



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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PPN Newsletter July 2021 (Part 1)

Funding News



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

Our Rural Future: Ministers Humphreys, McConalogue and Hackett announce final call for applications to the LEADER Food Initiative

€5 million fund aimed at artisan, micro and small food businesses

Funding will help artisan, micro and small food businesses to respond to challenges posed by Brexit and COVID-19

LEADER programme a key plank of 'Our Rural Future'

Small food businesses are today (Tuesday, May 25th) being encouraged to apply for funding under the LEADER Food Initiative – a €5 million investment aimed at assisting businesses to deal with the challenges posed by Brexit and COVID-19.

The final call for applications was made by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, Minister for Agriculture, Food and the Marine, Charlie McConalogue and Minister of State for Land Use and Biodiversity, Pippa Hackett.

The funding will help artisan, micro and small food businesses to respond to challenges posed by Brexit and COVID-19, while also supporting diversification in agriculture.

In December 2020, Ministers Humphreys, McConalogue and Hackett announced the extension of the LEADER Food Initiative into 2021.

As part of that announcement, the maximum rate of aid available to projects involving economic activity was increased from 50% to 75% for project applications received on or after 1st April 2021.

Announcing the final call for applications, all three Ministers urged small food businesses to submit their applications.

Contact details for all Local Action Groups and their Implementing Partners (Local Development Companies) can be located [here](#):

LEADER 'Our Rural Future' funding – over €2.4 million allocated to Longford

- Local Groups can apply for funding immediately
- A total of €70 million to support rural communities and enterprises
- Funding allocations for 29 Local Action Groups announced
- Ground-Up approach of LEADER a key plank of Our Rural Future

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys T.D., has today (9th April 2021) announced the details of the allocation of the €70 million **Transitional LEADER programme** for the period 2021-2022.

- €65 million is being allocated to support locally-led rural development projects across the 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs)
- €3 million is being allocated to support the LEADER Cooperation measure which encourages rural areas to work together on collaborative projects
- €2 million will be allocated to prepare for the next LEADER Programme

Minister Humphreys has also today published the funding allocations being provided to each of the 29 Local Action Groups (LAGs).

More information on how and where to apply is [here](#)



The Wheel is delighted to announce that applications for funding are now open under the **Training Links** programme. Training Networks are invited to apply for grants ranging from €10,000.00 to €50,000.00.

Applications remain open until 5pm on Friday, 13 August 2021.

Programme Overview

Training Links funds community and voluntary organisations to form Training Networks — groups of a minimum of ten organisations who come together to undertake training that they may not have the opportunity to do individually. Since 2005, Training Links has supported the establishment of **90 Training Networks** involving in excess of **40,000 employees** and more than **850 community and voluntary organisations**.

Benefits of Training Links

- Collaborate with partners who have the same training and upskilling needs as your organisation by forming a Training Network
- Identify and meet your organisations training needs, with the support of your Training Network members

- Invest in learning and development opportunities for your staff and volunteers in order to build organisational capacity, and deliver your mission
- Cooperate and exchange best practice across your region, sub-sector or community of interest
- Build sustainable partnerships that will continue to develop into the future.

Funding & Application Process

The overall fund available for this programme is €315,00.00. Training Networks can apply for a minimum of €10,000.00, and a maximum of €50,000.00. Applications are open from **21 June 2021 – 13 August 2021 at 5pm.**

[DOWNLOAD APPLICATION FORM HERE](#)

Contact & Information

Find out all you need to know on [The Wheel's website](#), or get in touch by emailing me on traininglinks2021@wheel.ie.

Local News and Services



Please see information below in relation to election of Cathaoirleach and Leas Cathaoirleach for Longford County Council and for all the Municipal Districts.

Cathaoirligh and Leas Cathaoirligh elected at 2021 Annual Meetings.

Longford County Council.

Annual Meeting held on 30th June 2021.

