

National Volunteering Week

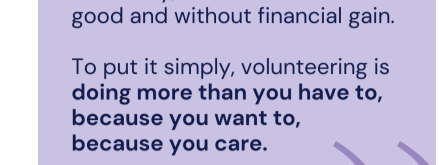
15-21
MAY
2023

Connecting Communities



WE REALLY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTRIBUTION

To mark National Volunteer Week 2023 Co. Wicklow PPN would like to shine a light on and acknowledge the incredible voluntary spirit and contribution made by people throughout the County every day.



To catch up on the news from this week click on the link below:

[News Update](#)

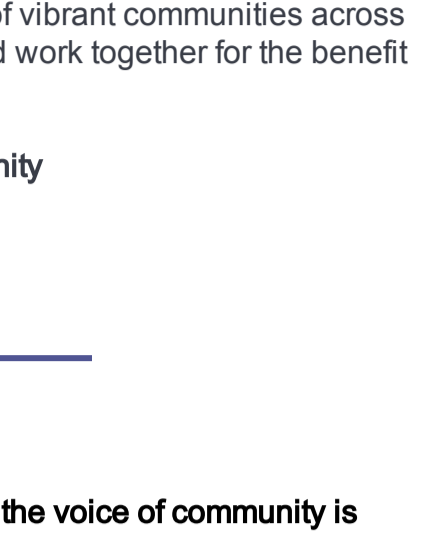
National Volunteering Week 2023

'Connecting Communities' is the theme of this year's National Volunteering Week.

Volunteering is an act of profound generosity that can transform our communities into more diverse, dynamic, and welcoming spaces. By offering our time and skills to support the needs of others, we not only strengthen our communities, but also deepen our own sense of belonging and connection.

This National Volunteering Week, is celebrating the power of volunteering to enrich our communities, bridge social divides, and create opportunities for meaningful connection.

Whether you're a volunteer or an organisation, there are lots of ways you can get involved and celebrate during National Volunteering Week.



