



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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Great Water Street, Longford

[PPN Newsletter April 2021 \(Part 4\)](#)

Dormant Accounts Fund Measure to Support the Employment of People with Disabilities

As part of the Dormant Accounts Fund Action Plan for 2021, the Department of Social Protection (DSP) are inviting applications from community and voluntary organisations who wish to support and improve the employment opportunities (incl. self-employment opportunities) for People with Disabilities.

There are **two key objectives of this funding**:

1. To support People with Disabilities to: access employment; improve their career progression opportunities 'in work'; and improve their employment outcomes through education and training.
2. To support potential employers to provide employment for People with Disabilities.

A support event for organisations interested in applying will be held on **Thursday 22nd April** at **2:30pm**. Event details and registration are available [here](#).

The closing time and date for applications is 3:00pm on Thursday 13th May.

Please see our [How to Apply to DAF](#) page for details.

The Dormant Accounts Fund Team



SEAI Online Events - Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit Funds

SEAI is organising a consultation process regarding the Community Benefit Funds arising from renewable electricity projects – how the funds will be managed at a local level and how communities can benefit from the funds.

- There are two 'townhall' webinars arranged for the following dates with the Eventbrite link included:
 - o [10am Wednesday 21 April](#)
 - o [7pm Tuesday 27 April](#)
- The events may be of interest to community groups in general (PPNs, Local Development Companies, local charitable/voluntary organisations - not just SEC's); feedback & participation are welcomed.
 - o Please forward to other groups which may be interested.

The expected value of the funds is estimated to be between a half and one billion over the next 30 years. This represents a very significant transfer of funds to communities and the Good Practice Principles sets out the approach proposed to manage these funds. Further information is available at this link:

[Public Consultation on Good Practice Principles for Community Benefit Funds under the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme.](#)



NATIONAL
MEALS ON
WHEELS
NETWORK



Dear Provider,

The National Meals on Wheels Network is inviting meals on wheels providers to complete the survey below. The survey is part of our national needs analysis on Meals on Wheels in Ireland. This information will help us understand the sector's experiences and challenges while informing our Meals on Wheels policy in the future. The survey should take no longer than ten minutes. The survey deadline is Friday the **23rd of April 2021**.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeLmbhUIHtlnNIzeikG4L_ZcyuQhFhtgoUrBVbjNkQAViCahg/viewform?usp=sf_link

IRL Small Grants are still Open

Under the umbrella of Irish Rural Link, the National Meals on Wheel Network is pleased to announce it has secured €50,000 from the Community Foundation for Ireland to distribute to its members in 2021. The funding is designed to assist members in meeting the additional demand placed on them by the Covid-19 pandemic. To apply for funding, applicants must be members of the National Meals on Wheels Network as of the 7th of April 2021.

Applications are open now for Members. Closing date for receipt of applications is **Tuesday 27th April 2021**

[Apply here](#)

If you have any questions about the application or survey, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Best wishes,

The Meals on Wheel Team

for queries please contact

Maria Pettit - maria@irishrurallink.ie - Tel. 0863294323



Irish Rural Link is core funded by the Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO) funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development through Pobal.



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Creative Ireland – Creative Climate Action Fund

The arts, culture, heritage and wider creative communities have a vital role to play in bringing the urgency of climate change to the forefront; in imagining and communicating the need for action at all levels of society.

The Creative Ireland Programme in collaboration with the Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications is delighted to announce the launch of *Creative Climate Action*. The €2 million fund - the first of its kind in Ireland - is for big creative projects that meaningfully connect people with profound changes we need to make.

Creative Climate Action is looking for proposals which can use creative and artistic approaches to transform connection and awareness into climate action and behaviour change.

Read the Brief [here](#)

Who can Apply?

The fund is open to a wide variety of artforms and mediums across the creative and cultural sectors, including dance, film, literature, music, opera, architecture, street arts and spectacle, theatre, traditional arts, visual arts, cultural heritage, circus, libraries, museums, design of all kinds, animation and games, the audiovisual sector, publishing and fashion.

Applications are invited along two strands:

1.

Creative and climate organisations, NGOs, charities, enterprises, institutions, or collectives/networks with the capacity to work with creative and cultural practitioners.