Cathaoirleach	-	Councillor Peggy Nolan.
Leas Cathaoirleach	-	Councillor Paraic Brady

Granard Municipal District

Annual Meeting held on 22nd June 2021

Cathaoirleach	-	Councillor Paraic Brady
Leas Cathaoirleach	-	Councillor Garry Murtagh

Ballymahon Municipal District

Annual Meeting held on 24th June 2021

Cathaoirleach - Councillor Mick Cahill

Leas Cathaoirleach - Councillor Paul Ross

Longford Municipal District

Annual Meeting held on 23rd June 2021

Cathaoirleach - Councillor Uruemu Adejinmi

Leas Cathaoirleach - Councillor Gerry Hagan



FREE OFF-STREET PARKING To help with local businesses reopening, free off-street parking will be available in Longford Town from Monday 31st May until **Saturday 3rd July.**



Longford Connected Communities (Broadband Connection Points)

Longford Connected Communities

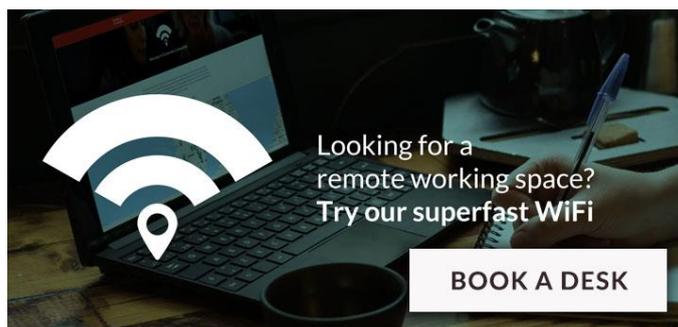


Connected Communities is the national communications name for the Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) initiative.

Broadband Connection Points (or BCPs) are public locations which have been selected to receive 150Mb high-speed broadband connectivity in the first year of the National Broadband Plan. A BCP, is a location where public WIFI will be provided. People living in the general area shall then be able to make use of the broadband as they require. 8 locations were selected and approved in County Longford. The 8 Longford locations are made up of public buildings, community centres and sports clubs. All BCP's offer external access to high-speed broadband and some offer internal access. 9 primary schools will be connected but **will not be** providing public WIFI access. [Mullinalaghta Community Centre](#) and Ballymore Shamrocks GAA Grounds were one of the first live BCPs in the state. Click here to view press release [Connected Communities](#).

The following sites are now live Mullinalaghta Community Centre, [The Latin School Community Centre Moyne](#), [Abbeyshrule Airfield](#) and Moydow Community Centre are offering both internal and

external access to HSB. If you wish to book a desk please complete the booking form available at: <https://bit.ly/3kv2STI> Ballymore GAA, Colmcille GAA, Carrickedmond GAA, and Corlea Trackway Visitor Centre are offering external access at present.



For more information on where to find your nearest BCP point visit Longford County Council's website webpage on BCPs [here](#)



New Irish Language Learning Resources in the Library

A new selection of Irish books specifically written for adult learners of Irish have recently been purchased by the library. These books are suitable for those who have reached the stage where they are happy to work on their own with the language without the aid of a teacher. The selection includes short stories, novels and some non-fiction books covering topics such as homelessness, alcoholism, grief, family relationships and murder mysteries. The chapters are short and difficult words are explained at the bottom of each page. The clear accessible style enables the adult learner to easily follow the story while also assimilating new words and phrases. I am attaching images of some of the covers of these books as well as a review of one of the books.

Other resources in the library for adult learners of Irish include grammar books such as "Gramadach Gan Stró" which provides answers to all the grammatical exercises in the book. There are also multimedia course books such as "Turas Teanga" and "Gaeilge Gan Stró" for beginners and lower intermediate levels. In addition, adult learners may access the free Irish language course which is available on the library web page. Clicking on "Online Library and Electronic Resources" followed by "Language Courses" gives the adult learner access to interactive and engaging courses in over 120 different languages including Irish. These courses are suitable for beginners and lower intermediate levels.

Email: library@longfordcoco.ie

A short video on the **National Childcare Scheme** below. This video may be helpful to parents accessing childcare supports for the first time.

National Childcare Scheme YouTube video [here](#)

Eligibility for ECCE

The Early Childhood Care and Education Programme (ECCE) programme is a universal two-year pre-school programme available to all children within the eligible age range.

The programme is provided for three hours per day, five days per week over 38 weeks per year and the programme year runs from September to June each year.

