



News Update: Week Ending 24th February 2023

Welcome to our latest news update

Shine for the launch of the **National PPN Awareness Campaign** on Tuesday last (21st February) in Merion Square - heralding a bright future for PPNs and their member groups. Please spread the word about PPNs and encourage other community groups to join their local PPN.

Congratulations to all the amazing volunteers that were nominated for a Co Wicklow Volunteer Award 2022 held last night (Thurs 23rd February) in the Park View Hotel, Newlinwinnemount. Co. Wicklow PPN was proud to sponsor and present the Ukrainian Response Special Projects Award at the awards ceremony. We are so lucky in Wicklow to be surrounded by so many inspirational people.

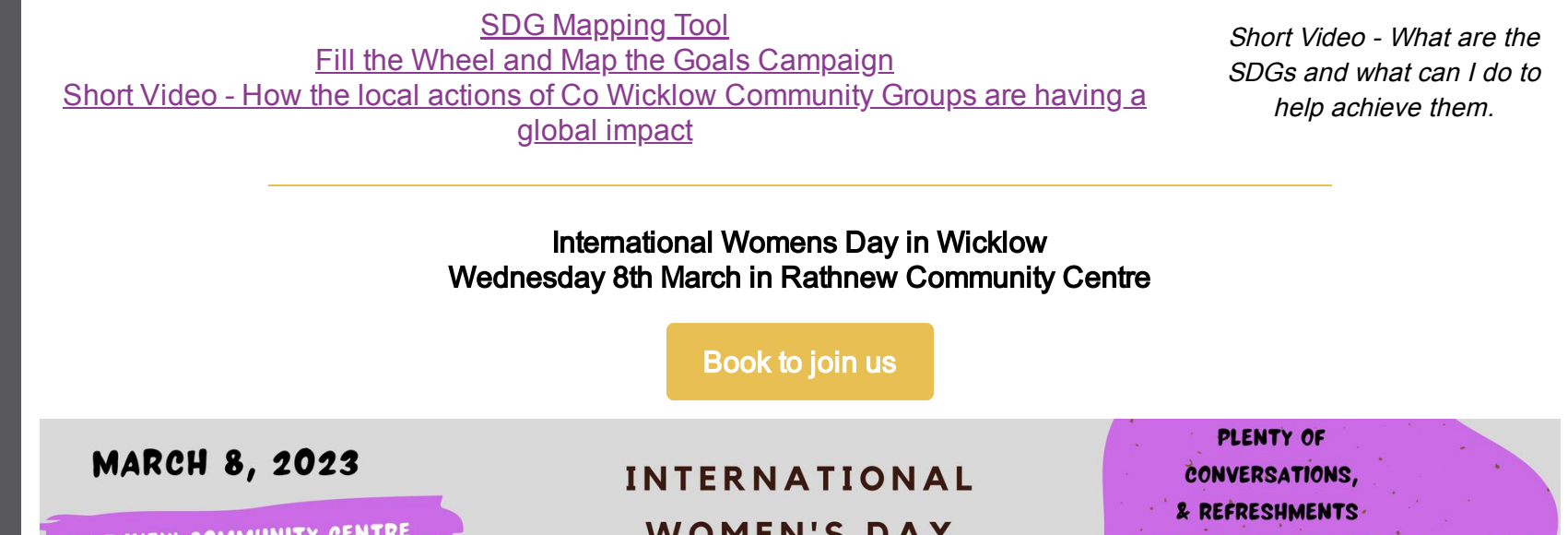
In collaboration with our PPN colleagues in the South East region (Wexford, Wexford, Tipperary, Kildare and Wicklow) we have discussed an upcoming session with the Law Reform Commission on the **Liability of Clubs, Societies and other Unincorporated Associations**. The aim of the session is to aid our understanding of this piece of law reform and hopefully enable us to prepare a submission to this consultation on behalf of our member groups. We will share all information and learning from this session with you all.

Please remember to have a look at our recent email (sent Tuesday 21st February) calling for nominations for our **virtual PPN Representative seats**.

