December 2022



Galway County Public Participation Network

Chontae na Gaillimhe

Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Phoiblí

Welcome PPN members to our December 2022 Newsletter!

Guímid Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise dár mbaill go léir!

In this issue:

- PPN News
- An Cúinne Gaeilge News from the Departments
- Consultations
- Funding Training
- Notice Board / Events
- Supports

If you have any news you would like to include in next month's newsletter, please email mmullen@galwaycoco.ie

PPN News

Charlotte May, Galway County PPN Coordinator says Farewell

Charlotte is taking on a new role with the North Western Regional Assembly (www.nwra.ie) and wishes to thank everyone for a great 3 years with the PPN. On behalf of the PPN we thank Charlotte for hard work in helping develop and strengthen the PPN over the past 3 years. Wishing her every success in her new role.

Community Centres Investment Fund

Please see for your information, Press Release regarding funding announcements under Categories 2 & 3 of the Community Centre Investment Fund.

Huge congratulations to the recipients of these grants in County Galway, which will bring immense improvements to facilities, and benefits to communities, all across the County. We are delighted that County Galway has featured so prominently in the awards under all categories of this new Fund.

We have been advised by the Department of Rural and Community Development that an online information session is being arranged in Jan 2023 and successful groups will be notified of the date, time, and details in due course, and invited to register to attend. The Department have also advised that this will be an interactive event where groups will be given some general information and then be able to ask more specific questions about progressing their applications. Arising from this Departmental Information Session, Galway County Council & the PPN will host workshops for the successful groups under Category 1 and Categories 2/3 to discuss and agree any more specific training required, for example, in the area of public procurement and e-tenders.

Galway Co PPN updates to website

We are always adding items to our website to ensure groups have a one-stop-shop for all things community related, check out our new resources section on the website here: https://www.galwaycountyppn.ie/resources-2/

Increase in funding for PPNs announced

Each PPN will receive an increase of €10,000 to its core funding in 2023. Read more here: https://www.galwaycountyppn.ie/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CVSP-5-2022-PPN-funding-increase-for-2023.pdf

Galway County PPN makes Litter Management Plan Submission On December 5th 2022 Galway County PPN submitted its Submission on the Galway County Litter Management Plan 2023-2025 following an information event and consultation process with the PPN members.

You can read the submission here: Galway County PPN SUBMISSION on Litter Management Plan

_____ Free Energy Audits available for Community settings! Galway County PPN, together with the Galway County Council and SEAI are currently seeking Expressions of Interest from Community Centres in receiving a free Energy Audit

for their building helping them to reduce their energy consumption and carbon emission cutting down on bills. Please fill out the survey below if you are interested in availing of this opportunity.

The final number of Community Centres to be approved for free audits will take account of a range of factors such as need and achieving a geographical spread of projects.

What is an energy audit? One of the first steps for an organisation in adopting a more sustainable approach to energy is carrying out an energy audit.

Completing an energy audit provides groups with a better picture of their energy consumption and identifies opportunities for improvement – often delivering immediate cost savings. An energy auditor will inspect and analyse how your business uses energy. The auditor will then provide a report based on the findings and will make recommendations on the most effective ways to save money on your energy bills.

Please conduct the survey to confirm your interest: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/3QXW87L

An Cúinne Gaeilge



-Coiste Choláiste Cuimhneacháin an Phiarsaigh -Clíona agus foireann Tigh Mheaic as na sólaistí -Peadar (GChló) a rinne na comharthaí Gach duine a ghlac páirt agus a thug cúnamh agus tacaíocht

Tá súil ag foireann Pleanála Teanga Chonamara Láir níos mó ócáidí mar seo a reáchtáil arís sa bhliain nua.



Ceardlann Ceardaíochta na Nollag Bhí áthas ar Phleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir dhá cheardlann

ceardaíochta a reáchtáil i gcomhar le Cian Bairéad ar an 5ú Nollag in Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach i gCarna agus ar an 6ú Nollag sa gCrannóg i Rosmuc. Ba deis álainn a bhí anseo chun foghlaim conas do mhaisiúchán Nollag féin a dhéanamh do do theach agus tús a chur le séasúr na Nollag.

