

# Clare Public Participation Network Report July to September 2023

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## INTRODUCTION

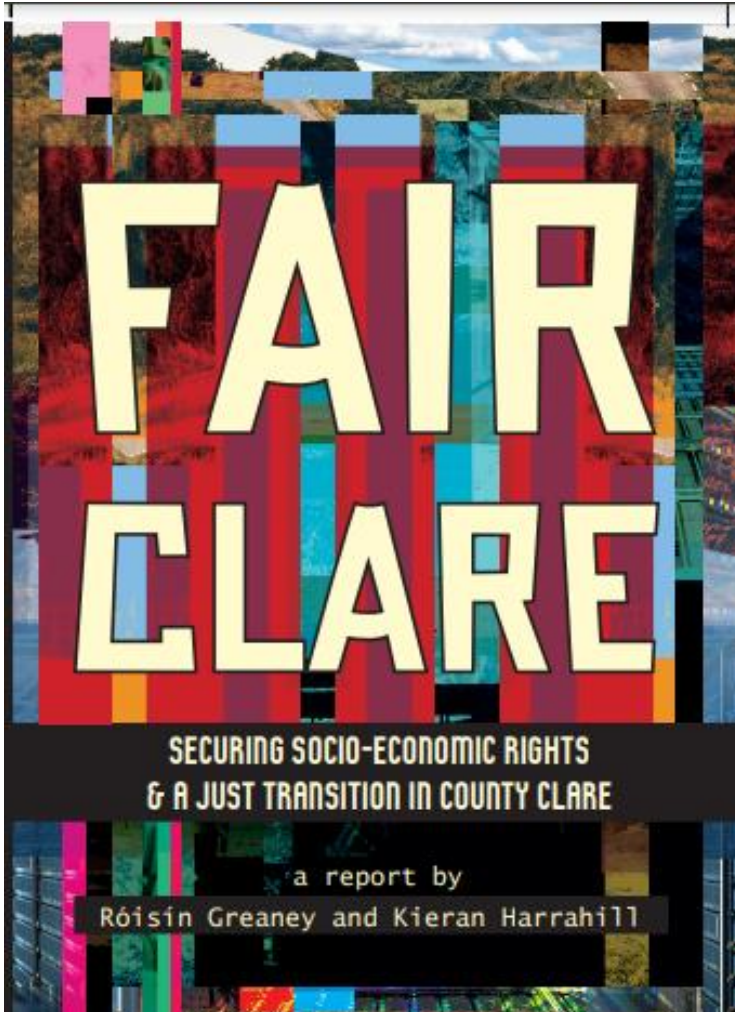
As Clare County Council's Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) reaches final draft stage, before six weeks of Public Consultation and after significant input from Clare PPN, the process highlights the importance of including the voices of everybody who lives here, including those who don't usually see their lived-experience reflected in policy and statutory plans. Building our relationships with member groups and increasing support for reps will be a priority next quarter building on the success of recent in-person events. Read below for more information.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact 087 1617375 or [sarah@clareppn.ie](mailto:sarah@clareppn.ie)



*Bridgie Casey -Co-ordinator of Clare Traveller CDP  
At Clare Traveller Pride – July 2023*

LECP Research and training pilot project on Just Transition and Socio-Economic Rights in Clare



Cover of TASC/PPN publication

The peer-led focus groups for the Pobal-funded LECP research and training project concluded in this quarter. A submission was made to Clare County Council on the Plan's strategic goals (see 'Submissions'), based on the research conducted. Clare PPN continues to liaise with Clare County Council and other stakeholders on the LECP steering group, helping to guide the final draft which will go out for six weeks of public consultation before the end of this year. Meanwhile a new publication from Clare PPN and TASC- a Think-tank for Action on Social Change called 'Fair Clare – securing socio-economic rights and a just transition in Clare' will be launched in November 2023 and Clare PPN will be presenting key transferrable lessons from it at Pobal's 'Inclusive Community Engagement Showcase'



Public consultation with people living in direct provision

## PPN NEWS

### Successful elections

Clare PPN held elections for various representative roles this quarter. The positions below were filled. Some positions did not receive nominations and will be advertised again in the new year. We would like to congratulate those who put their names forward and will support their participation as they represent their college. If you would like to know more about what reps and Secretariat members do, please visit:

