

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2024

Above: Lough Abtaobair by moonlight (photo: William Heedeman)

Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our March newsletter!

We have a great opportunity coming up to get together, chat and network with other community activists – and to have your say in the activities of Clare PPN. It's our Spring Plenary on 27th March, and we'll have a couple of guest speakers – on LEADER funding and biodiversity – as well as tea, cakes and a cosy atmosphere at Mná ag Gáire in Ennis.

It's also election season at Clare PPN. We're now seeking nominations for Reps on two important committees in Clare. This might be your opportunity to represent your community – or you might like to encourage someone else you know to stand for election.

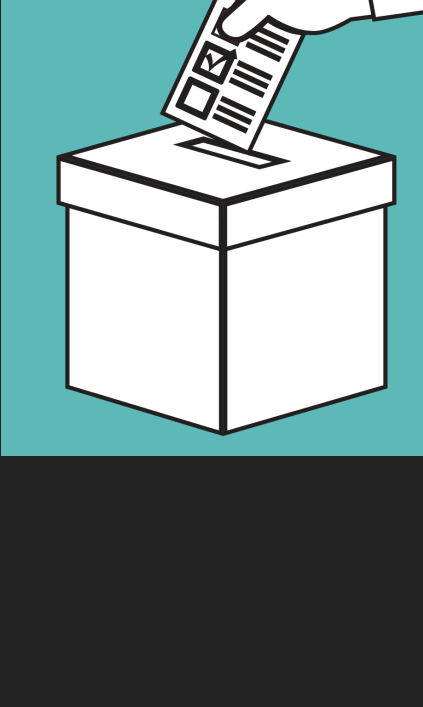
Scroll down for details of all of the above, as well as some funding opportunities and lots of news and events.

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 Heedeman

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CLARE PPN REP ELECTIONS

Are you passionate about your community and about public participation? Would you like to represent your community? If so, you should consider standing for election as a PPN Representative. We are currently seeking nominations from member groups for several important roles.

TWO COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY REPS ON LCDC
Members groups of our Community & Voluntary College can nominate 2 candidates before Friday 22nd March. The Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) is a platform for local community engagement and decision-making in matters related to community development and local services. More information and how to nominate here: <https://clareppn.ie/election-to-lcdc-community/>

ENVIRONMENT REP ON LCDC
Member groups of our Environmental College may nominate a candidate before Friday 22nd March. Read more about the position and how to nominate at this page on our website: <https://clareppn.ie/election-enviro-rep-lcdc/>

JOINT POLICING COMMITTEE REP
Deadline 18th March: All Clare PPN member groups are eligible to nominate someone for the community Rep seat on Clare's Joint Policing Committee (JPC). The JPC is a forum where elected members, local producers and community interests, together with An Garda Síochána, convene, discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the local area to contribute to the safety and quality of life of the community. For information on how to nominate, click here: <https://clareppn.ie/call-for-nominations-community-representative-on-the-joint-policing-committee/>

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



COMMUNITY HERITAGE GRANT SCHEME

Deadline 25th March: This funding from the Heritage Council will help community groups and not for profit organisations in Clare in the delivery of:

- Workshops and training events that promote good heritage practice, in particular traditional building skills, craft skills, graveyard recording and biodiversity training.
- Development of Digital Heritage Resources including digitisation, online exhibitions, oral history recordings, podcasts, and films.
- Conservation surveys, reports, plans, and audits that will inform future management of buildings and monuments, habitats, collections, or objects.
- Conservation works to buildings, monuments, habitats, collections or objects.

Submit your application by Monday 26th March at 5pm. More information here: <https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/community-heritage-grant-scheme-2024>



BAT CONSERVATION IRELAND GRANTS

Deadline 16th March: Bat Conservation Ireland has four funding streams as part of a Small Grants Scheme to support activities in 2024 that will promote and/or conserve bats in Ireland:

- Funding for Bat Groups affiliated to Bat Conservation Ireland.
- Funding for bat education events (to be carried out in line with any public health restrictions/guidelines in place at the time);
- High-based bat research; and
- Carrying out bat conservation work.

