



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter December 2020



Don't miss out on the **'Have a Happy Ethical Christmas'**

On-line Workshop

tomorrow

Thursday 10th December @ 7pm

Join Longford PPN & Wellbeing Coach Anna D Atkinson, in this seasonal workshop & discussion, where we will be sharing alternative ideas, hints and tips on how to make more creative, sustainable & earth friendly choices this Christmas – *learn about*

Homemade Crafts and Decorations

Ethical Shopping Guide

Planet Friendly Christmas Fare

Winter Wellbeing Tips

To register for this online workshop contact Longford PPN at ppn@longfordcoco.ie or go directly to the zoom link <https://bit.ly/36oJZNB>



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Irish Rural Link are inviting you to join

In conversation with Séamus Boland, CEO Irish Rural Link and President of Group Three, European Economic and Social Council as we discuss

“ Funding Opportunities for Communities in 2021 ”

On Thursday 10th December 2020, 10am- 11am

Joining the discussion are:

Deirdre Mortell- CEO, Rethink Ireland

Muriel Farrell- Programme Lead, Sláintecare Programme

Frances Haworth- Senior Philanthropy and Development Advisor, The Community Foundation for Ireland

Paul Skinnader- Director of Community Support and Services, Pobal

Community groups, Social Enterprises, Voluntary Organisations and Charities are the backbone of support for communities across Ireland. They often work in precarious funding environments, and the coronavirus pandemic has really exacerbated this. They take on many roles, as neighbourhood coordinators, a support for health and social care services, education facilitators and an underpinning structure linking people to essential services.

Such vital infrastructure needs careful nurturing at times when it is most under pressure, and the voluntary sector has never felt pressure like that caused by the pandemic. In the short term, additional funding will relieve pressure and strengthen our ability to support the immediate needs of communities and to help those who will be disproportionately affected.

The reality is that many elements of the ‘new normal’ will continue over the next 18-months. In the medium term – when we start to understand the scale, impact and ways that people are responding to coronavirus – additional funding will allow us to adapt and build resilience. We must also keep an eye on the ‘longer-term’ as we develop our understanding of what will be fundamentally reshaped.

In this webinar we have invited key funding providers who will discuss funding opportunities and supports for communities and social enterprises in 2021 and we hope they will provide some invaluable insights into being “investment ready” avoiding that 11th hour deadline panic!

To Register in advance for this webinar, see:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MYZKXIlvSFuJbU4TeFYUGA

Community Water Management Training in County Longford

Brought to you by Longford Community Resources CLG

Ken Whelan and Martin McGarrigle are delighted to announce two Community Water Management Courses in North and South County Longford!

www.LCRL.ie For full information on the two courses and how to register visit Longford.waters-project.com or contact: ken@kenwhelan.info

Course will run Oct – Dec 2020, dates to be confirmed.
Tel: 0982526639 (MMcG) or 0867835900 (KW)

Learn about the myriad of life forms in County Longford's unique rivers and streams

- Do you want to learn about your local rivers, lakes and wetlands?
- Do you want some practical and hands-on engagement with these local waters?
- Are you interested in developing local action plans for your local rivers and lakes?
- Do you and your community group need more knowledge and the confidence to apply for funding for your action plan?
- Would you like to learn, share ideas, gain expertise in the areas of water conservation and management?
- Would you like to learn how to develop and implement a local water management plan?

Then this course is for you!



Some Longford Waters 2020

All are welcome: Tidy Town members, farmers, anglers, walkers, wildlife groups, teachers and anyone with an interest in water protection, conservation and management.



This project was assisted by Longford Local Community Development Committee, Longford Community Resources Clg. and Longford County Council through the Rural Development Programme (LEADER) 2014-2020 which is part-financed by the EU, "The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development: Europe investing in rural areas" and the Department of Rural & Community Development.

WEBINAR: Saturday 12th December 2020 @ 09.15 to 12.30

Water Conservation - The Role of Community Groups and River Trusts

- Would you like to learn more about the Water Resources Management Training that is currently ongoing in County Longford?
- Are you interested in the conservation and management of our water resources?
- Would you like to learn more about "adopting" a local waterway in your area ?
- Are you interested to hear about the impressive work of river trusts and other community based conservation groups across Ireland?
- Would you like to learn what is involved in setting up a river trust in your area?

