



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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## **PPN Newsletter December 2021 (Part 3)**



## *Operation Blue Santa Book*

*Selling fast - don't miss out!*

*Why not pick up a copy of the fantastic Blue Santa children's book today Friday (17th) at Longford Shopping Centre.*

*The Blue Santa team will be there spreading Christmas cheer while also raising much needed funds for local charities*

*A great stocking filler for Christmas! Blue Santa Book €10, Xmas Cards €1*

*Blue Santa books also available at **Newsround Newsagents, Longford***

*Please support this great cause - Thank You !*

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## **FUNDING NEWS**



### **Community Climate Action programme**

Pobal has been engaged by the DECC to administer a €5m grant scheme under their Climate Action fund. The scheme is called the Community Climate Action Programme (CCAP). Details will be available on the Pobal website and the application portal will open from Monday morning 15<sup>th</sup> November and will **close on 14<sup>th</sup> 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

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

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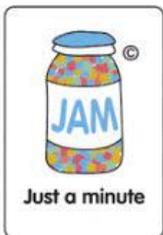
## Press Release: €1.4m still available through Electric Ireland COVID-19 hardship fund



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](#)

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### 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.

Find out more about NOW Group at [www.nowgroup.org](http://www.nowgroup.org) and JAM Card© at [www.jamcard.org](http://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.

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## 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.

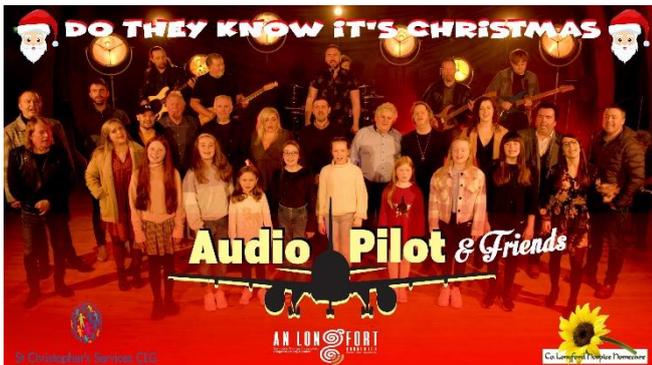
If you require work done in your home to make it safer after a stay in hospital Care and Repair can help.

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](http://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](mailto:careandrepair@ageaction.ie)

## Local News and Services



### CHARITY SINGLE

Longford band **Audio Pilot** and a host of local singers and musicians and other artists have produced a charity single and video with all proceeds going to **St. Christopher's Services and Longford Hospice Homecare**. The project was fully funded by **Longford County Council** under the Community Grant Scheme.

Facebook link: <https://fb.watch/9NHlr8jbTt/>



Christmas Event Guide  
 ([Christmas Event Guide - Longford.ie](http://ChristmasEventGuide-Longford.ie)).

The December Event Guide will be published in the Longford Leader and is also on our Facebook page ([Longford Tourism | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LongfordTourism)).

**THERE WILL BE FREE PARKING IN IN ALL OFF-STREET CARPARKS**

**IN LONGFORD TOWN ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:**

**EVERY DAY FROM SATURDAY 18<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2021 to SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JANUARY 2022**



- The **Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027** came into effect on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021. It is available to view on the internet via the following link [Longford County Development Plan 2021 -2027 - LongfordCoCo](#)
- **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](#)
- **New Courses at a BCP Point in Moydow or Mullinalaghta**  
Register your interest: Christine 087 6450530, Martina 087 7406705, Mary 087 6424316

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**Keep Well Campaign:** Further details on Longford County Council website [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

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## **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.

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

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## **NATIONAL NEWS**

### **R.S.V.P. Campaign**

“R.S.V.P. is the new Government campaign that aims to empower people to assess the risk involved in different activities by providing practical information and guidance.

R.S.V.P. encourages people to be risk aware, to think before they meet others, and to ask themselves the right questions about Risk, Symptoms, Venue and People.

Questions such as:

Risk. What's the risk? Am I vaccinated? Have I received my booster?

Symptoms. Am I currently showing symptoms of COVID-19?

Venue. Are they following the guidelines? Will I be wearing a mask?

People. How many people am I meeting? How many households are coming together?



## Minister O'Brien visits Donegal Intercultural Platform – funded under €1m pilot Community Development Programme

- **Minister O'Brien visits Letterkenny, the new Community Development Programme (CDP) office, to launch the pilot Intercultural CDP for Donegal**
- **The new county-wide initiative will resource and support the inclusion of Asylum seeker and Refugee families being accommodated in Donegal**
- **One of seven organisations funded under €1m pilot Community Development Programme**

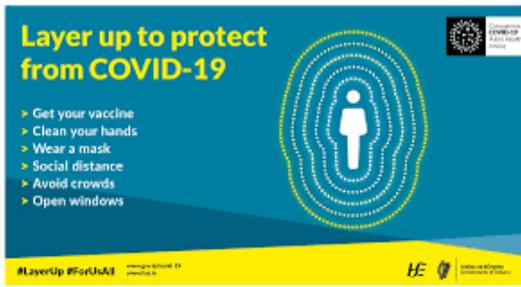
Today (10th December 2021) Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development visited the Donegal Intercultural Platform CDP, one of seven successful organisations taking part in the pilot Community Development Programme.

The €1m pilot programme, a Programme for Government commitment, is aimed at trialling community led interventions that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and promote human rights.

The seven successful projects under the Community Development Programme were announced on 24 June 2021. A list of the organisations and the themes of the projects are as follows:

<u>Organisation Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Themes</u>
Donegal Intercultural Platform	Donegal	Migrants
Clare Local Development Company	Clare	Traveller
Inner City Organisations Network	Dublin	Women, poverty, housing
Kilkenny Community Traveller Movement	Kilkenny	Traveller Supports
Longford Community Resources	Longford	Roma
Cultur Migrant Centre	Meath, Louth	Emigrants
Independent Living Movement Ireland	Wexford	Disabled persons

- Applications to take part in the pilot programme were received from over 120 community development organisations.
- The aim of this pilot programme is to trial community led interventions that address poverty, social exclusion and inequality, and promote human rights. It is also a commitment under the Programme for Government.
- The Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) will also play a key role in the pilot programme, in overseeing the administration at local level and importantly providing support and introducing organisations to other potential funders, helping to integrate the organisation with other bodies delivering similar services and facilitating networking.



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](https://gov.ie/LayerUp).

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

A graphic for the Well-being Framework for Ireland, showing a map of Ireland composed of many small, colorful human figures. The text "A Well-being Framework for Ireland" is overlaid on the left side of the map.

A Well-being Framework  
for Ireland

## ***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](#)
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