



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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## *PPN Newsletter January 2022 (Part 2)*

### **FUNDING REMINDERS**



### **Community Activities Fund (CAF) under the Community Enhancement Programme**

*Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites online applications for grants towards running costs, to carry out necessary repairs & improvements to their facilities or to purchase equipment under the Community Activities Fund.*

*Closing date for receipt of online application forms and uploaded supporting documentation is no later than **4pm on Wednesday 16 February 2022.***

*For Online Application Form, Terms & Conditions and Guidelines please see our webpage [LCDC Community Activities Fund](#)*

*Community Groups are advised to familiarise themselves with these well in advance of the closing date and to commence their online application as soon as possible.*

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### **Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival & Participative Events Fund 2022**



Longford Tourism are currently seeking applications for the Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival & Participative Events Fund 2022. This programme is aimed at supporting festivals and events, held up to 31st

December 2022, which drive both domestic and international tourism helping to increase economic activity within the community.

The objective of the scheme is to support community and voluntary groups who are organising a diverse range of projects and events. In addition, the festival or event must take place in County Longford, be a minimum of 2 days in duration and aim to attract international visitors. Closing date for applications is **Thursday, 3rd February 2022.**

Click here to download application form & guidelines

<https://www.longford.ie/en/news/festival-funding-2022.html>

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Fáilte Ireland's new **Strategic Tourism Transport Business Continuity Scheme** is now open. The scheme will support tourism transport operators including Coach Tourism Operators, Tourism Chauffeur, Limousine Services, Tourism Vehicle Rental & Escorted Private Tours.

There is also a Inbound Agents Tourism Business Continuity Scheme which will support Inbound Tour Operators, Destination Management Companies & Professional Conference Organisers who sell Ireland's tourism product overseas. Check eligibility & apply today: <https://www.failteireland.ie/tourism-business-continuity..>  
<https://twitter.com/Failte.../status/1480911039529168896...>



An Roinn Tithíochta,  
Rialtais Áitiúil agus Oidhreachta  
Department of Housing,  
Local Government and Heritage

## Community Peatlands initiatives to benefit from €500k scheme

Community projects on bogs and peatlands all over the country are being encouraged to apply for up to half a million euro in community engagement funding from the National Parks and Wildlife Service.

This is a competitive scheme administered by the National Parks and Wildlife Service of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage with a total fund of €500,000 available in 2022 - the largest allocation of funding to date, and double the allocation of 2021.

The scheme seeks to encourage local peatland communities, local groups, local schools and interested parties to engage in the conservation and revitalisation of raised and blanket bogs, particularly protected bogs, and fens and to promote public engagement with and awareness of our natural heritage and environment.

Applications are now invited for a diverse range of peatland initiatives with a community benefit from events, education programmes, conservation management plans, restoration measures, feasibility studies, public amenity and recreational projects to invasive species and fire control measures. Applicants with an interest in local history and awareness of the importance of peatlands are being encouraged to apply. It is also hoped that schools will apply for funding. Last year, an Offaly School received €20,000 to reinstate a boardwalk on a local raised bog.

Further information [here](#)



## 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 27<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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## A date for your Diary Public Webinar - Wed. 26/01/2022 Green energy study for Co. Longford



**Longford County Council explores potential for green energy contribution to the Just Transition in building the county's circular economy**

**A public information webinar will be held at 5-6pm Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January on a feasibility study to investigate the potential of developing Longford's circular economy in response to the Just Transition process.**

Longford Co. Council commissioned a feasibility study on the potential for a sustainable circular economy in late 2021, which is being undertaken by KPMG Sustainable Futures and technical partners Ixora Energy and SLR Consulting. The closure of peat production bogs and peat fuelled power stations has created significant challenges for impacted employees and communities across the Midlands. The national Just Transition programme is investigating ways in which alternative enterprises, green energy and the circular economy may contribute to Ireland's targets to reduce emissions and waste, while increasing resource efficiencies and local opportunities.