Wicklow PPN News

National PPN Awareness Campaign

Minister for Community Development, Charities and Integration, Joe O'Brien, TD, launched a national awareness campaign for Public Participation Networks this week. He was joined by representatives from a number of PPNs including Helen Hawes (our Resource Worker), Aoibhinn Mc Clary (Wicklow Travellers Group) and Paddy O'Flaherty (Wicklow Co. Co.) from Co. Wicklow.

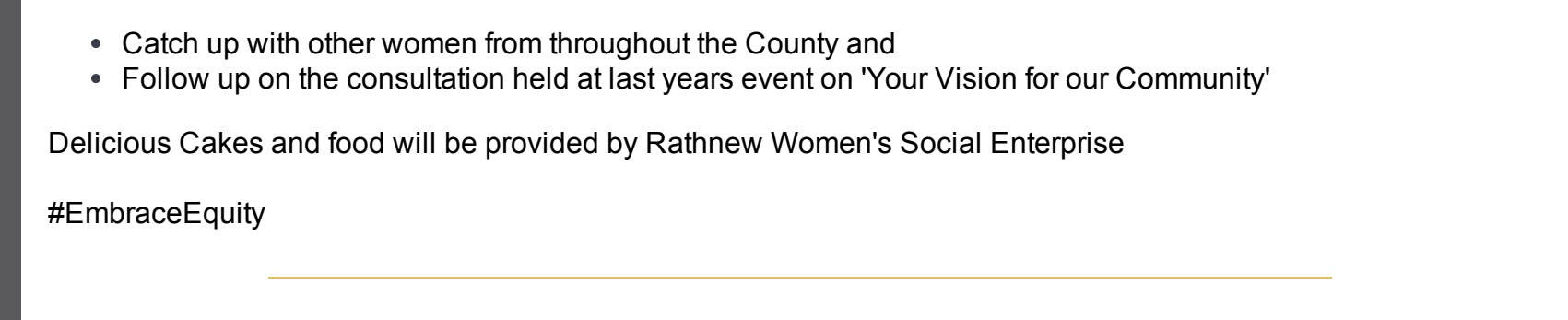


The work undertaken by Co. Wicklow PPN in collaboration with Wicklow County Council on raising awareness of the Sustainable Development Goals will be highlighted as part of this National PPN Awareness Campaign. Thanks to Jim Cattery and Paddy O'Flaherty in Wicklow County Council for all their work on this project.

SDG Mapping Tool
[Fill the Wheel and Map the Goals Campaign](#)
Short Video - How the local actions of Co Wicklow Community Groups are having a global impact

International Women's Day in Wicklow
Wednesday 8th March in Rathnew Community Centre

Book to join us



Women Of Wicklow Social Inclusion Network & the Rathnew Hall Committee invite all women in Wicklow to celebrate International Women's Day with a morning full of opportunities to:

- Catch up with other women from throughout the County and
- Follow up on the consultation held at last year's event on 'Your Vision for our Community'

Delicious Cakes and food will be provided by Rathnew Women's Social Enterprise
#EmbraceEquality

Keep an eye on our [Website](#) for all things PPN, including our new Events Calendar and Funding Sources, Monthly Work and Finance reports, Representative Reports, Submissions, News and Training resources.

The **Secretariat** of the PPN meets every 2 months. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 14th March. Minutes from the Secretariat meetings are available to view on our website.

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

International Women's Day Lunch
In the Arklow Bay Hotel
Thursday 9th March

Organised by Arklow Town Team.

Proceeds from the raffle held at the lunch will be going towards the Turkish/Syrian earthquake disaster relief fund.

Coffee & Talk with Niall Crowley
Wednesday 8th March 10-11pm
In the Signal Arts Centre by Ray

If you're interested in building a 10 Equal & Wellbeing Sustainable Ireland then head to Signal Arts Centre on Thursday 9th March for this event

To register text your name to 087 2334391.

National Tree Week
Sunday 19th to Sunday 26th March

As in other years, the Tree Council of Ireland and Wicklow County Council are **offering trees for planting during the week**. Wicklow County Council is arranging for distribution to schools, community groups and residents associations in the county.

