



# CO. LONGFORD PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

## PPN NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2017 EDITION



*Co Longford PPN: linking community groups with Longford County Council and other decision making bodies.*

*Have a say in the development of your County for now and future generations!!*



## Longford Public Participation Network (PPN) E-bulletin September 2017

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### 1. NEWS FROM LONGFORD PPN

#### **Meetings held/ planned Sept:**

- PPN Development Officer attended the Age Friendly Alliance Meeting 06.09.17
- PPN Development Officer and PPN Disability Rep Maria Keilty attended NCBI Information sessions 06.09.17
- PPN Development Officer attended working group meeting re: walkability audit 14.09.17
- PPN Secretariat Member, Tess Murphy attended the National PPN Advisory Group meeting 07.09.17
  
- PPN Workplan review to be held with Secretariat 18.09.19
- PPN's around the country will have a stand for the three days of the Ploughing Championship. Longford PPN will man the stand Tuesday 19.09.17. Why not stop by, our stand will be located at Block 3, Row 13, Stand 296
- PPN Development Officer and Arts Officer to hold planning meeting for new arts project Thurs 21.09.17
- National PPN Development Workers Meeting, Custom House, Dublin 28.09.17

#### **Items to be agreed by PPN Secretariat at PPN workplan review:**

- Training opportunities
- Upcoming events:
  - Walkabout in Revamp 3 R by PPN Groups as part of Community Recycling Network of Ireland initiative. Date in October to be agreed by PPN Secretariat
  - Equality & Human Rights training session to be delivered to PPN groups as part of a training fund received by LCRL and LCC. Date in Oct to be agreed by PPN Secretariat
  - PPN Plenaries dates to be confirmed
  - Launch of PPN website and promo video
  - Frequency of emails and newsletters to membership

#### General:



The PPN Facebook page is [Co Longford Public Participation Network](https://www.facebook.com/longfordppn). @longfordppn

If your group has any information they would like posted please contact us on Facebook where we will share your information or if you are not on Facebook e-mail [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie) and we will post it on your behalf. *Don't forget to "Like" and "Share" our page!!*

Follow us on Twitter @LongfordPPN

**If there are any community group's who are not yet registered with the County Longford PPN you can do so by downloading the form at [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie), e-mail [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie) or contact Siobhán at 087 261 5583**

## **2. WHAT'S ON IN YOUR MUNICIPAL DISTRICT?**

***New for the month of Sept/Oct:***

### **Longford County Choir Returns for a New Season**

The Longford County Choir commenced rehearsals for its new season on Wed, 13th Sept. The venue for rehearsals is the Sylvia Dawson Hall at the rear of St Christopher's School on the Battery Rd, Longford. Rehearsals commence at 7.30 pm and new members are specially welcome. It is not necessary to be able to read music and new members soon get accustomed to singing in harmony. The health and social benefits of choral singing are well recognised. Members are not all from Longford and Counties Cavan, Dublin, Leitrim, Westmeath and Roscommon are represented at present.

The choir will be involved in some local community events early in the season. It will also continue with its annual Christmas concert in St Mel's Cathedral which has raised over €50,000 for local charities to date. Further exciting events are planned for 2018.

The choir had a busy season last year which included a very successful tour to France. The musical director is the highly acclaimed Fintan Farrelly and he has previously arranged for many of Ireland's leading soloists to perform with the choir. This gives a great opportunity for local audiences to experience music of a very high standard in their own area. The choir has performed a varied repertoire from major choral works to popular ballads and songs and full details are available on its Facebook page. If anyone is thinking of joining please come along and you will be very welcome.

### **News from Lus na Greine FRC (043) 66 60977**

**Congratulations & Well Done:** The centre and Granard Youth Club extend best wishes and congratulations to all Junior Cert Students who received their wonderful results this week. We are very proud of you all and wish you well in the new school year.