Míle buíochas le Cian, na rannpháirtithe agus le foireann Ionad Cuimhneacháin na nImirceach agus coiste na Crannóige .



d'ullmhaigh an lón blasta.

táthar ag súil cruinnithe dá léithid a réachtáil níos rialta. Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghlacadh le foireann lonad na

Fóram Réigiúnach OPT an Iarthair/ na Mí

D'óstaigh foireann Pleanála Teanga Chonamara Láir an chéad



imeachtaí don "Lá Digiteach ar dTús" (Digital First Day) an togra

náisiúnta a bhfuil sé mar aidhm aige léargas a thabhairt do



phobal tuaithe na hÉireann, idir lucht gnó, lucht fiontraíochta agus an gnáthphobal, ar an leas agus an buntáiste atá le baint ag pobail thuaithe as an digitiú. Ghlac gteic Charna páirt san imeacht a bhí ar siúl ar an 15ú Samhain. Míle buíochas le gach duine a d'fhreastal ar an ócáid, go háirithe

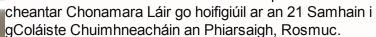
daltaí Coláiste na bPiarsach, Ros Muc agus Scoil Phobail Mhic Dara. Buíochas freisin le:

Mary Uí Chadhain, ó Bhord Údaráis na Gaeltachta, a d'oscail an ócáid Tigh Mheaic as sólaistí blasta a chur ar fáil

agus gach duine eile a thug cúnamh ar an lá. _____

Máistirphlean Fuinnimh Chonamara Láir Sheol Rónán Mac con Iomaire an Máistirphlean Fuinnimh do

Tá an Máistirphlean Fuinnimh i gConamara Láir mar thoradh ar





thaighde áitiúil agus ar iniúchadh BER chun an bonnlíne Fuinnimh I gConamara Láir a mheas. Tugann an Plean an deis dúinn mar phobal tabhairt faoi thionscadal pobalbhunaithe chun ár lorg carbóin a ísliú trínár tithe cónaithe, áiseanna pobail agus foirgnimh gnó ar fud Chonmara Láir. Tá Forbairt Chonamara Láir Teo., cláraithe mar Phobal Fuinnimh Inmharthana a ligeann dúinn tograí tairbheacha sa Phobal a fhiosrú le tacaíocht ó SEAI. Táimid tar éis tús a chur le clinicí SEAI Tithe Níos Teo (Warmer Home Scheme). Táimid ag obair lenár hallaí pobail chun maoiniú oiriúnach a lorg chun a n-áiseanna a iarfheistiú. In 2023 déanfar iniúchadh ar sceideal deiseanna breise i gcomhar le Coistí Áitiúla.

Is deis í seo don phobal tabhairt faoin lorg carbóin a ísliú agus an costas maireachtála a laghdú.

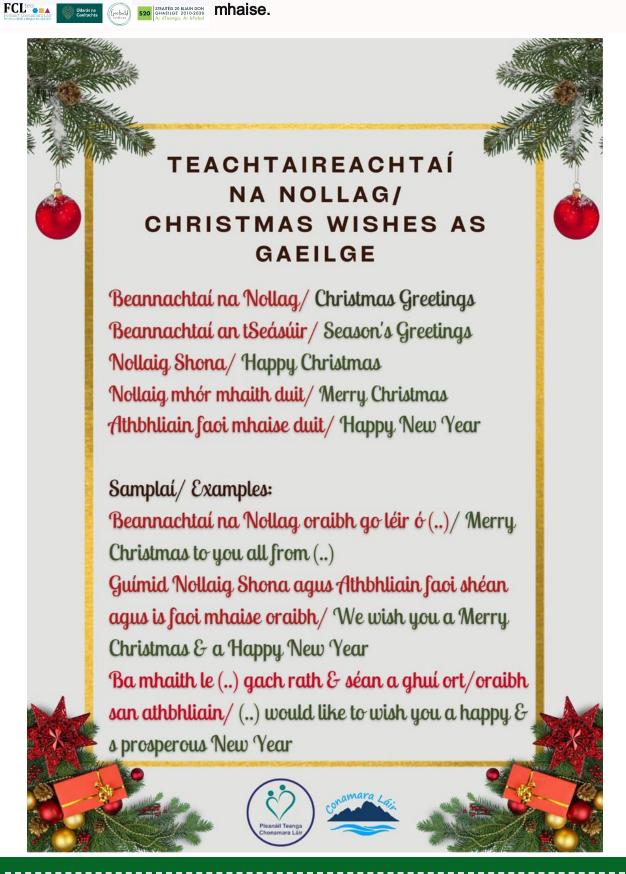




Tá ríméad ar Phleanáil Teanga Chonamara Láir é a fhógairt go bhfuil Féilire Chonamara Láir 2023, atá lán le pictiúir a léiríonn áilleacht an cheantair, seanfhocail agus piseoga, ar an mbealach! Chun é seo a cheiliúradh, ba mhaith leis an bhfoireann deis a thabhairt daoibh ceann a bhuachan. Níl ort ach ríomphost a sheoladh chuig ocpt@conamaralair.ie le freagra na ceiste seo a leanas:

Cén lá a bhfuil Lá Nollag ag titim air i mbliana?

