



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

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Helen Gorman, PPN Support Worker, County Longford Public Participation Network, Longford County Council,
Great Water Street, Longford

PPN Newsletter March 2021 (Part 3)

FUNDING

CLÁR Funding 2021

Longford County Council in conjunction with the Department of Rural and Community Development invites Schools, Community Groups and Local Development Companies to apply for funding under the CLÁR Programme 2021.

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measure

Measure 2: Outdoor Recreation Community Recreation Facilities

Measure 3(a): Community Wellbeing Measure - Community Gardens & Allotments

The closing date for receipt of applications to email CLAR@longfordcoco.ie is no later than 4pm on Monday 19th April, 2021.

Applications under *Measure 3(b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport* and the *CLÁR Innovation Measure* can be submitted directly to the Department of Rural & Community Development by 7th May, 2021.

For details, Application Forms, Maps and Scheme Outlines click [here](#)

Small Business Assistance Scheme (SBAS) for COVID

The SBAS scheme announced on Thursday 11th March 2021 is available for applications by completing the online form [here](#)

The Ireland Funds – Heart of the Community Fund

The Ireland Funds is proud to announce the launch of the Heart of the Community Fund, which will provide critical and timely funding to a wide range of not-for-profit and community organisations across the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.

For more information see the attached brochure [here](#)

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

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>



Garda Youth Awards 2021

The Roscommon-Longford Garda Division, in association with Roscommon and Longford County Councils, are delighted to hold the 3rd annual Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards.

The awards celebrate outstanding young people between the ages of 13 and 21 years. Roscommon-Longford Gardai, along with Roscommon and Longford County Councils, recognise that a lot of good work is being done by young people in every community throughout both counties which should be rewarded.

Awards will be considered for nominated young people who by their presence, make their communities a better place to live. There will be four (4) winners of the Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards for 2021:

- Individual – where a young person has made a positive contribution to their community making it a better place to live.
- Group – where 2 or more made a positive contribution to their community making it a better place to live.
- Special Achievement – where a young person has overcome difficult circumstances, defied all the odds and whose commitment deserves recognition.
- Community Safety – where a young person or persons, through a crime prevention or safety initiative / innovation, have made their community a safer place to live in.

A judging panel will decide upon a nominee in each category and their nomination form will then be forwarded to represent the Roscommon-Longford Garda Division for consideration for the National Garda Youth Awards in October, 2021. It is hoped that the Roscommon-Longford Garda Youth Awards will be presented at a virtual ceremony before the end of May.

It would be greatly appreciated if you could circulate the attached nomination form and media consent form to relevant persons/organisations/groups under your responsibility, where applicable.

Nomination forms (**in typed format**) and media consent forms should be emailed to Roscommon.GardaYouthAwards@Garda.ie or posted/handed in to the Community Policing Unit at Castlerea / Granard / Longford / Roscommon Garda stations or directly to Garda Angela Mullooly, Strokestown Garda Station, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon F42 EY27 before **Friday, 30th April, 2020.**

Should you have any queries please do not hesitate to contact Angela by email or call 071-9633002 or 087-7955098.

Sent by Garda Angela Mullooly on behalf of Inspector David Cryan, Community Policing Unit, Roscommon-Longford.

Nomination Form and Media Consent Form is attached. Copies are also available on the PPN website [here](#)

Press Release Tuesday, 23 March 2021



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

Minister O'Brien welcomes the role of PPNs in the development of the next Climate Action Plan

Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development with special responsibility for Community Development and Charities, has welcomed today's launch of the Climate Action Plan Public Consultation.

This process is being used to develop Ireland's next Climate Action Plan and will support the update of the Climate Action Plan 2019 leading to a wide ranging and more in depth citizen, community and sectoral discussion.

The aim of this dialogue is to give the public an opportunity to engage constructively with the development of the Climate Action Plan 2021. It will involve a series of interlinked dialogues and conversations, which will feed into an annual National Climate Conversation. The public consultation will run concurrently with a call for evidence that will accommodate more detailed and expert input.

