



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

E-mail: ppn@longfordcoco.ie; Web: www.longfordppn.ie

fb: @longfordppn

Twitter: @LongfordPPN

Helen Gorman, PPN Support Worker, County Longford Public Participation Network, Longford County Council,
Great Water Street, Longford

PPN Newsletter December 2021 (Part 1)

Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027

If you missed the consultation on the Draft River Basin Management Plan 2022-2027 on 25th November with the Local Authority Waters Programme and PPN members the presentation may be viewed on the PPN website [here](#)

Below are links to websites that were mentioned and will provide further information.

<https://lawaters.ie/>

<https://www.catchments.ie/>

<https://www.water.ie/news/boil-water-notice-issued-35/>

Raffle Results of the PPN County Plenary 17th Nov 2021

Congratulations to the Winners: **1st Prize €200 Grace Kearney, 2nd Prize €100 Pat O'Toole, 3rd Prize €50 Rose Duffy.** If you haven't already done so could the winners contact Helen at the PPN (hgorman@longfordcoco.ie) to nominate the group they would like the winning prize to be donated to. 😊

FUNDING NEWS



Community Climate Action programme

Pobal has been engaged by the DECC to administer a €5m grant scheme under their Climate Action fund.

Our scheme is called the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). Details will be available on our website and the application portal will open from Monday morning 15th November and will close on 14th January 2022.

The purpose of this funding is to facilitate eligible organisations to collaboratively develop supports, tools, know-how and approaches to assist local communities take climate action.

The strand focus is on climate education, capacity building and learning by doing – moving beyond 'raising awareness' to build the knowledge, skills, attitudes and values necessary to respond to challenges of climate change at a community level.

There is a preference for projects which have a relevant partnership approach and have a demonstration component or pilot phase (for those up to €500,000, especially) to validate their supports.

It is necessary for successful proposals to demonstrate inclusivity in design and practice, so that no one is left behind.

The following are eligible to apply if operating at national or regional level

Not-for-profit organisations

Non-Government Organisations

Community and Voluntary or Charitable organisations

Social Enterprises

Universities, Third Level Institutions or Education

Libraries

In 2021, the Department of Environment Climate and Communications held a series of climate conversations capturing the views of 3,800 members of the public, Public Participation Networks and young people articulating the voice of a public who are responsive to this crisis and feel a sense of urgency.

For further information visit: <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/community-climate-action-programme-climate-education-capacity-building-and-learning-by-doing-strand-2/>

There will be a series of information events, details on the Pobal website.



Press Release: €1.4m still available through Electric Ireland COVID-19 hardship fund



A €2 million COVID hardship fund is available to help people pay energy bills through a partnership between St Vincent de Paul and MABS - The

Money Advice and Budgeting Service.

The fund was set up by Electric Ireland earlier this year to help their customers who were struggling to meet payments for their energy bills. More information on LCC website [here](#)



JAM 'Just a Minute' Campaign

Transport for Ireland along with Bus Éireann, Dublin Bus, Go-Ahead Ireland, Iarnród Éireann, TFI Local Link and Luas are continuing our journey to become JAM Card friendly. The Jam Card will assist customers using the public transport system and make their experience as stress-free as possible.

What is JAM Card and who is it for?

JAM Card allows people with a communication barrier tell others they need 'Just A Minute' discreetly and easily.

The JAM Card© was created by NOW Group, a social enterprise that supports people with learning difficulties and autism into jobs with a future and their service users told them that they would like a way to relay to people that they need a little extra time or patience.

Find out more about NOW Group at www.nowgroup.org and JAM Card© at www.jamcard.org. There are 3 message options to choose from:

- 1) **Please be patient, I have autism**
- 2) **Please be patient, I have a learning disability/difficulty**
- 3) **Please be patient, I have a condition**

For those with a **learning difficulty, autism or any condition** where there can be a communication barrier, the JAM Card allows users to relay to others that they may need a little extra time in a simple, effective non-verbal manner. The JAM Card is useful when on public transport, in a retail or any other customer facing environment.