If your group or school is interested in availing of some trees during that week, please send contact person's details including the location for delivery of trees by email to tree@wicklowcoco.ie no later than **Friday the 10th of March**.

Trees will be approximately 80-100cm high and will consist of a mixture of, Rowan, Birch, Sycamore, Oak, Beech, Holly, Bird Cherry, Willow and Alder. They will be distributed according to availability after their delivery to Wicklow County Council. Unfortunately, they cannot guarantee delivery by specific dates, but we expect that trees will be available for delivery before or during National Tree Week. Numbers of trees distributed to each group will depend on a number of factors, which varies from one year to the next.

Funding Announcement for the County ...

Congratulations to the following groups in Co. Wicklow that have secured funding under the latest tranche of the Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESSE) announced today by Minister Humphreys and Minister Joe O'Brien:

- Rathnew Community Centre CLG
- Shillagh's People's Project and the professionals who work with them, using Capacitar Multicultural Trauma Healing self-care practices and Laban Dance
- Newcastle Community Centre CLG
- Donard Community Enterprises CLG
- The Glencree Centre for Reconciliation and Peace

News from Member Groups ...

Wicklow Town Information Day
Wednesday 22nd February
Old Holly/Loyds Pharmacy, Wicklow Town
from 11am to 2pm

Organised by Wicklow Town Team. All invited to attend.
For more information email: wicklowtownteam@gmail.com

Art Exhibition from Bray Active Retirement Group
In the Signal Arts Centre, Bray
from Monday 6th to Sunday 19th March
Opening Reception: Sunday 12th March, 3pm - 5pm

The Bray Active Retirement Art Group meets weekly to share, stay connected and inspire one another with art. It's a relaxed, friendly interchange of ideas and creativity are combined and this diversity is reflected in the resulting art. The group works in different media including oils, watercolour, acrylic and pencil.

Tree Festival '23
on Sunday 26th March
In Belmont Denismore Greystones

organised by 80 Max

3,000 trees will be distributed throughout the day
There will be a Seed Swap
And there will be lots of family friendly activities

This sounds like a great day out for the family and community.

Glencree Welcomes Refugees Project & Collaboration with Rua Red & Army Collective

The Glencree Centre's Glencree Welcomes Refugees Project provides group well-being sessions for refugees and the professionals who work with them, using Capacitar Multicultural Trauma Healing self-care practices and Laban Dance. Glencree's experience is that these movement practices provide immediate benefits to participants and support their well-being and integration within local communities. Facilitator Paddy Abouzaid said: "Participants find the sessions very useful to reduce *leave stress and better movement of their own bodies and stress carried in different body parts. The sessions help them to be more connected, to feel peaceful, calm and positive*".

The Glencree Welcomes Refugees Project and Rua Red have agreed to work with the Belfast-based creative Army Collective to engage with the local refugee community in a series of facilitated dialogues, creative workshops, and well-being sessions, ensuring that individual voices are heard and valued.

Wellness & Relaxation Sessions
25th Feb, 26th March and 15th April
In Glencree Centre for Reconciliation & Peace

An opportunity for the volunteers and staff from organisations and community groups supporting refugees to have a bit of some important self-care.

To register email: Aminia.HajAmour@glencree.ie or use the QR code on the poster.

Previously Listed ...

Bray Tidy Towns - Volunteers Needed
on Saturday 25th February at 10.30am

Meeting in the Peoples Park at the Memorial Stone
for a general tidy up, equipment will be provided

Sustainable Stories - New Group meeting in Delgany
Next meeting on Sunday 26th February at 8pm

This new group is planning a short series of monthly meetings to chat about topics such as home heating and insulation, electric bikes and scooters. If there is interest, there will also be discussions about biodiversity, pollinators, eating sustainably, energy efficient travel and renewable energy.

Would you like to live more sustainably in 2023? Are you considering how best to stay warm, travel and eat while not costing the earth? If you would like some local support and advice on this journey, then Sustainable Stories in Delgany might interest you.

The group will meet in the Old School House in Delgany, A63 F85B on the fourth Sunday of every month at 8pm.