There are three stages to this process including a broad online conversation, an in-depth citizen conversation and local level conversations that will be facilitated and hosted by Public Participation Networks (PPNs). These local level conversations will include engagement with community and voluntary representatives to inform the delivery of a Climate Action Fund to support climate related initiatives at a local level.

In highlighting the important role of the PPNs, Minister O'Brien stated:

"This consultation process is very important as Climate Change and our response to it in the form of the Climate Action Plan will affect many aspects of life in Ireland, from how we generate energy, how we move from A to B and how we shop.

"I am very glad that the PPNs are involved because they are realising one of their key functions which is bringing valuable on-the-ground, local experience and expertise into national policy-making.

"For some people climate change still feels theoretical. We will be asking people to think of their own locality & community, their weekly routine and tell us what climate action would look like at a tangible grassroots level where you live. We will be asking what communities need to make climate action happen.

"We will be asking about particular groups of people who may be adversely impacted by the move away from a carbon based transport & energy system – how can we offset that impact?

"I am confident that these conversations will enrich the process for the development of the Climate Action Plan as well as informing the delivery of the Climate Action Fund at a local level."

Further information on the development of the new Climate Action Plan including how individuals and communities can engage with the consultation process can be found on gov.ie. Contact: The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office 076-1006843 / 087-1734633

Longford County Council Customer Services Charter

The Public Consultation of Longford County Council's Draft Customer Services Charter is underway and accepting submissions until 2 April 2021.

The Draft Customer Services Charter outlines the Council's commitment to what you, our customers and members of the public, can expect when you deal with us.

You can view it here: [Draft Customer Services Charter](#)

We want you to "Help Us Help You", by providing feedback on our service delivery and what is contained in the charter.

Please complete our brief survey before 2 April 2021 to share your views.

You can complete the survey here: [Customer Services Charter Survey](#)

Thank you for your time

Launch of Longford's Green Keep It Clean Campaign

Longford County Council is delighted to announce the launch of the "Longford's Green Keep It Clean" initiative for 2021. The campaign gets underway this month, running alongside the National Spring 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.

Full Press Release [here](#)

LGMA Survey – On-line Local Government Website

The Local Government Management Agency (LGMA), and its partners, are exploring the value of establishing an online website to make local government information easily accessible to everyone.

We are writing to you to request your participation in a short survey to gather your views on the value of a localgov.ie website. Your participation will be of great assistance to us in determining the best way forward to support the citizen and achieve our objectives.

The survey will take approximately 10 minutes to complete.

Please click the link below to go to the survey Web site (or copy and paste the link into your Internet browser) to be brought directly to the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SBLHBXP>

Your responses will be confidential and no personally identifiable information will be collected or held for reporting purposes.

Thank you very much for your time and cooperation and for providing this important feedback

Jessica McKeon

Customer & Growth Consultant

BearingPoint.



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Launch of Our Rural Future, Ireland's new Rural Development Policy

The logo of the Government of Ireland, featuring a harp and the text "Rialtas na hÉireann" and "Government of Ireland".

The Government will launch

***Our Rural Future*, Ireland's new Rural Development Policy**

online on:

Monday, 29th March 2021
2:15 - 3:30 pm

We welcome you to join the event, which will be live streamed at: <http://twitter.com/merrionstreet>

Please feel free to share this notification and link with your wider network

#OurRuralFuture

For anyone who missed the launch of the Royal Canal Greenway, you can watch it again [here](#)

Royal Canal Greenway



The Royal Canal Greenway officially launched on Wednesday, 24th March at 10am (virtual event). The Royal Canal Greenway is Ireland's longest greenway at 130km long and is ideal for walkers, runners and cyclists of all ages. Starting in Maynooth, it passes through Kildare, Meath, Westmeath and Longford. The Greenway will be a major attraction for the Midlands and Longford and should bring many visitors to it and the various cafés, picnic spots and attractions along the way.

<https://www.waterwaysireland.org/greenways/royal-canal>

- Twitter: [@royal_canal](#)
- Instagram: [@royalcanalgreenway](#)



THE GLOBAL GOALS
For Sustainable Development

PPN Global Goals Session 'Protecting the Planet, the Animals and the People'

The PPN Global Goals on-line session held in March was delivered by Longford PPN and facilitated Wellbeing Coach /Consultant Anna D. Atkinson. The Global Goals Sessions explore themes relating to the Sustainable Development Goals. This month's session focused on climate change, sustainability, ethical living, and the impact of our everyday actions on the planet, people, and animals.