Secretariat: <https://clareppn.ie/secretariat/>

Representatives: <https://clareppn.ie/your-ppn-reps/>



#### [Andrew St. Ledger – Clare Heritage & Biodiversity Forum representative](#)

Andrew has been working on Biodiversity for over 20 years, is the Native Woodland/Agroforestry Specialist/Biodiversity Officer with CELT, PRO/ Co Founder of The Woodland League. He is the CELT representative on the Environmental Pillar since 2009, on the steering committee working on Biodiversity/Forestry/Agriculture policy contributing to many policy documents and submissions and for the Pillar on DAFM forestry policy groups, meeting with Ministers, presenting for Oireachtas Climate committee 2019, the EU Forest Strategy via webinar and a 5-year term with COFORD the national forestry research body. In 2013 he was invited by the Yale school of forestry TFD (The Forest Dialogue) to engage in a series of consultation workshops begun in Switzerland, Chile, Brazil, New Zealand, and South Africa, representing Community and Indigenous rights. He has created a copy nature Forest in a Box project and Know Your Native Trees whiteboard education manual for schools and an Agroforestry handbook for farmers. He gave a presentation to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity in 2018 on the forest in a box projects as a guest of The Global Forest Coalition. He also has an interest in built heritage, especially traditional vernacular style preservation. ***UPDATE: Clare PPN staff and secretariat were deeply saddened to hear of the sudden and very untimely death of Andrew St Ledger which occurred this weekend. Andrew had just taken on the position as Clare PPN's representative on the new Biodiversity and Heritage Forum and he previously represented Clare PPN on the Physical Development SPC. We are grateful for his expertise and for having known someone with such a profound dedication to trees and our environment and we send our sincere condolences to his family and everyone who knew him.***



#### [Tommy Molloy – Community & Voluntary representative on the Social Development SPC](#)

Tommy Molloy has been involved in schoolboys and schoolgirls football for the past 20 years. He has been a SFAI (Schoolboys Football Association of Ireland) delegate for the past 8 years. He has been chairman, PRO, child welfare officer with his local CSSL (Clare School Soccer League). As well as being a player (winning Youth and Junior honours), Tommy was also a referee and was Assistant Manager of the Kennedy cup in 2006 & 2007. He currently volunteers with his club Avenue United particularly in a fundraising capacity.

## WORK OVERVIEW

### Administration:

- Routine management of finances, banking and invoices
- Processed wages and Revenue returns
- Maintained lobbying register
- Held pre-meetings with reps re: LECP
- Held online meeting to welcome new reps
- Appointed acting rep to Heritage & Biodiversity Forum
- Held 1 Secretariat meeting
- Attended one resource workers meeting
- Quarterly report submitted to Clare County Council
- Held LCDC, SPC, forums and Secretariat elections
- Completed PPN Roadmap survey
- Updated CRO details
- Finalised external annual audit
- Provided letter of support re: funding application
- Provided feedback as part of annual report subgroup

### Outreach/Policy Work

- Managed Refugee Fund
- Co-facilitated focus group with MASI
- Held Solidarity Shindig with various organisations (see events report)
- Held Connecting Communities event with CLDC and Clare Volunteer Centre
- Attended PPN annual conference (and facilitated workshop)
- Marshalled Quare Clare Pride March
- Continued to liaise with Pobal & Clare Co. Co. on pilot LECP project
- Liaised with HSE, CLDC & WC FRC on Traveller CDP steering group
- Attended Traveller Pride event
- Use of premises by various community groups
- Organised welcome coffee morning in Miltown Malbay
- Attended welcome event in Kilrush
- Liaised with Caoimhneamh an Chláir re: Traveller oral history project
- Started organising 'Fair Clare' publication launch



*Connecting Communities event*



*Traveller Pride event in Glor*

## TRAINING & EVENTS

### Focus group with International Protection Applicants of MASI

As part of the peer-led research for input into Clare County Council's Local Economic & Community Plan, a focus group took place in Mná ag Gáire in August with participants from people living in direct provision all across County Clare. It was a very positive event with conversations on healthcare, education, housing and employment. The input gathered fed directly into the draft LECP and will also be reflected in 'Fair Clare – securing socio-economic rights and a just transition in Clare', TASC's forthcoming publication in conjunction with Clare PPN

### Solidarity Shindig

In light of ongoing protests against migrants and refugees, various groups got together to organise an event, inviting Clare locals to come and meet their new neighbours. Voluntary groups included Clare Solidarity Network, Clare Leader Forum, Failte Isteach, MASI, CATU Clare and Mná ag Gaire and they were supported by Clare PPN, Women's Collective Clare, Clare Immigrant Support Centre, Clare Local Development Company and Clare Traveller CDP. Entertainment was provided by Kizomba dancer Claire O'Meara, musicians Katie Theasby, Brian Fleming, Hiralal & Ramji Gandharba, Christy McNamara and Alfie Duggan.

### Farmers' Focus Group

A focus group on Just Transition & Socio-economic rights was held with small farmers who do not feel represented by the larger farmer lobbying groups. See forthcoming publication 'Fair Clare' for their input into the needs of the farming community and suggestion for a fair farming future in County Clare.



### Welcome Coffee Morning

In July, a 'welcome' coffee morning was organised for the people of Miltown Malbay in order to make connections with International Protection Applicants who are new members of the community. There was a huge turnout from the locality with music, dance and homemade tarts, biscuits and scones. Representatives from Tidy Towns and Irish Guide Dogs attended and have since been in regular communication with the men.

### Connecting Communities in Clare

After a tumultuous few years resulting in burn out for many, it was felt that it is time to rebuild, celebrate our successes to date and to share our suggestions for the future of Clare communities. AS a result Clare Local Development Company, Clare Volunteer Centre and Clare Public Participation Network got together to create an event 'Connecting Communities in Clare', an afternoon of networking and workshops for volunteers, activists, community leaders, charity trustees and members of community groups. It gave community and voluntary groups in Clare a chance to be inspired, revitalised, and connect; to learn practical skills around collaboration, participation, advocacy, communication, inclusion, resilience building, telling your story and more. It was very well attended and people got a chance to meet others in the community who are making a difference. Various agencies were also present and key-note speaker Anna Swisher addressed attendees on Active Hope.

