



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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## PPN Newsletter July 2020

### Reminder

#### **2020 Communities Integration Fund – Closing Date 16<sup>th</sup> July 2020**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> of June when he was in office Minister David Staunton, the Minister of State with special responsibility for Equality, Immigration and Integration launched the 2020 Communities Integration Fund.

This funding is for local community projects that support the integration of migrants. The **closing date for applications is Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup> of July**. Applications must be submitted electronically to the Department and community groups can access a guidance document and complete an online application on the Department of Justice and Equality Website.

Please see below:

<https://ec.europa.eu/eusurvey/runner/CIF2020>

or visit <http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/PR20000114>

### Reminder

#### **Community Enhancement Programme 2020**

**Closing date 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2020**

Longford Local Community Development Committee invites applications for small capital grants to enhance community facilities under the Community Enhancement Programme 2020. Closing date is 12 noon on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, 2020.

For Application Forms and Guidelines please see

[www.longfordcoco.ie/longfordcoco/services/economic-community-development/community-development/local-community-development-committee/community-enhancement-programme-2020/](http://www.longfordcoco.ie/longfordcoco/services/economic-community-development/community-development/local-community-development-committee/community-enhancement-programme-2020/)

## PPN GLOBAL GOALS WORKSHOPS



**Thursday 16th July @ 7.30 pm**

Please register in advance for these free and interesting on-line workshops hosted by Transition Longford – details below

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/844866114>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

You may also register for this workshop by contacting PPN Development Officer Síobhan Cronogue directly at [scronogue@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:scronogue@longfordcoco.ie)

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This workshop is number 4 in a series of 17 being delivered by Longford PPN entitled the 'Global Goals Community Education & Engagement Program.

In this session we will focus on Goal 15 - Life on Land.

If you are interested in growing your own food, creating community gardens, urban gardens, food forests, orchards or other food growing projects we would love to hear from you.

If you have a re-wilding project in mind, or are already developing one, perhaps you are developing a flower growing business or anything else that is beneficial for our local environment then we would love to hear from you.

If you're concerned about animal rights and how we can protect the other species we share this earth with, we would love to hear from you.

If you're interested in permaculture, regenerative farming practices or have knowledge in any area relating to Life on land - we'd love to hear from you.

We'll discuss what work is already being done locally, who is doing it, how it ties into the objectives of the Global Goals, how/if we can collaborate and how our local actions can create meaningful change while impacting global issues positively.

We'll also discuss the possibility of funding, where we go with our project ideas and how we can access funding to help us if and when it's needed.

"We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all. "

Wangari Maathai

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Spaces on the workshop are limited to 25 in order to keep the sessions manageable but don't be concerned if you miss this session, we'll likely repeat it later in the year.

If you have any further questions in relation to the program please feel free to contact Longford PPN Development Officer Síobhan Cronogue at [scronogue@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:scronogue@longfordcoco.ie) or Anna D Atkinson at [transitionlongford@gmail.com](mailto:transitionlongford@gmail.com)

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Note - Below are the targets set by the UN for Goal 15 - Life on Land

15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements

15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally

15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world

15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development

15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species

15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed

15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species

15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts

15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems

15.B Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation

15.C Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities.

### **Reminder**



## **Have You Applied for the Restart Grant?**

Restart Grants offers between €2,000 and €10,000 to help with the cost of safely re-opening or keep businesses open during Covid-19 restrictions.

What Can the Grant Be Used For?

Grants can be used towards the cost of:

Re-opening

Keeping a business operational

Re-connecting with employees and customers.

Ongoing fixed costs, e.g. utilities and insurance

Measures to ensure employee and customer safety.

Applications are online and through Longford County Council website

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

**Closing date for receipt of applications is 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020**

## **Reminder**

Applications should be submitted directly to the Department at [CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie](mailto:CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie) by the **28th August 2020**.

### **2020 CLÁR Programme will help rural communities respond to COVID-19**

#### **Minister Ring €5 million fund forms part of Minister's integrated Rural Development Investment Programme**

Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural & Community Development, today (Monday 25th May) announced details of the CLÁR programme for 2020.

CLÁR is one element of a €30 million package of co-ordinated and complementary supports that is being launched by the Minister this week as part of his Department's Rural Development Investment Programme. The other elements of the programme to be opened later this week will be the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme. The Rural Development Investment Programme is funded under Project Ireland 2040.

CLÁR provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas that have suffered significant levels of population decline. The supports provided through CLÁR have been tailored this year to help rural communities to respond to the new COVID-19 environment. This includes the addition of new funding measures.

