



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter January 2021 (Part 1)

FUNDING REMINDERS

2nd Round of COVID-19 Emergency Fund

Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) invites applications from Community Groups under the 2nd Round of COVID-19 Emergency Fund. Closing date **12 noon on Monday 25th January, 2021.**

[2nd round of COVID-19 Emergency Fund](#)

Community Grant Support Scheme 2021

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

Closing Date: Friday 26th February 2021

Community Water Development Fund now open for 2021 Funding for communities to deliver water, biodiversity, and climate action initiatives

<http://watersandcommunities.ie/community-water-development-fund/#:~:text=Demand%20for%20this%20fund%20has,due%20to%20Covid%2D19%20restrictions>

Sports Capital Grant 2021

Community Loan Information for Sports Capital Grant Applicants

<https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/0bc7e-ministers-launch-40m-sports-grant-scheme-for-2021/>

REMINDER DRAFT LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027

Submissions invited before 4pm on Monday 18th January 2021

Submissions to the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 may be made direct to Longford County Council (full details and links below) or alternatively you may send your submission to PPN@longfordcoco.ie or scronogue@longfordcoco.ie and your submission will then be included as part of the PPN submission.

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!

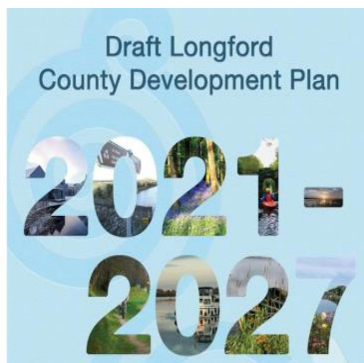
There isn't much time! Please Contact Clann Credo Now.

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.

REMINDER

SUBMISSIONS INVITED before 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.

Upcoming Event



IRELAND'S GREEN ARTERIES

Public Online Talk on
Our Hedgerow Heritage
with Ecologist and Eco Eye Presenter
Anja Murray
8pm 18th January 2021
Register here: <https://bit.ly/3oFqBlH>



TO PARTICIPATE YOU NEED TO REGISTER

About the talk: "Ireland's Green Arteries" 8pm Monday 18th January 2021

Anja Murray will present on the history, management and wealth of wildlife in Irish hedgerows, exploring the world of some of the plants and animals found there.

About Anja Murray: Anja Murray is an ecologist, environmental policy analyst and broadcaster with a love for the natural world. For more than 20 years, Anja has been immersed in environmental research, advocacy and communications; she is an expert presenter on the popular television series 'Eco Eye' on RTÉ1.

Anja also has her own award winning short weekly radio programme called 'Nature File' on RTÉ Lyric FM, listen back here: <https://www.rte.ie/lyricfm/daybreak/category/nature/>

Anja recently produced a feature documentary called 'WILD' about the history of our relationship with Nature in Ireland.

Listen back here: <https://www.rte.ie/culture/2020/1009/1170614-lyric-feature-a-wild-journey-through-irish-nature/>

To Attend, You need to register following clicking on the link here: <https://bit.ly/3oFqBlH>

Places are limited, and we expect a large interest in participating.

Please let Michael Ewing know if you later find that you can no longer make it, so that someone else will take that place. michaielewingien@gmail.com

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.

Ms. Peggy Nolan Cathaoirleach of Longford Municipal District stated "that she is delighted that free Wi-Fi is now available in Longford Town and invited everybody to come into town to shop, get pampered have a bite to eat and drink and connect to our new free Wi-Fi and continue to stay safe and stay connected"

Mr. Garry Murtagh Cathaoirleach of Granard Municipal District stated "Free Wi-Fi is now available here in Drumlish so come into the village and support your local businesses and connect to the new free Wi-Fi and continue to stay safe and stay connected"

Mr. Colm Murray Cathaoirleach of Ballymahon Municipal District stated "Free Wi-Fi is now available here in Ballymahon. This WiFi4EU initiative complements our upcoming digital strategy by promoting access to the internet for our citizens and visitors so let's shop local, stay safe and stay connected"

Mr. Paul Ross Cathaoirleach stated "Longford County Council are delighted to launch this free public Wi-Fi. With our rural Broadband Connection Points being rolled out around the County and Wi-Fi now in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish, we are becoming one of the most digitally connected Counties"

Ms. Christine Collins Broadband & Digital Officer stated "This project is funded through the EU and Department of Rural and Community Development, to promote access to Wi-Fi connectivity in public spaces in municipalities throughout Europe. We are delighted today to launch the rollout of this free WiFi4EU network in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish. I would like to commend the local businesses and community to whom without their support this initiative wouldn't be possible in particular Moments Café, Newsround, Pdraig Loughrey, Dobson Jewellers, Longford Shopping Centre, Coral leisure, Temperance Hall, Big Bites, Kevin Smith, Eugene O'Reilly and the Libraries. I would also like to thank VEI Global for all their efforts in installing and commissioning the WiFi4EU network during this difficult period for us all."

Shop local, Stay safe and Stay Connected.

PPN News



Podcast - Visions for Community Wellbeing – Public Participation Networks

In 2018, the Public Participation Networks (PPNs) embarked on a large consultative project to develop Visions for Community Wellbeing across all Local Authority areas. This process saw community groups come together to develop a vision for their community for this and future generations.

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/>

Funding Announcement



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. The funding will assist Longford's towns and villages to implement measures to respond to the challenges associated with COVID-19, to help aid their economic recovery and to make them safer places to live and work. The range of projects to be implemented include provision for development of remote working

facilities, the provision of a walking/cycling track to support recreational amenities and public-realm work on footpaths, lighting and signage to enhance town centre streetscapes. Longford County Council's Regeneration team in conjunction with the community groups and town teams look forward to implementation of the following projects in 2021.

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

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>



Longford Womens Link are advising the below link as a support for parents of pre-school children that are not attending a service at the moment due to the restrictions. Additional links and resources have been added to <https://first5.gov.ie/parents> including links to daily activities on facebook. Longford Women's Link contact no: **(043) 3341511**

Longford Community Call Helpline

Call **043 3344255** or Freephone **1800 300 122**

Email covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie

Longford Community Call Helpline

Collection and delivery of food, medicine, other essential items.
Social isolation support.
Garda related issues.
Other medical or health needs.

Call **043 3344255** or Freephone **1800 300 122**
Email covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie
from 9am until 5pm. 7 days a week

AN LONGFORD
County Council

Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland.

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.

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.

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/>

**#LookForLocal in Longford
& Support Local Businesses**



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