

# NEWSLETTER

## FEBRUARY 2024



Dear Clare PPN member,

Welcome to our February newsletter! We hope this finds you well and that you are enjoying the first tentative signs of spring.

We have some interesting funding news this month, including the Local Enhancement Programme, which supports community groups in Clare, particularly those in disadvantaged areas, and a grant writing workshop from CLDC that will help you with your funding applications. This month we also have a new section for Job Vacancies in Clare that might be of interest to people in our network.

Our member group in the spotlight is Clarecare, which for the past 55 years has been supporting individuals and families in the Banner County to reach their full potential.

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

**Clare PPN**  
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### CLARE PPN RESEARCH IN UNITED NATIONS REPORT

A new report about human rights in Ireland, which includes research from a project undertaken last year by Clare PPN and TASC, has been submitted to the United Nations. The report by the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) has said a "paradigm shift" is needed in the State's approach to economic, social and cultural rights if it is to eradicate poverty, build up public services and better respond to the needs of vulnerable communities.

The hard-hitting report was submitted to the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) as part of Ireland's fourth periodic review. It includes research commissioned by Clare PPN in 2023 for 'Fair Clare: Securing Socio-Economic Rights and a Just Transition in Clare', which was jointly authored by Kieran Harrhill and Róisín Greaney of TASC – Think-Tank for Action on Social Change.

The IHREC report expresses "concern" about the fragility of ESC rights in Ireland and recommends a strategy and plan on poverty reduction which embraces a human-rights approach with ambitious targets. Its recommendations also include investment in rural public transport. IHREC's press release, with a link to its report, is here: <https://www.ihrec.ie/household-homelessness-and-extreme-poverty-crises-violate-economic-social-and-cultural-rights-ireland-commission-reports-to-un/>



### ELECTION SEASON: WOULD YOU LIKE TO REPRESENT YOUR COMMUNITY IN CLARE?

**5th March at 7pm:** There's a good bit of talk about elections at the moment, with Local and EU elections coming up in May and a General Election on the horizon. What you might not know is that if you're in a community group in Clare you are eligible to put yourself forward to represent your community on various committees and bodies in Clare through the PPN.

If you believe in the potential of community groups in Clare to make a difference through genuine participation in policy and decision-making, then you should consider standing for election as a PPN Representative. Clare PPN will have a variety of roles becoming vacant over the coming months – this could be your opportunity to put into practice your passion for public participation.

We plan to hold an online meeting and discussion on **Tuesday March 5th at 7pm** for people who might be interested in putting themselves forward as a PPN Rep. There is no commitment needed to attend the meeting – and it's open to anyone who is interested. To register your interest in this meeting please email [admin@clareppn.ie](mailto:admin@clareppn.ie) and we'll make sure you get the link to join us on the night. Read more in this article: <https://www.clareppn.ie/rep-2024/>



### MEMBER GROUP IN THE SPOTLIGHT: CLARECARE

Last year Clarecare was proud to celebrate a great milestone of 55 years in operation, but its vision remains true to its origins, aspiring to be a trusted, quality care provider by supporting individuals and families to reach their full potential. Clare's largest not-for-profit social enterprise, Clarecare employs more than 400 staff and provides a unique range of support services to people throughout the county.

Operating mainly in partnership with the HSE, Tusla, the departments of Justice and Social Protection and other stakeholders, Clarecare operates from six locations in the county and provides three core services: Addiction Treatment, Care of the Older Person (which includes Home Support and Social Work for Older Person Services) and Family Support. In each service area, their teams attend to the needs of service users from a physical, emotional and psycho-social perspective.

There are exciting plans for the establishment of a new Clarecare Community Care Centre in Shannon, which will expand and improve its services for residents of Shannon and surrounding areas. And major renovation works are underway at its Residential Addiction Treatment Centre in Bushy Park, Ennis. To find out more about Clarecare, contact Martina Minogue at [minogue@clarecare.ie](mailto:minogue@clarecare.ie) or check out Clarecare's website: <https://clarecare.ie>



### CLARE PPN NEW MEMBERS ONLINE MEETING

**26th February at 8.30pm:** We're delighted to say we've had a flurry of new members joining the network in the early weeks of 2024 and we are inviting members of those groups – or indeed anyone interested in learning more about what Clare Public Participation Network is and does – to join us for a short online information meeting on Monday 26th February at 8.30pm.

