

Clare Public Participation Network Report October to December 2023

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INTRODUCTION

2024 turned out to be another busy year with not only another research project undertaken but also another publication gone out into the world. Clare PPN is committed to hearing the voices of all who live in this county and bringing them to the policy and decision makers for inclusion in the local and national plans that affect our lives.

We could not do this without the dedication of our voluntary Secretariat and representatives who worked tirelessly this year on committees, steering groups and submissions and we would like to take this opportunity to thank them. We have also worked extensively with many groups and organisations on various issues and projects throughout the year and would like to thank them all for their energy and enthusiasm.

All of our quarterly work reports can be accessed at our website www.clareppn.ie

If you have any questions or comments, please contact 087 1617375 or sarah@clareppn.ie



Secretariat member Padraic Hayes on the way to Dublin to speak about 'Fair Clare'

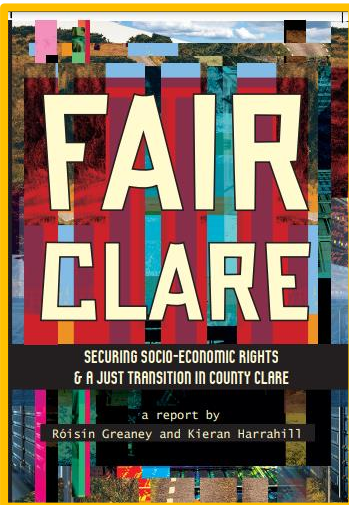
PPN NEWS



Andrew St. Ledger

In our last quarterly report, we were delighted to welcome Andrew St. Ledger back into a representative role in Clare PPN but this delight was short-lived as we heard about his sudden and very untimely death. We are grateful for his expertise and his profound dedication to trees and our environment and we send our sincere condolences to his family and everyone who knew him. Andrew had just taken on the role of Clare PPN’s representative on the new Biodiversity and Heritage Forum and he previously represented Clare PPN on the Physical Development SPC.

Andrew worked on biodiversity for more than 20 years, was co-founder of the Woodland League and was involved with environmental organisation CELT. He also had a keen interest in traditional woodcrafts, nature restoration and built heritage, especially traditional vernacular style preservation. CELT honoured his memory with a message describing him as “a mighty Irish environmentalist who will be greatly missed - now a true Spirit of the Woods.”



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

This six-month pilot project was led by Clare Public Participation Network (Clare PPN) in collaboration with Clare County Council, Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board, and Clare Local Development Company and was funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development from the Dormant Accounts Fund. The research component of this project was conducted by the Thinktank for Action on Social Change (TASC). TASC, who with the valuable expertise of independent facilitator Kathryn McCabe and alongside Clare PPN, held nine focus groups and five public introductory training workshops across the county during the summer of 2023. The findings from this project were submitted to the Draft Local Economic and Community Plan 2023- 2029 (LECP). Clare PPN representatives were also on Clare County Council’s LECP steering group which guided the document through its various stages.

WORK OVERVIEW

Administration:

- Routine management of finances, banking and invoices
- Processed wages and Revenue returns
- Managed CRO
- Maintained lobbying register
- Held pre-meetings with reps re: LECP
- Held 3 Secretariat meetings
- Attended one resource workers meetings
- Held one plenary meeting
- Took meeting room bookings
- Completed re-registration
- Quarterly report submitted to Clare County Council
- Sent reps nomination info to Clare County Council
- Prepared monthly financial reports for Secretariat
- Prepared financial report for LECP project
- Prepared qualitative report for LECP project
- Wrote funding support letter

Outreach/Policy Work

- Managed Refugee Fund
- Continued to liaise with Pobal & Clare Co. Co. on pilot LECP project
- Liaised with HSE, CLDC & WC FRC on Traveller CDP steering group
- Use of premises by various community groups
- Held three facilitated session with Dulick Centre re: Green Paper on Disability Reform
- Meeting with Clare Leader Forum re: Green Paper on Disability Reform
- Attended conferring of Traveller Men's Group Mediation Certificates
- Attended Clare Leader Forum information event re: Green Paper on Disability Reform
- Took & transcribed flipchart notes for Clare Leader Forum event
- Organised & attended meeting with Clare Memories and Clare Traveller CDP
- Liaised with CLDC and Clare Volunteer Centre re: Connecting Communities
- Supported & facilitated Clare Solidarity Network's Secret Santa for DP
- Attended Traveller CDP steering group meetings and planning day



Paula Carroll of Cuimhneamh an Chlair meets members of Clare Traveller CDP



Launch of 'Fair Clare' at Templegate Hotel

TRAINING & EVENTS

Launch of 'Fair Clare'

After extensive consultation and research '*Fair Clare – Securing socio-economic rights & a just transition in County Clare*' was launched in November to a packed house. The long-awaited publication was greeted with huge interest and discussion (so much so that the plenary meeting that was supposed to follow the launch was postponed to a later date).