More information and an application form are here: <https://www.batconservationireland.org/small-grants-scheme-application>



HUMAN RIGHTS & EQUALITY GRANT SCHEME

Deadline 18th April: The Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission is accepting applications for its Human Rights and Equality Grant Scheme 2024-25. This year the Commission is supporting projects under the following strands:

- Strand A: Advancing Economic Equality
- Strand B: Promoting Awareness of Rights and Access to Justice
- Strand C: Promoting Climate Justice, Environmental Justice and a Just Transition

The Commission is running online information sessions about the Grants Scheme. Please register your interest in attending one of these Zoom sessions by emailing grants@hrrec.ie. Please put in the subject line - Grant Information Session with the date of the session you would like to attend:

- 11am on Thursday 14th March 2024
- 10am on Wednesday, 20th March 2024 (ISL Interpretation provided).

Find out more about the grant scheme and the online sessions here: <https://www.hrrec.ie/our-work/human-rights-and-equality-grants-scheme/>



CHILDREN'S PROMISE GRANTS

Deadline 21st March: The Children's Promise grants programme is a collaboration between Community Foundation Ireland and the Katharine Howard Foundation (KHF). The programme aims to support community-based organisations working with young children and their families in disadvantaged areas in Ireland, who may not reach their potential due to the corrosive impact of poverty. The programme is a promise from KHF to provide financial and other supports to selected organisations, to support and develop the potential of the children engaged with the organisations.

It aims to build on the powerful work taking place at statutory and community-level to address child poverty. This grants programme is for Ireland-based projects only and KHF does not fund international projects.

All enquiries by email to info@khf.ie. More information here: <https://www.khf.ie/childrens-promise-grant-programme/>

NEWS / EVENTS

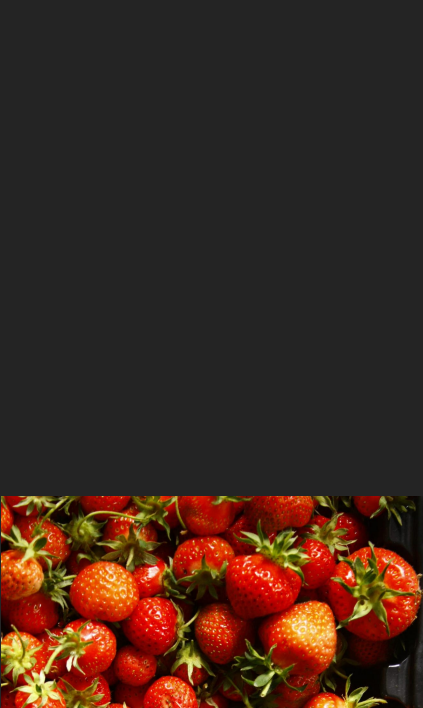


'WE ARE HUMAN TOO' – NEW BOOK FROM CLARE LEADER FORUM

We had a great day out earlier this month for Clare Leader Forum's launch of 'We Are Human Too', a ground-breaking new book that celebrates the work of disabled activists. 'We Are Human Too' is a moving anthology of interviews with disabled activists, edited by Ann Marie Flanagan, that documents their crusade for equality.

Clare Leader Forum says: 'We have written the first and only socio-political book by disabled activists and researchers for everyone on how the State views our independence in the 100 years of Ireland's independence. We track 30 years of disabled people's emancipatory activism.'

'We wrote this book to ensure history is written through the lens of disabled people's activism.' To order a copy of the book, email clareleaderforum@gmail.com or message Clare Leader Forum on Facebook.



SAIBHREAS - A NIGHT OF PALESTINIAN & IRISH CULTURE & COLLABORATION

29th March: It looks like a great lineup for this Palestinian and Irish culture night at Common Knowledge near Killybegga on Friday 29th March. Amir Abuabob and Sorcha Fox will present a new theatre piece, a story of Palestine and Irish intertwined history, with live musicians Tara Booth Mooney and Aoife Hammond. There will also be an open mic with songs and stories of solidarity.

Enjoy traditional Palestinian food and you can buy goods from the Women in Hebron textiles co-operative. Transport can be arranged for members of the Palestinian community and their friends – email aofie@ourcommonknowledge.org. Find out more about the event and book free tickets at this link: <https://booking.ourcommonknowledge.org/events/soomoonkowlodge/1192007>



FREE ONLINE MENTAL HEALTH WORKSHOPS

Throughout April: This looks like a really great series of online workshops offered by Mid-West Aries. The workshops, all two hours long, are free and are for anyone (aged 18 and over) with an interest in mental health and wellbeing. Aries stands for Advancing Recovery in Ireland Education Service.

