Public Participation Network Wicklow

Let your Voice be Heard & Make a Real Difference!

National PPN Conference
PPN National Conference

News Update: Friday 9th October 2026

Hi everyone

Welcome to our latest newsletter, it is packed with updates, upcoming events, open consultations and funding opportunities for our member organisations.

The National PPN Conference provided a valuable opportunity to connect, collaborate and empower, bringing people from PPNs across the country together to share ideas, strengthen relationships and explore how PPNs can continue to support communities. A sincere thank you to our representatives from Wicklow County Council and our Secretariat members for attending and contributing to this important gathering.

Looking ahead, we would encourage people to join our Let's Talk About Literacy session taking place online next Wednesday (14th October) at lunchtime. It is a great opportunity to learn more about literacy awareness and how to support people in our communities. See PPN News section below to reserve your place.

Please also save the dates of Saturday 14th November and Wednesday 25th November for two upcoming events: our *Planning Successful Community Events* day and our *End of Year Members' Gathering (Plenary)*. Further details will be shared by email, so please keep an eye on your inbox.

Finally, there are plenty of funding opportunities included in the Funding section below, with several particularly relevant to sports clubs.

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to strengthening communities across Wicklow. We look forward to connecting with you at our upcoming events!

To catch up on all the news scroll through our news update sections:

PPN News
Local News
National News
Consultations
Funding Opportunities

National PPN Conference

National PPN Conference Tour on Lough Ree

PPN News

Member Opportunity - Carmichael Training Session Vouchers

Carmichael Autumn/Winter Schedule

We're delighted to have a limited number of vouchers available for our member groups to attend a Carmichael training session from their Autumn/Winter Training Schedule.

Carmichael offers a wide range of sessions covering topics that can be useful to community and voluntary groups. Many of the sessions are held online, making them an accessible way for volunteers and group members to take part.

We'd encourage you to have a look through the Carmichael Autumn/Winter schedule and see if there's a session that could be useful to you, your group or the community you support.

The vouchers are available to Wicklow PPN member groups on a first-come, first-served basis.

Spot a session you'd like to attend, email us with the name of the session you're interested in, and we'll send you the booking link to use.

We'd really encourage groups to take advantage of this offer, it's a great opportunity to access a Carmichael training session that could bring new ideas, skills and knowledge back to your group and help strengthen the work you do in your community.

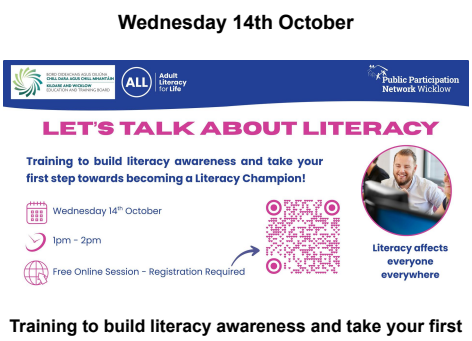
Upcoming PPN Free Events - All Welcome

Take a look through the upcoming events and see what catches your interest! There are some great opportunities to learn something new, connect with others, share ideas and pick up practical tips that could benefit your group.

We'd really love to see our member groups and others in our communities getting involved, so **please book your place and come along,** the more of you who take part, the more we can learn and connect as a network.

All events are free, but booking is required, so please register in advance to secure your place and help us with planning and organising the events.

Let's Talk About Literacy
Online
Wednesday 14th October


Adult Literacy for Life
Public Participation Network Wicklow
LET'S TALK ABOUT LITERACY
Training to build literacy awareness and take your first step towards becoming a Literacy Champion!
Wednesday 14th October
1pm – 2pm
Free Online Session – Registration Required
Literacy affects everyone everywhere

Training to build literacy awareness and take your first step towards becoming a Literacy Champion!

Topics will include:

- The Literacy Landscape in Ireland
- Impacts and Causes of Unmet Literacy Needs
- Literacy Awareness and Creating a Literacy Accessible Environment
- Tips and Tools to be Literacy-Friendly

Grab your lunch and join us online!

Book Your Place

Planning & Delivering Successful Community Events
In Person - Brockagh Centre, Laragh
on Saturday 14th November

Saturday 14th November
Brockagh Resource Centre
Public Participation Network Wicklow
Community Events: From Planning to Success

Join us for a practical and informative day designed to support community groups from across County Wicklow in planning, organising and successfully delivering community events & parades.

The day will provide useful information, practical tips and shared learning on everything from planning to safety, sustainability and event management. There will also be opportunities to meet, connect and share ideas with other community groups, helping us all to create safe, successful and enjoyable events that bring our communities together.