Where can I get one?

There are several different methods to get a JAM Card.

JAM Cards are available for collection from the following transport hubs:

Irish Rail Stations: Connolly Station, Dublin, Pearse Station, Dublin, Heuston Station, Dublin, Kent Station, Cork, Ceannt Station, Galway, Colbert Station, Limerick, Plunkett Station, Waterford, MacDiarmada Station, Sligo, Dublin Bus: Dublin Bus Head Office, O'Connell St , Local Link Offices

[You can also request one directly from NOW Group by visiting the JAM Card website and filling out the request form.](#)

Or if you would prefer there is a JAM Card App available for Android and iOS. The App allows you to choose your message option and find other JAM friendly businesses.



Age Action's Care and Repair 'Can we Help'? Initiative

Age Action's Care and Repair does small DIY jobs, free of charge, for older people to help them maintain their homes and their independence.

The initiative prioritises carrying out jobs in the homes of older people who are being discharged or have recently been discharged from hospital. If someone is coming out of hospital, no matter where they live, Care and Repair would support them to make sure their home is safe.

The Care and Repair service can remove trip hazards, install handrails, replace toilet seats or move a bed downstairs to make sure the home is ready for their return.

If you require work done in your home to make it safer after a stay in hospital Care and Repair can help.

If you are a professional working with older people who would benefit from this service, you can download a referral form from www.ageaction.ie

For all queries about this service please contact:

Age Action national line: 0818 911 109

Age Action in Dublin: 01 4756989

Age Action in Cork: 021 2067399

Age Action in Galway: 091 527831

Email: careandrepair@ageaction.ie

Local News and Services

Boil Water Notice on Longford Central Public Supply remains in place

All up to date information on the current Boil Water Notice can be accessed at Longford County Council's website [here](#)

The PPN has been asked to circulate the following additional information regarding the services available from Irish Water to older and vulnerable residents during the current Boil Water Notice:

Residents can log on to www.water.ie and put in the reference number LON00040312 to get real time updates on this issue.

Should water be inaccessible for 24 continual hours then Alternative Water Supplies can be requested from Irish Water for affected customers to alleviate these issues.

Persons may be eligible to register on Irish Water Special Services or Priority Services Register, further information can be found <https://www.water.ie/support/vulnerable-customers/>

The Special Services Register is for customers who are aged over 66, blind or vision impaired, deaf or hard of hearing, have mobility difficulties, an intellectual disability or a mental health difficulty.



Longford
Tourism

Links for December's Event Guide for Longford ([Week 6th December 2021 - Longford.ie](#)) and also Christmas Event Guide ([Christmas Event Guide - Longford.ie](#)). The December Event Guide will be published in the Longford Leader and is also on our Facebook page ([Longford Tourism | Facebook](#)).

THERE WILL BE FREE PARKING IN ALL OFF-STREET CARPARKS



IN LONGFORD TOWN ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

Friday 26th NOVEMBER 2021 (Black Friday)

SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2021

SATURDAY 4th DECEMBER 2021

SATURDAY 11th DECEMBER 2021

EVERY DAY FROM SATURDAY 18th DECEMBER 2021 to SATURDAY 1st JANUARY 2022



The **Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027** came into effect on Tuesday 30th November 2021. It is available to view on the internet via the following link

[Longford County Development Plan 2021 -2027 - LongfordCoCo](#)

A copy of the adopted plan will be made available for inspection from **Tuesday 30th November 2021** at the following locations during normal opening hours (subject to Covid-19 pandemic restrictions):

- Planning Department, Longford County Council Offices, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.
- All County Longford Branch Libraries – Longford, Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Lanesborough Libraries.

Copies of the Plan are available for purchase from the Planning Department, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.



Brussels, 1 December 2021 – An Irish gender equality initiative, SHE (See Her Elected), has been awarded **The Innovation in Politics Award in the Democracy** category for their work to increase the representation of women in local politics.

