

### NEWS UPDATE: Week ending 12th March 2021

Welcome to our latest members update. With so much information circulating and so many events/consultations on the horizon we decided to get another update out to you.

We also wanted to take the opportunity to wish all our member groups a happy and safe St. Patrick's Day.

We are thinking that a weekly update may be our best way forward to ensure information is getting to you in a timely manner. We hope this works for you.

Scroll through to find information or click on the links below to bring you straight to a specific section:

- [Co. Wicklow PPN News](#)
- [Local News](#)
- [National News](#)
- [Consultations](#) - currently open
- [Funding Opportunities](#), including the WCC Community Awards Scheme

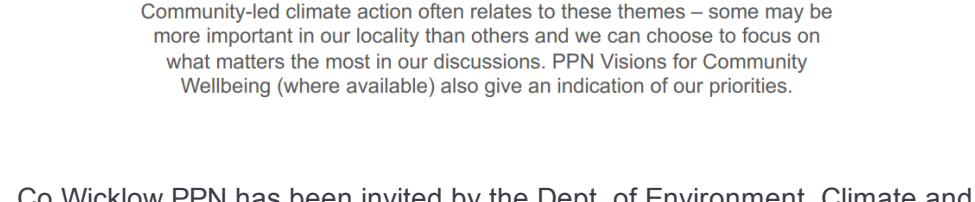
### Co Wicklow PPN News

#### National Dialogue on Climate Action: PPN Community Conversation

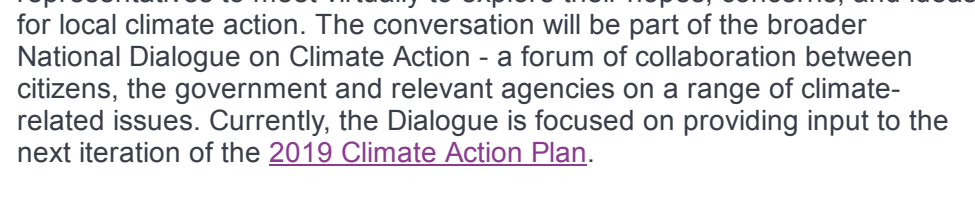
22nd March from 7.30 - 9pm

#### AIM OF PPN CLIMATE CONVERSATIONS

At the PPN Conversations we will discuss and capture a snapshot of our hopes and concerns for local climate action, our recommendations for the design of the Climate Action Fund, and for the Climate Action Plan.



#### CLIMATE ACTION IN THE COMMUNITY



Community-led climate action often relates to these themes – some may be more important in our locality than others and we can choose to focus on what we can do. Where available, PPN Videos & Webinars (where available) also give an indication of our priorities.

Co Wicklow PPN has been invited by the Dept. of Environment, Climate and Communications to collaborate with them in piloting community conversations that are fed into the next Climate Action Plan.

The online climate conversations will provide an opportunity for representatives to meet virtually to explore their hopes, concerns, and ideas for local climate action. The conversation will be part of the broader National Dialogue on Climate Action – a forum of collaboration between citizens, the government and relevant agencies on a range of climate-related issues. Currently, the Dialogue is focused on providing input to the next iteration of the [2019 Climate Action Plan](#).

Insight from our virtual workshop will help inform aspects of this plan and could capture ideas on how best to implement existing visions for Community Wellbeing. Input from PPN participants will additionally provide a valuable source of information to assist in shaping the types of projects and initiatives to be supported by the Climate Action Fund.

Please note:

- Workshop will only accommodate 20 people from diverse areas/groups in the County.
- We are accepting Expressions of Interest Forms until midnight on Sunday 14th March.
- People that can't be accommodated in the Workshop will have access to an online survey.

[Click Here for Expression of Interest Form](#)

#### Local Authority Structures, Finance & How to Get Your Voice Heard

Thursday 8th, 15th & 22nd April from 7 - 9pm

In the three sessions of this training programme you will find out about:

- The different sections in the local authority and what types of work they cover
- Who the stakeholders are & how decisions are made
- The different ways that you can get your voice heard
- Where the budget comes from and how it's spent

Session can be booked separately but we would encourage people to join for all three for a better understanding of how local government works

Each session will be delivered live via Zoom call, allowing for Q&As & discussion.

Social Justice Ireland will deliver this training.

#### Good Governance Training for Community Groups

The final session of this training will be held remotely via Zoom on Monday 12th April. Unfortunately, it is not possible for people to still join this training. However, we will make the presentations available on our website on completion of the sessions.

