



## County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

E-mail: [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie); Web: [www.longfordppn.ie](http://www.longfordppn.ie)

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### [PPN Newsletter March 2021 \(Part 1\)](#)

## IMPORTANT NOTICE

**You are cordially invited to the on-line  
PPN COUNTY PLENARY MEETING  
WED 10<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2021 @ 7PM  
(link to join MS Teams meeting below)**

### Guest Speakers:

- **Anne Marie Carroon and N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky) Project Team** will be presenting on the N4 Route Corridor Options.
- **Tara Farrell, CEO, Longford Womens Link and Michelle Maher**, will be talking about the very successful See Her Elected (SHE) project and what is currently happening in Longford with regards to the programme.
- **Diarmuid Murray, Agricultural Affairs, Macra na Feirme** will be speaking about farming and the environment.

Please bring this notice to the attention of all your group members.



***We hope you will join us on the 10<sup>th</sup> and be part of the Plenary 'Spin the Wheel' Raffle!***

Join Teams Meeting

[https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting\\_ZDY1ZDgwZDYtZTE1OS00Mjc5LWE5ZjEtYjQ5NjMzZWJhOTZm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2299e9d370-2a9d-41be-a28d-37fe92f701ba%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a52b5d49-85fa-4fdb-97ca-161817b6df4a%22%7d](https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_ZDY1ZDgwZDYtZTE1OS00Mjc5LWE5ZjEtYjQ5NjMzZWJhOTZm%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22Tid%22%3a%2299e9d370-2a9d-41be-a28d-37fe92f701ba%22%2c%22Oid%22%3a%22a52b5d49-85fa-4fdb-97ca-161817b6df4a%22%7d)

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## The PPN and ICA are working hard for you!



Longford PPN in association with the ICA Guilds in the county are working hard to ensure everyone stays connected during the current COVID19 restrictions. From writing letters/cards to making calls, baking bread to making jam we are here for you!!!!

For further information please contact Olive Quinn, Longford Federation ICA President on 086 8368277 or Siobhán Cronogue, PPN Coordinator on 087 261 5583/ email [ppn@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ppn@longfordcoco.ie)

This campaign is part of the National “Keep Well” Campaign and is funded under the Community Resilience Fund.

Read more in Longford Leader

<https://www.facebook.com/LongfordLeader/posts/3816232348399411>

/ facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/longfordppn>





## International Women's Day

**International Women's Day**, also known as **International Working Women's Day**, is next **Monday March 8th**

Here's a list of events planned around the country you might like to register for..... just click on the links to bring you there.....

- The National Women's Council of Ireland are holding a number of events. To learn more or register for some of their free Events, including "The Importance of Women in Leadership" with Longford's own Síona Cahill, click on [https://www.nwci.ie/learn/international\\_womens\\_day](https://www.nwci.ie/learn/international_womens_day)
- For 2021, The Wheel will be hosting a special event a few days later (11 March), to celebrate the role women leaders play in the community, voluntary and charity sector. To register with The Wheel and join their Webinar, click on <https://www.wheel.ie/training/2021/03/international-womens-day-2021>

• Customer Contact Management Association will celebrate International Women's Day with a panel of senior industry executives sharing their experiences and outlining the challenges they are currently addressing. To register for their free Webinar, click on <https://www.ccma.ie/events/ccma-celebrating-international-womens-day-2020>



Longford County Council Road Safety Section is running an Educational Road Safety Campaign in conjunction with other Road Safety Officers throughout the NE, NW and Midlands area in Partnership with IRadio. *Please see IRadio Flyers and Press Release attached.* Competition goes live on March 8<sup>th</sup> on Iradio. The competition

will run until 24<sup>th</sup> March, with winners picked and announced by IRadio on 26<sup>th</sup> March.

All local schools and clubs etc will be contacted to promote Road Safety Awareness through the campaign and encourage participation locally, in the hope of securing a winner from the Longford Region!!!! The competition is open to all age groups, and to both individual and Group entries (in adherence to Covid 19 Guidelines). Longford County Council will be working with IRadio in promoting this campaign and competition Nationally and Locally.