Find out more & Get Involved

Volunteering with Co. Wicklow PPN



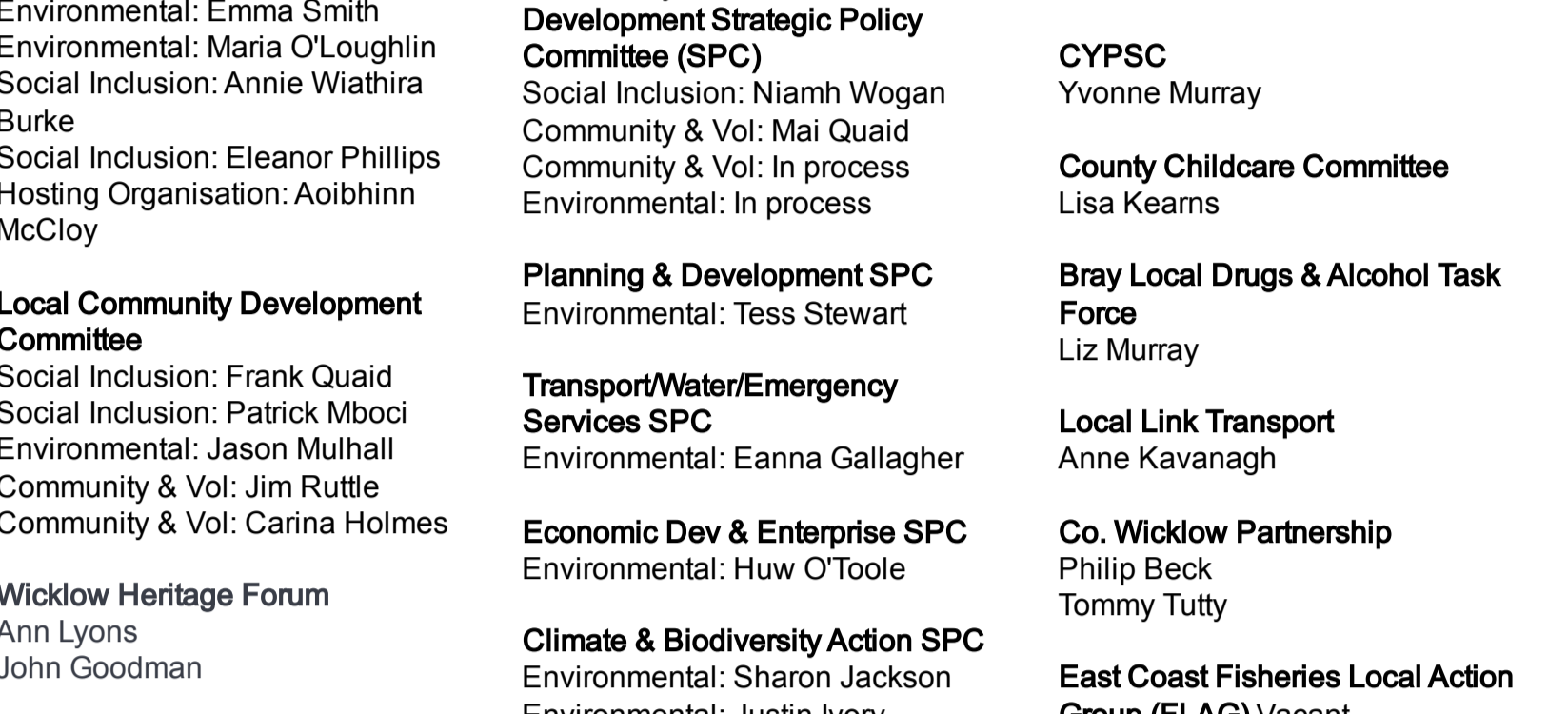
Co. Wicklow PPN's 414 member groups from across all the Municipal Districts depend on volunteers to achieve their aims and objectives. These organisations and groups contribute to the creation of vibrant communities across the County. They are the means through which people can volunteer, get involved and work together for the benefit of individuals and community.

Thank you to all involved for all that you do for your community

PPN Member Groups

PPN Voluntary Representatives

Thank you to our team of voluntary Representatives who work tirelessly to ensure the voice of community is represented at county policy and decision-making committees and boards.



Co. Wicklow PPN Representatives

PPN Secretariat (Vol Management Committee)
Arklow MD: Stephen Kearon
Ballinglass MD: Gerorda Stamps
GreystonesMD: Carina Holmes
Bray MD: Helen Kinsella
Wicklow MD: Ruth Frenderville
Co-wide Groups: Michael Conlon
Community & Vol: Phyllis Farrell
Community & Vol: Diana Gallagher
Social Inclusion: Maria O'Loughlin
Environmental: Annie Wathira Burke
Social Inclusion: Eleanor Phillips
Hosting Organisation: Aolbhinn McCloy

Local Community Development Committee
Social Inclusion: Frank Quaid
Social Inclusion: Patrick Meece
Environmental: Jason Mulhall
Community & Vol: Jim Ruttle
Community & Vol: Carina Holmes
Wicklow Heritage Forum
Ann Lyons
John Goodman

Wicklow Joint Policing Committee
Arklow MD: James Dunne
Ballinglass MD: John Bennett
Bray MD: Jim O'Brien
Greystones MD: Kathleen Kelleher
Wicklow MD: Ciara Perks
Community & Vol: Stephen Kearon
Co-wide Groups: Conor O'Leary

Community, Cultural & Social Inclusion Strategic Policy Committee (SPC)
Social Inclusion: Niamh Wogan
Community & Vol: Mai Quaid
Community & Vol: In process
Environmental: In process

Planning & Development SPC
Environmental: Tess Stewart

Transport/Water/Emergency Services SPC
Environmental: Eanna Gallagher

Economic Dev & Enterprise SPC
Environmental: Huw O'Toole

Climate & Biodiversity Action SPC
Environmental: Sharon Jackson
Environmental: Justin Ivory