If you are participating in this training please remember to send your feedback and any questions you may have to us ahead of the final session as the Trainer will address them at the beginning of our session.

#### PPN Vacant Representative Seats: We currently have the following vacant Rep positions:

- Secretariat - 2 Environmental Seats and 1 Social Inclusion Seat
- Joint Policing Committee - Wicklow Municipal District Seat
- Climate & Biodiversity Action SFG - East Wicklow Environmental Seat
- Ring a Link: Carlow, Kilkenny, Tipperary & Wicklow Rural Transport - 1

If you are interested in any of these PPN Rep positions, please complete the relevant nomination form and return it to us by midnight on Sunday 21st March.

[Climate & Biodiversity Action Strategic Policy Committee Nomination Form](#)

[Joint Policy Committee Nomination Form](#)

[Ring a Link Nomination Form](#)

[Co. Wicklow PPN Secretariat Nomination Form](#)

Keep an eye on our [Website](#) for all things PPN, including reports, submissions, news, training resources and COVID-19 support information.

Remember to login to our Members section to access the Members Funding Handbook & Funding Calendar. If you need the password for this section of the website please email or call us.

Check out our [YouTube channel](#) to view our Sustainable Development Goals animation and our series of Wellbeing videos (Super Charge Your Self-care).

### Local News

#### NATIONAL TREE WEEK

CELEBRATING NATIONAL TREE WEEK Sunday, March 21st to Saturday, 27th March

Wicklow County Council is giving its support to National Tree Week which is a virtual event this year.

Cullis will donate native tree saplings during National Tree Week 2021 such as oak, birch and ash in co-ordination with the Tree Council of Ireland.

Wicklow County Council is distributing 800 trees to local groups.

A Photography Competition is also being run in conjunction with National Tree week with prizes of €100 for the winner, €75 for second place and a third prize of €50.

All you have to do is take a picture of your favourite tree and tell why it means something to you. Then upload it to the Tree Council [Website](#)

Over the course of the week, there will be lots of free related activities and information available on the National Tree Council [Website](#).

A walk in the local woods or exploring the local trees in your community is great for your well-being and health.

#### Staying Connected & Minding your Mood Webinar: Wicklow Keep Well Initiative

Wed 24th March at 7.30pm

During the Webinar we will hear about great initiatives run by community groups & organisations in Wicklow that have helped people to stay connected and mind their mood and also learn about techniques to help ourselves stay connected and mind our mood.

A photographic competition on the above themes will also be launched on the night of the webinar

#### Minding your Dog Webinar: Wicklow SPCA

March 17th & 31st from 7.30 to 8.30pm

Over the two webinars people will be supported to care for their dogs & address their worries about how to look after them.

During the COVID-19 pandemic access for people to animal care has been limited as people restrict their movements and cocoon. In addition, many people have gotten puppies/dogs during the pandemic and may wish to access information about their care and what to do and how to manage as things return to normal and people return to being away from home and pets more.

People are invited to submit their questions/concerns ahead of the sessions to [info@spcawicklow.org](mailto:info@spcawicklow.org) and they will be addressed as part of the session. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions during the sessions.

#### Clean Coasts Online Roadshows for Wicklow Community Groups

Thursday 11th March at 6pm

The Roadshows aims to bring together all those with an interest in protecting their local beaches, seas and marine life and environment.

This year they will be discussing how community groups can build capacity with volunteers, attract new members and share the workload amongst the group. They will also look at various funding streams groups can avail of including the Clean Coasts grant scheme for 2021. In addition to this, the Bray Coastcare Group will present on the fantastic work they have been doing.

#### The Wicklow St. Patrick's Week Fun Poster Hunt

Taking place in a number of towns/villages across the county.

Take part in a community organised fun poster hunt and you are in with a CHANCE TO WIN:

- A family day out at Clara Lara
- A fruit or nut tree from Van Der Wel's nursery
- Irish wildflower seeds from [wildflowers.ie](http://wildflowers.ie)
- Compostable reusable water bottles from Fatbikes adventures
- A signed copy of Happy Pear's latest cookery book.

The Poster Hunt is taking place a number of towns/villages across the County during St. Patrick's week. Closing date 19th March

There are 12 posters dotted along the competition walks.

Name the bird/plant/animal on each poster and using the first letter of all your answers guess the secret word they are looking for.

To win you can send your answer with your child's name to: [50m@ireland.com](mailto:50m@ireland.com) or go to [www.50max.ie](http://www.50max.ie) and send in the answer online.

The closing date is the 19th March.

