



County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

E-mail: ppn@longfordcoco.ie; Web: www.longfordcoco.ie

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

[PPN Newsletter November 2020 \(Part 3\)](#)

IMPORTANT NOTICE



2020 PPN County Plenary Meeting

You are cordially invited to the first **PPN County Plenary Meeting** via the **webinar** link below on **Thursday 26th November @ 7pm – 8.30pm**

Because of the current pandemic and level 5 restrictions sadly we are unable to meet in person but nevertheless you can still receive important information, have an opportunity to ask questions and be part of our very innovative plenary raffle “Spin the Wheel”.



Tess Murphy, PPN Secretariat will chair the meeting and Siobhán will give an update on the PPN workplan 2020. Our guest speakers include:

- Barbara Heslin, Director of Service Community & Enterprise, Longford County Council(LCC) who will speak about some of important supports and services LCC are providing such as the "Keep Well" campaign and #ShopLongford;
- Seán Regan, Longford Community Resource clg will provide information on the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP);
- Karen Ciesielski, Irish Environmental Network, will talk you through the changes in criteria for groups wishing to join the PPN Environmental College.

Link below:

Join Teams Meeting

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NGFIY2IzYTEtOTc3Mi00NjkxLWlxYzktZDViMmZkMmNINTQx%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

Christine Collins, LCC, IT Dept will be on hand to help with any technical issues members have.

Our Plenary advert and article has been advertised in the Longford Leader and adverts will run on Shannonside Sunday 21st, Tues 24th and Wed 25th November. I would ask you though, as PPN group contacts, to please pass this information on to all your group members.

Additional information on how to join the webinar is below. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at <scronogue@longfordcoco.ie

Many thanks and we hope you join us on **Thurs 26th November @ 7pm.**

Siobhán

on behalf of the PPN Secretariat

Instructions on how to join the meeting

Please note if you want to join in using an **iPad or iPhone** you must download the "Microsoft Teams App" from the App Store first then do as below

For all other devices do as follows

- Click the "Join Microsoft Teams Meeting" link below
 - A new web browser opens up
- Click "Join on the web instead"
 - For iPad & iPhone users who have the App installed click "Open Microsoft Teams"
- Enter your name (guest) if requested
- Click Join
- You will see a message stating "Someone in the meeting should let you in soon"

We will then accept you into the conference

Funding News



Community Grant Support Scheme 2021

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

Closing Date: 21st February 2021

Important Note - Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme 2021 Call for applications – Extension to Application Deadline – 4pm Friday, 4th December 2020

Due to the interest in the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme for 2021 Minister Noonan has announced the extension of the deadline for applications to the scheme to **4pm on Friday 4th December 2020**.

A fund of €200,000 – double the fund of 2020- is being made available in 2021 to support initiatives with community benefit that promote awareness, conservation and revitalisation of Irish Peatlands.

Key dates

1. 2020 Call Open Date: July 2020
2. 2020 Call Close Date: until 14 August 2020
1. 2021 Call Open Date: July 2020
2. 2021 Call Close Date: until 20 November 2020

Following a successful call in 2018 and in 2019 the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme, is now open for applications for 2020 and 2021.

This is a competitive fund which is administered by the Peatlands Management Unit of the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht with a total fund of €50,000 available in 2020 and €200,000 available in 2021.

This Scheme seeks to encourage local peatland communities, local groups, local schools and individuals to engage with the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht in relation to the conservation and revitalisation of raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation, Natural Heritage Areas and other peatland areas and to promote public engagement with and awareness of our natural heritage.

Each year applications are invited for a diverse range of initiatives from events, education programmes, conservation management plans, public amenity and recreational measures to invasive species and fire control measures **near/within raised and blanket bog Special Areas of Conservation/Natural Heritage Areas or other raised bog/blanket bog areas** and peatlands areas which will encourage communities to enhance their natural surrounding areas and raise awareness of environmental issues and concerns.

Successful applicants will be awarded funding to support a maximum of 75% of the project eligible costs with a maximum grant of €25,000.

How do I apply?

Details of the Terms and Conditions of the Scheme and Application Form needed to apply are available via the links below:

1. [Terms and Conditions and Application Form for the Peatlands Community Engagement Scheme \(PDF version\)](#)
2. [Application Form A \(Microsoft Word version\)](#)
3. [Circular 13/2014 Management of and Accountability for Grants from Exchequer Funds](#)

Please note that the submission of an application form does not guarantee funding from the Department. Incomplete and late applications will be refused and returned to applicants.