Housing & Corporate Estates SPC
Social Inclusion: Aolbhinn McCloy
Community & Vol: Muream Dalton
Environmental: Mary-Anne Parsons

Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
Phyllis Farrell

Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre
Keith Scanlon

CYPSC
Yvonne Murray

County Childcare Committee
Lisa Kearns

Bray Local Drugs & Alcohol Task Force
Liz Murray

Local Link Transport
Anne Kavanagh

Co. Wicklow Partnership
Philip Beck
Tommy Tutty

East Coast Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) Vacant

Find out more about the Committees & the PPN Reps

Volunteering in Co. Wicklow

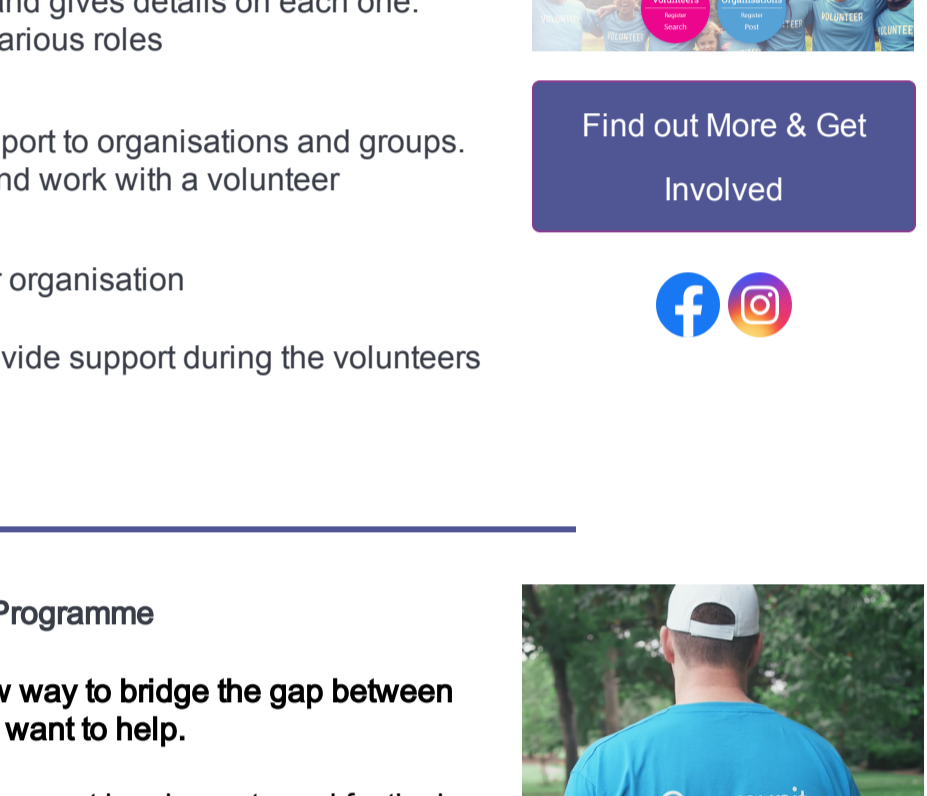


Volunteering in Co. Wicklow

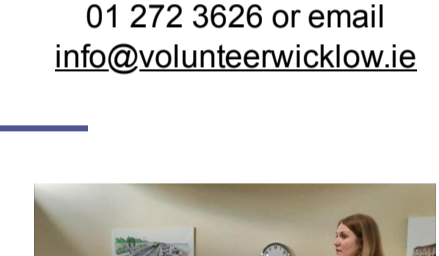
Stats from Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre



A couple of volunteer stories from Co. Wicklow (click on the logo below to access the story)



Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre



County Wicklow Volunteer Centre is an independent organisation committed to the promotion, development and support of volunteer participation in the county.

Co. Wicklow Volunteer Centre:

- Provides a place for volunteers to register.
- Lists the volunteering opportunities by areas and gives details on each one.
- Will suggest and refer suitable volunteers to various roles
- Gives advice and support for volunteers.