There is one point of entry at the beginning of the programme year. The programme will be available to all children who have turned 2 years and 8 months of age before September 1st as long they won't turn 5 years and 6 months of age on or before June 30th of the programme year.

The programme is available to all children from the September after the child has turned 2 years and 8 months. Link to the calculator <https://longfordchildcare.ie/.../ecce.../ecce-calculator/>

Longford's 'Green Keep It Clean Campaign' If any individuals or households would like to take part in the "Longford's Green Keep It Clean" initiative, they're invited to contact their local Tidy Towns group. Any questions or queries can be referred to Gary Brady Environmental Awareness Officer on 043 33 43451 or via email to gbrady@longfordcoco.ie. Press Release [here](#)



Longford
Tourism

Please see below link to **July's Event Guide**.

[Week 5th July 2021 - Longford.ie](#)

Below is a link to a new video launched yesterday to promote the Royal Canal Greenway in Longford.

<https://www.longford.ie/en/visit/trails/royal-canal-greenway/>



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention Longford/Westmeath & Louth/Meath

Some of the services provided below:

- Awareness and Training Programmes
- Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service
- Local and National Supports and Services
- Information/Signposting Posters, Leaflets and other resources:

Contact: The Health Centre, St. Joseph's Campus, Dublin Rd., Longford Tel: 086 380 1152 Email: eddie.ward@hse.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

KEEP WELL
IN YOUR COMMUNITY

AN LONGFORT
Kóilín na Míreoin
Government of Ireland

AN LONGFORT
h.i
Kóilín na Míreoin
Government of Ireland

Longford Community Call Helpline: 043 3344255 or Freephone 1800 300 122

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

WORKSHOPS/WEBINARS/TRAINING

From the HSE

Public Consultation on Quality Framework for Mental Health Services

There was an information session held on the public consultation being carried out by the Mental Health Commission on the Quality Framework for mental health services.

If you wish to participate in this consultation, a video of the information session is included below along with the survey link. Attached the PowerPoint presentation used in the video for your information.

Please note: The closing date for this public consultation is 5pm on July 5th.

Link to survey:

<https://easy-feedback.de/s/1313886/3X4Li4>

Link to Quality Framework:

<https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-01/The%20Quality%20Framework.pdf>

Link to Quality Framework summary:

https://www.mhcirl.ie/sites/default/files/2021-01/MHC_Quality_Framework_for_MHS_Summary_Leaflet.pdf

Link to video of information session:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UTxgGCzH558>

Kind Regards,

Mental Health Engagement and Recovery,

HSE, St. Loman's Hospital, Dublin 20. D20 HK69 "

Glencree Intercultural & Refugee Programme Bulletin 28.06.2021

Events:

1. **South Dublin County Partnership** are holding the second of their 'Unpacking Racism' webinars on Tuesday the 29th June from 1pm until 2pm. During this webinar Shane O'Curry, Director of INAR (the Irish Network Against Racism) will highlight and explain how to use iReport.ie - the Racist Incident Reporting System which is managed by INAR. The webinar will be moderated by Joy Tendai Kengere. Registration is at: <https://tinyurl.com/yt8te43>

2. **The National Economic and Social Council** are holding an online launch of the report: 'Digital Inclusion in Ireland: Connectivity, Devices & Skills'. NESC is hosting a webinar that will hear from a range of speakers, outlining the findings of the report, the experience of communities impacted by digital exclusion, and the focus on digital inclusion in policy in Ireland. You can register for the webinar here: https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/digital-inclusion-in-ireland-connectivity-devices-skills-tickets-158912452423?aff=odeimcmailchimp&mc_eid=7317fe2e76&mc_cid=c57b5f5272 and view the programme of the event here: https://www.nesc.ie/news-events/events/launch-of-council-report-no-154-digital-inclusion-in-ireland-connectivity-devices-skills/?mc_cid=c57b5f5272&mc_eid=7317fe2e76
3. **Christ Church Cathedral Dublin** have shared this year's 'What's the Story? Lives in Direct Provision' event, part of their Refugee Week programme online. You can watch the video reflections shared as part of the event here: <https://christchurchcathedral.ie/cathedral-of-sanctuary/whats-story-series/>

Vacancies:

4. **Immigrant Council of Ireland** are seeking an Integration and Training Officer. Deadline is Friday July 23rd and more details can be found at: <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/civil-liberties-human-rights/82841-immigrant-council-of-ireland-integration-and-training-officer>
5. **UNHCR Ireland** are seeking a contractor for two months to develop a Sexual & Gender-Based Violence project. Deadline is this Friday July 2nd and more details can be found at: <https://www.activelink.ie/vacancies/aid-development/82713-unhcr-ireland-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-contractor>

Internships and Training:

6. **The Immigrant Council of Ireland** are again running a Migrant-Councillor intern scheme will run 15 local political internships across Ireland for migrants between September and December 2021. Successful applicants will be placed with local participating councillors for one day a week (or equivalent of 7 hours over a few days) for a three month period. You can read about the success of the 2018 programme here: <https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/sites/default/files/2019-04/ICI%20Councillor-Migrant%20Internship%20Scheme%20Report%20FINAL.pdf> and an online information event for interns will be held on the 30th of June at 6-7pm. The event will be recorded and available online for those who cannot attend. To register for the information event follow this link: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_sA9rA5CEQymF4SFH32PjJA . More information about the scheme and application details are here: <https://www.immigrantcouncil.ie/campaign/migrant-councillor-internship-scheme>
7. **Business in the Community Ireland** are running an online EPIC (Employment for People from Immigrant Communities) Programme which is open to asylum seekers and refugees living anywhere in Ireland. It provides group training, employability skills, individual career counselling and support, certified IT skills training, workshops, personal support and opportunities for referral to employment, mentoring, internship, work placement and other opportunities with businesses. To Apply: Fill in our application form attached and email to epic@bitc.ie

News:

8. **Creative Ireland and Dublin City Council**, supported by the **Gallery of Photography Ireland and Dublin.ie** are supporting five photographers whose commissions will be displayed across the city in an outdoors exhibition on Digi panels, metropolises and bus shelters for a two week period from 28th June. The commissioned projects reflect the dramatically changed social and cultural landscape of our capital city. More information can be found at: <https://dublin.ie/live/stories/diversity-in-dublin/>
9. Teenage traveller girls and young women from the **West Cork Traveller Centre** are to script, edit and produce their own film in a venture that will offer a mentoring model for other marginalised groups to follow. More information and updates at: <https://www.communityfoundation.ie/insights/latest-news/traveller-girls-in-unique-film-project>

Glenree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Glenree, Co Wicklow, A98 D635
P: +353 86 1626475
E: sinead.bolger@glenree.ie



Presentation by the Dept. of Rural and Community Development on the Plan on 23rd June 2021 is [here](#)

You will also find more information at the following links

Our Rural Future, (overall policy for 2021-2025): <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/4c236-our-rural-future-vision-and-policy-context/>

2021 Work Programme, containing actions and deadlines: <https://www.gov.ie/en/collection/bcbca-our-rural-future-annual-work-programmes-and-progress-reports/>

Science Foundation Ireland For what's next

MIDLANDS SCIENCE Stay curious

Invitation

2 places are available to members of your network to participate in these unique forums on science in our society - ask your questions, have your say and register your participation at outreach@midlandsscience.ie

SCIENCE COMMUNITIES
DISCUSS, DEBATE AND DECIDE

LIFT
LEADING IRELAND'S FUTURE TOGETHER

You are invited to attend Science Communities - Science Communities is an exciting new project funded by Science Foundation Ireland.

The project is designed to create dialogue between people in the Midlands and those involved in science and public policy. It is your chance to have your say on issues in science and how it affects your life. This project is a unique opportunity for people to enhance their skills engage with science and how it impacts their communities. It will consist of four short interactive forums and a LIFT training day. These forums

will feature leading Professor of Biochemistry and Immunology, Luke O' Neill, representatives of the RSCI and policy agencies

As an additional benefit, all 'Science Communities' participants will be offered free training in LIFT facilitation skills. LIFT is a not for profit organisation that aims to increase the level of positive leadership in Ireland.

Given the current restrictions that are still in place nationwide, these forums and the LIFT training day will all take place online. The LIFT training day will be a full day-long event during week commencing July 19th, with the forums running one per month from August to November (August 19th, September 22nd, October 20th & November 24th).