This report aims to examine the impact of the ongoing transition to zero emissions on groups who experience one or many forms of structural disadvantage in County Clare. Underpinned by a human rights-based approach, focusing specifically on realising the socio-economic rights of Clare residents, the report makes recommendations and contributes to the discussion of how Just Transition planning and policy in Clare can begin to address underlying inequalities and ensure that those who experience poverty, as well as the most marginalised in society, are protected and benefit from the transition.



Sarah Clancy and Mary O'Donoghue at 'Fair Clare' launch

A PDF of the report can be downloaded here:

https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Fair-Clare_Socio-Economic-Rights-a-Just-Transition-in-Clare-Final-PDF.pdf

Winter Plenary Meeting

The Clare PPN winter plenary meeting also took place in November with many first-time attendees at which the following work report was presented:

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Work-report-for-plenary-Nov-2023.pdf>



Panel discussion at launch

Launch of Department of Rural and Community Development's 2nd edition of 'A Guide for Community Engagement in Local Planning & Decision Making'

Clare PPN's community engagement project, to ensure that policies reflecting the lives of the diverse communities in Clare who experience poverty and other forms of discrimination are included in Clare County Council's Local Economic & Community Plan, was included as a case study in the Department of Rural and Community Development's 2nd edition of 'A Guide for Community Engagement in Local Planning & Decision Making'. At the launch in Dublin in November, Clare PPN Co-ordinator Sarah Clancy presented key transferrable skills learned throughout the project and Secretariat member Padraic Hayes was part of a panel discussion on the importance of marginalised voices in policy and decision making. The publication can be downloaded here:

<https://www.pobal.ie/app/uploads/2023/04/Guide-to-Incl.-Community-Engagement-2nd-Edition-Oct23-Final-2-1.pdf>

Clare Solidarity Network Secret Santa

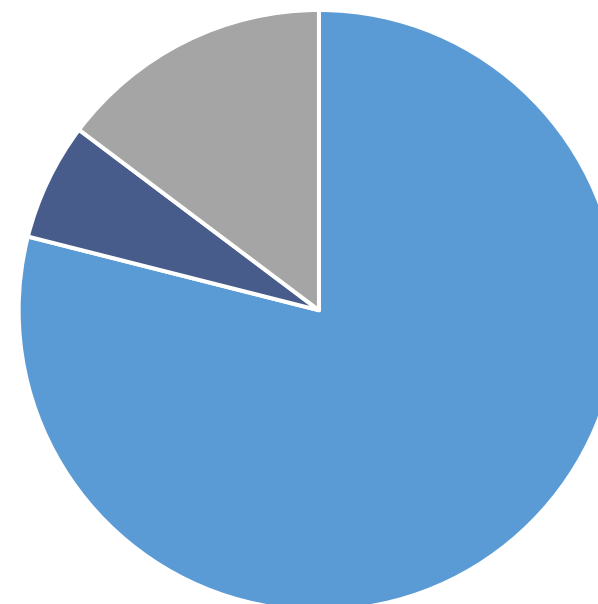
The recent Secret Santa Drive organized by Clare Solidarity Network in conjunction with Clare PPN was a great success, reflecting the true spirit of generosity and compassion. This initiative sought to collect presents for adult refugees living in direct provision in Clare. It emphasised the importance of standing in solidarity with displaced individuals at a time that places too much emphasis on family and home. The overwhelming response from our community underscores the power of collective goodwill in making a positive impact on the lives of those seeking refuge. The impact of the Secret Santa Drive on the recipients, the refugees, was immeasurable. Many expressed how this initiative made them feel welcomed, valued, and a genuine part of the community. Such positive interactions are essential in fostering a sense of belonging for those who have been displaced.

ENGAGEMENT

Membership by college:

Clare PPN currently has 380 member groups:


Community and Voluntary College	300
Environmental College	24
Social Inclusion College	56




■ Community & Voluntary ■ Environment ■ Social Inclusion

Social Media:

Twitter followers	1,700
Facebook followers	2,410


https://twitter.com/clare_ppn


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

SUBMISSIONS & CONSULTATIONS

Clare PPN Submission to Seanad Public Consultation Committee on the Future of Local Government

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/Future-of-Local-Government-Submission-September-2023.pdf>

Clare PPN Submission/Clare Environmental Network Submission in respect of the Draft Clare Climate Action Plan 2024- 2029

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/CPPN-CEN-Submission-to-Draft-Clare-Climate-Action-Plan-November-2023.pdf>

Clare PPN/Dulick Centre Submission to the Department of Social Protection re: Green Paper on Disability Reform

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Submission-re-Green-Paper-on-Disability-Reform-Dulick-Centre.pdf>

Clare PPN Submission on Migrant Integration Strategy

<https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Clare-PPN-Submission-to-inform-a-new-migrant-integration-strategy-November-2023.pdf>