As part of Longford's response to Just Transition, this project will explore how the local community, enterprises and farmers may interact with, and benefit from, opportunities arising from the green transition. Stakeholders will be asked to contribute to identifying how the local circular economy may be shaped across Longford and particularly in those areas most impacted by peat closures.

**A Public Information Webinar**, to be held **from 5-6pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> January**, will present the scope of the study, its objectives and preliminary findings to date.

Longford County Council invites participation from a wide range of people, including community, farming, energy, environmental and business stakeholders, to get involved and have your say.

**To join the webinar, please click the following Zoom link, or copy the link into your browser:**

[https://kpmgireland.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_IU1HyVh7QHS9ctHWDfaqBQ](https://kpmgireland.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_IU1HyVh7QHS9ctHWDfaqBQ)

*Webinar Agenda attached. SLR Consulting welcomes inputs/comments/opinions from PPN members and can be contacted at the contact details below:*

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Technical Director - Geology

Mob: 087 653 6405

Tel: 01 296 4667

Email: [dlewis@slrconsulting.com](mailto:dlewis@slrconsulting.com)

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## Invitation to a webinar on **Public Participation in Catchment Management on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022 at 10am – 12:30.**

The draft River Basin Management Plan is currently out for public consultation. As part of that consultation process the Water Forum is hosting this webinar to discuss best practice in public participation in catchment management and why it is essential to achieve the transformative change necessary to realise the objectives that Ireland has committed to in the next decade for water, biodiversity and climate.

Ireland has committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 50% by 2030; halting biodiversity loss by 2030; the Water Framework Directive and the River Basin Management Plan aims to bring all of Ireland's water bodies to good ecological status by 2027. While WFD policies and plans have been in place for a decade or more, all the recent EPA environmental monitoring reports show that the majority of environmental metrics continue to show declines.

To make meaningful progress towards achieving ambitious environmental targets, the Water Forum believes it is essential that communities and stakeholders are given the opportunity to design solutions and co-create action at local level. A recent EPA report shows that 85% of the Irish people surveyed are worried about the impact of climate change, 78% felt more should be done to mitigate climate change and 79% feel the protecting water resources is Ireland's greatest priority.

The Water Forum will host a webinar on **3<sup>rd</sup> February at 10am** to discuss how the gap might be bridged between the national policies and plans and the desire among citizens to deliver outcomes for the natural environment.

Academics will present research on best practice in public participation and tools for delivering such participative and deliberative democracy programmes. Organisations and community groups already involved in developing and delivering water and biodiversity plans and actions at local level will discuss

their learnings and what further supports and frameworks will be required to achieve real progress towards meeting the objectives of national policies which impact water, biodiversity and climate.

The webinar programme is attached and the link for registration is below.

[Registration LINK](#)

The Water Forum | AN FÓRAM UISCE

[www.thewaterforum.ie](http://www.thewaterforum.ie)

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## Peatlands Climate Action Scheme - Derraghan Bog

Bord na Móna is a climate solutions company building its renewable energy, recycling and carbon capture operations in the midlands and across Ireland.

In 2021 the company permanently ceased industrial peat production on all their peatlands. In line with Bord na Móna's accelerated decarbonization strategy, and the availability of government funding, the company has committed to ambitious enhanced peatland decommissioning and rehabilitation improvements, initially targeting over 30,000 hectares in over 80 Bord na Móna bogs. Under this Peatlands Climate Action Scheme (PCAS), enhanced rehabilitation has commenced on eighteen bogs in 2021 and additional bogs will be rehabilitated in 2022.

The enhanced rehabilitation scheme will deliver benefits across climate action by optimising carbon storage potential within the residual peat, reducing Green House Gas emissions and accelerating the development of carbon sequestration by promoting the development of Sphagnum-rich vegetation, where possible. This will also enrich the State's natural capital, increase eco-system services, strengthen biodiversity, improve water quality and storage attenuation as well as enabling the amenity potential of the peatlands. The measures proposed will set sites on an accelerated trajectory towards the development of a variety of habitats including developing natural peatland, wetland and woodland.

