the Directory are available from local library branches, County Council offices and GPs. Further copies can be obtained by telephoning (085) 684 6240 or emailing: agefriendlyclare@clarecoco.ie. Read more about this here:

<https://www.clarecoco.ie/your-council/news/guide-for-older-accessible-at-clare-age-friendly-strategy-workshop.html>



FREE 'CLARE AUTISM AWARE' WEBINARS

A series of free online training webinars is being offered to community and voluntary groups across Clare as part of the Clare Autism Aware programme. There are three remaining opportunities to attend this webinar – on Thursday 12th October, 19th October or 26th October. The webinar takes place at 8:15pm. Supported by Clare County Council under the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund, autism consultant Dr Susan Crawford will host the multi-level, county-wide training which aims to increase awareness of autism spectrum disorder. Given that one in every 65 children of school age has an autism spectrum disorder diagnosis, the webinar organisers hope the project will have a direct impact on a large number of individuals across Clare. Find out more and register: <https://yourway.clarecoco.ie/clareautismaware>



BALLYVAUGHAN LOW CARBON PLAN

12th October: The figures are in and it's time for the community of Ballyvaughan to decide the actions that will make up their Low Carbon Plan (LCP). This Thursday, October 12th, at 7pm in Hylands Hotel, one of Ireland's leading climate experts, Prof John Sweeney, will join the community to explore ways to lower the emissions of the area. Everybody in Ballyvaughan is welcome to participate.

Prof Sweeney believes that "Communities are critical in responding to the climate and biodiversity emergencies. Furthermore, the most productive environmental and social ideas for tackling climate change locally will emerge from the heart of communities." Co-ordinator of the Ballyvaughan LCP, Theresa O'Donohue, explains that "Clare County Council is currently preparing its Climate Action Plan. It's better that communities come up with their own ideas and strategy that can then be used to inform the county plan rather than wait to see what plans are made for them. This Low Carbon Plan for Ballyvaughan will be used to inform the council of local ideas, decisions and ambitions."



ENVIRONMENTAL RIGHTS WEBINAR SERIES

Starts 12th October: Why is access to environmental information a critically important right? When is it necessary to bring legal cases to protect environmental rights – and who gets to go to Court? Join Community Law & Mediation and guest speakers for a free webinar series at which legal experts, journalists, and activists will explain why environmental rights matter and how individuals and organisations can benefit from exercising these rights. The webinars run for the next three Thursdays, from 10am-11am:

- 12th October: Access to Information on the Environment
- 19th October: Public Participation in Environmental Decision-Making
- 26th October: Access to Justice on Environmental Matters

See the impressive line-up of speakers an register for any or all of the webinars here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/environmental-rights-webinar-series-2023-tickets-690151631107>



INFORMATION FOR VOTERS WITH DISABILITIES

There are special arrangements to assist voters with certain disabilities to exercise their voting rights. The Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage recently updated information for voters with disabilities in a range of languages – English, Irish and 16 foreign languages. The special arrangements include voting at an alternative polling station if a person's local station is inaccessible; postal voting; voting facilities in hospitals, nursing homes; assistance for people with a visual impairment, physical disability or literacy difficulty. You can find the information leaflets here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/8cd724-information-for-voters-with-disabilities-in-a-range-of-different-languages/>



WILL YOU JOIN THE NATIONAL SDG FORUM?

Deadline 20th October: The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is seeking Expressions of Interest for membership of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) National Stakeholder Forum Committee 2024. The Forum was set up in 2016 to provide a mechanism for stakeholders to discuss innovative ideas and solutions for further development of the national SDG framework. An introductory meeting will be held the week of 11th December, 2023. Please send your Expression of Interest (in written or video format) to NSFCommittee2024@decc.gov.ie and include:

- Your contact details;
- Details of how your experience would support the work of the SDG Stakeholder Forum Committee;
- Whether you are affiliated to an organisation or applying as an individual; and
- Confirmation you would be available from January to December 2024.

Please limit applications to 500 words or videos to 3 minutes. All Expressions of Interest must be received by Friday, October 20th at 5pm. For more info on SDGs, please visit: <https://www.undp.org/sustainable-development-goals/>

<https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/4201-17-sustainable-development-goals/>

CONSULTATIONS

'PRIVATE WIRES' – DEADLINE EXTENDED

Deadline 27th October: The deadline has been extended for the public consultation on the Government's proposed 'Private Wires' proposal. Under this plan, private companies would be allowed to build their own electricity grids for the first time in the history of the state. 'Private Wires' would mark a major shift in energy policy, allowing power from wind or solar farms to bypass the national grid and exclusively supply large industrial facilities such as data centres.

Launching the proposal last month, Minister Eamon Ryan said it "has the potential to bring with it greater citizen engagement as well as critical capacity to our grid, allowing individuals, community groups or commercial entities to install and own electricity infrastructure as more and more people generate their own electricity from indigenous, renewable sources."

However, the consultation document prepared by Minister Ryan's Department warns that Private Wires could lead to increased energy consumption by 'Extra Large Energy Users' and thus increased carbon emissions, could result in higher electricity bills for ordinary customers, and could impact on 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/>

The Clare PPN Facebook post includes links to some recent articles on this topic.

CARBON FARMING FRAMEWORK

Deadline 3 November: The Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) is leading the development of a Carbon Farming Framework to support putting farmers, landowners, and foresters at the centre of meeting our National Climate objectives. This framework aims to increase the ambition and participation of our land managers in the areas of carbon removal, emission reductions, and ecosystem services. Public consultation is an important element of this process and provides an opportunity for stakeholders to submit their views as regards carbon farming and related issues such as concerns around land use, funding, and market mechanisms. The objective of this public consultation is to obtain feedback from stakeholders on the scope of a Carbon Farming Framework for Ireland. See survey at this link:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/Carbonfarmingframeworkireland>

GREEN PAPER ON DISABILITY REFORM

Deadline 15th December: The Department of Social Protection is committed to developing and consulting on a 'strawman' proposal on the restructuring of long-term disability payments under the Roadmap for Social Inclusion 2021-2025 Strategy. The Green Paper is a response to this commitment. The Green Paper includes proposals on reforming the following income supports: Disability Allowance; Invalidity Pension; Blind Pension; Partial Capacity Benefit; Domiciliary Care Allowance. Submissions are now invited from individuals and stakeholder organisations, particularly people with disabilities, Disabled Persons' Organisations and Disabled Persons' Representative Organisations. Submissions will be accepted in a written and video format.

More info: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/3b001-green-paper-on-disability-reform-a-public-consultation-to-reform-disability-payments-in-ireland/>