National News

Ireland Reads Day - Get a Read In!
on Saturday 25th February

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, and Minister for Further and Higher Education, Simon Harris, have encouraged people to "squeeze in a read" on Ireland Reads Day which will take place on Saturday 25 February. Read the full press release [here](#).

In addition, the Ministers announced new €33 million capital fund for libraries nationwide.

This is the third consecutive year of Ireland Reads - a campaign designed to get the whole country reading during February.

Policing Authority February Newsletter

Each monthly meeting of the Policing Authority includes a meeting with the Garda Commissioner, a key aspect of the Authority's oversight. At least four of these meetings per year are held in public and live streamed. The latest meeting took place at the Richmond, Dublin, on 23 February and a link to a recording of the meeting is included in the Newsletter.

National Food Stop Food Waste Campaign

National Stop Food Waste Day - Wednesday 1st March

The focus of this campaign is to encourage people to 'know their food waste' by taking the Stop Food Waste Challenge. The challenge will invite people to record their food waste over a week and identify what types of food they waste most. Taking the challenge will allow people to actively think about their food waste with a view to taking positive actions to reduce it. Taking the challenge is also a starting point for people concerned about the rising cost of living and looking to make savings on their food bills.

We have included a link to the toolkit opposite, if you would like to share the campaign message.

Minister Humphreys announces €2.4 million to develop 70 new walking trails

The major expansion of the Department's Walks Scheme will see the number of outdoor trails increase from 80 to 150 over the next two years.

The initiative is designed to boost outdoor recreation and rural tourism and will see the Scheme work with over 2,500 farmers to open up the countryside to walkers, hikers, cyclists and tourists.

Under the Walks Scheme, funding is provided to farmers and other landowners to maintain the trails that travel through their holdings.

At present, 2,200 farmers or landowners are participating - with Minister Humphreys today opening up a new call for expressions of interest.

The major expansion of the Scheme is a key commitment of the new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors'.

Irish Rural Link host Portuguese Partner of Beyond NEET Project

Beyond NEET is a one-year project funded through the Erasmus+ programme and works with young people who are Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET) to support them to engage with volunteering in their community. The project aims to open opportunities for young people to be able to be professionally integrated, initially in volunteer programs and, later, in civil society organisations that associate with this initiative.

On Tuesday 14th February, Irish Rural Link (IRL), the national network representing the interest of rural communities welcomed a delegation from Portuguese organisation, Uniao das Mutualidades Portuguesas (UMP), who is partner on the Erasmus+ funded project, Beyond NEET.

Previously Listed ...

Creating Regenerative Futures with your Local Council
Online Tuesday 28th February from 3 - 5pm

Join this session from Communities for Future which will be:

- Showing successful stories of Community Led Initiatives working with local councils
- Sharing tools & resources
- Linking to the policy themes in the topic

SDG Advocate Training

Sustainable Development Goal Advocate Training 2023
CALLING ALL ADULT AND COMMUNITY EDUCATORS!

Closing Date for applications: Tuesday 14th March

Are you looking for an opportunity to grow your knowledge and skills in Global Citizenship Education? Do you want to join Ireland's network of Active Citizens and create long lasting change within your organisation, institute or community group whilst also contributing to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals?

The SDG Advocate Training offers 26 active citizens in the Adult and Community Education sector, an opportunity to become one of Ireland's SDG Advocates. This training course encourages advocates to deepen their understanding of the United Nations (UN) Sustainable Development Goals and lead transformative change in Ireland.

Find out more & Apply

Learning & Capacity Building for Volunteer Involving Organisations
Upcoming Training provided by Volunteer Ireland

Volunteer Ireland has developed a comprehensive range of learning and capacity-building tools and resources to increase the effectiveness and impact of involving volunteers with your organisation. Some of the training and events are offered free of charge and others have a nominal charge.

Consultations

Draft Offshore Renewable Energy Development Plan II (OREDPP II) - Ireland's new national spatial strategy for our offshore renewable energy future
Closing Date: Friday 20th April

The Department of the Environment, Climate and Communications, is holding an 8-week public consultation on the draft OREDPP II.

The OREDPP II is of relevance to all parts of the community, as it provides the framework for future energy security and climate action in Ireland.