To view the presentation click [here](#)



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte
Health Service Executive

A message from the HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention

Longford/Westmeath & Louth/Meath

At this point in time, I would like to take the opportunity to connect with you and update you on the current services and recent developments in relation to suicide prevention training and signposting material offered by the HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention.

I am also taking this opportunity to remind you of the many services and resources that are available to provide support to those who may wish to avail of such support so that this information can be widely circulated.

Awareness and Training Programmes:

1. Due to the current restrictions, delivery of face to face suicide prevention programmes (safeTALK, ASIST and Understanding Self-Harm) are now paused.

In the interim, an online suicide prevention programme – **LivingWorks Start** – is available. The programme is targeted at anyone over the age of 18 who wants to help prevent suicide and develop the skills to assist someone who may be at risk of suicide. It can be completed in 1½ hours and includes a four-step model and impactful simulations which are undertaken and put into practice during the programme. A licence is required to undertake the programme and these can be accessed by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

2. An **'Introduction to Self-Harm'** programme is also now available in an online format. This programme is suitable for those who seek to develop their knowledge and understanding of self-harm and the reasons underlying such behaviour, how to support and care for those engaging in self harm and gain knowledge regarding the resources and services that are available. Scheduled dates are outlined on <https://bookwhen.com/suicidepreventiontrainingmidlands> and the programme can also be delivered within settings to groups of 15 people over the age of 18 yrs by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie
3. An online version of the **'Workshop for Professionals and key contact people providing support to those bereaved through suicide'** is now available. The programme explores the unique needs of suicide bereavement so that participants become more equipped to provide support in the safest and most effective way possible. The programme is a blended workshop consisting of an online e-learning module and a 4-hour virtual online workshop. The workshops covers five key topics: a) understanding the grieving process, b) the context of suicide, c) how to support people bereaved through suicide, d) skills building, e) self-care. The programme is available to groups of 12 people from various centres/settings and requests or queries can be made by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

Information/Signposting Posters:

The following resources are available (via email or hard copy) upon request by contacting me at: eddie.ward@hse.ie

- 'Personal and Community Information and Support Directories' on a bi-county basis.
- 'Help is at Hand for your emotional well-being and mental health during Covid-19'
- 'Help & Support Information Cards' - County focussed in a wallet size format
- 'Numbers if you need them' – information postcard.

Leaflets and other resources:

A selection of information and support leaflets as outlined below are also available on request:

- 'Responding to a person in suicidal distress – Guidance Document for public facing staff or volunteers'. This document aims to support staff and volunteers working in public facing roles to interact with people who present or contact the service in distress or at risk of suicide and self-harm.
- 'Would you know what to do if someone told you they were thinking of suicide?'
- 'If you have been bereaved by suicide'
- 'Supporting someone bereaved by suicide'
- 'Self harm and young people – and informational booklet for parents and concerned adults'

Local and National Supports and Services:

- A free 24/7 text service, providing everything from a calming chat to immediate support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis is now available and can be availed of by texting HELLO to 50808.
- www.yourmentalhealth.ie provides information and signposting on all mental health support and services that are available nationally provided by the HSE and its funded partners. There is also a Freephone YourMentalHealth information line – 1800 111 888.
- **Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service**
For those who may be grieving the loss of a loved one to suicide, the HSE funded Suicide Bereavement Liaison Service

(in conjunction with Pieta House) is available to provide practical help and support. Please contact the relevant Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer for your area as follows:

Louth/Meath: Marian King Tel: (085) 738 0444 Email: marian.king@pieta.ie

Midlands: Bernie Carroll Tel: 086 418 0088; Email: bernie@pieta.ie
- Other bereavement supports: The National Bereavement Support Line provided by the Irish Hospice Foundation Helpline: 1800 807 077; www.bereaved.ie www.childhoodbereavement.ie
- HSE Psychology Service is offering a virtual drop in clinic and psychosocial service providing emotional support and advice in these challenging times. The service can be availed by email: mlmpsychosocial@hse.ie
- Services for young people: Articles and information on many topics including mental health are available from the following services: Spunout: www.spunout.ie ; BeLoNG To Youth Services: <https://www.belongto.org/> ; Jigsaw: www.jigsaw.ie ; Childline: www.childline.ie
- Online counselling services (free and low-cost) are available from www.mymind.org / www.turn2me.org / www.suicideorsurvive.ie
- Information on Covid-19 and managing your wellbeing at this time is available on: <https://www2.hse.ie/services/mental-health-supports-and-services-during-coronavirus/mental-health-supports-and-services-during-coronavirus.html>

If you would like any further information on any of the above, don't hesitate to contact me as follows:

Eddie Ward

HSE Resource Office for Suicide Prevention

Longford/Westmeath & Louth/Meath

The Health Centre, St. Joseph's Campus, Dublin Rd., Longford.

Tel: 086 380 1152 Email: eddie.ward@hse.ie

The Creators Garden - Women's Wellbeing Café is launching live on Facebook, Saturday 27th March at 2pm.



You are invited to claim 60 minutes of the day for yourself, brew a nice cup of your favourite tea or coffee, and settle into the gathering of a community of women interested in and talking about, all things ethical, sustainable, spiritual, mental health and wellbeing related, including of course community and planetary wellbeing.

There will be special guests and because it's the launch day who knows what kind of surprise gifts there will be to be claimed. I do hope you will join me/us!

If you can't, and you'd still like to connect, just head on over to join our Café Facebook Group. It's in this group that our café sessions will take place, on the last Saturday of every month.

It's a private space for our community of women, where we'll be posting regular articles, updates and info on upcoming coaching programs, workshops and events from The Creators Garden and other friends from around the world. It's the best place to gain access to expert coaching, and first claim on event and workshop discounts.

<https://fb.me/e/15QNQk8vG>

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=3540308779432045>

Hope to see you there.

Much Love,

AnnaD   



The latest Tidy Towns newsletter is available on the Tidy Towns website, link <https://www.tidytowns.ie/about-us/newsletters/> and on our social media pages if you wish to make your wider community aware of it.

-  Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/OfficialSuperValuTidyTowns/>
-  Twitter: <https://twitter.com/TidyTownslre>

The newsletter contains the following:

- Information on the 2021 SuperValu Tidy Towns Competition
- Links to the Tidy Towns Webinar hosted by Limerick City & County Council
- Tips on entering the EPA Circular Economy Special Competition
- Information on the Tidy Towns Grant
- Information on how the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG's) apply to the categories in the Tidy Towns Competition
- Trees for Tidy Towns Groups
- Information on the SolarStreetBin™
- Chance to win a SuperValu Gift Card

If you are aware of any group that would like to submit an article to us, please ask them to email it to us along with some photos to tidytowns@drctd.gov.ie and if you are aware of any initiatives that would be of interest to groups please let us know.



Shaping Our Electricity Future - EirGrid launch 14-week consultation on future of electricity grid

I am reaching out to you today to let you know about [Shaping Our Electricity Future](#), a consultation we are launching today.

This consultation aims to identify the best way for Ireland to move from reliance on fossil fuels to cleaner energy. EirGrid is responsible for the flow of electricity around the country and we are hosting a nationwide 14-week consultation to find an agreed approach to reach the Government's 2030 renewable electricity target - of at least 70% of Ireland's electricity coming from renewable sources by 2030.

Homes, communities and businesses across Ireland cannot "go green" without the right electricity grid to transport the renewables-based electricity. Over the next 10 years, we are going to

transform the system – without question, the most radical transformation of the grid since electricity was invented.

Ireland has world-class conditions for renewable energy – wind (on- and off-shore) and solar – and with the right infrastructure in place we can decarbonise the system. Ireland needs significant investment and development of its electricity grid if it is to meet the social and economic policy goals of the country. This will mean making far-reaching changes to our electricity system – changes that will affect everyone on the island of Ireland. That’s why we want to collaborate with the public to find the best way of shaping our electricity future.