Ten projects from Germany, Ireland, Poland, Spain and the UK made it through to the 2021 Democracy finalists. The finalists and the winner were selected by a European jury of 1,032 citizens earlier this year.

This year's Innovation in Politics Awards are being celebrated as a pan-European series of events, taking place from December 2021 until February 2022 under the auspices of the Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Marija Pejčinović Burić, and the patronage of European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography, Dubravka Šuica.

Ireland's Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage Peter Burke and SHE Programme Manager Michelle Maher were presented the Award in Brussels by Guests of Honour H.E. Dubravka Šuica and Minister of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy (Brussels-Capital Region) Alain Maron.

Empowering women in local politics

See Her Elected (SHE) is a feminist, community-led and rural initiative which aims to increase the number of women in local politics in the rural Northwest-Midlands region of

Ireland, fully funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage under the stewardship of Minister Peter Burke.

As of May 2021, 25 % of elected local authority councillors in Ireland were women. SHE engages directly with women in their communities through the innovative SHESchool which offers free online classes to give women the knowledge, confidence and skills they need to participate in local politics. So far, six women have decided to stand for election in the 2024 local authority elections.

European Commission Vice-President for Democracy and Demography Dubravka Šuica said:

"I am delighted to be patron of this year's Innovation in Politics Awards, which fulfil a vital service in sharing best practices and sparking new ideas in politics across borders in Europe.

The projects in the Democracy category have made a tangible difference in their respective communities by bringing citizens into the heart of decision-making. Engagement with democracy starts at the grass-roots. Indeed inclusion lies at the core of the principles of the Conference on the Future of Europe.

My congratulations go to the winning project, See Her Elected (SHE). It has been truly inspiring to meet the team behind the Irish initiative today and to learn about their work on not only removing barriers for women but actively supporting women in their endeavours to enter politics.

Having been elected as the first female Mayor of Dubrovnik twenty years ago, I am keenly aware of the challenges still facing women in politics today. I am delighted that projects, like SHE, highlight the importance of empowering women to make their voices heard and to be represented in their local communities. This contributes to making our democracy stronger, more inclusive and responsive to the needs of citizens."

Minister of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy (Brussels-Capital Region) Alain Maron said:

"Innovation is important, especially in politics. It is crucial to help build citizens' trust in their governments and with elected representatives. To awaken citizens to the challenges of our society, it is essential to guarantee that elected politicians are representative of society.

Initiatives such as SHE, which won the prize in the democracy category, are a perfect example of a mobilising and inclusive project that strengthens the democratic participation of women in the management of their local areas. I am proud to be a Guest of Honour at the Awards and to explore with other politicians many new and innovative approaches for more participatory democracy."

CEO of the Innovation in Politics Institute, Edward Strasser, said:

"2021 has been an extraordinary year for everyone in politics. The Awards received 400 submissions from 25 countries, making it very clear that political professionals throughout Europe are looking for new solutions. For the fifth year running, we are celebrating the most exciting and impact-driven political initiatives across Europe.

All the projects in the Democracy category make their community more resilient and responsive, and for this I congratulate all finalists. In particular, the winning initiative, SHE, has shown great innovation and courage to shake up the system to empower women to participate in local politics, thus increasing the diversity of representation.”

The winners of the Innovation in Politics Awards for the category Democracy, Peter Burke, Minister of State at the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage in Ireland said: *“We are over the moon with the news that See Her Elected has won the Innovation in Politics Award for Democracy, and we commend the leadership shown by the team across the North West of Ireland. The Irish Government has prioritised funding for organisations who work towards greater diversity and gender equality in local politics and Department of Housing officials and I have loved working with Michelle and her team. We must continue to support and encourage more women into local politics, until our political chambers reflect the societies they serve.*

While progress has been made in increasing the number of women involved in politics, this has been too slow and often limited to the urban areas of the country. We have also seen issues in retaining the talent already within the system. Targeted, influential organisations such as SHE have been instrumental in encouraging more women to consider local politics, and supporting them to stay on and thrive within the system”.