OR

2.

Local authorities individually, or in collaboration with other local authorities or with external partners, who can connect with and support creative and cultural practitioners.

LEADER ‘Our Rural Future’ funding – over €2.4 million allocated to Longford



- **Local Groups can apply for funding immediately**
- **A total of €70 million to support rural communities and enterprises**
- **Funding allocations for 29 Local Action Groups announced**
- **Ground-Up approach of LEADER a key plank of Our Rural Future**

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., has today (9th April 2021) announced the details of the allocation of the €70 million Transitional LEADER programme for the period 2021-2022.

- €65 million is being allocated to support locally-led rural development projects across the 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs)
- €3 million is being allocated to support the LEADER Cooperation measure which encourages rural areas to work together on collaborative projects
- €2 million will be allocated to prepare for the next LEADER Programme

Minister Humphreys has also today published the funding allocations being provided to each of the 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs).

More information on how and where to apply is [here](#)



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



‘We can do this’

-The enormous efforts made by the people of Ireland show that we have the power to stop the spread of COVID-19 and that we have protected each other from serious illness.

-We are also seeing the combined impact of our sacrifices and the COVID-19 vaccination programme. Case numbers are falling and there are fewer people in hospital – but we’re not quite there yet.

-We all need to keep doing the things which we know protect us and the people we love from COVID-19:

- * Keep our distance and stay 2 metres away from each other
- * Wear masks when it is not possible to keep socially distant
- * Wash our hands
- * Call the GP as soon as you notice any possible COVID-19 symptoms

-There are better days to come. As the country reopens and as more of us are vaccinated, there is a lot to be hopeful about. Keep your guard up and safeguard the progress we've made.

Youtube link [here](#)

We encourage everyone to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source – here are the links to the pages with information on the vaccine:

Ireland continues at level 5 restrictions. You can find more information [here](#)

We encourage everyone to read about the COVID-19 vaccine and to get their information from a factual, trusted source - check [hse.ie/covid19](https://www.hse.ie/covid19) vaccine for information about the vaccine [here](#)



Nominations open for Garda Youth Awards 2021 – closing date for nominations Friday 30th April 2021

The Roscommon-Longford Garda Division, in association with Roscommon and Longford County Councils, is delighted to hold the third annual Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards.

The awards celebrate outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 21 years. Roscommon-Longford Gardaí, along with Roscommon and Longford County Councils, recognise that a lot of good work is being done by young people in every community throughout both counties which should be rewarded.

Awards will be considered for nominated young people who by their presence, make their communities a better place to live. There will be four winners of the Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards for 2021:

- Individual – where a young person has made a positive contribution to their community making it a better place to live
- Group – where two or more made a positive contribution to their community making it a better place to live
- Special Achievement – where a young person has overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition
- Community Safety – where a young person or persons, through a crime prevention or safety initiative/innovation, have made their community a safer place to live in

Relevant persons/organisations/groups in the Roscommon Longford Garda Division are encouraged to put forward young people who demonstrate these qualities for nomination.

A judging panel will decide upon a nominee in each category and their nomination form will then be forwarded to represent the Roscommon-Longford Garda Division for consideration for the National Garda Youth Awards in October 2021. It is hoped that the Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards will be presented at a virtual ceremony before the end of May.

Nomination forms (**in typed format**) and media consent forms should be emailed to Roscommon.GardaYouthAwards@Garda.ie or posted/handed into the Community Policing Unit at Castlerea, Granard, Longford or Roscommon Garda stations or directly to Garda Angela Mullooly, Strokestown Garda Station, Strokestown, Co Roscommon F42 EY27 before **Friday April 30th 2021**.

Should you have any queries please contact Angela by email above or call her at Strokestown Garda Station on 071 96 33002 or 087-7955098.

Information Issued by Garda Angela Mullooly on behalf of Inspector David Cryan, Community Policing Unit, Roscommon-Longford.

For Nomination form and Media Consent form click [here](#)



The National Bravery Awards were established in 1947 to provide suitable recognition by the State of deeds of bravery. Deeds of Bravery Awards are given to people from all walks of life and all sections of society who have saved a human life involving personal risk to them.