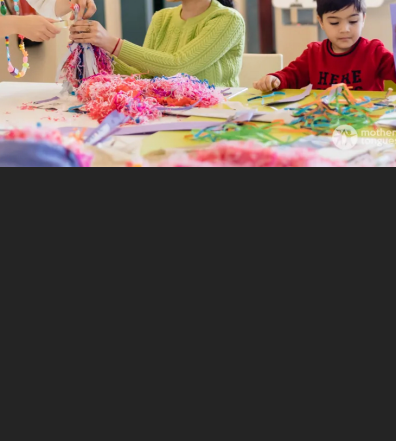
You'll get to meet and ask questions of Clare PPN's staff and to learn about how your group can benefit and contribute to Clare PPN's activities. We're holding the meeting online for your convenience but if that format doesn't suit anyone we are very happy to arrange individual calls with new member groups too. Just drop us an email or call on 087 1617375 and we'll get back to you to set a time. To register for the New Members Meeting please email your name to [admin@clareppn.ie](mailto:admin@clareppn.ie)



### CLARE PPN WORK PLAN 2024

The staff and Secretariat of Clare PPN have drawn up a detailed work plan for the coming year. You are invited to read our draft Work Plan 2024, which you will find at the link below. We welcome any comments or feedback you may have.

<https://www.clareppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2024/02/Sarah-Newsroom-Draft-CPPN-Work-Plan-2024.pdf>



## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



### ONLINE GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP

**4th March:** There's a lot of interest in this grant writing workshop, hosted by Clare Local Development Company. The 4th March date was added after the 28th February workshop booked up, and we hear the new one is looking up fast too, but they hope to add a third date, so it's worth applying and getting your name on the waiting list. This online training for Clare community groups and local enterprises will help you develop the skills and knowledge to write successful grant proposals. The workshop will cover:

- how to tell the story
- link your story with the objectives of grant funding
- where to find grants
- opportunities and pitfalls of ChatGPT
- tips and tricks.

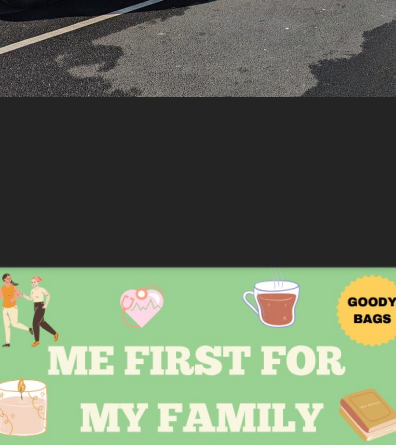
Register now by email: [mmolan@cldc.ie](mailto:mmolan@cldc.ie)



### LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

**Deadline 1st March:** The Local Enhancement Programme will support community groups in Clare, particularly in disadvantaged areas, with capital projects or to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and/or to purchase equipment. Classification of affluent and disadvantaged areas are based on Pobal HP Deprivation scores which can be viewed through Pobal Maps Deprivation <https://data.pobal.ie/portal/apps/les/epobal-maps>.

Grants up to a maximum of €10,000 per group. Any not for profit community or voluntary group can apply. For queries, please contact (085) 6846498 or email [cep@clarecoco.ie](mailto:cep@clarecoco.ie). Closing date for submission of online application forms for is 4pm on Friday, 1st March. Application forms and guidelines are available here: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/grants/localenhancement/>