**Women In Touch:** Are heading into their ninth year meeting with the first meeting on **Tuesday next the 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am**. This group is comprised of women of all ages, backgrounds, cultures, abilities and talents. *The bond between women transcends all boundaries.* It offers women a resource to meet up with other women once a week, share support/friendships, knowledge and skills. The group facilitates a host of activities, training and development and social events with outings a central theme. Please get involved and if you have difficulty with transport let us know in the centre and we can help overcome barriers.



**Granard Art Club:** Meet for their new term on **Wednesday next the 21<sup>st</sup> September 10 am – 12 noon**. This is a fantastic opportunity to join a group that is open to all possibilities in the realm of art and craft. No need for experience and beginners are especially welcome. Open to men and women of all ages. Why not give it a go. Professional tuition and lots of laughter assured.

**Fun with Art:** Has moved to a new day and time and now takes place on Friday afternoons from 4.30-6pm in the centre. This is a most valuable resource for children of all ages to develop their creative potential. Ewa is our professional tutor and she is wonderful with the group and their work is amazing. Booking essential – contact 087 0677619

**Computer Coding for Kids:** Recognised as one of the growing skills necessary for the digital age – these classes are really timely, effective and fantastic for children aged 8 to 12 yrs. For full details and booking contact Eamonn on (085) 1292282

**Grow Group:** Continues every Tuesday evening from 8-9.30pm. Safe, supportive place where people get together to support their positive well-being. All welcome and no need to book – just come along and a warm welcome is assured. A great barrier buster to loneliness, isolation and a way to make new friends and meet positive people.

**'BusyB's Parent & Toddler Group'** – Start back Thursday morning the 21<sup>st</sup> from 11 am to 12.30 pm. All parents, carers, grandparents welcome with their babies, toddlers and waddlers. A great programme and fun filled environment is assured. Just come along.

**Friday Seated Exercise Class:** Continues every Friday morning from 11am to 12.30 pm. This is a gentle way to get in that valuable exercise in a warm, welcoming environment with professional guidance. Go at your own pace, work and tone those muscles and gain flexibility and balance. All welcome. Contact Marian (087) 6387827 or the Centre

**Children's Groups & Youth Club:** Return this coming week with Girls Group on Tuesday, 5-8 yrs. Boys and Girls on Wednesdays and Boys Zone on Thursday (9-12yrs). Further details on Foroige Club next week.

### 3. LOCAL NEWS & SERVICES:



**Longford County Childcare Committee** are holding a **Maths and Science event for childcare practitioners and parents on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> October 2017 in The Rustic Inn Abbeyshrule, commencing at 9.30am**. Longford CCC are hosting Exploring Maths and Science in the Early Years CPD event on October 21st. This daylong event is aimed for parents and early years practitioners with workshops on the day





from experts in Maths and Science. Come along where you can also avail of information from other interested parties. To book your free place please visit [www.longfordchildcare.ie](http://www.longfordchildcare.ie)

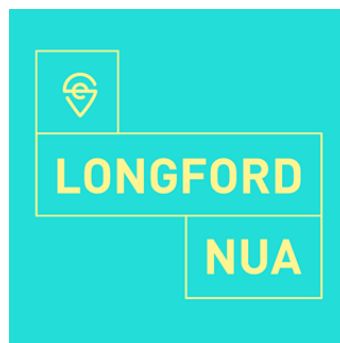
### SPIN Longford - Longford Market on The Square



Don't forget to go along to Longford's Market on the Square this Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Sept 12 – 6pm where you will find something for everyone, crochet designs to handbags, beauty products to children's toys, food, entertainment and much much more... Not to be missed!

### Longford Nua App

Space Engagers, a social enterprise that uses interactive mapping technologies to engage people with local issues are running the Longford Nua project <https://www.facebook.com/longfordnua/> with the Longford URBACT Local Group. Why not check it out and share information and stories about places in Longford Town and/or make suggestions on how these spaces could be enhanced or reused.