The Council who adjudicates on who should receive an award is called Comhairle na Míre Gaile. It is chaired by the Ceann Comhairle and includes the Cathaoirleach of Seanad Éireann, the Chairman of the Irish Red Cross, the Lord Mayor of Dublin, the Lord Mayor of Cork, the President of the Association of Irish Local Government.

Nominations for a “Deed of Bravery” Award are being collected. If you know of anyone deserving of a bravery award, please complete a nomination form available at www.bravery.ie/nominations and email to sec@bravery.ie

More information on the Awards can be found on the website www.bravery.ie

Closing date is 30th April, 2021.



With everyone being asked to stay at home a little while longer, individuals and groups are looking for new ways to give back or simply to keep busy. Volunteer Longford and LCRL, along with the network of Volunteer Centres across Ireland, have been working hard to identify ways of doing this while staying safe and staying in their own locality and so the #VolunteerFromHome campaign was born!

We have a wonderful range of ways to give back while at home. The latest initiative in this campaign is #SpruceUpYourStreet. We are asking people to get involved in some small way by doing something to brighten up their own immediate surroundings, and we have lots of ideas to get people started as you'll see on the attached poster I am asking you to circulate.. This initiative will be part of our programme of events for National Volunteer Week (17th – 23rd May).

I ask that you might help promote it in your individual electoral areas and through your social media platforms and also with community groups you may work with. People can send pics of their efforts to info@volunteerlongford.ie and we'll display them on our website and FB/Instagram pages. I will also be contacting local media outlets to ask if they will publicise it.

Thanks for your time. 😊 Longford Volunteer Centre.



INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT IRELAND

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"Everything you wanted to know about disability but were afraid to ask!"

Wednesday 5th May 3pm (Zoom)

Independent Living Movement Ireland (ILMI) would like to invite you to our webinar *"Everything you wanted to know about disability but were afraid to ask!"* which will take place via Zoom on Wednesday 5th May 3pm.

May 5th was designated by the European Network on Independent Living as European Day on Independent Living and this event is part of ILMI's celebration of this date.

The webinar will be an opportunity for people to listen in informally learn about the social model of disability and how that informs the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Disabled activists will discuss the use of language and the role of Disabled

Person's Organisations (DPOs) and how the social model of disability can inform the implementation of the CRPD.

We are delighted to be joined by Minister of State Department of Children, Disability, Equality and Integration with responsibility for Disability Anne Rabbitte TD who will open the webinar.

MC for the webinar will be Peter Kearns and will feature a short input from special guest Speaker, Maggie Cameron who is a freelance Disability Equality & Diversity Trainer with experience of developing Disabled Persons Organisations in Scotland.

A facilitated panel discussion with MC Peter Kearns will feature disabled activists Des Kenny, Selina Bonnie, Amy Hassett and Maggie Cameron.

Who is this webinar for?

It is a unique opportunity for anyone who wants to listen directly to disabled activists and hear about the issues facing disabled people through an equality and human rights lens.

Anyone with an interest in equality, human rights, community development, policy development and building an inclusive Ireland should attend to begin to explore how we collectively need to think about disability in Ireland.

We are inviting:

Politicians,

Policy makers,

Public servants,

Community Development Organisations,

Trade unions,

Equality and human rights organisations

Local Area-based partnerships

Disabled activists

Please free to circulate among your colleagues and contacts who you think would benefit from listening in.

To attend, please email me by Tuesday 4th May at 12 noon.

James Cawley,

Independent Living Movement Ireland

Carmichael House,

North Brunswick Street,

Dublin 7.

D07 RHA8

www.ilmi.ie

Mobile: 086 7744 991

Tel: 01 873 04 55



INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT IRELAND
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Irish Rural Link are hosting a series of online consultation workshops on EirGrid's Shaping Our Electricity Future Strategy. A new report that details innovative approaches to developing the grid to meet ambitious

2030 renewable energy targets. It must redevelop the grid to manage 70% of Ireland's electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030.