Participation at the event is limited and as a key organisation in the midlands, we are inviting your organisation to nominate 2 representatives to attend the forums and take part in the discussions and training.

Aoife Scanlon

Public Engagement Executive

Phone: 057 9323 902

Email: outreach@midlandsscience.ie Address: 2nd Floor, Block 6, Central Business Park, Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

Website: www.midlandsscience.ie



Community Health & Wellbeing Podcasts

given by the Health Promotion Officer, Mental Health (Midlands)

Conversations vary and range from family-related issues to Men's health to the impact of domestic violence on children. Longford Talks are part of a collection of Mental Health & Wellbeing podcasts created for the Midlands.

To access Longford Talks, please use any of the following links: <https://lclrl.ie/longford-talks/> Alternatively, you can access them on Spotify by searching 'Longford Talks' on the App.



Gauge of community support in Longford for an Irish Government initiative on a UN Resolution calling for a global ban on fracking.

Information on the petition [link](#) with another link here to the initiative. <https://twitter.com/UNBanOnFracking/status/1386677542137077769>

Safety Before LNG www.SafetyBeforeLNG.ie Tel: 087-2804474

NATIONAL NEWS



RE: PHONE SCAMS – ALLEGING TO BE FROM AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

This message is to alert you to a Phone Scam involving fraudsters claiming to be members of An Garda Síochána.

Please be vigilant and alert your family, friends, colleagues and others in your networks and communities to help to protect everyone from this type of crime.

As I'm sure you are aware, in recent days Gardaí have received reports of people receiving phone calls from fraudsters claiming to be members of An Garda Síochána. The number calling appears to be the phone number of a genuine Garda station.

There are several stages to these scam calls –

1. The person receiving the call is subjected to a pre-recorded or automated message that prompts them to select an option.
2. The person is then put through to a person alleging to be a member of An Garda Síochána.
3. The scammer either looks for personal information or informs the person that their details have been involved or linked to a crime.
4. After giving over personal details the victim receives a follow up call from another scammer seeking more details on behalf of An Garda Síochána (This call appears to be coming from a genuine Garda station number).

An Garda Síochána will never make contact with members of the public in this fashion. Most members of the public realise these type of calls are not legitimate and do not engage with the scammers.

However, we at An Garda Síochána appreciate that a section of society may have very little to no previous interaction with An Garda Síochána and may be more susceptible to this type of fraud.

With this in mind the Garda National Diversity and Integration Unit have decided to reach out through our various networks to highlight this scam to all.

On receipt of these communications, the advice of An Garda Síochána is as follows:

- Do not engage with the caller.
- Do not return the call.
- Do not follow the automated instructions – Do not press 1 etc.
- Never transfer money.
- Never disclose personal or financial information.
- Hang up and end the call.

Whilst the scammers may change their stories and methods, their goal is always the same – they want to access your sensitive information and get their hands on your money. Gardaí are urging the public to spread the word of fraud prevention as people continue to fall victim to scams on a daily basis. In many cases the subsequent call from the fraudsters appears to provide reassurance to the victim that this is a legitimate call, which it is not.

If you believe you may have fallen victim to this scam, contact your financial institution and report the matter to your local Garda station.



Sergeant Geraldine Greene

Garda National Diversity & Integration Unit
Garda National Community Engagement Bureau



Harcourt square 01-6663150 / 087-0601849



New Website to Search all local Government Jobs

In conjunction with the Local Authority sector, the Local Government Management Agency have developed a new website to advertise and promote employment opportunities in the Local Government sector - www.localgovernmentjobs.ie.

The new website officially launches today to coincide with #YourCouncilDay.

All local authority jobs, including national and sectoral vacancies, will be advertised on localgovernmentjobs.ie.

In addition to our other platforms, Longford County Council will advertise external vacancies on this website going forward.

Be Summer Ready 2021



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

The Government of Ireland recently launched the 'Be Summer-Ready' campaign to provide information on issues that may affect the general public this summer.

This year, there is a particular focus on water safety as Ireland's waterways and beaches become very popular in the summer. Sadly, this can lead to associated risks including drowning accidents. So we are asking everyone to 'be alert to water safety'. More information and tips are available at www.gov.ie/summerready