### Charity Fundraiser

Saturday, **September 23rd** at 8pm, in the **Longford Arms Hotel** to raise funds for MS patient Stephen Garland so he can travel to Russia Nov 20th for HSCT ('Hematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant') **treatment** to stop his **PPMS** (Primary Progressive Multiple Sclerosis).

Stephen is a valued member of MS Longford and also one of our very own PPN Disability Rep's. The



County Longford PPN would like to take this opportunity to wish him all the best with his treatment and raising the necessary funds.

A promotional poster for a comedy fundraising event. The background is red. On the right is a portrait of Jason Byrne with clown makeup (red nose, white face paint, and black eye makeup). The text on the left reads: "A Comedy Fundraising Craicfest with JASON BYRNE", "Support: Willie White – Stephen Garland", "Saturday Sept 23rd Doors 8pm Price €22", "Longford Arms Hotel". At the bottom left, it says "All proceeds go to STOPMY PPMS.COM" with a logo of a hand with a red stop sign, and "+ Info &amp; tickets www.stopmyppms.com".

Visit the site below for further information

<http://www.stopmyppms.com/jason-byrne-comedy-craicfest.html>

#### Thank You Note:

The PPN would like to thank Longford County Council in particular Enda Tiernan for all the printers no longer required by LCC. Community groups who availed of the free printers reported they were a welcome addition to the work of their group.



#### 4. [National News](#)

##### [National PPN Conference – Thurs 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017, Sligo](#)

The first National PPN Conference will be held on Thursday 19th October 2017 in the Clayton Hotel, Sligo. It is being hosted by Sligo PPN in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD).

##### **Who should attend?**



The Conference is targeted at PPN Secretariats, PPN Members, Resource Workers, Volunteers, Elected Members, Local Authority staff supporting the PPN structure, Partnership / Local Development Companies and LCDCs.

### **Topics**

Development of PPNs; Statements of Wellbeing; Developing Policies and Models of Best Practice. The Conference will also provide excellent opportunities for networking and reviewing the strengths, challenges, opportunities and threats encountered to date.

### **Conference Programme / Speakers**

The conference will focus on the progression of PPNs at local and national level, how they can influence policy, develop collaborations between PPNs and Local Government and strategising and building for the future.

There will be input from the DRCD, breakout sessions giving voice to individual input on issues around Social, Economic, Democratic and Environmental themes and an overview of PPN Models of Best Practice. Inspirational guest speakers on the day will include Mr John Lonergan, Former Prison Governor and Management Expert; Mr Michael Ewing, Co-ordinator of the Environmental Pillar.

### **Registration**

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/national-public-participation-network-conference>

**To encourage participation and access there is no conference fee applying**

Queries to Sligo PPN Office on 071 9114430; e-mail: [ppn@sligococo.ie](mailto:ppn@sligococo.ie)



Clár Éire Ildánach  
Creative Ireland  
Programme  
2017-2022



## **Department of Rural and Community Development Statement of Strategy 2017-2020**

In accordance with the Public Service Management Act, 1997, the new Department of Rural and Community Development has begun the preparation of its first Statement of Strategy to cover the period 2017-2020. The Statement will comprise the key objectives, outputs and related strategies of the Department and will serve as a framework for action by the Department during the period.

The new Department combines the Regional and Rural Affairs Division of the former Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs and the Community Division of the former Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government. The Department is also responsible for oversight and associated policy with respect to the Charities Regulatory Authority.

This Strategy will be strongly informed by the Government's *Programme for a Partnership Government*, taking account of specific strategic and cross-Departmental issues. It will also reflect relevant overarching budgetary and policy frameworks, drawing heavily on the Action Plan for Rural Development and the Framework Policy for Local and Community Development (see links below) for its guiding principles. Further details of the full range of these and other functions transferred to the Department by the Oireachtas can be found at <http://drcd.gov.ie/transfer-of-functions/>.