The North East Regional Consultation takes place on Thursday 29th April 7pm – 9pm via Zoom

Shaping Our Electricity Future comprises four approaches to achieving this, as well as meeting the projected increase demand for electricity over the coming years.

1. Generation-Led: Government policy would influence where renewable energy is generated – favouring locations where the grid is already strong
2. Developer-Led: In this approach, we continue to connect new sources of renewable electricity as requested in any location
3. Technology-Led: This approach uses technical solutions to make the grid more resilient so it can better handle the variable nature of renewable energy
4. Demand-Led: Government policy determines where large energy users locate in Ireland

To register please go to https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcuspjMuGt1ZEF_KKFMIUdtiLVoRSWco

People can find out more about the public consultation and how to have their say in Shaping Ireland's Electricity Future by visiting consult.eirgrid.ie

To find out more about upcoming workshops in your region, please go to www.irishrurallink.ie



Shaping Our Electricity Future - EirGrid launch 14-week consultation on future of electricity grid

I am reaching out to you today to let you know about [Shaping Our Electricity Future](#), a consultation we are launching today.

This consultation aims to identify the best way for Ireland to move from reliance on fossil fuels to cleaner energy. EirGrid is responsible for the flow of electricity around the country and we are hosting a nationwide 14-week consultation to find an agreed approach to reach the Government's 2030 renewable electricity target - of at least 70% of Ireland's electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030.

Homes, communities and businesses across Ireland cannot "go green" without the right electricity grid to transport the renewables-based electricity. Over the next 10 years, we are going to transform the system – without question, the most radical transformation of the grid since electricity was invented.

Ireland has world-class conditions for renewable energy – wind (on- and off-shore) and solar – and with the right infrastructure in place we can decarbonise the system. Ireland needs significant investment and development of its electricity grid if it is to meet the social and economic policy goals of the country. This will mean making far-reaching changes to our electricity system – changes that will affect everyone on the island of Ireland. That's why we want to collaborate with the public to find the best way of shaping our electricity future.

We have outlined 4 approaches that we are seeking views on and these include:

Approach 1: Generation-Led - Plan for electricity generation at the most suitable locations

- In this approach, government policy would influence where renewable energy is generated - favouring locations where the grid is already strong and taking local demand into account.
- This makes better use of the existing grid. It could also lead to more offshore wind generation on the east coast - reducing the need for onshore wind farms.

Approach 2: Developer-Led - Continue to develop the grid on a project-by-project basis in any location

- In this approach, we continue to connect new sources of renewable electricity as requested in any location – upgrading and strengthening the grid to suit circumstances in each case.
- This would mean completing over 100 individual projects between now and 2030 which is not feasible.
- This approach means we would not meet our 70% 2030 target

Approach 3: Technology-Led - Change the technology used for the grid infrastructure

- This approach, using proven technology, makes the electricity grid more resilient, so that it is better able to handle onshore renewable energy.
- It uses underground cables to carry high voltage direct current - moving clean electricity from the west coast (where the energy is generated) to the east coast, without disrupting the existing grid.
- It is an expensive, technically challenging and complex solution and is rarely used on national grids.

Approach 4: Demand-Led: The location of large energy users is decided by government policy

- This approach means government policy determines where large scale energy users – such as data centres and big industries – are located.
- Heavy electricity users like these would be situated closer to sources of renewable energy.
- Though it would mean influencing the decision making of high-demand customers wishing to set up or expand in Ireland.
- Changing where electricity is used in this way would need the support of stakeholders. Without it, we could not achieve our 70% target by 2030.

There are some foundation projects that are common to all four approaches and the final plan is likely to include elements of all approaches, strongly led by one of them.

A key aspect of the launch today is the scale of the consultation we are planning to undertake. Over the 14-week period we will be hosting groups and forums and working in partnership with industry, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Chambers Ireland and others to host consultative forums and discussions. A central component will also see the holding of a Deliberative Dialogue (modelled on the Citizen's Assembly).