April 2nd at 2pm: Managing Wellbeing & Mental Health Recovery

April 9th at 2pm: Let's Talk Resilience

April 16th at 2pm: Creativity for Wellbeing

April 23rd at 2pm: How Do I Keep Connected and Stay Hopeful to Support My Wellbeing?

April 29th at 10am: How Can I Find Meaning in My Life and Feel More Empowered?

April 30th at 2pm: Self Care – Building My Resilience

You can find details of all the workshops here: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/mid-west-aries-30819577380>



TALAMH BEO'S LOCAL FOOD POLICY CAMPAIGN

We're big fans of Talamh Beo, one of Ireland's newer farming organisations. They advocate for policies that support the growth of vibrant local food systems, where farmers can provide nutritious, sustainably produced food, and where all people have affordable access to food produced near and where farming benefits local communities and revitalises economies. It's a democratically organised, member-led organisation, run by farmers with direct experience of the issues they campaign on.

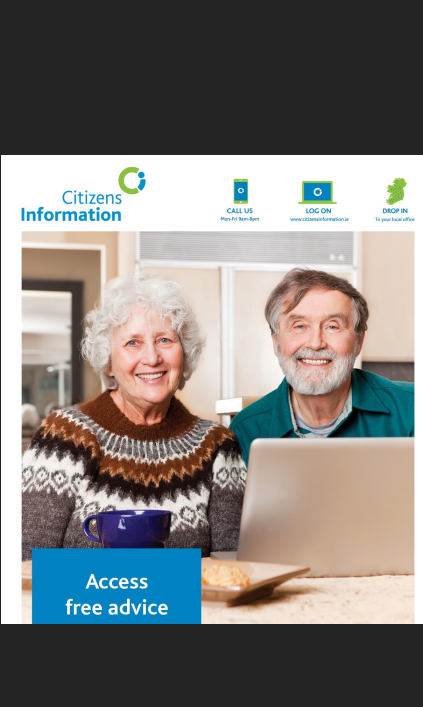
Talamh Beo has just launched a Local Food Policy Campaign. Local food systems strengthen the link between people and the food they eat, and can give them them a greater appreciation of the place, ecosystem and soil in which it is produced – as well as the farmers and workers who produce it. You can read more about this campaign at their website, as well as about Talamh Beo and how to become a member or supporter: <https://talamhbeo.ie/projects/local-food-policy/>



WOMEN CANDIDATES IN LOCAL ELECTIONS – TRAINING

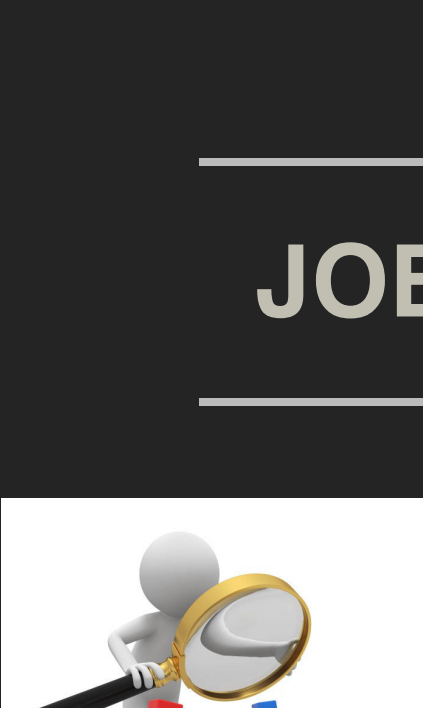
Clare County Council is offering a free training programme for women considering running as candidates in the 2024 local elections. The Supporting Women in Local Elections initiative has been organised to support greater involvement by women in local government. The workshops will provide practical information on running a successful election campaign including advice on getting your message and communication strategy right, how to build your leadership and resilience, and how to make the best use of social media.