Ba mhaith le foireann Pleanála Teanga Nollaig mhór mhaith a ghuí oraibh agus athbhliain faoi shéan agus faoi



News from the Departments

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail Department of Rural and

 Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches Embracing Ireland's Outdoors. 28/11/2022. Read Press Release HERE.

- Minister Humphreys and Tánaiste announce over €33 million to upgrade 278 Community Centres nationwide. 08/12/2022. Read Press Release <u>HERE</u>.
- Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces details of €1.4 million in funding for TidyTowns Groups. 09/12/2022. Read Press Release HERE.
- Minister Humphreys and Minister Joe O'Brien announce funding to support 180 community and voluntary groups with their energy bills. 13/12/2022. Read Press
- Release HERE. Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys announces over €27 million to combat dereliction and breathe new life into rural towns and villages. 14/12/2022. Read Press Release
- HERE. • Minister Joe O'Brien announces funding of €10 million for social inclusion programme to support people arriving from Ukraine. 15/12/2022. Read Press Release HERE.

Consultations

NWRP Phase 2 - Regional Water Resources Plan North West

Irish Water is now seeking feedback on the draft RWRP-North West and associated SEA Environmental Report and Natura Impact Statement. The public consultation will run from 22 November 2022 to 21 February 2023.

To find out more visit the RWRP NW page

Portumna Public Realm Enhancement Scheme

Galway County Council welcomes submissions to the Portumna Public Realm

Enhancement Scheme. The plan will aim to be creative and innovative, putting placemaking at its heart and embracing urban design and architecture to ensure that Portumna will realise its full

potential as an attractive and thriving hub within Irelands Hidden Heartlands. Find out more <u>HERE</u>. The closing date for feedback is 23rd December 2022

LINK HERE: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NWRNeedsAnalysis2022and23

Tell us what training needs your community organisation/ group has!

Please complete the following survey to assess the training needs of community groups!

With the aim of strengthening the partnership and network opportunities across the PPNs in the North West Region, we are now looking to roll out our training programmes a little differently.

While each individual PPN will still be able to cater to the needs of it's own members, we are also looking to deliver some training and information elements on a regional basis, especially those options that can be delivered online.

We hope that by taking this approach we will avoid duplication, make better use of limited PPN resources, as well as allow our representatives and member organisations to build relationships with other groups across the region.

The findings from this analysis will be used to inform workplans so that our Secretariats and staff are able to offer as much support as possible to our member groups and devise an annual training calendar

Last years survey led to a number of initiatives and we now want to hear from you again, so please let us know how the PPNs can engage with and support you all as we see out 2022 and enter 2023.

Funding

Healthy Ireland Funding For GAA Club Community Walking Tracks Healthy Ireland Fund for GAA, LGFA and Camogie Clubs to maximise physical activity within the wider local community, with particular emphasis on making community walking tracks more accessible to persons with mobility issues, such as older persons and wheelchair users. https://www.gaa.ie/news/gaa-club-walking-tracks-to-benefit-from-healthy-ireland-grant-support/ - the fund closes on 31st January 2023 and is being administered through the Department of Health.

There will be a total fund of €800,000 available nationally with funding in 3 categories of up to €10,000, up to €25,000, and up to €50,000, and the type of improvements which can be made to existing facilities are: Upgrade walking track surface to improve accessibility

Improve access and usability of the track for people with mobility issues

Install or upgrade to LED lighting along the existing walking track route Upgrade or maintain the existing walking track boundaries, e.g. for safety from activity on

pitches This is a great opportunity for County Galway Clubs to improve these important facilities by

extending access, and year-round use, particularly on these dark winter evenings. In that regard, and to assist County Galway Clubs in maximising benefit from this scheme, the following is information which may be useful to Clubs in making applications under this scheme:

In a recent survey of People with Disabilities in County Galway, over 50% of respondents identified the following as the 2 priority areas for improving access for people with disabilities to community activities - improved disabled parking spaces and improved access to walking trails. In conjunction with improving access, one of the recommendations to improve participation of People with Disabilities was to have organised Walking Groups for all abilities at local Grounds and Tracks.

In a recent survey of Older People in County Galway, the priority area identified going forward is to empower older people to re-engage in social and physical activities for their mental and physical health following the negative effects of cocooning and COVID-19. Older People have put a particular focus on improving access and safety at local facilities and amenities so that they can go there independently or in organised Groups for face-to-face interactions and activities.