We are asking Public Participation Networks to get involved in this consultation through our regional virtual workshops organised in partnership with Irish Rural Link. We will follow up in due course with more information on this. For the time being, we can provide the following information for your calendar:

Day	Time	Region	Registration Link
Tuesday 30 th March	10a m to 12p m	South East	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvceugrDktE9wgcA_O-HOHBeo2ZVxrRe6k
Thursday 15 th April	7pm to 9pm	South West	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUofuuhristGdL3rHtpXLxTeYz_kukQX5PDx
Tuesday 27 th April	10a m to 12p m	North West	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlSduqhpjMrG9Xtcz7-LGlpwlpUo6-g1yb
Thursday 29 th April	7pm to 9pm	North East	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcuuspjMuGt1ZEF_KKFMIUdtiLVoRSWco
Wednesday 5 th May	10a m to 12p m	Midlan ds	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlSfuqhqTktHNd4wDDwhRL8lYaO6QREWtm
Friday 7 th May	7pm to 9pm	Border	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwud-yrpjsHd2fXambDFXlPT7ieEI3KuyO

Members of the PPN can also participate by using our online portal at consult.eirgrid.ie where there is plenty of detail on the approaches and via post EirGrid plc, Freepost FDN 5312, D04 FW28 or by emailing consult@eirgrid.ie.

I would appreciate if you could share this notice on your PPN website, in your membership newsletter and with your PPN Representatives. We would be delighted for PPN members to be involved in Shaping Our Electricity Future.

Additional information:

- [Click here for the consultation brochure](#)
- [Click here for the press release](#)
- [Click here for the animated explainer video](#)
- [Click here to access our new consultation portal](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me.

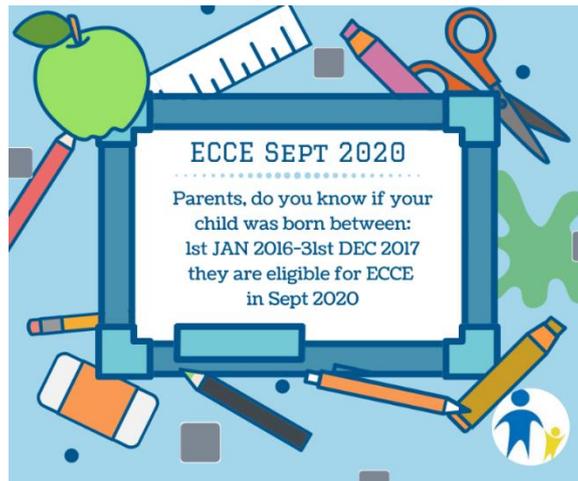
Kind regards,

Jamie Moore

Senior Engagement Specialist

Mobile: +353 85 870 4836

Eligibility for ECCE



The Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) programme is a universal two-year pre-school programme available to all children within the eligible age range.

The programme is provided for three hours per day, five days per week over 38 weeks per year and the programme year runs from September to June each year.

There is one point of entry at the beginning of the programme year. The programme will be available to all children who have turned 2 years and 8 months of age before September 1st as long they won't turn 5 years and 6 months of age on or before June 30th of the programme year.

The programme is available to all children from the September after the child has turned 2 years and 8 months.

Here is a link to the calculator <https://longfordchildcare.ie/.../ecce.../ecce-calculator/>



Launch of Longford's Green Keep It Clean Campaign

Longford County Council is delighted to announce the launch of the "Longford's Green Keep It Clean" initiative for 2021. The campaign gets underway this month, running alongside the National Spring Clean Campaign.

If any individuals or households would like to take part in the "Longford's Green Keep It Clean" initiative, they're invited to contact their local Tidy Towns group. Any questions or queries can be referred to Gary Brady Environmental Awareness Officer on 043 33 43451 or via email to gbrady@longfordcoco.ie.

Full Press Release [here](#)

LGMA Survey – On-line Local Government Website

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), and its partners, are exploring the value of establishing an online website to make local government information easily accessible to everyone.

We are writing to you to request your participation in a short survey to gather your views on the value of a localgov.ie website. Your participation will be of great assistance to us in determining the best way forward to support the citizen and achieve our objectives.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Please click the link below to go to the survey Web site (or copy and paste the link into your Internet browser) to be brought directly to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBLHBXP> Your responses will be confidential and no personally identifiable information will be collected or held for reporting purposes. Thank you very much for your time and cooperation and for providing this important feedback

Jessica McKeon

Customer & Growth Consultant



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

A message from the HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention

Longford/Westmeath & Louth/Meath

At this point in time, I would like to take the opportunity to connect with you and update you on the current services and recent developments in relation to suicide prevention training and signposting material offered by the HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention.