One of the in-person consultation workshops will be held in the Arklow Bay Hotel on the 14 April 2023 @ 11am

At the workshop, participants will be introduced to the draft OREDPP II, and have the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft plan through dedicated structured discussions on important elements of the plan.

In addition, four online consultation events are also planned via Microsoft Teams, as follows:

- Session for Maritime Industry Stakeholders - 10 March @ 12pm
- Session for Environmental NGOs - 10 March @ 11am
- General Information Session - 15 March @ 3pm
- Session for Fisheries Stakeholders - 21 March @ 8.30pm

Previously Listed ...

Community Recognition Fund 2023

Wicklow County Council wants to hear from the public about what projects should receive funding.

Survey Closing Date: Friday 3rd March

This funding is specifically targeted at projects that are located in communities, towns and villages which are hosting the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection and/or International Protection Applicants (new arrivals) including towns identified for the rapid build homes programme.

It aims to support the development of facilities that will be used in the future by all members of the community.

Dublin Army Offshore Wind Farm
consultation period running from end of January until early March

The Dublin Army project is to hold a series of public consultation events on its plans to develop a wind farm off the coast of south County Dublin and Wicklow.

During this second phase of public consultation Dublin Army will hold events in Dublin and Wicklow and online, in addition to a series of public consultation events.

The details of the remaining in person consultation events and online sessions are as follows:

- Thursday, March 2, Fitzpatrick Castle Hotel, Killybeg, Co Dublin
- Tuesday, March 7, Clayton Hotel, Leopardstown, Co Dublin
- Saturday, March 11, Clayton Hotel, Leopardstown, Co Dublin

Wicklow County Council Consultation Hub

This site will inform you about open Wicklow County Council consultations and allow you to submit observations on them.

Government of Ireland Consultation Portal

Find information on public consultations held by government departments and local authorities.

Funding Opportunities

Community and Voluntary Sector Energy Support Scheme (CVESSE)
Extension in Closing Date to Friday 24th March

The scheme will now also be expanded to include HSE-funded Section 39 organisations

The Community and Voluntary Energy Support Scheme (CVESSE) launched on the 21 November to provide for a once-off payment to eligible charities and community and voluntary sector organisations towards their energy costs for 2022. Given the level of interest, the scheme re-opened for applications in December 2022 and the closing date has now been extended to the 24th March 2023.

Organisations that have an application in draft will be able to complete and submit their application. Organisations that have already submitted their application will not be able to reapply.

The Disability Participation and Awareness Fund 2023
Closing Date: Friday 31st March at 1pm

The Disability Participation and Awareness Fund is a €3 million, 1-year Fund created by Rethink Ireland in partnership with the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY).

The goal of the Disability Participation and Awareness Fund is to support innovative projects or organisations across Ireland to:

- build skills and remove barriers to help people with disabilities take part in their communities,
- provide valuable employment experience to people with disabilities, and
- support the overall participation of people with disabilities in local activities, in line with the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities (UNCPRD) in communities.

Previously Listed ...

The Accenture Sustainable Community Challenge (Change X)
Closing Date: until the grant funds have been distributed

The aim of the Accenture Sustainable Community Challenge, sponsored by Accenture, is to support community groups and individuals (once they form a team) in Ireland to start new projects that improve community wellbeing, ultimately improving the quality of life for community members. Communities choose the project they want to start based on their community's needs, from a portfolio of ideas on the ChangeX site.

Once the applicant has demonstrated their commitment and ability to start the community project by successfully completing a 30 Day Challenge on the ChangeX website, ChangeX will provide funding, information guides and support to give the applicant the best chance of success. In addition, once the applicant has demonstrated the impact the new project is having in their community, they will receive a further instalment of funding to support the maintenance of the project.

Arts Act Funding (Wicklow County Council)
Closing Date: Monday 27th February

The purpose of this Funding Schemes is to support programming and development of Artists and Communities in County Wicklow. It is the intention that these awards will fund, in full or in part, a particular aspect of an Artist, Festival and Community project, development plan or programme for 2023.