Speakers:

Liam Tierney – Chairperson, Legan Tidy Towns (Lenamore River) -

<https://www.facebook.com/legantidytown/>

Mark Horton – Ballinderry River Trust and the Rivers Trust (<http://ballinderryriver.org/>)

Trish Murphy – Inishowen Rivers Trust (<http://inishowenriverstrust.com/>)

Luke Drea – East Wicklow Rivers Trust (<https://wicklowrivers.ie/>)

Mark Boyden – Streamscapes (<http://streamscapes.ie/>)

Ken and Martin 0867835900

For Zoom access to the Webinar please contact: ken@kenwhelan.info or mcgarriglemartin@gmail.com

Attention – all you singing groups

Longford Singing for Health and Wellbeing Survey

The University of Limerick is currently conducting this first ever national singing for health and wellbeing survey for groups in Ireland. Put Longford on the national map!

The survey deadline is **31 December, 2020**. More information as well as the survey link are included below.

We'd be grateful for your help and, of course, are eager to let other knows about singing opportunities in Longford! Link to survey:

https://unioflimerick.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3eiPcwJ7ch3zaOV

Our aim is to compile a resource of singing for health and wellbeing groups in Ireland and get more people singing!

Thank you, in advance, for helping us learn:

1. Where in Ireland singing for health and wellbeing is happening,
2. When these groups ordinarily meet,
3. Who is singing with you,
4. And how to support singers' health and wellbeing!

We know the power of group singing – how it energises, lifts and unites, and also know how much everyone is missing that experience right now because of Covid. We're interested to learn how things have been going during Covid and are also optimistically looking to the future – when we'll be able to gather once again, and joyfully make music.

We'd be grateful for your help getting the word out. Please feel free to forward this to anyone in your network of singing for health and wellbeing.

Thank you again,

Hilary Moss and Liz Helitzer

University of Limerick

FUNDING NEWS

Community Grant Support Scheme 2021

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/news/community-grant-support-scheme-2021.html>

Closing Date: 21st February 2021

Community Water Development Fund now open for 2021
Funding for communities to deliver water, biodiversity, and climate action initiatives. (more information below)

Sports Capital Grant 2021

Community Loan Information for Sports Capital Grant Applicants
(information below)

Community Water Development Fund now open for 2021



Funding for communities to deliver water, biodiversity, and climate action initiatives.

The Community Water Development Fund aims to support the delivery of local projects and initiatives to address the major issues of water quality, biodiversity loss and climate change. The fund is administered by the Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and is available to all community and voluntary groups.

Types of projects considered for funding will include:

- Capital projects such as: wildlife conservation and restoration of habitat; natural flood mitigation measures; fish passage projects; invasive species control, tree planting, rain garden and Nature Based Solutions, etc.
- Awareness raising and information initiatives, such as videos and publications.
- Projects that promote public awareness/education and events such as biodiversity days, surveys, training workshops, surveys and plans, water conservation initiatives, Citizen Science, etc.

- Community benefit and amenity such as: beach clean-ups, improving amenity areas, bird watching facilities, etc.

Grants awarded will range from €500 to €5,000; up to €10,000 and up to €25,000.
Contact Karen Kennedy, Community Water Officer at kkennedy@lawaters.ie or 085 8085495

Community Loan Information for Sports Capital Grant Applicants – a message from Clann Credo



The Sports Capital Programme opened for a new round of applications today!

Clann Credo can help local clubs and community groups to maximise Sports Capital funding by providing bridging and match funding loans as part of their applications.

Clann Credo is excited to see a new round of funding under the [2021 Sports Capital Programme](#). These grants fuel the growth of local sports clubs that play such a vital role in our communities.

€10 Million Community Sports Loan Fund

Clann Credo has a dedicated €10 Million Community Sports Loan Fund available to help sports clubs and community groups maximise their Sports Capital grants and has years of experience in assisting clubs to develop their facilities.