In preparation for the drafting of the Department's new Statement of Strategy, your views are being sought in order to facilitate rounded and robust identification of the key strategic issues for the period. In particular, I would be grateful if you could identify any cross-cutting issues that you consider should be incorporated into our Statement of Strategy.

Separately, we are inviting submissions from current department staff, other government departments, and members of the public to ensure a broad range of input.

I would be grateful if you would forward your views by close of business on Monday, 2 October 2017, to: [Linda.Sheridan@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:Linda.Sheridan@drcd.gov.ie)

## 5. EU NEWS

### [Eurofound report shows big gaps in hours worked and annual leave across the EU](#)

Irish people work 90 hours more per year than the EU average. That's one of the key findings in a new report from the EU's Dublin-based agency EUROFOUND. The study also found that Irish workers, on average, only get 20 days holidays each year compared to 25.7 days for citizens of the other first 15 EU member States. Eurofound report shows big gaps in hours worked and annual leave across the EU. People typically work much longer hours and enjoy fewer public holidays in the newer EU member states than the older ones. On average, for example, workers in the older EU member states enjoyed 25.7 days statutory leave per year compared to an average of 21.6 days in the newer member states. Ireland was one of the outliers among the older EU states. The largest gap was between workers in Estonia and Hungary and those in France at 240 hours per year

### [EIB unveils €300m Irish company lending programme and new Ibec partnership](#)

Companies across Ireland will benefit from a new EUR 300 million long-term lending programme announced by the European Investment Bank (EIB) in Dublin last week. The new company financing scheme marks the first ever direct lending by the EIB to Irish midcap firms.

New cooperation with Ibec was also formally agreed that will further build on the strengthened commitment of the European Investment Bank to support private sector investment in Ireland.

The Minister for Finance and Public Expenditure and Reform, Paschal Donohoe T.D., highlighted that "This ground-breaking initiative from the EIB will provide a significant investment boost to midcap companies based in Ireland. Previously, the EIB's direct loan offerings in Ireland would have focused on larger corporates. However, with this programme the EIB is specifically targeting and directly lending to smaller, midcap size companies. This initiative follows on from my meeting with the EIB President in June and is evidence of the ever-closer cooperation with the EIB which was committed to at the opening of the Dublin office last December. This programme will enable midcaps to widen and complement their financial sources, stimulating investment in the Irish economy which is all the more welcome in the face of the challenges from Brexit."

Ibec CEO Danny McCoy stated: "Irish business has been the driving force behind the economic recovery. Today's agreement is another step towards improving the competitiveness of companies in Ireland and ensuring their continued growth. We are delighted to enter into a promotional partnership





with the EIB. The EIB's new lending programme for Irish business is a welcome source of new and alternative investment. This programme, and the deeper cooperation between Ibec and the EIB, demonstrates the EIB's continued commitment to the Irish market. We are looking forward to working with them to improve the business environment for Irish companies. The announcement comes at an opportune time for Irish business owners, providing them with greater certainty in the face of challenges from Brexit."

"The European Investment Bank recognises the crucial contribution of midcap firms to economic growth and employment across Europe. Following last weeks Dublin launch the EIB Group is rolling out a number of new financing initiatives to support companies across Ireland seeking to expand and build on new business opportunities. This new Midcap lending programme complements the EIB's traditional support for transformational infrastructure in Ireland, and the partnership with Ibec agreed today will pave the way for stronger engagement in the years to come." said Andrew McDowell, European Investment Bank Vice President.

Details of the new Ireland Midcap Programme Loan were outlined to business leaders at a workshop at Ibec headquarters in Dublin. Company representatives were able to discuss financing challenges and investment requirements with senior EIB corporate finance experts and hear first-hand from a number of Irish companies whose investment has been supported by the EIB in recent years.

Under the new streamlined lending initiative companies active across a range of sectors, and looking to expand activity, will be able to access new financing from the European Investment Bank. Individual loans will provide financing at cheaper rates and much longer tenors than traditionally available.