We have outlined 4 approaches that we are seeking views on and these include:

Approach 1: Generation-Led - Plan for electricity generation at the most suitable locations

- In this approach, government policy would influence where renewable energy is generated - favouring locations where the grid is already strong and taking local demand into account.
- This makes better use of the existing grid. It could also lead to more offshore wind generation on the east coast - reducing the need for onshore wind farms.

Approach 2: Developer-Led - Continue to develop the grid on a project-by-project basis in any location

- In this approach, we continue to connect new sources of renewable electricity as requested in any location – upgrading and strengthening the grid to suit circumstances in each case.
- This would mean completing over 100 individual projects between now and 2030 which is not feasible.
- This approach means we would not meet our 70% 2030 target

Approach 3: Technology-Led - Change the technology used for the grid infrastructure

- This approach, using proven technology, makes the electricity grid more resilient, so that it is better able to handle onshore renewable energy.
- It uses underground cables to carry high voltage direct current - moving clean electricity from the west coast (where the energy is generated) to the east coast, without disrupting the existing grid.
- It is an expensive, technically challenging and complex solution and is rarely used on national grids.

Approach 4: Demand-Led: The location of large energy users is decided by government policy

- This approach means government policy determines where large scale energy users – such as data centres and big industries – are located.
- Heavy electricity users like these would be situated closer to sources of renewable energy.
- Though it would mean influencing the decision making of high-demand customers wishing to set up or expand in Ireland.
- Changing where electricity is used in this way would need the support of stakeholders. Without it, we could not achieve our 70% target by 2030.

There are some foundation projects that are common to all four approaches and the final plan is likely to include elements of all approaches, strongly led by one of them.

A key aspect of the launch today is the scale of the consultation we are planning to undertake. Over the 14-week period we will be hosting groups and forums and working in partnership with industry, the National Youth Council of Ireland, Irish Rural Link, Chambers Ireland and others to host consultative forums and discussions. A central component will also see the holding of a Deliberative Dialogue (modelled on the Citizen’s Assembly).

We are asking Public Participation Networks to get involved in this consultation through our regional virtual workshops organised in partnership with Irish Rural Link. We will follow up in due course with more information on this. For the time being, we can provide the following information for your calendar:

Day	Time	Region	Registration Link
Tuesday 30 th March	10a m to 12p m	South East	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZYvceugrDktE9wgcA_O-HOHBeo2ZVxrRe6k
Thursday 15 th April	7pm to 9pm	South West	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUofuuhjstGdL3rHtpXLxTeYz_kukQX5PDx
Tuesday 27 th April	10a m to 12p m	North West	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlSduqhpjMrG9Xtcz7-LGlpwlpUo6-g1yb
Thursday 29 th April	7pm to 9pm	North East	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZErcuuspiMuGt1ZEF_KKFMIU_dtiLVoRSWco
Wednesday 5 th May	10a m to 12p m	Midlan ds	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlSfuqhqTktHNd4wDDwhRL8lYaO6QREWtm
Friday 7 th May	7pm to 9pm	Border	https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwud-yrpjsHd2fXambDFXlPT7ieEI3KuyO

Members of the PPN can also participate by using our online portal at consult.eirgrid.ie where there is plenty of detail on the approaches and via post EirGrid plc, Freepost FDN 5312, D04 FW28 or by emailing consult@eirgrid.ie.

I would appreciate if you could share this notice on your PPN website, in your membership newsletter and with your PPN Representatives. We would be delighted for PPN members to be involved in Shaping Our Electricity Future.

Additional information:

- [Click here for the consultation brochure](#)

- [Click here for the press release](#)
- [Click here for the animated explainer video](#)
- [Click here to access our new consultation portal](#)

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in touch with me.

Kind regards,

Jamie Moore

Senior Engagement Specialist

Mobile: +353 85 870 4836



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

Press release dated 26th February 2021

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.



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

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

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.../>

[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/>

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](#)

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

email us at

library@longfordcoco.ie

or contact your local branch



Longford Community Call Helpline
Call 043 3344255 or Freephone 1800 300 122
Email covidsupport@longfordcoco.ie



Longford County Council ‘Stronger Together - Local Action’ campaign



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

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

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.

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>



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

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/>

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/>



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