Clann Credo Match Funding Loans

The Sports Capital application requires clubs to show evidence of own funds. While having cash on deposit is best, a loan offer from Clann Credo is also acceptable as evidence of own funding and can boost your scoring in the application. The approval will be provided in the format required by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Clann Credo Bridging Loans

Sports Capital grants are paid following submission of receipts for works completed and paid for. This can be a barrier to accessing the grant if the club doesn't have funds on hand to pay for works or equipment upfront. Clann Credo can provide clubs with a Bridging Loan to pay for works done on their project, allowing them to draw down their grant. The Clann Credo loan is repaid when the club receives its Sports Capital grant.

Information evening – Community Sports Loans for Sports Capital – 13th January 2021

Clann Credo is hosting an information evening for all sports and community groups who may require evidence of loan finance to support their application under the 2020 Sports Capital Programme.

This will involve:

- Practical advice on how to use loan finance effectively to maximise your grant
- Top tips on applying for a Clann Credo Community Sports Loan
- An introduction to your local Clann Credo representative
- Advice from clubs who have combined grants and loans to develop their facilities in the past

The information evening will take place online on **13th January 2021 from 7:30 – 9:00 pm**

You can register for this event [HERE](#).

Places are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment!

There isn't much time! Please Contact Clann Credo Now.

The deadline in February may seem like a lot of time to get applications together, but successful applications take time!

There is huge demand from clubs and community groups nationwide for these grants. In order to allow Clann Credo time to process new finance requests, the **closing date is 29th January 2021**. If your club or community group is interested in working with Clann Credo to get your application ready, you need to contact us *as soon as possible!* The regional Clann Credo representatives can be found [here](#). Alternatively, you can email info@clanncredo.ie or phone 01 400 2100 for further information.

We look forward to hearing from clubs and community groups that are making Sports Capital grant applications!

Latest News



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.

Longford County Council will fund up to 5% of the estimated cost of these projects.

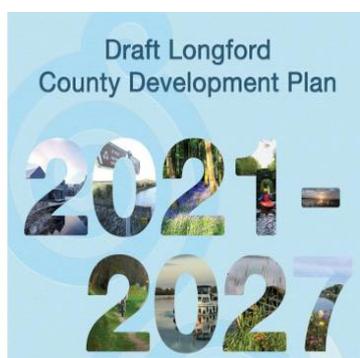


#ShopLongford This Christmas

#ShopLongford highlights the many local businesses you can shop from in the run up to Christmas right across County Longford. Whether you're looking for the best in local food produce or a tipple from a micro-brewery, something for the home or garden, fashion for the whole family, a yoga session or a pamper session, or any other gift ideas, #ShopLongford will point you in the right direction!

For more information visit:

<https://www.localenterprise.ie/Longford/Enterprise-Development/-ShopLongford/>



SUBMISSIONS INVITED before Monday 18th January 2021

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT
PLAN 2021-2027**

Longford County Council is currently preparing a Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and is inviting submissions.

The Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is currently available for public inspection from via the Council's website at the following link:

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/planning/preparation-of-longford-cdp-2021-2027/longford-county-development-plan-2021-2027.html>

The Plan and all associated documents will also be available for public inspection in hard copy format during normal opening hours (subject to Covid-19 restrictions and excluding public holidays) at the following locations:

- 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 (please check locally for opening hours).

These physical display locations are subject to Covid-19 pandemic restriction requirements. Longford County Council website will be kept updated of any changes.

In this regard further to the publication of the public notice in the Longford Leader dated Friday 23rd October 2020, **the libraries will now be closed until 1st December 2020. An appointment will be required to view the documents at the Planning Department by either email at planning@longfordcoco.ie or telephone on (043) 3343323.**

Submissions to the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 may be made by members up to **4pm on Monday 18th January 2021** or alternatively you may send your submission to PPN@longfordcoco.ie or sronogue@longfordcoco.ie and your submission will then be included as part of the PPN submission.