The partnership between the EIB and Ibec aims to provide improved promotion and information on new small business and midcap financing programmes, tailored for the specific needs of Irish businesses.

Prior to the Ibec event Andrew McDowell formally agreed a new EUR 20 million investment in ACT Venture Capital's latest fund, ACT V, by the European Investment Fund, part of the EIB Group. This is expected to lead to overall investments of more than EUR 90 million for primarily Irish SMEs looking to expand internationally.

The European Investment Bank is the world's largest international public bank, owned directly by the European Union member states. Over the last decade the EIB has provided more than EUR 1.2 billion for investment by Irish companies, including credit lines with SBCI, AIB, Bank of Ireland, Ulster Bank and Rabobank

## 6. FUNDING

### Ulster Bank Skills & Opportunities Fund Launch - R2 2017

#### **We are giving away over €87k of community funding in the Republic of Ireland**

Almost 9 in 10 of us have benefitted from the work of a charity, according to the latest Social Landscape Report compiled by The Charities Aid Foundation and ACEVO – highlighting just what an essential role charities (as well as other not-for-profit organisations) play in our communities.



It's just one of many reasons that we're delighted to announce that we're making more than €87k of community funding available to not-for-profit organisations in the Republic of Ireland through our Skills & Opportunities Fund.

Applications for R2 2017 are open from **Friday 1 to Friday 22 September 2017** and not-for-profit organisations, including community groups, social enterprises and state-funded schools and colleges with eligible projects are invited to apply for grants of up to €35k.

The projects that we fund focus on helping people in some of the most disadvantaged communities in the Republic of Ireland to access the skills and opportunities they need to build their financial capability or to start or develop a new business.

Here's how one previous winner, North Leitrim Men's Group, has been using their Skills & Opportunities funding to benefit 25 local economically and geographically isolated men:

*"Our DEBUT programme provides hands-on training in product design and business education in entrepreneurship through FabLab Manorhamilton, a digital fabrication and community makerspace.*

*As a direct result of the training, which 25 men have received, two businesses have already been set up, two jobs created and one participant has moved into full-time employment. We are delighted to have already demonstrated that with funding in place, the project can deliver a tremendous boost to participants' self-esteem, and increase their contribution to the community, as well as their employment prospects."*

Interested in applying this time round or know an organisation that might be? Full details are available at <http://skillsandopportunitiesfund.ulsterbank.com>. Remember to check the eligibility criteria and application guidelines before applying, as well as the relevant Regional Priorities, which applications will be reviewed against at the judging stage.

With almost 90% of us likely to benefit from the assistance of a charity at some point in our lives, and 100% from building stronger communities, make sure to spread the word among both your local and virtual communities.

Here's a reminder of the key dates for R2 2017:

Application window: **Fri 1 Sep – Fri 22 Sep 2017**

Public vote: **Fri 27 Oct – Fri 10 Nov 2017**

Regional Board: **Mon 13 Nov – Fri 24 Nov 2017**

Announcement of winners: **Tue 11 Dec 2017**



## Go for Life Grant Scheme

*"The Go For Life grant will make such a difference to the lives of our community"* - Deirdre from Dominic's Community Centre Ltd, Tallaght

### National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity for Older People 2017

[Click here to download the link to the National Grant Scheme for Sport and Physical Activity 2017 application form.](#)

Closing date is 12 noon on Friday 29 September 2017

<http://www.ageandopportunity.ie/what-we-do/physical-activity-sport/go-for-life-grant-scheme>

**Is your group holding an event or has your group news you would like to share with the wider County Longford Community?**

***Then why not promote it through your PPN?***

Just email, post or call to us (contact info below)

**For inclusion in our new weekly PPN Newsletter**

**Compiled by**

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*Sources: Longford PPN community groups ,EU News, DOECLG, Longford County Childcare, Longford Co. Council, Longford Leader, Environmental Pillar, Social Justice Ireland and other sources with many thanks!*