I am also taking this opportunity to remind you of the many services and resources that are available to provide support to those who may wish to avail of such support so that this information can be widely circulated.

Awareness and Training Programmes:

1. Due to the current restrictions, delivery of face to face suicide prevention programmes (safeTALK, ASIST and Understanding Self-Harm) are now paused.

In the interim, an online suicide prevention programme – **LivingWorks Start** – is available. The programme is targeted at anyone over the age of 18 who wants to help prevent suicide and develop the skills to assist someone who may be at risk of suicide. It can be completed in 1½ hours and includes a four-step model and impactful simulations which are undertaken and put into practice during the programme. A licence is required to undertake the programme and these can be accessed by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

2. An **'Introduction to Self-Harm'** programme is also now available in an online format. This programme is suitable for those who seek to develop their knowledge and understanding of self-harm and the reasons underlying such behaviour, how to support and care for those engaging in self harm and gain knowledge regarding the resources and services that are available. Scheduled

dates are outlined on <https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmidlands> and the programme can also be delivered within settings to groups of 15 people over the age of 18 yrs by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

3. An online version of the **'Workshop for Professionals and key contact people providing support to those bereaved through suicide'** is now available. The programme explores the unique needs of suicide bereavement so that participants become more equipped to provide support in the safest and most effective way possible. The programme is a blended workshop consisting of an online e-learning module and a 4-hour virtual online workshop. The workshop covers five key topics: a) understanding the grieving process, b) the context of suicide, c) how to support people bereaved through suicide, d) skills building, e) self-care. The programme is available to groups of 12 people from various centres/settings and requests or queries can be made by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

Information/Signposting Posters:

The following resources are available (via email or hard copy) upon request by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

- 'Personal and Community Information and Support Directories' on a bi-county basis.
- 'Help is at Hand for your emotional well-being and mental health during Covid-19'
- 'Help & Support Information Cards' - County focussed in a wallet size format
- 'Numbers if you need them' – information postcard.

Leaflets and other resources:

A selection of information and support leaflets as outlined below are also available on request:

- 'Responding to a person in suicidal distress – Guidance Document for public facing staff or volunteers'. This document aims to support staff and volunteers working in public facing roles to interact with people who present or contact the service in distress or at risk of suicide and self-harm.
- 'Would you know what to do if someone told you they were thinking of suicide?'
- 'If you have been bereaved by suicide'
- 'Supporting someone bereaved by suicide'
- 'Self harm and young people – and informational booklet for parents and concerned adults'

Local and National Supports and Services:

- A free 24/7 text service, providing everything from a calming chat to immediate support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis is now available and can be availed of by texting HELLO to 50808.
- www.yourmentalhealth.ie provides information and signposting on all mental health support and services that are available nationally provided by the HSE and its funded partners. There is also a Freephone YourMentalHealth information line – 1800 111 888.

Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service

For those who may be grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide, the HSE funded Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service

(in conjunction with Pieta House) is available to provide practical help and support. Please contact the relevant Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer for your area as follows:

Louth/Meath: Marian King Tel: (085) 738 0444 Email: marian.king@pieta.ie

Midlands: Bernie Carroll Tel: 086 418 0088; Email: bernie@pieta.ie

- Other bereavement supports: The National Bereavement Support Line provided by the Irish Hospice Foundation Helpline: 1800 807 077; www.bereaved.ie www.childhoodbereavement.ie

- HSE Psychology Service is offering a virtual drop in clinic and psychosocial service providing emotional support and advice in these challenging times. The service can be availed by email: mlmpsychosocial@hse.ie
- Services for young people: Articles and information on many topics including mental health are available from the following services: Spunout: www.spunout.ie ; BeLoNG To Youth Services: <https://www.belongto.org/> ; Jigsaw: www.jigsaw.ie ; Childline: www.childline.ie
- Online counselling services (free and low-cost) are available from www.mymind.org / www.turn2me.org / www.suicideorsurvive.ie
- Information on Covid-19 and managing your wellbeing at this time is available on: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/mental-health-supports-and-services-during-coronavirus/mental-health-supports-and-services-during-coronavirus.html>

If you would like any further information on any of the above, don't hesitate to contact me as follows:

Eddie Ward

HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention

The Health Centre, St. Joseph's Campus, Dublin Rd., Longford.