Submissions/observations can be made as follows:

Online: www.longfordcoco.ie/cdp

Email: cdp@longfordcoco.ie

Hard copy: Administrative Officer, Draft County Development Plan, Forward Planning Unit, Longford County Council, Áras An Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.

Minister O'Brien launches Public Participation Network 2019 Annual Report



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

**Report shows 15,600 voluntary groups registered with the Public
Participation Network in 2019**

The Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Mr. Joe O'Brien TD, today (19th November 2020) launched the 2019 Annual Report of the Public Participation Networks.

This is the fourth Annual Report on the Public Participation Networks (PPNs), which were established to facilitate active citizen participation in policymaking at local authority level. The report provides a positive reflection of the variety of work done as well as showing continued growth throughout the country.

The report can be downloaded [here](#). Contact: The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office

Press.office@dracd.gov.ie

National Excellence in Local Government Award

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



The Excellence in Local Government Awards are hosted by Chambers Ireland in partnership with the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage to showcase the best practice and innovation in local government across Ireland. The annual Awards began in 2004 to recognise the Local Authority of the Year and many other achievements delivered by Local Authorities.

The 2020 awards were announced online by Ms. Mary Kennedy on Thursday 26th November 2020 with Longford County Council taking the prestigious award for “Outstanding Initiative through the Municipal Districts”. The award recognised Longford County Councils strive for innovation and leadership in adopting digital technology to allow the elected members continue to serve their communities. For more information click on the link below:

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

Chief Executive Report for October 2020

The Chief Executive of Longford County Council publishes a monthly report with the latest updates, news and achievements from across the Council. Chief Executive Report is presented to Elected Members at Council meeting every month. The report outlines key aspects of our service delivery and performance in delivering the agreed objectives in the Council's published [Corporate Plan](#).

Read the latest Report [here](#).

Recent Reports can be found [here](#).

Opportunity for adult learning and community education initiatives

AONTAS STAR Awards 2021: NOW OPEN



AONTAS, the National Adult Learning Organisation is seeking nominations from adult learning initiatives for the annual STAR Awards 2021.

The STAR Awards will take on extra significance in 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic as we celebrate and acknowledge the incredible work that adult learning providers have done in adapting their provision to ensure that the learners' needs continue to be met.

To highlight the diverse range of quality adult learning initiatives taking place across the country, AONTAS welcomes STAR Award nominations in five categories for 2021:

- Health and Wellbeing
- Learner Voice
- Social Inclusion
- Sustainable Development through Education
- Third-Level Access and Engagement

Two Special Awards will be given for Mitigating Educational Disadvantage through Innovation (during COVID-19), and a European Social Fund Special Recognition Award.

Since its inception in 2007, thousands of adult learning initiatives across a wide variety of areas – including increasing educational access for all including those with a disability, supporting positive mental health and as part of addiction recovery – have been recognised through the STAR Awards.

To find out more

Visit our FAQ section: [click here.](#)

Find out more about last year's winners and view their videos: [click here.](#)

Visit our Adult Learners' Festival Page: [click here.](#)

How to Nominate?

Register through our online platform: [click here.](#)

Start your nomination today and utilise the online saving function. Nominations can be amended right until the deadline.

The deadline for all nominations is **Friday, 18th December 2020 at 5pm**



AONTAS | National Adult Learning Organisation

2nd Floor | 83-87 Main Street | Ranelagh | Dublin 6 | D06 E0H1 | Ireland

Barry Dolan, Communications and Membership Officer

Ph: 01 4068220 | Mob: 0871149278

WALK YOUR PARISH
4 FOR 4
 Community Challenge
 Nov 23rd to Dec 20th

Walk Your Parish
 Aim
 For 4K
 For 4 days
 For 4 weeks

Prizes for the parish that logs the greatest average distance per participant and the parish with the most participants to complete the challenge. Spot prizes for individuals

Download and sign up to the STRAVA App (free)

Follow Longford Sports Partnership and request to join your parish team, record your walk on STRAVA. Or you can send a screenshot from your fitness tracker to sports@longfordcoco.ie

In partnership with your local GAA Club

LONGFORT
 1887
 GAISCE AGUS GLAINE

SPORT IRELAND
 LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

KEEPING ACTIVE

It's coming towards the end of a difficult 2020 for the people of Longford. So Longford GAA and Longford Sports Partnership want to help bring people in Longford together virtually anyway 😊 to improve their physical and mental health as part of the Keep Well Campaign.