### INTERNATIONAL PROTECTION INTEGRATION FUND

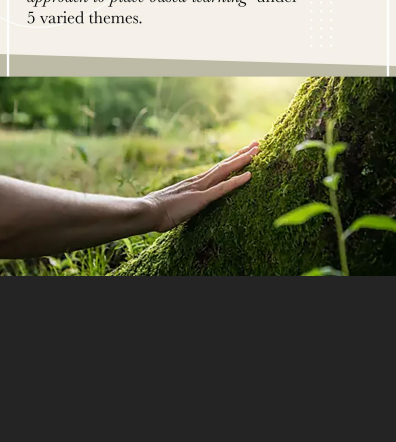
**Deadline 6th March:** Applications are now open for the International Protection Integration Fund, which is now in its third year, celebrating rich cultural diversity and enabling community based organisations to play a greater role in supporting the integration of international protection applicants. Minister of State for Integration, Joe O'Brien, has announced that €1,400,000 will be made available to community groups to carry out integration projects at a national, regional or local level. Grants will be awarded as follows:

- Scheme A: grants of €30,000 to €100,000.
- Scheme B: €2,000 to €10,000.

You can read more and find links to the application forms here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/52836-minister-of-state-jo-obrien-issues-applications-to-the-international-protection-integration-fund-2024/>

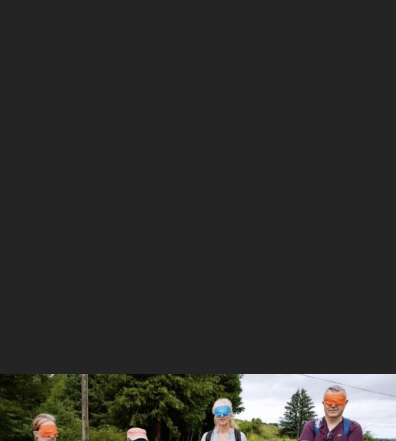


## NEWS / EVENTS



### CLARE OLDER PEOPLE'S VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

**Deadline 1st March:** The search is on again to recognise those who give their time, energy and skills to help others in the local community. Nominate someone special for the Clare Older People's Volunteer of the Year Award 2024. Nomination forms must be submitted by 5pm on Friday, 1st March. To nominate, email [agefind@clarecoco.ie](mailto:agefind@clarecoco.ie), call (085) 684 6240, or download an application form by going to the following page and scrolling down to the relevant section: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/age-finding-programme/age-finding-2024/>



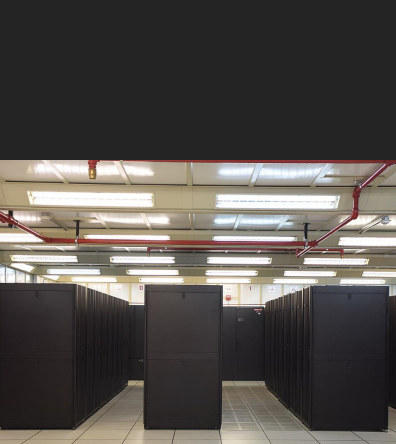
### NEW MEALS ON WHEELS IN WEST CLARE

The Meals On Wheels programme is set to be rolled out in West Clare for the first time. The service operated by the wonderful O'hair charity, based in Newmarket-On-Fergus, was already providing more than 900 free meals to people aged over 65 each week on eight different routes across the county. Last September the service was rolled out to North Clare, having already been extended to East Clare earlier in 2023. If you'd like to find out how to avail of the service – or to become a volunteer – go to this page on O'hair's website: <https://www.o'hair.org/services/meals-on-wheels/>



### WELLNESS FOR WEST CLARE PARENTS & GRANDPARENTS

**20th February:** This looks like a lovely initiative at Kilrush and Ennistymon Libraries. Both are hosting free wellbeing events for parents, grandparents, guardians and carers on the 20th of February. These drop-in events from 10am offers parents, carers and grandparents the opportunity to familiarise themselves with local parent, child and family supports while experiencing a morning of self-care with a wellbeing focus. Toddlers and babies are welcome. Free goods will be available on the day. Organised by Clare Libraries and the Clare Child and Family Support Networks in collaboration with the Tusla-led Parenting Support Champion's Initiative. For further information, please contact Ennistymon Library 065-7071245 or North West Clare Family Resource Centre 065-707114. For Kilrush, please call 065-9051504.