Important Note Re 2020 Call for applications

Applicants can apply for 2020 project funding up to and including the Call Close Date of 14 August 2020.

Applications for 2020 projects will be assessed as soon as possible after receipt and applicants will be notified shortly thereafter of the outcome. The awarding of funding will be subject to the approval of the Minister and normal budgetary processes.

Further details are available by contacting:

*Peatlands Management Unit,
Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht,
Newtown Road,
Wexford
Y35 AP90*

Email: peatlandsmanagement@chg.gov.ie

Phone: (085) 856 6517

Latest News

Minister O'Brien launches Public Participation Network 2019 Annual Report



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

Report shows 15,600 voluntary groups registered with the Public Participation Network in 2019

The Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Mr. Joe O'Brien TD, today (19th November 2020) launched the 2019 Annual Report of the Public Participation Networks.

This is the fourth Annual Report on the Public Participation Networks (PPNs), which were established to facilitate active citizen participation in policymaking at local authority level. The report provides a positive reflection of the variety of work done as well as showing continued growth throughout the country.

Speaking about the launch of the annual report Minister O'Brien said:

“This report shows that PPNs are having the desired impact and have achieved a huge amount in the short space of time since they were founded in 2014. The report also shows that there were 15,599 voluntary groups registered with the Network in 2019. At a national level, 928 PPN representatives gave volunteered groups a voice on 424 local authority boards or committees. This clearly demonstrates that PPNs are growing in strength.”

Regarding the increase in membership, Minister O'Brien added:

“These figures are a great indicator of the vibrancy and energy of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland, especially at a local level, and the role played by PPNs in local policy making and networking.”

PPNs are continuing to have a positive relationship with local authorities and are collaborating on a number of projects. For example, they are raising awareness of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and influencing policy to assist in achieving them at a local level.

Other PPNs are using their member groups' experience to help local authorities improve accessibility for people with disabilities and dementia and to help people from marginalised communities to sit on local authority boards. The 2019 Annual Report highlights further examples of PPN activities and impacts.

Minister O'Brien said:

“These examples demonstrate the initiative and drive of PPN members, with activities ranging from contributing to local Strategic Policy Committees to holding events on matters such as community safety, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and rural policy. Several PPNs consulted with and welcomed asylum seekers, while others focussed on making public spaces accessible to people with disabilities. And this is only a small sample of the important ways in which they contribute to their localities.”

PPNs thrive on the principle of community engagement. They regularly hold workshops and public consultations to facilitate this engagement which is making a tangible difference and strengthening communities around the country.

The commitment displayed by the PPN resource workers, support workers, secretariat members and the member groups is visible throughout the report and their value can be seen in the increased level of citizen participation.

In conclusion, the Minister also acknowledged the work that PPNs carried out during the Covid-19 outbreak:

“PPNs have been pivotal in organising the community response and ensuring that the needs of vulnerable people were met during this period of uncertainty. I am grateful for their work in this area and I am committed to make sure that the Public Participation Network in this country goes from strength to strength.”

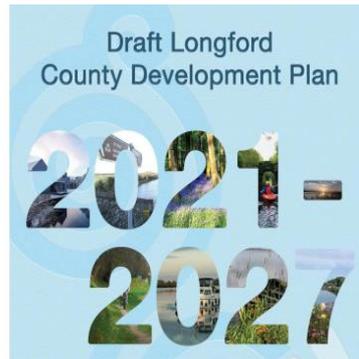
The report can be downloaded [here](#).

Contact:

The Department of Rural and Community Development Press Office

076-1006843 / 087-1734633

Press.office@drccd.gov.ie



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF DRAFT LONGFORD COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN 2021-2027 – SUBMISSIONS INVITED

Longford County Council is currently preparing a Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 and is inviting submissions.

The Draft Longford County Development Plan 2021-2027 is currently available for public inspection from via the Council's website at the following link:

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/planning/preparation-of-longford-cdp-2021-2027/longford-county-development-plan-2021-2027.html>

The Plan and all associated documents will also be available for public inspection in hard copy format during normal opening hours (subject to Covid-19 restrictions and excluding public holidays) at the following locations:

- Planning Department, Longford County Council Offices, Áras an Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.
- All County Longford Branch Libraries – Longford, Ballymahon, Drumlish, Edgeworthstown, Granard and Lanesborough Libraries (please check locally for opening hours).