So, we have set the people of Longford the **4 FOR 4 Parish Walking Challenge**.

Our 4FOR4 challenge is encouraging the people of your parish to complete 4 walks each week of 4k distance for 4 weeks from Monday the 23rd of November to Sunday the 20th of December.

We are asking each GAA Club and Parish in Longford to support the challenge by encouraging people to get involved.

Prizes

€500 for club that clocks up the greatest distance overall.

€500 for the club that walks the furthest average distance per participant (15 people or more registered in the club).

Spot prizes for individuals including a FitBit and much more.

How you can get involved.

Sign up to the STRAVA fitness App, search and follow Longford Sports Partnership on STRAVA and join you own club team. When you record your walk on STRAVA on your phone it will automatically load with your club. Instructions in PDF or Video link [here](#)

Alternatively, you can take a photo of your walks on your fitness tracker or App and email it to sports@longfordcoco.ie stating club/parish you are doing it for.

Walks can be completed wherever or whenever you wish once within Covid 19 guidelines, we have also attached some walkways in GAA clubs that are lit. More information on walkways coming soon.

For more information email sports@longfordcoco.ie

Longford County Council 'Stronger Together - Local Action' campaign



The Council has released a new video to remind people of the importance of adhering to public health advice, as we work together to address increasing COVID-19 numbers in County Longford.

New video available on the following Longford County Council's Social Media platforms and are also in various languages:

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

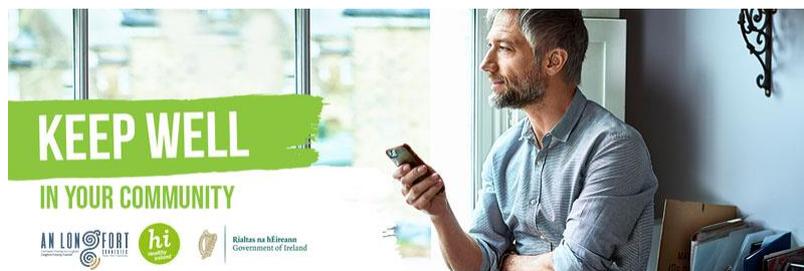
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/longfordcoco/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/longfordcoco>

Youtube: <https://bit.ly/2T4yoM6>

Please bring this to the attention of all your members and "Like" and "Share" to get the 'Stronger Together - Local Action' campaign message out to everyone in the community.

Keep Well Campaign



The Government Plan for Living with COVID-19: Resilience and Recovery 2020-2021 highlights the important role that individual and community resilience will play in contributing to our ongoing response to COVID-19.

Cathaoirleach Paul Ross welcomed the recent launch of the new 'Keep Well' campaign, by An Taoiseach, Micheál Martin TD and ministerial colleagues.

This 'Keep Well' campaign builds on the 'in this Together' campaign that happened earlier this year and aims to support people and communities in being resilient through minding their physical and mental health and wellbeing over the coming months.

'A range of wellbeing activities and interesting initiatives will be delivered by the Council with local partners over the winter months to help people keep well and active and I would urge you all to engage in and participate in these activities and enjoy your local amenities' said Cathaoirleach Ross.

The campaign is focussed on five themes: Keeping Active, Staying Connected, Switching Off and being creative, Eating Well and Minding your Mood.

The Council, through the established Community Forum will co-ordinate the local response to local needs, work with Sports Ireland and deliver wellbeing programmes locally.

The Community Library network have commenced the 'Rewarding Reads' and 'Ireland Reads' initiatives and will going forward deliver other creative initiatives across the five themes of the 'Keep Well' programme.

The Cathaoirleach of Longford County Council Cllr. Paul Ross, and the Chief Executive, Mr. Paddy Mahon encourage all in our County to engage in this innovative campaign.

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

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.

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/>

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/>