#### Wicklow Libraries Book list on the Sustainable Development Goals

Your help is sought to preserve a book list for Wicklow Libraries based on the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals.

You are invited to recommend any books that you enjoyed or that your children enjoyed that help us to think a bit more about each of the goals.

Wicklow Libraries aims to develop a useful resource for children and adults to explore and find accurate and impartial information relating to the Goals.

Click [Here](#) to access a brief starter for three of the goals, #1 No Poverty, #13 Climate Action and #14 Life below water, to give an idea of what they are looking for.

The list of books will be shared on the Library website. Once ready they will profile one goal each month in our libraries recommending books to complement the goal.

All suggestions welcome to [es@wicklowccpo.ie](mailto:es@wicklowccpo.ie)

### National News

#### Climate Jargon Buster Website

Check out the very useful [Climate Jargon Buster](#) website which provides plain English explanations for eighty of the most useful climate action terms.

This website has been developed by the Department of the Taoiseach with assistance from a group of young people (compared to the previous Book of Quarters) is required to bring Ireland in line with England and Wales and get insurance costs down to affordable levels, especially for the voluntary sector.

If your group would like to get involved in this grassroots campaign to seek further reform the Alliance for Insurance Reform has identified 2 key actions that community groups/organisations could take:

- use the [template letter](#) to write to An Taoiseach asking for them to intervene.
- write the [short template](#) to make contact with local TDs etc asking them to pursue this issue at Government level.

You can find your local TD at [www.whosmytd.com](http://www.whosmytd.com)

To find out more visit the Alliance for Insurance Reform [Website](#)

#### Wicklow County Council Consultation Hub

This [Site](#) will inform you about and allow you to submit comments on open consultations that interest you.

### Funding Opportunities

#### Wicklow County Council Community Award Scheme

Closing Date: 4pm Friday 23rd April

The Community Award fund for 2021 will be available as grant aid to community groups and local organisations wishing to undertake community projects in their area.

The maximum grant available is €500 per group/organisation for small projects and group running costs. Only one application per organisation will be considered.

Further information and the application form is available on [Wicklow County Council's website](#)

Any queries should be made to the Office of Community, Cultural & Social Development Wicklow County Council Buildings, Wicklow at 0404/20208 or [os@wicklowccpo.ie](mailto:os@wicklowccpo.ie)

#### THE COMMUNITY MONUMENT FUND

Closing Date: 5pm Monday 12th April

Groups and individuals throughout Wicklow are invited to apply for grants under the Community Monuments Fund (CMF).

The core aims of the fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of local monuments and archaeological sites. There are three funding streams aimed at enabling conservation works to be carried out on monuments which are deemed to be significant and in need of urgent support, encouraging access to monuments and improve their presentation and also to build resilience in monuments to enable them to withstand the effects of climate change.

The Department encourages project promoters to incorporate a traditional skills training element in projects.

To find out more and access the grant application form click [HERE](#)

Applications should be returned by email to [wicklowheritage@wicklowccpo.ie](mailto:wicklowheritage@wicklowccpo.ie) or by post, clearly marked 'Community Monument Fund Application' c/o Planning Section, Wicklow County Council, County Buildings, Wicklow Town.

For more information on eligible monuments visit [www.archaeology.ie](http://www.archaeology.ie)

All queries may be directed to Deirdre Burns, Heritage Officer, Wicklow County Council via [dburns@wicklowccpo.ie](mailto:dburns@wicklowccpo.ie)

#### Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme 2021-22

Opening for applications: Friday 12th March

Closing Date: 4pm on Thurs 22 April

The [Human Rights and Equality Grants Scheme](#) is open to civil society organisations, including community and voluntary organisations, groups representing area based communities that address poverty and social exclusion and communities of interest protected under the nine grounds of the Equality legislation, and trade unions.

The Commission will hold Information Sessions on the 2021-22 Grants Scheme from 11am to 1pm on 18 and 19 March 2021. Register to participate at [pro@hrca.ie](http://pro@hrca.ie) with the date of the session you would like to attend in the subject line.

Thanks for reading. We hope you picked up some useful information for your group.

Remember if you have any questions or would like more information please do contact us.

County Wicklow Public Participation Network  
 C/O CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow, Co. Wicklow  
 T: Helpline - 087 895 5145  
 T: Gráinne - 088 048 7434  
 E: [info@countywicklowppn.ie](mailto:info@countywicklowppn.ie)  
 W: [www.countywicklowppn.ie](http://www.countywicklowppn.ie)