The rehabilitation measures will focus on optimising suitable hydrological conditions (water-levels) across the peatlands to maximise climate action benefits. The key target will be to bring water levels close to the peat surface to re-wet peat and accelerate the development of naturally functioning peatland habitats and the trajectory of sites to become reduced carbon sources and ultimately carbon sinks again.

Bord na Móna propose to carry out rehabilitation measures on **Derraghan Bog** under this scheme.

Bord na Móna's Derraghan Bog in County Longford is located circa 15km south-west of Longford town (Google location: <https://goo.gl/maps/gozzmD1y4uwXBH96> ). A site location map of the bog is attached for information purposes only. Derraghan Bog is part of the Bord na Móna Mountdillon Bog Group and the measures are part of the rehabilitation improvements being undertaken in this Bog Group.

Part of the improvements for bog rehabilitation work at **Derraghan Bog** is to finalise the rehabilitation plan, as required under the EPA licence, for this site. Bord na Móna operates under an Integrated Pollution Control (IPC) Licence issued and enforced by the EPA (IPC Ref. P0504-01). As part of Condition 10.2, a rehabilitation plan must be prepared for permanent rehabilitation of the boglands within the licensed area. Part of the process of developing a rehabilitation plan includes consultation with stakeholders and affected parties. This is part of that process.

This scheme is designed to enhance the ecosystem services of Derraghan Bog, in particular, optimising climate action benefits. The proposed interventions will mean that environmental stabilisation is achieved (meaning IPC obligations are met) and, in addition, significant other ecosystem service benefits particularly for climate action will be accrued. Bord na Móna have defined the key goal and outcome of rehabilitation at Derraghan Bog as environmental stabilisation, optimising residual peat re-wetting, and the development of embryonic raised bog on deep peat along with wetlands/Reed Swamp and fen on shallow more alkaline peat and other subsoils.

A Draft Rehabilitation Plan and associated Map Book for Derraghan Bog is now available on our website at the following location: <https://www.bnmpcas.ie/2022bogsrehabilitation/>

Bord na Mona invite you to make a submission or to comment on this Draft Rehabilitation Plan. Please make any such submissions to the email address ([pcasinfo@bnm.ie](mailto:pcasinfo@bnm.ie)) before 18th February 2022.

In addition, please contact us if you have any queries, require further information or wish to discuss the proposed rehabilitation in Derraghan Bog or the PCAS scheme in general.

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## Public Art Project in County Longford – Invitation to submit proposals

Iora Nua – Squirrels Reimagined is a public art project in County Longford that aims to contribute positively to the county's social and tourism infrastructure, regeneration and citizen well-being. The Iora Nua sculpture currently situated in Longford County Council's Atrium is our project prototype.

This project is being developed by Mide Arts Group in partnership with Longford County Arts Office. Mide is a voluntary arts group that specialises in cultural projects that involve public spectacle.

### Open Call

**Longford Live & Local Winter Programme**, in partnership with **Longford Arts Office & Mide Arts Group**, invite artist(s) to submit proposals for Iora Nua, a public art place-making project in County Longford. Iora Nua (Squirrels Reimagined), is a temporary public art project involving the placement of large-scale fibreglass squirrel sculptures in public locations across Longford's three municipal districts. Longford-based artists are invited to submit proposals for the design and rendering of the sculptures' surfaces.

**Submission Deadline: 5pm, Monday 31<sup>st</sup> January. Submission by email only.**

Please download the submission form and design template below.

[Iora Nua-Submission Form](#) [Download](#)

[Iora-Nua-Template](#) [Download](#)

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## Local News and Services



Granard Community Library are delighted to announce that we are working with Music Generation Longford and now have Musical Instruments to rent. For more information please call into us or contact us on 043 668 6164 or email [granardlibrary@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:granardlibrary@longfordcoco.ie).

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**Childminding - Are you a childminder or thinking of becoming a childminder in your own home?** Attached is a brochure from Longford County Childcare Committee aimed at offering support to childminders in Longford.