This year Wicklow County Council Arts Office will be accepting applications under 3 schemes:

- Artist Award Scheme 2023
- Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme 2023
- Arts Festival Award Scheme 2023

RISE Community Fund
Closing Date: Tuesday 28th February

The RISE Community Fund supported by NBI is aimed at addressing the rural digital divide and will award 5 monthly grants of €1,000 each to empower local businesses, community groups, farms and social enterprises to enhance their digital strategy. The Fund offers an immediate financial injection into your local community, boosting the digital ecosystem.

Musical Capital Scheme
Closing Date: Tuesday 28th February 2023

This funding scheme comprises three different awards, supports the purchase of musical instruments and is designed to respond to a broad range of capital needs within the music sector in Ireland. The award that may be of interest to some of our members is:

Musical Capital Scheme Award 1: supports the purchase of musical instruments by non-professional performing groups

The Arts Council - Young Ensembles Scheme
Closing Date: Thursday 2nd March

The primary purpose of the Young Ensembles Scheme is to support groups of young people between the ages of ten and twenty-four to create or critically engage with ambitious and original work together in any form (e.g. circus, street art, spectacle, dance, digital media, film, music, theatre, literature, visual arts, architecture, or any combination of the above). Groups/ensembles must be made up of three or more members.

HeadStart Fund
Closing Date: 1pm on Friday 3rd March

This €3,000,000 Fund announced by Rethink Ireland aims to support not-for-profit organisations that have an innovative approach to effecting positive mental health for young people aged 15-24, with a proven track record of impact and a vision to scale.

Under this three-year fund which was created in partnership with the Zurich Foundation and the HSE, up to 10 awardees will receive a package of support.

Rethink Ireland are also holding an online information session on the HeadStart Fund on Wednesday, 8th February at 11am or Friday, 17th February at 1pm.

Estate Development Funding Scheme (Wicklow County Council)
Closing Date: Friday 3rd March at 4pm

Applications are invited from Residents Associations of Wicklow County Council Social Housing Estates for Funding in relation to the upkeep of green areas within their estate. Private Housing Estates in which there are a number of Local Authority properties may also apply.

Application forms can be requested from your relevant Municipal District Office.

IE Digital Town Awards
Closing Date: Friday 3rd March at 5pm

Towns and communities across Ireland can enter the IE Digital Town Awards 2023, which celebrate the digital achievements of local towns and citizens across the country.

There is a total prize fund of €100,000 across a range of categories for town projects that include a digital element. These projects could be in areas such as sustainability, agri-tech, digital tourism, community education, and digital business.

The RTE Toy Show Fund
Community Grants Round - Friday 10th March

The Community Grants Round is for children and family charities with an annual income of less than €500,000. Charities working at local, regional and national level can apply for a grant under one of the following thematic pillars:

- Addressing Essential Needs
- Improving Health and Wellbeing
- Creativity and Play

Organisations can apply only once to the RTE Toy Show Appeal this year. Where multiple applications are received from the same organisation, none will be considered for assessment.

Arts Council's Artist in the Community (AIC) Scheme (managed by Create)
Next Closing Date: Monday 27th March at 5pm (Round One)

This Scheme offers awards to enable artists and communities of place and/or interest to work together on projects. The aim of the AIC scheme is to encourage meaningful collaboration between communities of place and/or interest and artists.

This Round to the Scheme includes the following awards:

- Research and Development Award (without mentoring)
- Research and Development Award (with Mentoring)
- Recent Graduate Research and Development Award (with Mentoring)
- Project Realisation Award

The closing date for Round Two of this Scheme is Monday 25th September.

Artist Residency Award: Create and National Women's Council
Closing Date for EOI from Artists: Wednesday 15th March at 5pm

This year marks the 50th anniversary of NWC, the largest representative organisation for women and women's groups in Ireland.

This anniversary is an opportunity to celebrate the achievements for women and women's rights in Ireland and recognise the important, often invisible, contribution of women's organisations in County Wicklow. It is the intention that these awards will fund, in full or in part, a particular aspect of an Artist, Festival and Community project, development plan or programme for 2023.

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- Artist & Community Collaboration Award Scheme 2023
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