## Public Consultation

### N4 Mullingar to Longford (Roosky)

- **N4 Mullingar to Longford Roosky 2nd Public Consultation**

Westmeath County Council in conjunction with Longford County Council supported by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) invite the residents of the local area, members of the public and interested parties to participate in a public consultation on the Route Corridor Options. The consultation period for the second non-statutory public consultation is now open and will run until the **19th March 2021**.

The public consultation format has been adapted to ensure compliance with COVID-19 guidelines and restrictions. Details and information in relation to the Route Corridor Options are being made available online through a virtual public consultation experience

For more information please visit

<https://n4mullingartolongford.ie/latest-news/>

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Press release dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2021

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## **Ministers Humphreys, McGrath and O'Brien announce €10 million in COVID Stability funding for community and voluntary groups**

From [Department of Rural and Community Development](#)

### **Funding targeted at organisations which have suffered due to Pandemic**

A €10 million fund is to be established to assist community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises, which have suffered as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The funding was jointly announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, Minister for Public Expenditure and Reform, Michael McGrath TD, and Minister of State with special responsibility for Charities and Community Development, Joe O'Brien TD.

The €10m investment builds on the €45 million COVID-19 Stability Fund which, in 2020, supported over 600 organisations to continue delivering vital services to the most vulnerable in our communities.

The new funding, agreed as part of the Government's Resilience and Recovery Plan, is targeted at organisations that have seen their trading and/or fundraising income drop significantly as a result of the Pandemic.

The funding will be administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Government is aware of the challenges facing community and voluntary organisations and is committed to working closely with the sector in managing through these, recognising that it will require a whole of Government approach.

In 2020, the Department of Rural and Community Development, working with colleagues in the Department of Health and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth, provided support through the €45m COVID 19 Stability Fund for organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector, Charities and Social Enterprises.

The Fund was intended to be a targeted once-off cash injection for organisations and groups delivering critical front-line services to the most at need in our society and in danger of imminent closure due to lost fund-raised or traded income as we dealt with the sudden introduction of social restrictions to counter the spread of COVID-19. This Fund was in conjunction with many other Government supports. This fund provided up to €45million of funding through the Dormant Accounts Fund (DAF) and the criteria aligned with DAF objectives to support:

1. The personal and social development of persons who are economically or socially disadvantaged; or
2. The educational development of persons who are educationally disadvantaged; or
3. Persons with a disability.

1,060 applications were received during the application periods. Funding of over €43m, including the additional €10M in funding announced during Budget 2021, has been approved to over 600 organisations to date and the payment processes for this funding remain ongoing.

The announcement details an additional €10M allocated to the Stability Fund as part of the Covid-19 Resilience and Recovery 2021 plan announced by the Taoiseach on Tuesday 23rd February. Further details on how relevant organisations can apply for this funding will be available shortly. In preparation for the application process, intending applicants should gather relevant financial information for 2019 and 2020, details of services provided including the numbers of beneficiaries, evidence of increased service demand due to the pandemic if applicable, and details of public funding received in 2020 and applied for in 2021. Each applicant organisation will be required to hold a registered company number or registered charity number in order to be considered.

Further details of the online application process will be made available in due course.

This new funding is being provided in addition to more than €51 million in funding, announced last November, for the Dormant Accounts Action Plan 2021, which allocated funding for 46 separate measures to be delivered across 10 Government Departments to benefit disadvantaged groups.



## **FREE Workshop on Developing an Effective Annual Report**

Longford Community Resources clg Volunteer Centre and the Carmichael centre are offering a **FREE** workshop for volunteer involving organisations on developing an Effective Annual Report **Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2021 from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm**

The aim of the workshop is to help participants understand the process in preparing an effective Annual Report from the perspective of the Board Members, Directors, Trustees.

This course covers the basics of what is required in an annual report and then focuses on how to use the annual report as a way of showing the public, members and funders what the organisation does and the difference it makes. The 2-hour online workshop is aimed at Board Members, Directors, Trustees and CEOs/Managers and anyone involved in preparing an Annual Report for their organisation.

At the end of the session participants will be able to:

Understand the purpose and value of the annual report.

Understand the key components of an annual report.