Tel: 086 380 1152 Email: eddie.ward@hse.ie

GOVERNMENT PRESS RELEASES



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Launch of Our Rural Future, Ireland's new Rural Development Policy on Monday 29th March 2021

Our Rural Future: Government's blueprint to transform rural Ireland

- Unprecedented opportunity for Rural Development post COVID-19
- Major focus on attracting Remote Workers to rural communities
- Revitalising town centres, rural jobs, adventure tourism, green economy and island development central to new policy
- Broadband roll-out to bring new opportunities in areas like eHealth, remote learning, online trading and new technologies
- Five-year strategy will be underpinned by updated National Development Plan

Our Rural Future, Ireland's Rural Development Policy 2021-2025 is available here: <https://www.gov.ie/.../4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and.../>



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Minister O'Brien welcomes the role of PPNs in the development of the next Climate Action Plan

Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development with special responsibility for Community Development and Charities, has welcomed the launch of the Climate Action Plan Public Consultation.

This process is being used to develop Ireland's next Climate Action Plan and will support the update of the Climate Action Plan 2019 leading to a wide ranging and more in depth citizen, community and sectoral discussion.

The aim of this dialogue is to give the public an opportunity to engage constructively with the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021. It will involve a series of interlinked dialogues and conversations, which will feed into an annual National Climate Conversation. The public consultation will run concurrently with a call for evidence that will accommodate more detailed and expert input.

There are three stages to this process including a broad online conversation, an in-depth citizen conversation and local level conversations that will be facilitated and hosted by Public Participation Networks (PPNs). These local level conversations will include engagement with community and voluntary representatives to inform the delivery of a Climate Action Fund to support climate related initiatives at a local level.

Further information on the development of the new Climate Action Plan including how individuals and communities can engage with the consultation process can be found on gov.ie. Contact: The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office 076-1006843 / 087-1734633



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Press release dated 26th February 2021

Ministers Humphreys, McGrath and O'Brien announce €10 million in COVID Stability funding for community and voluntary groups [Department of Rural and Community Development](#)

Funding targeted at organisations which have suffered due to Pandemic

A €10 million fund is to be established to assist community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises, which have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic. The funding was jointly announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, and Minister of State with special responsibility for Charities and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD. The €10m investment builds on the €45 million COVID-19 Stability Fund which, in 2020, supported over 600 organisations to continue delivering vital services to the most vulnerable in our communities. The new funding, agreed as part of the Government's Resilience and Recovery Plan, is targeted at organisations that have seen their trading and/or fundraising income drop significantly as a result of the Pandemic.

The funding will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Government is aware of the challenges facing community and voluntary organisations and is committed to working closely with the sector in managing through these, recognising that it will require a whole of Government approach.

Further details of the online application process will be made available in due course.



Please see below link to April's Event Guide. This also is on our Facebook page: longfordtourism and is published in the Longford Leader. [here](#)



Delivering Deliberative Democracy - Participation by the Public Participation Networks in Local Government Decision-making Listen to the Podcast on the link below:
<https://socialjusticeireland.podbean.com/.../50sji-ten.../>

[Podcast - Visions for Community Wellbeing – Public Participation Networks](#)

In this episode of Social Justice Matters, Colette Bennett speaks to **Siobhán Cronogue of Longford PPN**, Helen Howes of County Wicklow PPN and Dr. Harriet Emerson, independent consultant, about the process of developing these Visions; their policy impact, and the potential for this process to inform the national Wellbeing Indicators.