The Volunteer Centre also provides advice and support to organisations and groups. You can register your group through their website and work with a volunteer placement officer to:

- Help you identify volunteering role within your organisation
- Help you write the role description
- Help you to select suitable volunteers and provide support during the volunteers placement
- Avail of their Garda Vetting service

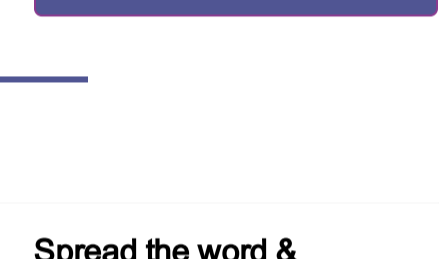


New Community Volunteer Programme

The Community Volunteers programme offers a new way to bridge the gap between communities that need support and the people who want to help.

Community Volunteers will have the opportunity to support local events and festivals along with more urgent, one-off needs like we saw with the community response to COVID-19.

The programme will see the Volunteer Centre recruit, interview, and train a group of local volunteers in Urgent Community Support and Event Volunteering best practice.



Contact Wicklow Volunteer Centre to find out more: call 01 272 3626 or email info@volunteer.wicklow.ie

Meet the Volunteer Centre's New Manager

Storm Pyper joined County Wicklow Volunteer Centre just a few weeks ago. She has been working in the community sector for the past 15 years. Throughout this time, she has managed various different community support centres. Storm has a true passion for working in the community and trying to make a difference by helping families and individuals where she can. Throughout her career she has seen first hand the invaluable roles that volunteers play within our communities, she looks forward to helping promote and support this essential sector.



Volunteering Matters ...



Volunteering matters to the Country

28.4% of the population or 1 million people aged 15 and over volunteer annually in Ireland at an estimated value of more than €2bn per annum.

54.7% of volunteering is carried out directly by individuals and not through an organisation - this is informal volunteering.

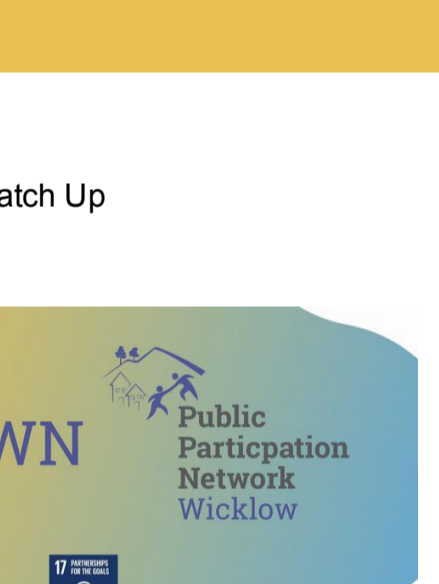
45.3% of volunteering is carried out through an organisation - this is formal volunteering.

Formal volunteering through organisations happens in the 29,300 community and voluntary sector (CVS) organisations in Ireland.

There are an estimated 81,500 volunteer directors and trustees in the CVS, 9,700 organisations in the CVS are registered charities, with volunteer charity trustees alone making up 51,000 volunteers.

189,800+ volunteering hours were logged on the Student Volunteer.ie website with over 15,700 students and 1000 VIO's registered (April 2020).

Volunteering also happens outside the C&V sector with many employees volunteering on company time, donated by their employer - 2019 research by Anlarch commissioned by CIL showed that 14% of respondents' volunteering was organised by their employer.



National Volunteer Strategy

Strategy to support the Community & Voluntary Sector

Volunteering matters to you

5 Ways Volunteering Enhances Wellbeing

- Connecting with others creates a sense of **belonging**.
- Being active **reduces stress**.
- Learning new things **boosts confidence**.
- Taking notice and practicing **mindfulness** enhances wellbeing.
- Performing acts of kindness creates a sense of **purpose**.