The measures being funded under the 2020 CLÁR programme are:

Measure 1: Schools/Community Safety measures (expanded in 2020)

Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas (new in 2020)

Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports, comprising:

- Meals on Wheels and linked services (new in 2020)
- Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

#### **Announcing the funding, Minister Ring said:**

"I am pleased to announce the launch of the CLÁR programme for 2020. Since I reopened the scheme in 2016, it has made a very positive contribution to some of our most remote rural communities, supporting over 1,400 projects with funding of almost €33 million. This year, more than ever, these communities need our continued support.

“I have reviewed and revised our approach to CLÁR this year so that it reflects the new challenges which COVID-19 has brought to our communities. In particular:

- The Schools and Community Safety Measure, which funds items such as pedestrian crossings and footpaths to provide safe access to schools, has been broadened to allow additional investments to adapt areas around schools and community facilities to help meet new public health requirements arising from COVID-19.
- Funding will be provided under a new Measure for community recreational areas where friends and families can socialise outdoors in safe, accessible, community spaces while respecting public health guidelines. This Measure will include support for items such as picnic benches/tables, outdoor covered seating or BBQ areas, public lighting, bicycle stands, bandstand/stage areas, etc. These recreational areas will be particularly important for community social interaction in the coming months, in line with the Government’s Roadmap for Reopening Society and Business.
- Community organisations providing meals on wheels and other community services will also be supported to purchase kitchen or food delivery equipment. They can also access funds for any adaptations that may be necessary to their existing vehicles as a result of new public health guidelines. I am delighted to be able to assist these organisations that provide vital services which support people to live in their own homes while also playing a role in combating rural isolation.
- We will also separately continue to fund vehicles for those vital voluntary organisations that provide free transport for people with mobility issues and for those attending cancer treatments.”

**Minister Ring continued:**

“I have introduced a standard grant rate of up to 90% of the total cost of projects across all of the CLÁR Measures this year. This should ensure that the requirement on communities or Local Authorities to source match funding is kept to a minimum.

With the introduction of these new Measures, my Department will play its part in helping rural communities adapt their local spaces and support their interactions with one another in a safe but inclusive way. I will be announcing further complementary supports in the coming days under the Town and Village

Renewal Scheme and the Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme as part of my Department's Rural Development Investment Programme".

Full details of the CLÁR Programme for 2020 are available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/policy-information/91ba52-clar/>.

Any queries should be sent to [CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie](mailto:CLAR@DRCD.gov.ie)

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## **TRANSITION LONGFORD - Wellbeing and Sustainable Living Weekend**

**19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020**

**INVITATION TO COLLABORATE - PARTICIPATE - SUPPORT**



The first Wellbeing & Sustainable Living Weekend in Longford took place in September 2019. The event focused on providing a space for individuals and local communities to come together in conversation, learning and storytelling in relation to all things ethical, sustainable and regenerative.

Over the course of the weekend were guest speakers, workshops, demos, a community voices corner, storytelling for change sessions, an ethical market and information stands providing knowledge and advice on everything from the climate crisis to growing your own food, beekeeping, up-cycling, recycling, personal, community and planetary wellbeing, natural health care, sustainable fashion, vegan education and animal rights, ethical and sustainable business models and all manner of associated topics. Images and info from last years event is available on Transition Longford FB Page and Instagram

The main aim of the Wellbeing Weekend is to raise important questions and facilitate discussions around how we can transition to a healthier, more compassionate and ethical way of living in the world, create communities focused on personal, community and planetary wellbeing and equip ourselves with the knowledge necessary to meet the challenges of an uncertain future.

### **INVITATION TO COLLABORATE - PARTICIPATE - SUPPORT**

This years' event was due to take place on Saturday 19th & Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2020 but it's now not possible to deliver it as envisioned. If it's to take place at all, it must go online so we have decided to pursue this possibility. At the moment this is an independently run event and so is very much dependent on the good will and support of individuals, community groups and organisations interested in the overall mission of TRANSITION – working together with heads, hearts and hands. Bearing this in mind we are asking the people and communities of Longford, The Hidden Heartlands of Ireland and as far afield as possible, to engage with us, collaborate with us, help us to keep this event afloat by delivering for us an online talk, a workshop, a demo or anything related to wellbeing and sustainable living. It could be something business related – talking about your ethical or sustainable business perhaps, what you do, how you established it and what you've learned along the way. You could talk about your community project or food growing journey – anything that is inspiring to others or will help us move forward in these challenging times. We are open to all suggestions! In return for your help, your collaboration, we will offer you the choice of a Tree of Life Vision Board Workshop, a Storytelling for Change Workshop or a Wellbeing Coaching Session facilitated by EMCC accredited Life & Wellbeing Coach Anna D Atkinson.

Contact details for Transition Longford are as follows:

Contact Person: Anna D Atkinson

Email: [transitionlongford@gmail.com](mailto:transitionlongford@gmail.com)