There are a number of Best Practice Guidelines regarding the design of accessible outdoor environments, however, I have attached the National Disability Authority's Universal Design Guidelines for the External Environment and would recommend consideration of: Disabled Car Parking Spaces dimensions and requirements - page 14 Dealing with changes in surface level – page 43 Walking Track Surface in Natural Environment – pages 63/64

Seating – recommended maximum distances for accessible rest areas – page 70 Recommended location and type of Picnic Tables – page 71/72

However, our best advice for you to identify what works are needed, and where they are needed, is to ask your local older people or people with disabilities for their input! Accessible Toilet/WC provision and other useful information is provided here https://www.sportireland.ie/sites/default/files/2019-10/great-outdoors-a-guide-foraccessibility.pdf

Community Water Development Fund now open for 2023!

Your local community or voluntary group can now apply for a grant under the Community Water Development Fund 2023. This Fund helps local communities deliver projects and initiatives that enhance the local water environment, delivering multiple benefits for biodiversity and climate action. The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) administers the Fund on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage. It is open to all community and voluntary groups to apply.

LAWPRO launched the 2023 Fund at their annual 'Communities Caring for Water' conference held in Collins Barracks, Dublin on Saturday 26 November 2022. The conference was attended by community groups across Ireland who shared knowledge and experiences of caring for their local water environment.

Details of the scheme are available on <u>www.LAwaters.ie</u>. Applications should be completed online at Log in | Online Consultation Portal of the Waters and Communities Office. A Funding Clinic webinar will be hosted online on Friday 13th January 2023 at 11am for any groups interested in making an application.

The webinar will provide key information and advice on making an application. Register here to attend: http://bit.ly/3FhDs8Z

Closing date for receipt of applications is 12 noon on Tuesday, 7 February 2023. The Fund is administered by LAWPRO on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local

Government and Heritage. There will be €500,000 available under the Open Call. The Fund is open to all community and voluntary groups to help in the protection and management of water quality, both locally and in the wider catchment. Grants awarded will range from €1,000 to €25,000. For support with your application contact Conor Ruane Community Water Officer for Galway & South Roscommon.

Women's Shed Funding

Lighting – page 66

In October, Minister Heather Humphreys announced an initiative to help support the growth of Women's Sheds. The initiative, is in recognition of the fact that there is a growing number of Women's Sheds across the country. To enguire about funding email womenssheds@drcd.gov.ie _____

Musical Capital Scheme The Music Capital Scheme provides funding for the purchase of musical instruments to individual professional performing musicians and non-professional performing groups.

The Music Capital Scheme 2022 is now open for applications.

Award 1: Non-professional performing groups

Award 2: Individual established professional performing musicians

Award 3: Individual emerging professional performing musicians

Applications will be accepted until 2pm, Tuesday 28th February 2023.

Find our more HERE.

_____ Ukrainian Refugee Health & Wellbeing Support Fund The Department of Health (under Healthy Ireland) has allocated €38,100 to Galway County Council for a Ukrainian Refugee Health & Wellbeing Support Fund to develop and implement health & wellbeing initiatives at local level, in conjunction with host communities and the Ukraine Community Response Forum Members.

The Galway County Council are now inviting PPN Member Groups/Organisations in the communities which are hosting Ukrainian Refugees to deliver health & wellbeing initiatives as detailed in the attached Guidance Document and would be delighted to receive a variety of projects designed in consultation with the local Ukrainian community you are linking in with at local level.

Please find attached a short Application Form and Guidance Notes which should be returned to healthandwellbeing@galwaycoco.ie by the closing date. Please note that the closing date for receipt of applications is Monday 9th January 2023 and following approval, all projects/events will have to be completed by end March 2023.

If you have any queries, please don't hesitate to contact Mary McGann (Galway County Council, Tel: 087 1044820, email: mmcgann@galwaycoco.ie) _____

Heritage Council funding schemes

The Heritage Council is now accepting applications to a number of its funding schemes, offering up to €4m to support heritage-related projects across the country.

*Heritage Capacity Fund *Heritage Stewardship Scheme

*Historic Towns Initiative *City & County Heritage Plan Scheme







Age Action's Care and Repair prioritises carrying out jobs in the homes of older people who are being discharged or have

recently been discharged from hospital. If someone is coming out of hospital, no matter where they live, we would support them to make sure their home is safe.

Care and Repair can remove trip hazards, install handrails, replace toilet seats or move a bed downstairs to make sure the home is ready for their return.

If you require work done in your home to make it safer after a stay in hospital we can help.

If you are a professional working with older people who would benefit from this service you can download a referral form from **www.ageaction.ie**.

For all other queries about Care and Repair please contact us using these numbers:

Can We

Help?

Age Action national line: 0818 911 109 Age Action in Dublin: 01 4756989 Age Action in Cork: 021 2067399 Age Action in Galway: 091 527831 Email: careandrepair@ageaction.ie