Spread the word & Encourage others to volunteer #Connecting Communities

There is something to suit everyone:
locally or globally
online or in person
short term or long term

A Brief News Roundup from this week (please also check back on previous Updates for more News update and details of other currently open Funding Schemes)



Wicklow PPN Community Catch Up Events

We look forward to meeting you at our final Local Community Catch Up
Wednesday 17th May - CEART, Wicklow Town

WED 17TH MAY
Refreshments & informal networking from 7pm
Presentations, Discussion & Q&A from 7.30 - 9pm

Reserve your spot

Or if you find you are free next Wednesday evening just pop in to us in CEART.
For further information contact: info@countywicklowppn.ie or call/text Grainne on 086 0487434

Wednesday 10th May brought us to Kilcoole for the Greystones Municipal District Community Catch Up.

New connections were made, information was shared by many of the groups present on their work, upcoming events & training and contact details were exchanged.



Thank you to those who came along.

Community and Voluntary Organisations Public Liability Insurance Survey

The Department of Rural and Community Development, has engaged BDO to conduct research which seeks to examine current trends within the public liability insurance market and the impact of these trends on organisations across the community and voluntary sector.

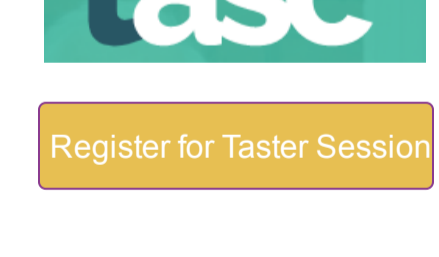
As part of the research, BDO has prepared a survey, which it is anticipated can help inform the research.

Many of you will have taken part in a previous survey, conducted in 2019 by the Public Participation Network (PPNs). The data from this survey was used to inform a range of reforms in the industry. It is expected that this new research can help identify if there has been any improvements or dis-improvements in the situation since 2019 and to consider the impact, if any of any recent insurance reform measures.

A version of this survey has been distributed by the Wheel to its members. You may have received and completed a survey, and if this is the case, we greatly appreciate your input and participation. For those of you who have not received or completed the survey, we would really appreciate it if you were able to complete the following survey.

It should be noted that all information will be treated in the strictest of confidence and will only be presented in aggregated format. Individual respondents will not be identified or referenced in the report or findings of the research.

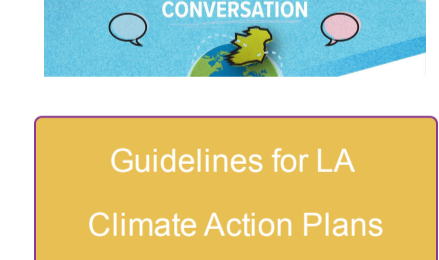
Any queries or questions in relation to the survey or research should be directed to Austin Hickey, Director, BDO on 01 4700352 or by email ahickey@bdo.ie



Have your say

Bray Tidy Towns - call for volunteers

Saturday 13th May from 10.30am meeting at Albert Walk



Dawn Chorus Event

**on Sunday 14th May at 5am
in Avondale Forest Park, Rathdrum**

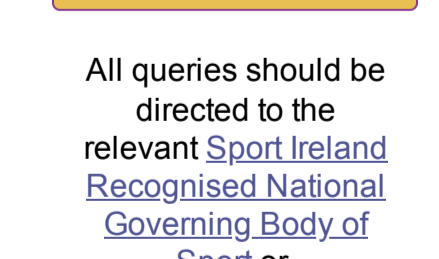


Join Bird Watch Ireland Wicklow Branch on National Dawn Chorus Day to hear the bird orchestra play its overture and then listen to the individual soloists sing as you walk through the woods.

This Dawn chorus walk will follow the 3km long Caim Trail. The organisers expect to be back in the carpark between 6.30 and 7am.

Bird Watch Ireland Wicklow Branch would like to thank *Callite* and *Beyond the Trees* Avondale for facilitating (and waiving the car park fee for this early morning start!).