Plan how to produce an effective annual report for your organisation.

**Workshop Facilitators: Diarmaid Ó Corrbuá and Michael Quirke**

Diarmaid Ó Corrbuá, Carmichael CEO, has extensive experience working with boards and providing governance support and advice.

Michael Quirke is a member of the Carmichael training panel and has extensive experience both as a Board Director and a Senior Manager at Local and National Level together with experience in education and training of Board Members /Community Organisations/Public Participation Networks in the areas of Governance. Michael served as a Board Member for ten years with Muintir na Tíre and is currently a board member of Kildare Local Employment Service Network.

If you are interested in attending please e-mail [terri@volunteerlongford.ie](mailto:terri@volunteerlongford.ie) and I will contact you with further information.

**Carmichael.**



Please see link below for Longford Events Guide - March 2021.

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/economic-community-development/economic-development/tourism/longford-tourism.html>

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## ***New Podcast from Social Justice Ireland***



### **Delivering Deliberative Democracy - Participation by the Public Participation Networks in Local Government Decision-making**

Deliberative democracy goes beyond mere representation to give a voice to all citizens in the decision-making process. For the next few days, the focus will be on deliberative democracy and the Public Participation Networks (PPNs). Starting with a ten minute lesson podcast that traces the development of the Public Participation Networks in 2014.

They provide a mechanism for community groups to have their say in local government decision-making. With well over 15,000 member organisations, PPNs are going from strength to strength.

Listen to the Podcast on the link below:

<https://socialjusticeireland.podbean.com/.../50sji-ten.../>

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### **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/>

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## Launch of six new eduroam Wi-Fi town centre hotspots



Longford County Council is delighted to be the first local authority nationwide, to introduce six eduroam Wi-Fi hotspots in local town centres, as part of the eduroam Everywhere initiative, to support our local students and researchers.

It means those studying remotely in county Longford, whose learning institutions participate in eduroam, will now have immediate, free and secure internet access on their registered devices, within range of these hotspots in Longford, Ballymahon and Drumlish town centres, as well as at Longford, Ballymahon and Granard public libraries.

Full details can be found on the Longford County Council website here <http://bit.ly/203cp9a>  
[#Longford](#) [#YourCouncil](#) [#Connected](#) [#InThisTogether](#)

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**Touch-Type Read & Spell (TTRS)** is now being rolled out in  
**County Longford Library Services**

Library members can avail of this accessible, multi-sensory course, teaching touch-typing, reading and spelling at the same time.

Find out more from your [#local](#) [#library](#)  
[#Longford](#) [#NewServices](#)



Touch-type Read and Spell is an award-winning, multi-sensory course that teaches touch-typing, reading and spelling.

It is suitable for children, young adults, adults & anyone with diverse learning needs.

**FREE** access now available with Longford Library Services

Find out more at [www.longfordlibrary.ie](http://www.longfordlibrary.ie)

email us at [library@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:library@longfordcoco.ie)

or contact your local branch



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Longford Community Call Helpline  
Call 043 3344255 or Freephone 1800 300 122  
Email [covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie](mailto: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](mailto:covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie)  
from 9am until 5pm, 7 days a week

AN LONGFORD COUNCIL  
Kultas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland.



**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**

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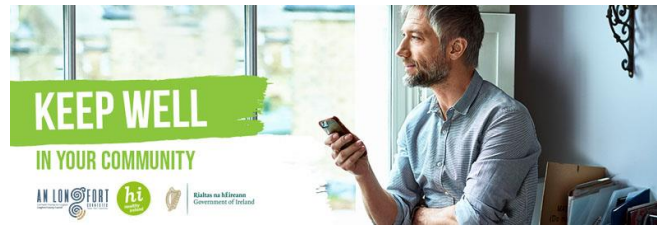
### Longford County Council 'Stronger Together - Local Action' campaign



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

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# 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.

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.

Further details on all activities and initiatives at county level will be made available on the Council's website [www.longfordcoco.ie](http://www.longfordcoco.ie)

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**Get your Weather Alerts at 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.

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



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

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## 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.

**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

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## 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.

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## 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/>

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## 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.

## 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/>

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