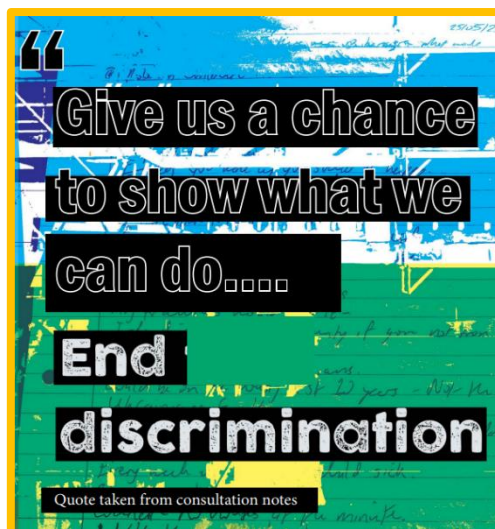


Illustration from 'Fair Clare'



Patricia McNamara & Noelle Keane of Clare Leader Forum



Illustration from 'Fair Clare'

COMMUNICATIONS & PUBLICATIONS

- October newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/newsletter-oct-2023.pdf>
- November newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/newsletter-november-2023.pdf>
- December newsletter: <https://clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/newsletter-dec-2023.pdf>
- Irish Examiner article re: refugees: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/opinion/commentanalysis/arid-41143504.html>
- Clare FM podcast re: Fair Clare: <https://www.clare.fm/podcasts/morningfocus/new-research-highlights-barriers-faced-clare-communities-reach-net-zero-emissions/>
- Clare Champion article re: Fair Clare: <https://clarechampion.ie/clare-faces-an-unjust-transition-finds-ground-breaking-clare-ppn-report/>
- Irish Examiner article re: Fair Clare: <https://www.irishexaminer.com/news/munster/arid-41264431.html>
- Public launch of 'Fair Clare' publication
- Circulation of grants schemes and event notices
- Maintained website (newsletters, reps reports) and social media
- Clare FM interview re: Connecting Communities
- Radio Corca Baiscinn interview re: community news

Clare Welcomes Everyone
Clare Solidarity Network

Clare Solidarity Network's Secret Santa for Adults Living in Direct Provision

Make the Banner Less Lonely This Christmas

Suggestions:
Socks, jocks, hats, scarves, personal hygiene sets, head torches, sweets, biscuits, chocolates, aftershave, perfume, vouchers etc.

Maximum €15 value

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL 087 6175587

All unwrapped gifts can be dropped off at Clare PPN, Clonroad Business Park, Ennis Friday the 15th and Saturday the 16th December between 11 am and 4 pm each day.

Clare PPN mass communications with members – October to December 2023

Date	Subject line	Recipients	Reason
03/10/2023	REMINDER: Nominations Close Friday 6th October	Community & Voluntary Pillar	Election Notice
03/10/2023	REMINDER: Nominations Close Monday 9th October - Clare PPN reps roles	Social Inclusion Pillar	Election Notice
03/10/2023	REMINDER: Nominations close Friday 6th October	Environmental Pillar	Election Notice
11/10/2023	October 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
16/10/2023	PPN updates and reminder of book launch and plenary meeting - Monday 6th November @ 7pm	All members	Event notice
26/10/2023	Free Home Energy Course; Biodiversity Project; Clare Climate Action Plan Consultation	All contacts	Updates
01/11/2023	PPN updates and reminder of book launch and plenary meeting - Monday 6th November @ 7pm	All members	Event notice
07/11/2023	Rescheduled Clare PPN Plenary Meeting Wednesday 15th November Online 7pm	All members	Meeting notice
14/11/2023	Climate Action Plan for Clare: Online meeting to discuss Clare PPN submission, 7pm on 21st Nov	All contacts	Meeting notice
15/11/2023	Plenary reminder and consultation notice	All members	Meeting notice
20/11/2023	Clare PPN plenary presentation slides - November 15th 2023	All members	Meeting follow up
21/11/2023	November 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter
27/11/2023	PPN Training - FREE	All members	Training allowance
11/12/2023	Community Climate Action Programme Funding - NOW OPEN	All members	Funding notice
12/12/2023	Reminder Clare's Local Economic and Community Plan Submission Deadline Approaching Fast	All contacts	Submission notice
13/12/2023	December 2023 newsletter	All contacts	Newsletter

Clare PPN income & expenditure – October to December 2023

Financial report

Wages	30,391.03
Travel and expenses	205.00
Rent and Rates	4,000.00
Telephone and postage	224.02
Printing & Office	-
Online communications	-
Heat & Light	672.71
Insurance	-
Bank charges	82.19
IT	244.77
Marketing, promo, advertising	-
Projects & events	4,227.72
Plenary costs	-
Meeting expenses	55.32
Maintenance	83.24
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	40,186.00
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Contact us:

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Presents collected for Direct Provision Secretariat