The winning project team was presented with the Award by the Vice-President for Democracy and Demography Dubravka Šuica and Minister of Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Participatory Democracy (Brussels-Capital Region) Alain Maron.

Further information about the Awards

The 2021 winner of the Innovation in Politics Awards for Democracy:
[Ireland: SHE – See Her Elected](#)

The 2021 Democracy finalists:

- [UK: Bristol’s first citizens assembly](#)
- [Poland: Consultations for the ŁODŹ 2030+ strategy – co-created city](#)
- [Spain: Decidim](#)
- [Germany: Eberswalde citizens’ budget](#)
- [Germany: Electoral district citizen assemblies](#)
- [Spain: LAAAB – Aragón’s open governance laboratory](#)
- [Poland: New life if the square](#)
- [UK: Wales’s well-being of future generations act](#)

[Poland: We are the city – Urban lab Rzeszów](#)



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- Longford County Council leads on rural working hubs [here](#)
 - Explore new skills with free Skillshare online courses at your nearest Digital Hub (BCP) information [here](#)

Learn how to **make the most of your device, feel confident and secure online,**
in the comfort of **your local community...**

...in **Moydow or Mullinalaghta**
Broadband Connection Points

Register your interest:
Christine: 087 6450530
Martina: 087 7406705
Mary: 087 6424316

- ***New Courses at a BCP Point in Moydow or Mullinalaghta***

Register your interest:

Christine 087 6450530

Martina 087 7406705

Mary 087 6424316



Keep Well Campaign: Further details on Longford County Council website www.longfordcoco.ie

What's On



New Intergenerational Community Archive project launching in County Longford is seeking volunteers to help facilitate the project in their area!

The Community Time Machine initiative is an age-friendly cross-generational community archive project designed to connect young people with their older neighbours through a series of facilitated interviews, art projects and photography. It is a simple and fun way to have a positive impact and strengthen your community connections.

Neighbourhood Network is delighted to be launching this initiative in County Longford this autumn in partnership with The Creative Ireland Programme, Age Friendly Ireland, Longford County Council and the Department of Rural and Community Development.

Community members across County Longford are now invited to come on board as organisers for this exciting project. The role of community organisers is to gather 5-6 young people, aged 12 – 18, to interview senior members of their community over the phone. The interviews give both participants a valuable opportunity to learn from each other and connect with their community.

Each group that takes part will be given €100 towards a charity/group of their choice and a time capsule to store their project in. A professional portrait photographer will visit each of the seniors involved in the project to take their portraits. The seniors will then receive their printed photos and all of the participants will have their work displayed on the national time machine gallery website.

The Community Time Machine is a great way to get to know more about your community and its history, create something unique and develop community connections. The result is an inspiring collection of insights into the hearts and souls that make up communities all over the county.

If this sounds like a project you would like to see come to life in your area, visit <https://timemachine.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie/> to get involved! We would also love to hear from any youth groups, schools or clubs who might be interested in taking part.

About Neighbourhood Network: visit

www.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie Full press release [here](#)

WORKSHOPS/WEBINARS/TRAINING

SEAI Briefing for Businesses & Communities in Longford

SME Energy Audits & Better Energy Community Grants

Just a reminder of the online webinar about SME Energy Audits & Better Energy Community Grants due to take place on 7th December @ 7pm - The event is free of charge; registration is available at: [Longford SEC Briefing](#) - details of the event attached

Speakers will include

John B Smith, *KORE Retrofits Ltd.* on SEAI's *Community Grants* and *Warmer Homes* schemes.

Ger Meaney, *Climate 23*, on the *SME Energy Audit* scheme and *Energy Master Plans*

Lorraine O'Connor, Longford County Council.

Breda Murphy, Ballinamuck-Drumlish Sustainable Energy Community

Hugh Baxter, SEAI County Mentor & Isabella Donnelly, SEAI Regional Coordinator.

For further details, contact 087 222 2543.