Financial Resilience Training for Charity Staff & Community Groups organised by TASC (Think-tank for Action on Social Change)



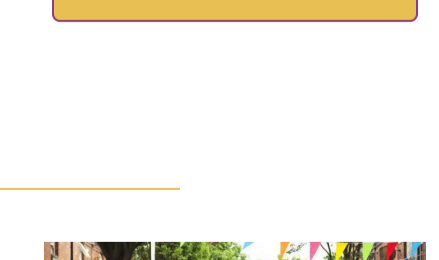
TASC offer Financial Resilience Training (FRT) to charity staff, which helps staff to support service users to improve their financial resilience, and to community groups to help, budget their own financial resilience. FRT covers topics such as talking about money, increasing their financial resilience, managing debt, utility costs and support services.

Financial Resilience Taster Sessions - Wednesday 17th May: To promote the training TASC will deliver a short taster session online for any organisations or individuals interested in learning more about the programme.



Africa Day Celebration in Co. Wicklow

Saturday 20th May

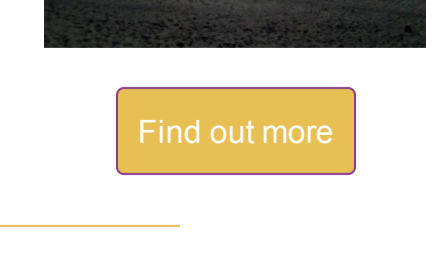


Africa Irish Society of Wicklow (AISW) is delighted to be organising and hosting its 5th Africa Day celebrations in Co. Wicklow which will be held on Saturday 20th May at Burnaby Park, Greystones (Opposite the dart station) from 12 noon to 5pm.

All are welcome to this family fun filled day.

Africa Day or Africa liberation Day is an initiative of the African Union, which celebrates African diversity and success and the cultural and economic potential of the continent. This day is celebrated annually on May 25th globally.

Co. Wicklow Climate Action Plan Stakeholder Consultations



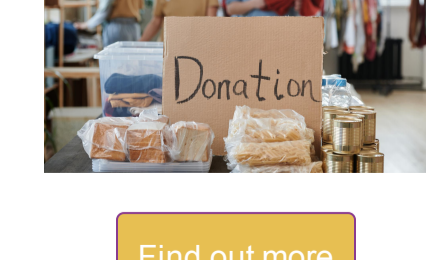
Wicklow County Council are planning to talk to groups with a social inclusion focus on **Monday the 22nd May** in the Little Bray Resource Centre.

For the environmental and community focused groups they are planning to host an online consultation on **Monday 29th** of May in the evening.

Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) page and your email inbox for more information on these upcoming consultations.



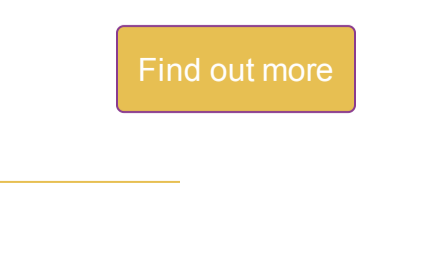
County Wicklow Older People's Council - Annual General Meeting 2023 on Friday 26th May from 10am in the Glenview Hotel, Glen of the Downs



Reconnect and reengage with the wider Older People's Council and find out more about the:

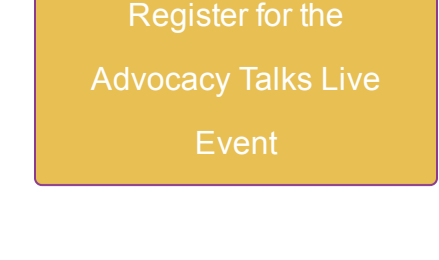
- Age Friendly Ireland Programme
- Older People's Council activities in County Wicklow
- Wicklow Age Friendly County Alliance and
- the new County Wicklow Age Friendly Strategy 2023-27

Discover how you can play a part in the Older People's Council and the Age Friendly Programme in County Wicklow to ensure that the voice of older people are heard in planning for the future and help to co-design services for older people, to make County Wicklow a great place to grow old.