These physical display locations are subject to Covid-19 pandemic restriction requirements. Longford County Council website will be kept updated of any changes.

In this regard further to the publication of the public notice in the Longford Leader dated Friday 23rd October 2020, **the libraries will now be closed until 1st December 2020. An appointment will be required to view the documents at the Planning Department by either email at planning@longfordcoco.ie or telephone on (043) 3343323.**

Submissions to the Draft County Development Plan 2021-2027 may be made by members up to **4pm on Monday 18th January 2021** or alternatively you may send your submission to PPN@longfordcoco.ie or scronogue@longfordcoco.ie and your submission will then be included as part of the PPN submission.

Submissions/observations can be made as follows:

Online: www.longfordcoco.ie/cdp

Email: cdp@longfordcoco.ie

Hard copy: Administrative Officer, Draft County Development Plan, Forward Planning Unit, Longford County Council, Áras An Chontae, Great Water Street, Longford, N39 NH56.

Longford County Council



PUBLICATION OF DRAFT REGISTER OF ELECTORS 2021/2022 – County Longford

The Draft Register 2021/2022 is now published and is available for inspection, from **1st November 2020**.

Persons are advised to check the Draft Register of Electors to ensure you are correctly registered. If you are not Registered, you cannot vote.

Persons are encouraged, in the context of current public health advice and Government restrictions, to check the Draft Register of Electors, either online at www.checktheregister.ie or you may contact the Franchise Office by email franchise@longfordcoco.ie or by phone 043-334 3507

The Draft Register can be inspected, by appointment, at the Customer Services Desk, Longford County Council. A Copy of the Draft Register is also available at the Office of the County Registrar, Courthouse, Longford. Persons who wish to inspect the Register at the County Registrar's office should contact that office to make appropriate arrangements. Copies of the Draft Register for respective polling districts can also be inspected at local Post Offices and Garda Stations.

Persons are advised to ensure they comply with public health guidelines while inspecting the Draft Register.

You can claim to have a correction made to the Draft Register, including, a claim to have the name of a person **added to or deleted from the Draft Register**.

Alternatively, you may contact the Franchise Section by phoning 043-3343507 or by emailing franchise@longfordcoco.ie or you can download the forms from the Council website at www.longfordcoco.ie . Claim forms are also available at Post Offices and Garda Stations.

Completed Claim Forms (RFA1) should be returned electronically to the Franchise Section at franchise@longfordcoco.ie or by post to The Franchise Section, Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford, **not later than 25th November 2020**.

YOU CANNOT VOTE IF YOU ARE NOT REGISTERED



WALK YOUR PARISH
4 FOR 4
 Community Challenge
 Nov 23rd to Dec 20th

Walk Your Parish
 Aim
 For 4K
 For 4 days
 For 4 weeks

Prizes for the parish that logs the greatest average distance per participant and the parish with the most participants to complete the challenge. Spot prizes for individuals

In partnership with your local GAA Club

Download and sign up to the STRAVA App (free) 

Follow Longford Sports Partnership and request to join your parish team, record your walk on STRAVA. Or you can send a screenshot from your fitness tracker to sports@longfordcoco.ie

SPORT IRELAND
 LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS

LONGFORD
 1887
 GAISCE AGUS GLAINE

KEEPING ACTIVE

It's coming towards the end of a difficult 2020 for the people of Longford. So Longford GAA and Longford Sports Partnership want to help bring people in Longford together virtually anyway 😊 to improve their physical and mental health as part of the Keep Well Campaign.

So, we have set the people of Longford the **4 FOR 4 Parish Walking Challenge**.

Our 4FOR4 challenge is encouraging the people of your parish to complete 4 walks each week of 4k distance for 4 weeks from Monday the 23rd of November to Sunday the 20th of December.

We are asking each GAA Club and Parish in Longford to support the challenge by encouraging people to get involved.

Prizes

€500 for club that clocks up the greatest distance overall.

€500 for the club that walks the furthest average distance per participant (15 people or more registered in the club).

Spot prizes for individuals including a FitBit and much more.

How you can get involved.