### TELLING GAA STORIES THROUGH OBJECTS

**14th February:** The Winter Lecture Series continues at Clare Museum this Wednesday, 14th February, at 7.30pm with a talk entitled 'Telling GAA Stories Through Objects'. Siobhán Doyle from the National Museum of Ireland (pictured here with an old football), will visit Clare Museum to discuss how the GAA plays an influential role in Irish society that extends far beyond the sports. In popular imagination and experience, the GAA is often evoked through objects: medals passed down from generation to generation, jerseys worn in All-Ireland finals, Cú Camps backpacks and much more. Admission is free but your are asked to book a seat in advance by emailing [claremuseum@clarecoco.ie](mailto:claremuseum@clarecoco.ie)

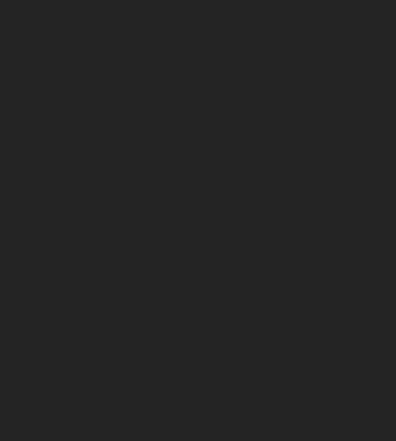
In the coming months, there will be further lectures at Clare Museum on: Hair Hurling Balls; Clare connections in the Army Athletic Association in the 1920s and 1930s; and the 9th century Carran Haird from County Clare. Find more information about this week's talk here: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/your-council/news/winter-lecture-series-at-clare-museum-telling-gaa-stories-through-objects.html>



### COMMUNITY GROWERS ONLINE GATHERING

**2nd March:** Community Gardens Ireland is a voluntary, independent, inclusive group that works with all agencies and groups that promote environmental awareness and support community gardening and food growing in all parts of the island of Ireland. Next month, Community Gardens Ireland is joining forces with Social Farms & Gardens Northern Ireland to organise their 3rd annual online gathering and forum. The event starts at 11am on Saturday 2nd March.

This free event takes place online and will include speakers from allotments, community gardens and groups across Ireland. This is always a very popular event. The 2024 theme is Food Education and the link for more information is here: <https://www.gardeners.ie/news/articles/gai-online-gathering-of-community-growers-2nd-march/>



### HEALTHY CLARE NEWSLETTER AGAIN

We're flipping the Healthy Clare newsletter again as it's such a good resource, packed with news of activities around the Banner for all ages and abilities, information and advice relating to physical and mental health and wellbeing, eating well, addiction, sexual health, support services and much more. The February newsletter is out now and you can find it at the link below. If you'd like some hard copies, you can email [smunogan@clarecoco.ie](mailto:smunogan@clarecoco.ie). Healthy Clare newsletters are available at this page: <https://www.clarecoco.ie/services/community/healthy-clare/newsletter/>

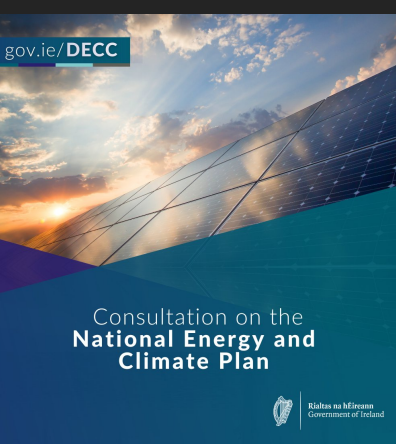


### ÓMÓS ÁITE: GROWING OUR APPROACH TO PLACING OUR LEARNING

This looks like an interesting series of free webinars on Fridays in February and March – an exploration into the unique potential and challenges faced by place-based learning centres whose focus is on community, biodiversity, solitary and climate. It's an opportunity to share experiences, inspire and learn from each other, advance conversations and look at how we work together for a better future. They take place from 12.30pm-2pm and the topics are:

- 16th Feb – Engaging our wider communities
- 23rd Feb – Meeting ourselves
- 1st March – Developing a solidarity network