About the Age Friendly Programme

Sports Energy Support Scheme (Phase II) Closing Date: Friday 26th May

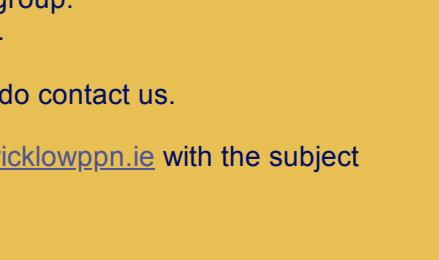


This funding scheme has reopened for applications. The rising of the €35 million Fund, which was secured as part of Budget 2023, is to support the purchase of energy costs associated with the provision of sport.

Sports clubs and organisations which received funding under Phase I of the Scheme, for the period up to 31 March, are now eligible to apply for funding of their energy costs for April and May 2023.

In addition, sports clubs and organisations which did not previously make an application during Phase I, are able to make an application for funding.

Under Phase II, community-owned sports facilities not specifically affiliated to an NGB or who do not currently qualify for TBESS or other government schemes, can now engage with their Local Sports Partnerships (LSP) to ascertain if they are eligible to qualify for funding. This scheme aims to ensure maximum support is provided to grassroots sport.



All queries should be directed to the relevant [Sport Ireland](#) Recognised National Governing Body of Sport or [Local Sports Partnership](#)

Coca-Cola Thank You Fund Closing Date: Thursday 15th June



Operated in partnership with the Irish Youth Foundation and supporting partners Youth Action Northern Ireland, The Coca-Cola Company and its partner Coca-Cola HBC Ireland and Northern Ireland have joined forces to double the size and impact of this year's Fund.

Awards of up to €5,000 and €10,000 will be available to support community-based projects that are focused on empowering young people through programmes of learning, inclusion, and sustainable development.



Street Feast Sunday 25th June



Registration for Street Feast is open!

[Find out more & Register](#)

Identification of Bathing Waters 2023

Wicklow County Council are asking people who swim at beaches, lakes and rivers to tell them if they think they should maintain existing designated bathing waters designations or give a new official bathing area designation to areas that are commonly used for swimming, but not identified at the moment.

[Find out more](#)

Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Services (EWYS)

A well deserved award to acknowledge the [EWYS](#) team and their work.

Congratulations to Angelina, Linda and the Crosscare East Wicklow Youth Service team who were presented with a [Rainbow Award](#) for providing an inclusive, safe and supportive service for LGBTQ+ young people. The awards were presented by Mary Butler, Minister of State with responsibility for Mental Health.

Attitudes to the Charity Sector - Results of Survey

The Charities Regulator published the findings of Amarachi's survey of Irish attitudes to the charity sector.

This survey found that nine out of ten adults in Ireland donated to a charity over the last year.

The research also found that eight out of ten adults (80%) believed that having trust and confidence in a charity was very important when deciding to donate - which is up from 85% since 2020, when a similar study was undertaken.

National Council for the Blind in Ireland (NCBI)

Advocacy Talks Live Event (online)
All interested people are invited to register to join the NCBI Advocacy Talks live monthly online event when you will hear from local and international speakers on topics of interest to people with a disability. These events are held from 3-4pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month on Microsoft Teams platform.

Local Advocacy Networks (online meetings)
Do you want to make positive change in your community? Local people who are blind or vision impaired are invited to attend NCBI's Local Advocacy Network. The Local Advocacy Network provides a platform for people in the local community to work together to break down barriers they are facing in their area.

You can find out more information about the Local Advocacy Network, including the link to register to attend on www.ncbi.ie and click on the Policy and Advocacy tab, by calling 1600 911 250 or emailing camc@ncbi.ie.

Thanks for reading and please share with others in your community group. 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.

If you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please send an email to info@countywicklowppn.ie with the subject 'Unsubscribe'.

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