Sign up to the STRAVA fitness App, search and follow Longford Sports Partnership on STRAVA and join you own club team. When you record your walk on STRAVA on your phone it will automatically load with your club. Instructions in PDF or Video link [here](#)

Alternatively, you can take a photo of your walks on your fitness tracker or App and email it to sports@longfordcoco.ie stating club/parish you are doing it for.

Walks can be completed wherever or whenever you wish once within Covid 19 guidelines, we have also attached some walkways in GAA clubs that are lit. More information on walkways coming soon.

For more information email sports@longfordcoco.ie



Disability Federation of Ireland



#PurpleLights20 - 3rd December 2020

This Dec. 3rd don't hide your support for disability! Join the Worldwide UN #IDPWD20 and Ireland's own #PurpleLights20

Not all disabilities are visible, in fact as many as 80% of disabilities are invisible. That means 514,505 people in Ireland like #PurpleLights founder Gary Kearney.



Pictured: Gary Kearney, founder of the Purple Lights campaign.

Gary was left for dead on O'Connell Street Dublin after an unprovoked attack left him with a brain injury.

This year the theme for United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities, **#IDPwD20**, is people with invisible disabilities. Too often they, as well as their disability, are invisible.

Never has it been more important to know that many people with compromised immune systems or various lung diseases are in our neighbourhoods. Their disability is invisible, but your support need not be. They really need space and extra consideration during this pandemic.

So turn on those #PurpleLights! It's also a great way for local authorities to make visible your Public Sector Duty commitment as your work on integrating human rights into your work.

Here are three easy steps to how everyone and every place can get involved.

1. Flick of a Switch

Make a start by contacting your building manager to find out how you can turn purple on Wednesday Dec. 3rd with the flick of a switch.

2. €20 for a purple filter

Small organisations and offices wouldn't necessarily have an office manager. You can get a purple filter for outside lighting by contacting Tomás (approx. €20): sales@stagelightingcentre.com

3. Add Some Purple to Virtual Meetings

Working from home but still want to show your support? Why not light up your virtual meetings by turning your background purple or simply wearing something purple. You can even turn your own home purple by simply applying a free filter, [found here](#), to any photos you take.



Pictured: Naas ball, Co. Kildare, turns Purple.

Don't forget to take pictures and share

No matter what activity you decide to do please take photos and share them on all your social channels. Make sure to include #PurpleLights20 and #IDPWD20. Or simply post or tweet using one of our social card templates. These will be supplied to participating Councils.

It will mean a lot to the 514,505 people living with invisible disabilities today.

For more information please contact Clare Cronin, Communications Manager at clarecronin@disability-federation.ie and/or [0860277824](tel:0860277824)

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



The Council has released a new video to remind people of the importance of adhering to public health advice, as we work together to address increasing COVID-19 numbers in County Longford.

New video available on the following Longford County Council's Social Media platforms and are also in various languages:

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/longfordcoco/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/longfordcoco>

Youtube: <https://bit.ly/2T4yoM6>

Please bring this to the attention of all your members and "Like" and "Share" to get the 'Stronger Together - Local Action' campaign message out to everyone in the community.

Invitation to Rural Working Hubs Webinar on **Tues 24th November**

Longford County Council Regeneration Department, with our project partners in Leader Aisapari in Finland, invite you to join us in a conversation on rural working hubs. The discussion will include speakers from Finland and Ireland and will provide participants with an insight into the policy context, strategic approach and good practices in the development of rural working hubs, as well as practical experience from a community perspective.

Tickets for the event can be obtained from Eventbrite at the following link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/rural-working-hubs-tickets-126403874391>