If you have any queries please email: [ellen.fanagan@thevillage.ie](mailto:ellen.fanagan@thevillage.ie). You can register for any of the webinars here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9256196181?pwd=ZjZpZjRlYkVlWjZlSTdmWE0wOEluQg==>



### SDG ADVOCATE TRAINING

Calling all Community Practitioners, Educators and Change-Makers. Are you ready to make a difference in 2024? Join Development Perspectives for the SDG Advocate Training and become a champion for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Discover how to effectively include the SDGs in your work to create a sustainable future. Gain valuable insights, tools and resources to inspire positive change within your organisations and communities. This is your chance to be part of the global movement towards a greener, fairer and more inclusive world. The message from Development Perspectives is "Don't miss out on this great opportunity – sign up now and let's make 2024 the year of Impactful Education and Sustainable Development". <https://developmentperspectives.ie/advocate.html>



### EIRGRID ENERGY ROADSHOW

**21st February:** Eirgrid has asked us to let you know about its Energy Citizens Roadshow which comes to Treacy's West County Hotel, Ennis from 6.30pm to 8.30pm on Wednesday, 21st February. The event is free to attend and refreshments will be provided on the evening. The roadshow is made up of two sections – an exhibition space and a panel discussion followed by Q&A. Panel members are as follows:

- EirGrid on the future electricity transmission grid needs in the region.
- SEAI on high-level home energy upgrades, sustainable energy communities and business upgrades.
- ESB Networks on their National Network Local Connections programme and microgeneration opportunities in particular.
- Clare County Council on the potential local opportunities involved in the renewable energy transition.

For more information: [www.eirgrid.ie/roadshows](http://www.eirgrid.ie/roadshows)



## JOB VACANCIES



### COMMUNITY SECTOR VACANCIES IN CLARE

We've spotted that there are quite a few jobs currently advertised in Clare that might interest people in our network. By the way, you can see all of the below job vacancies at the ActiveLink website (link shows ads filtered for 'Clare'):

[https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies?keywords=clare&sort=best\\_combands=listed\\_DESC](https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies?keywords=clare&sort=best_combands=listed_DESC)

• **West Clare Family Resource Centre** is looking to hire a Community Inclusion Worker. <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/106182-west-clare-family-resource-centre-community-inclusion-worker>

• **ClareCare** is seeking Home Support Workers (Relief Cover). <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/106135-clarecare-home-support-worker-relief-cover-x5>

• **Clarecare Family Support Services** is hiring a Social Care Worker. <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/106039-clarecare-family-support-services-social-care-worker>

• **CLDC** is hiring an Enterprise & Social Enterprise Development Officer. <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/106132-clare-local-development-company-enterprise-social-enterprise-development-officer-106132>

• **Mid-West Simon Community** has an opening for an Emergency Accommodation Coordinator – Clare Services. <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/community/106093-mid-west-simon-community-emergency-accommodation-coordinator-clare-services>

• **Lisdoonvarna Faite** is hiring three Childcare Workers. <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/childcare-workers-y06h0105239-lisdoonvarna-faite-childcare-workers-x3>

• Finally, **West Clare FRC** is also seeking tenders for its Strategic Planning Process: <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/tenders/106183-west-clare-family-resource-centre-invitation-to-tender>



## CONSULTATIONS



### IRELAND'S DRAFT NATIONAL ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN

**Deadline 7th March:** The Department of Environment, Climate and Communications is carrying out this consultation to gather stakeholder feedback on aspects of Ireland's Draft National Energy and Climate Plan (NECP), which was submitted to the European Commission on 8th December 2023. NECPs are the framework within which EU Member States must plan their climate and energy objectives, targets, policies, and measures to the European Commission. The NECP is separate from the annually updated Climate Action Plan (CAP) containing climate and energy targets and policies in accordance with the Climate Action and Low Carbon Development Act. The CAP details measures, policies and programmes which the State intends to deliver, whereas the NECP has set criteria for which policies and measures can be included in the modelling. Find out more here: <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/98009-consultation-on-national-energy-and-climate-plan/>