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- 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 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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## **NATIONAL NEWS**



An Roinn Comhshaoil,  
Aeráide agus Cumarsáide  
Department of the Environment,  
Climate and Communications

### **Territorial Just Transition Fund**

The EU Just Transition Fund (EU JTF) is a newly established fund under the framework of EU cohesion policy and is being rolled out in all EU Member States. The Fund is governed by

the EU Just Transition Fund Regulation (Regulation 2021/1056) and the EU Common Provisions Regulation (Regulation 2021/1060), which set out common rules for all EU cohesion policy funds. These regulations were adopted in June 2021.

Ireland is set to receive up to €84.5 million from the EU Just Transition Fund over the programme period of 2021-2027. The Fund must be complemented with national resources and in Ireland the national co-funding rate will be between 30% to 50%. There are also specific rules in relation to the timing of expenditure and on eligible costs that may be supported by the Fund.

The Just Transition Fund is designed to assist communities across Europe to meet the challenges of the green transition, in line with the objective of achieving EU climate neutrality by 2050 in an effective and fair manner – ensuring that nobody is left behind.

Member States must therefore concentrate the proposed investments in their territorial just transition plans on specific regions or parts of regions and justify the selection of those regions based on the economic and social impacts resulting from the transition, in particular with regard to job losses.

The wider Midlands region has been proposed as the territory for investment under the draft Territorial Just Transition Plan. This region comprises East Galway, North Tipperary, Longford, Laois, Offaly, Westmeath, West Kildare and Roscommon.

Territorial Just Transition Plans must address a number of areas, including:

- outlining the national climate transition process;
- identifying the most negatively affected territory and the economic, social and territorial impact of the transition;
- identifying the development needs and objectives of that territory by 2030 consistent with other national, regional or territorial strategies and plans;
- setting out the types of investments envisaged; and
- outlining the proposed governance mechanisms for the implementation of the EU JTF.

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications has overall policy responsibility for the EU Just Transition Fund in Ireland. The Department will be supported by the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly (EMRA), which will be the Managing Authority – a requirement of the EU funds management system.

The Managing Authority is a key function within the overall architecture for the delivery of the funds and the EMRA will play a critical role in the development and ongoing management of Ireland's JTF Programme for the forthcoming programme period, as prescribed by the EU Common Provisions Regulation. Other bodies may be selected by the Government to deliver specific elements of the territorial plan and programme.

How can I give my views?

#### Online Survey

You can complete an [online survey](#) to share your views on the transition process and draft Territorial Plan. This survey will be open until **midnight 14 February 2022**

We are unable to accept survey responses sent by post, but if you would prefer to make a submission directly to the Department, you may do so by emailing [EUJTF@decc.gov.ie](mailto:EUJTF@decc.gov.ie) by the closing date.

If you have any technical issues in relation to completing the survey, please contact [info@mco.ie](mailto:info@mco.ie).

You can also email us at [EUJTF@decc.gov.ie](mailto:EUJTF@decc.gov.ie) to request a PDF version of the survey.

#### Online Workshops

We will hold two online workshops in January 2022 that will allow for more in-depth discussions on your priorities for the EU Just Transition Fund.

[Register for the first workshop](#) 18 January 2022 (10am -12pm)

[Register for the second workshop](#) 25 January 2022 (6.30pm - 8.30pm)

**A third online workshop specifically dedicated to young people aged 16 – 24 living, working or studying in the region is also being organised directly with national youth representative organisations. If you are aged 16 – 24 and would like to attend a workshop but are not linked to a youth organisation, please email [info@mco.ie](mailto:info@mco.ie)**



### 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).

#### 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 i.e. Irish Rail Stations, Dublin Bus Head Office, 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.

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)

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## 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.

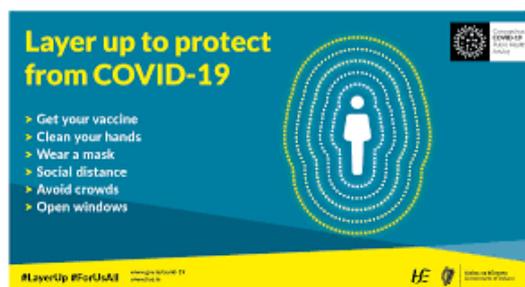
Questions such as:

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?



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

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