“So many people who are involved in their communities are burnt out, exhausted, overwhelmed, or fed up,” says Anna. “It’s very easy to feel like you’re going at it alone. But you’re not. We’re all in it together. And we’re part of a much bigger story, and each of us is playing a significant role. It’s really important to take a moment to step back, reconnect, and remember why we’re doing this in the first place.



## ENGAGEMENT

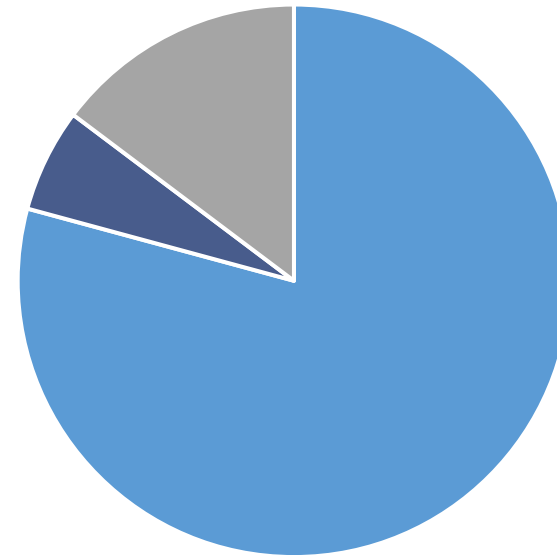
### Membership by college:

Clare PPN currently has 380 member groups:

Community and Voluntary College	301
Environmental College	23
Social Inclusion College	56

### Social Media:

Twitter followers	1,682
Facebook followers	2,384



■ Community & Voluntary ■ Environment ■ Social Inclusion

## SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS

- **Submission to Women’s Collective Limerick re: Safe Participation in Political Life**
- **Joint Submission to Joint Oireachtas Committee on Climate Action**  
<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/PPN-Potential-to-mobilise-community-climate-action.pdf>
- **Submission to Clare Co. Co. re: Draft Vision & High-level Goals of the Clare LECP 2023-2029**  
<https://clareppn.ie/submission-to-clare-co-co-re-draft-vision-high-level-goals-of-the-clare-lecp-2023-2029/>



## COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- Circulation of grants schemes and event notices
- Maintained website (newsletters, reps reports) and social media
- Radio Corca Baiscinn interview on Clare PPN
- July newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/newsletter-july-2023.pdf>
- August newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/newsletter-aug-2023.pdf>
- September newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/newsletter-sept-2023.pdf>

### Clare PPN mass communications with members – July to September 2023

Date	Subject line	Recipients	Reason
12/07/2023	July 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
17/07/2023	Wanted: 'Acting' Clare PPN representative to help develop Heritage and Biodiversity Plans for Clare.	Env reps	Call for reps
19/07/2023	Clare PPN Quarterly Report	All contacts	Report
02/08/2023	You're invited to a Solidarity Shindig in Ennis this Saturday at 4pm	All contacts	Event
28/08/2023	August 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
06/09/2023	Climate Action funding & Clare Pride 2023	All contacts	Updates
07/09/2023	Reps meeting Tuesday 12th Septembe	Reps	Meeting notice
12/09/2023	Reps Zoom meeting @ 7pm - LINK	Reps	Meeting notice
14/09/2023	Connecting Communities in Clare	All contacts	Event notice
14/09/2023	LECP presentation slides	Reps	Pre-meeting
15/09/2023	September 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
18/09/2023	Notice of Election and Call for Nominations - Clare PPN Secretariat member representing Shannon Municipal District	Shannon MD	Election notice
18/09/2023	Notice of Elections - Community & Voluntary	C&V Pillar	Election notice
18/09/2023	Notice of Elections - Social Inclusion	Social Inclusion Pillar	Election notice
18/09/2023	Notice of Elections - Environmental	Environmental Pilar	Election notice
28/09/2023	Clare Age Friendly Strategy 2023-2027 Workshop invite	Social Inclusion Pillar	Consultation notice

## Clare PPN income & expenditure – July to September 2023

### Financial report

Wages	28,063.00
Travel and expenses	411.84
Rent and Rates	-
Telephone and postage	200.09
Printing & Office	-
Online communications	-
Heat & Light	821.20
Insurance	-
Bank charges	87.09
IT	2,152.50
Website	-
Marketing, promo, advertising	-
Projects & events	26,276.50
Plenary costs	-
Meeting expenses	123.94
Maintenance	102.21
	<hr/> <b>58,238.37</b> <hr/>

### Contact us:

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[https://twitter.com/clare\\_ppn](https://twitter.com/clare_ppn)



<https://www.facebook.com/clareppn/>

Clare PPN Audited Accounts 2022:

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Clare-Public-Participation-Network-Accounts-31st-December-2022.pdf>