Listen to the Podcast on link below:

<https://SocialJusticeIreland.podbean.com/e/55-sji-interviews-ep28-visions-for-community-wellbeing-public-participation-networks/>

Launch of six new eduroam Wi-Fi town centre hotspots



Full details can be found on the Longford County Council website here <http://bit.ly/203cp9a>
[#Longford](#) [#YourCouncil](#) [#Connected](#) [#InThisTogether](#)

Touch-Type Read & Spell (TTRS) is now being rolled out in
 County Longford Library Services

Library members can avail of this accessible, multi-sensory course, teaching touch-typing, reading and spelling at the same time.

Find out more from your [#local](#) [#library](#)
[#Longford](#) [#NewServices](#)

TTRS
 Touch-type Read & Spell

Touch-type Read and Spell is an award-winning, multi-sensory course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling. It is suitable for children, young adults, adults & anyone with diverse learning needs.

FREE access now available with Longford Library Services
 Find out more at www.longfordlibrary.ie
 email us at library@longfordcoco.ie
 or contact your local branch

Longford Libraries
 A Welcoming Space for all



Longford PPN in association with the ICA Guilds in the county are working hard to ensure everyone stays connected during the current COVID19 restrictions. From writing letters/cards to making calls, baking bread to making jam we are here for you!!!!

For further information please contact Olive Quinn, Longford Federation ICA President on 086 8368277 or Siobhán Cronogue, PPN Coordinator on 087 261 5583/ email ppn@longfordcoco.ie

This campaign is part of the National “Keep Well” Campaign and is funded under the Community Resilience Fund.

Read more in Longford Leader

<https://www.facebook.com/LongfordLeader/posts/3816232348399411>

/ facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/longfordppn>



Longford Community Call Helpline

Call 043 3344255 or Freephone 1800 300 122

Email covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie



Longford County Council ‘Stronger Together - Local Action’ campaign



Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LongfordCountyCouncil/>

Keep Well Campaign



Further details on all activities and initiatives at county level will be made available on the Council’s website www.longfordcoco.ie

Get your Weather Alerts at MapAlerter – New Digital Communication Tool - FREE Service for Citizens MapAlerter will streamline all alerts relating to LCC service disruptions e.g. road closures, floods, severe weather, water outages, planning and updates on National Broadband Ireland fibre rollout. Citizens can subscribe online to MapAlerter <https://www.mapalerter.ie/signup> or contact LCC at 043 3343508 and we will post out a form for you to complete.

Longford County Council Takes National Excellence in Local Government Award for the Use of Remote Working Technology



<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/news/press-releases/national-excellence-in-local-government-award.html>



Town and Village Funding Announcement 8 January 2021

On 8th January 2021 Minister Heather Humphreys TD announced funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Longford County Council Regeneration department are happy to announce that a total of €403,388 has been awarded to the county under this latest announcement.

Ardagh €34,117 - Development of a remote working facility in the Community Centre

Edgeworthstown €100,000 – Provision of an outdoor covered performance and meeting area

Ballinalee €97,000 – Provision of an Autism friendly community park and walkway/cycleway

Barry Village €100,000 – Under grounding of ESB cables and development of village

Lanesborough €71,000 – Provision of footpaths and tourism signage

CLÁR Funding 2020

The Department of Rural and Community Development has approved funding of €265,667.70 towards eight projects in Co. Longford. See Longford County Council [Co. Longford CLÁR 2020](#) for details of approved projects.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Approved Projects

Further information on Round 2 may be found at

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/news/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-round-2-accelerated-measure-2020.html>

Further information on Round 3 may be found at

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/regeneration/>

Longford County Council launches WiFi4EU - free Wi-Fi

Longford County Council welcomes the rollout of free public Wi-fi in Longford Ballymahon and Drumlish. The Wifi4EU scheme is an initiative of the European Commission (EU) which provides funding to local authorities to provide free Wi-Fi access in public places.

Longford County Council were successful in securing €15,000 in call 1 of the WiFi4EU initiative. This €15,000 in European funding will be co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, bringing the total funding for this project in County Longford to €30,000.

Access to free public Wi-Fi is seen as an enabler for economic growth and promotes County Longford as a progressive county.

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Further information on BCPs in Longford may be found at :

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/longfordcoco/services/information-technology/broadband/broadband-connection-points/>



<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Longford/Enterprise-Development/Look-for-Local/>