NICVA and The Wheel are very excited and honoured to invite you to the launch of our ***Shared Island, Shared Practices*** initiative from 10.00am to 11.30am on Monday, 6 December. We are delighted that we will have contributions from Simon Coveney TD, Minister for Foreign Affairs and

Minister for Defence, and Deirdre Hargey MLA, Minister for Communities.

Communities North and South on our shared island face a range of challenges and opportunities that are best addressed together. The *Shared Island, Shared Practices* initiative is designed to explore and identify areas where civil society North and South can work together on crucial themes like:

- Rural sustainability
- Recovery from COVID-19
- Developing the island economy
- Digital inclusion
- Achieving a just transition to a de-carbonised island.

There is a saying that “the future is already here – it’s just unevenly distributed”, and *Shared Island, Shared Practices* aims to bring together pathfinders North and South to share thinking on what’s possible when communities work together to address key 21st century challenges on a shared island basis. The initiative is will contribute to the Irish Government’s Shared Island initiative and is jointly funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs’ Reconciliation Fund and the Department for Communities.

You can find out more about the event and initiative [here](#). [Book your free place here](#)



An Roinn Turasóireachta, Cultúir,
Ealaíon, Gaeltachta, Spóirt agus Meán
Department of Tourism, Culture,
Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media

The Dept. of Rural and Community Development has asked us to circulate the following message from the Dept. of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport & Media:

" The Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media (DTCAGSM) are surveying community groups on Intangible Cultural Heritage in Ireland in order to inform future policy in this area.

Intangible Cultural Heritage covers cultural practices and skills such as:

- Oral traditions and expressions;
- Performing arts;
- Social practices, rituals and festive events;
- Knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and
- Traditional craftsmanship.

The survey along with further background information are attached to this email. The survey is also available via the National Inventory of ICH website

at: <https://nationalinventoryich.chg.gov.ie/app/uploads/2021/11/Survey-for-Community-Groups.docx> "



The Government has updated the public health advice posters. **Layer Up** is a cross-Government campaign which encourages us to layer up on the behaviours to protect from Covid-19 by getting vaccinated, wearing face masks, washing/sanitising our hands frequently, keeping our distance, meet up outdoors where possible, and ensuring indoor spaces are well ventilated. A series of posters are available free to download at gov.ie/LayerUp.



Well-being Framework - Launch of Public Conversation

The Well-being Framework for Ireland is the result of a Programme for Government commitment to develop a set of quality of life measures to create a holistic view of how Irish society is faring. In July of this year, the Government published the **First Report on a Well-being Framework for Ireland**. It captures phase one of the work on developing a national framework and sets out the guiding vision and ambitions. It includes an initial conceptual framework and supporting dashboard of indicators, which will evolve and improve over time. It was supported by initial consultation via NESC, who compiled a complementary Consultation Report.

A wider public conversation on Ireland's Wellbeing Framework has been launched as part of the second phase of this work. The Government wants to create awareness and gain feedback to improve the Framework and ensure it is reflective of the issues that matter most to the Irish people. We are eager to spread the word and hear from people right across Irish society.

Citizens, stakeholders, policy makers and researchers can get involved by:

- Visiting the [Well-being Web Portal](#) and becoming familiar with the Framework;
- Telling us what well-being means to you and what your priorities are by taking our [short survey](#); and
- Exploring the supporting interactive [CSO Well-being Information Hub](#)



Seeking input in creating Ireland's next Open Government national action plan

Partner with us in creating Ireland's next **Open Government national action plan**, to make government more transparent, accountable with greater civic participation. The Minister for State, Ossian Smyth has formally launched [via social media](#) the Open Government public calls for representatives of Civil Society and submissions.

To find out more about Open Government, what is happening in Ireland and the Open Government Partnership process, check out <https://bit.ly/OpenGovIE>.

Good news - Ireland is in the running for an international [Open Government Partnership impact award](#). Our entry is 'Ireland's Citizens' Assembly and our deliberative democracy journey'. Top winners will be recognised on 15-17 December 2021 at the Open Government Partnership Global Summit (online).