International webinar

Rural Working Hubs

– policy, good practices and implementation

Tuesday 24 November
at 10 am. Irish time/
12 pm. Finnish time

Program

Irish time	Finnish time	
9.45	11.45	The webinar link is open to participants
10.00	12.00	Opening and Presentation of Rural Working hub -project Heili Talvitie, Leader Aisapari & Lorraine O'Connor Longford County Council
10.10	12.10	Good Practices Joining the Dots for Remote Working. Rose Barrett, Grow Remote Ireland Creating a community and accelerating businesses in co-working hubs. Case Hämeenlinna. Mikko Markkanen, Crazy Town, Finland
10.45	12.45	Role of Remote Working in Rural Regeneration A Strategic Approach to Rural Working Hubs - Atlantic Economic Corridor and Digwest project Stephen Carolan, Western Development Commission How increasing remote working, and co-working spaces can support the vitality of rural areas in Finland Sami Tantarimäki, University of Turku/Smart Villages Network, Finland
11.20	13.20	Policy context: Political goals for remote working in Finland from the Rural Policy perspective Secretary General, Christell Åström, Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry/Rural Policy Council, Finland Government Response to Remote Working to support Rural Regeneration Minister Robert Troig, Trade Promotion, Digital and Company Regulation, Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation, Ireland
11.45	13.45	Community implementation – Hints and tips for co-working spaces Mia Hironen, Co-working Hub in Pihtipudas, Finland Clare McEnroe from Edgeworth town Hub, Ireland
12.00	14:00	End

Remote working is becoming more popular as a means of working. It can also be seen as a means to regenerate our towns and villages. Within this conversation, we are going to learn more of the policy response to remote working hubs, good practices in the development of rural working hubs, as well as practical experiences from our communities in the development of rural working hubs from both Finland and Ireland.

How to join in? Registration closes on Monday 23rd November. Registration link <https://bit.ly/36orR3o>

Please note that webinar link (Microsoft Teams) is included in the registration confirmation email sent by Eventbrite. You can join in the webinar either via Internet browser or using Microsoft Teams application. Best internet browsers to connect are Edge and Chrome (see more: <https://bit.ly/3p9mzmE>)

The webinar will be recorded, and it will be available in Leader Aisapari YouTube channel.

RURAL WORKING HUBS
AISAPARI

The European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development
Europe investing in rural areas

A notice from Grow Remote Longford



Grow Remote is a voluntary organisation whose mission is the promotion and awareness of "remote first" work in rural areas as a way to rejuvenate local communities. www.growremote.ie

Grow Remote are currently advertising a training course to reskill people wishing to apply for remote first positions.

This course is now open nationwide and is a fully funded 8 week course. Here is the link to the facebook post

<https://www.facebook.com/growremote/posts/1534968613356681>

<https://growremote.ie/remote-work-ready/>

LOETB, in collaboration with IDA Ireland, SOLAS, and Grow Remote, has created this training programme to develop the skillset required of learners wishing to enter into employment in the area of Remote Work.

This is an 8 week fully funded program, with a minimum mandatory time investment of 6 hours per week.



YouTube channel Longford County Library

25th November @ 7pm

'The 1920 local elections in County Longford' a talk by Martin Morris

Martin Morris is the archivist in Longford County Library and Coordinator of Decade of the Centenaries Programme 2020

Further information may be found at this link:

<https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/library/events/decade-of-centenaries-november-2020.html>

Be Winter Ready – Practical Advice for Volunteers

A guide has been developed to support and guide persons preparing to volunteer to provide practical support to others this winter, while also living with the impacts of COVID-19. If you decide to volunteer follow this link for more information:

<https://www.volunteer.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Be-Winter-Ready-Practical-Advice-for-Volunteers.pdf>

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.

Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020 Approved Projects

Further information on Round 2 may be found at

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/your-council/news/town-and-village-renewal-scheme-round-2-accelerated-measure-2020.html>

Further information on Round 3 may be found at

<https://www.longfordcoco.ie/services/regeneration/>

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Further information on BCPs in Longford may be found at :

N39X838	Moyne Latin School
N39XD43	Mullinalaghta Community Centre
N39YT78	Aughine Community Centre
N39N8K5	Abbeyshrule Airport
N39XT18	Corlea Heritage Center
N39Y392	Colmcille GAA
	Ballymore Shamrocks GAA
N39K729	Carrickedmond GAA
N39EX99	Fermoyle National School
N39KN92	Bunlahy National School

The Community Call – 9am to 5pm Mon - Friday

The Community Call

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

Community Call will respond to the needs of
the vulnerable members of our community



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



Riailtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Now more than ever, it's time to think local first by supporting your local businesses

SHOP LOCAL
Longford

**SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY
SUPPORT YOUR TOWN
SUPPORT EACH OTHER**

#Keep Longford In Business

Stay true to your roots

In association with Longford#Leader LongfordLeader.ie

FREE Parking
in OFF-STREET CAR PARKS
Longford Town

Friday 27th November 2020
Saturday 28th November 2020
Saturday 5th December 2020
Every Day from
Sat 12th Dec 2020 - Fri. 1st Jan 2021

Free Parking Every Sunday