The free online training workshops will take place during March and April. Dates and times will be emailed following registration of participants. For any queries please contact: corporatere@ccoc.ie. The workshops are free but please register at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/SupportingWomenLocal Elections>



CLIMATE COMPETITION FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

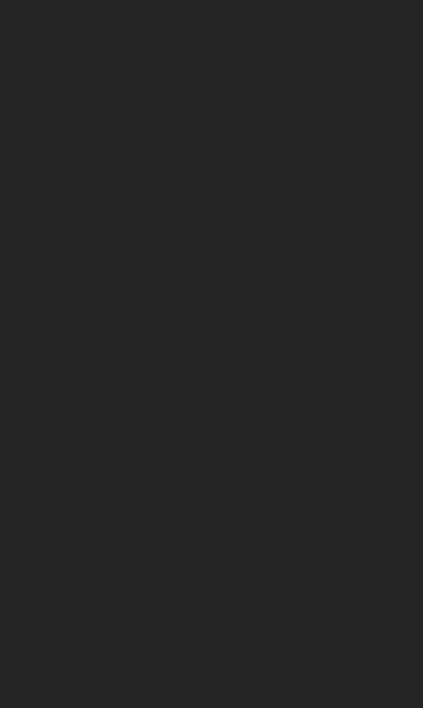
Deadline 11th April: Global Action Plan Ireland is inviting community groups all over Ireland to take part in a climate competition. Funded by Irish Aid and the Department of Foreign Affairs, the 'Climate Heroes' competition will see local groups across the country compete to reduce their carbon footprints. Participants will take as many climate-positive actions as they can, and our online app will translate activities logged into CO2 emissions saved. The team that saves the greatest amount of greenhouse gas emissions are the winners of this exciting competition. The team-based climate competition will begin on 15th April and last until 27th April. <https://www.climateheroes.ie/en-irish-challenge>



CITIZENS INFORMATION SERVICE SEEKING DIRECTORS

Deadline 15th March: North Munster Citizens Information Service CIC is seeking expressions of interest to join its voluntary Board of Directors. The company provides services in Clare, Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford. Experience in areas such as Financial, Disability Services, IT / Social Media, Company Secretary and/or Service Delivery will be beneficial. The company is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors. No fees will be paid to Board members however, travel and subsistence expenses will be paid when applicable. More information on this role and how to apply here: <https://www.citizensinformationboard.ie/en/news/vacancies/mcs20240103.html>

JOB VACANCIES



Novas: Project Worker - Clare Services

Deadline 22nd March: NOVAS' Ennis Family Hub provides supported temporary accommodation for five families experiencing homelessness. Staff provide support to families including accessing ancillary services, life-skills, advocacy and resettlement. For further information, please email recruitment@novas.ie. To apply, see: www.novas.ie/careers-with-novas

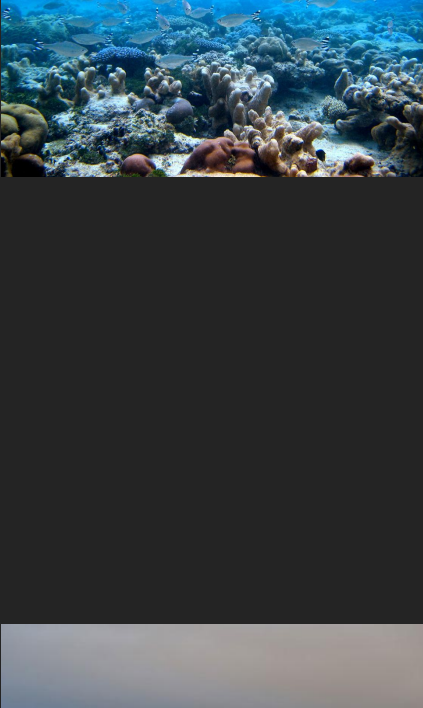
Enable Ireland: Summer Support Workers - Midwest

Deadline 19th March: The Summer Support Workers' role is to facilitate participation of children and teenagers with additional needs in our summer programmes while providing the highest standards of quality supports. <https://www.achylink.ie/vacancies/summerworkers108728-enableireland-summer-support-workers-midwest>

Compass Child & Family Services: Lead Pedagogue (Social Care Leader)

Deadline 31st March: Established in 2012, Compass Child and Family Services (CCFS) is a Charity offering out of home care arrangements for children in the care of the Irish State. Our philosophy of working with children and their families is guided by the principles of Social Pedagogy. <https://www.achylink.ie/vacancies/children-youth-106821-compass-child-family-services-lead-pedagogue-social-care-leader>

CONSULTATIONS



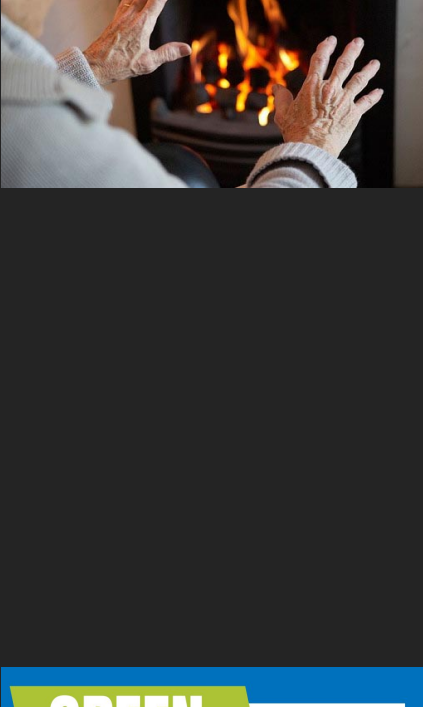
UNCRRPD & PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Deadline 15th March: The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Disability Matters is seeking submissions from Disabled persons organisations (DPOs) and self-advocates on the UNCRRPD (United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) and the reality of human rights for people with disabilities, with a specific focus on highlighting solutions and what is working in local areas. The committee is doing this in advance of a meeting on 8th April to discuss the role of DPOs and self-advocates in providing equal opportunities under UNCRRPD implementation. This meeting in the Seanad Chamber will be live-streamed. If you have any queries, please contact: disabilitymatters@oireachtas.ie or 018 3575. Read more here: <https://www.oireachtas.ie/en/committees/committees/submit-submissions-public-consultations-2024-02-22-the-role-of-disabled-persons-organisations-and-self-advocates-in-providing-equal-opportunities-under-uncrrpd/>



SURVEY ON MARINE PROTECTION

Deadline 15th March: This short survey seeks views and perspectives on the Celtic Sea and marine protected areas (MPAs). An independent expert advisory group on MPAs has undertaken an ecological sensitivity analysis of the Celtic Sea, to identify, where possible, suitable areas within which MPAs might be merited in the future. The work is also intended to inform future maritime management decisions, particularly relating to Climate Resilience Energy. This survey is anonymous and should take about 10 minutes. Closing date is Friday March 15th at 6pm. You will find this online survey at this link: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/Survey_EcoSensitivityAnalysisCelticSea



STRATEGY FOR WORLD HERITAGE IN IRELAND

Deadline 10th April: Prior to the finalisation of the draft Strategy for World Heritage in Ireland 2024-34, the department is seeking views on its vision, draft goals, strategic objectives, and actions and on challenges for delivering the strategy. The purpose of a Strategy is to provide the overarching framework for effectively implementing the 1972 UNESCO World Heritage Convention in Ireland over the next 10 years. The department is inviting any interested individuals, groups or organisations to share their views on the strategy by completing an online survey before 6pm on Wednesday 10 April. <https://www.celticseaoutlook.com/submit-your-consultation-strategy-for-world-heritage-in-ireland-2024-2034>



REVISED ENERGY POVERTY ACTION PLAN

Deadline 8th May: The Energy Poverty Action Plan contained measures to ensure those least able to afford increased energy costs were supported and protected to heat and power their homes over winter 2022/23. The Department of Environment is proposing a revised Energy Poverty Action Plan. The Energy Poverty Steering Group has developed a set of questions at the link below which aim to capture information from stakeholders to assist with the development of a revised Action Plan. The closing date for submissions is 5.30pm on Wednesday, 8th May. If you would like to complete the consultation in hard copy format, please contact email: rep@dec.gov.ie. <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/60724-revised-energy-poverty-action-plan/>



DEADLINE EXTENDED – GREEN PAPER ON DISABILITY REFORM

Deadline 31st July: This deadline for the public consultation on the Green Paper on Disability Reform is being further extended to 31st July in response to requests from individuals, disabled people's organisations and disability groups to have further time to make their submissions. The Green Paper, published in September 2023, is a discussion/consultation document on how best to support people with disabilities into the future. Its purpose is to start a structured conversation on the future of long-term disability payments.

The Green Paper includes proposals on reforming the following income supports: Disability Allowance; Invalidity Pension; Blind Pension; Partial Capacity Benefit; Domiciliary Care Allowance. Find out more and make a submission here: <https://www.gov.ie/DisabilityPaymentsReform>