Bookings aren't open just yet. Keep an eye on our social media and newsletters for updates on when booking opens!

End of Year Members' Gathering (Plenary) on Evening of Wednesday 25th November
Venue to be confirmed

Public Participation Network Wicklow
WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER 2026
2026 End of Year
Members Gathering (Plenary)

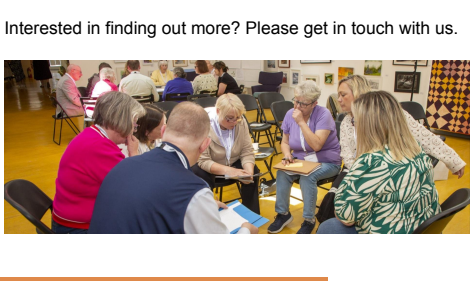
We're currently finalising the details for this event, and booking is not yet open. Keep an eye on our social media channels and newsletters for updates, we'll let you know as soon as booking opens.

All Welcome to Get Involved in our Upcoming Events

Our free events are a great way to connect, learn and support positive change within your group and the wider community.

Please spread the word and encourage others to come along aswell.

Interested in finding out more? Please get in touch with us.



Sharing Reports Received

PPN Representative Report - Click HERE to access our Reps report from the September meeting of the WCC Climate Action, Biodiversity, Environment, Energy, Marine, Recreation and Amenity SPC. Thanks to all the volunteer reps who give there time freely to represent the membership of PPN on committees.

Central Bank Reply to our Submission - Further to the Wicklow PPN submission presented to to the Central Bank Deputy Governor for Consumer and Investor Protection at our meeting held in CEART in July we have received the following letter in reply. Click HERE to access the reply to our submission.

Conversation Cafe - Click HERE to access the notes from this collaborative event held in An Tairseach on Saturday 12th September and which explored the connections between our local communities and the wider world.

New Free Online Resource Sustainabilityplan.ie to assist Community Groups

Blessington-based community organisations have teamed-up to create a new free online resource designed to help community groups, schools, sports clubs and small businesses take practical steps towards becoming more sustainable. Sustainabilityplan.ie was developed by Blessington Allotments Campaign and the Blessington Tourist Office, building on their years of experience working together on local sustainability, biodiversity, waste reduction and community initiatives. The Wicklow Public Participation Network (PPN) recently hosted an information session introducing the resource during Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Week and Wicklow Climate Action Week.

The website enables organisations to assess their current sustainability performance, identify areas for improvement, set measurable goals and develop their own bespoke sustainability plan.

The two Blessington organisations have already delivered a range of sustainability initiatives locally, including free electrical recycling events and swap shops in 2026.

Their practical experience and the positive response from the local community helped inspire the development of sustainabilityplan.ie.

Chairperson of Blessington Allotments Campaign Dónal McCormack said: "Having a sustainability plan gives organisations a chance to step back and look at what they are already doing, what they want to achieve and the practical steps they can take to get there.

"It doesn't have to be complicated. Sustainabilityplan.ie helps organisations set realistic goals and track their progress, while also giving them something tangible to demonstrate their commitment to sustainability."

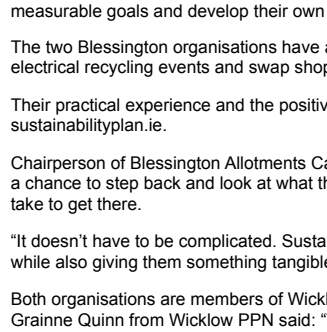
Both organisations are members of Wicklow PPN, making the initiative particularly significant for the network. Grainne Quinn from Wicklow PPN said: "What is particularly exciting for us about sustainabilityplan.ie is that it has grown from within the community sector itself.

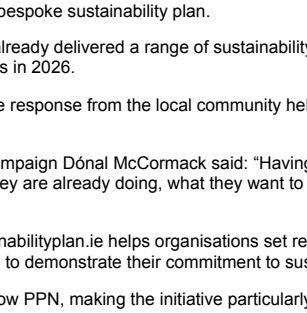
"Both the Blessington Tourist Office and Blessington Allotments Campaign are active members of Wicklow PPN, and we've seen first-hand the commitment and practical experience they bring to sustainability.

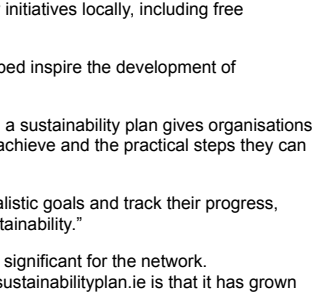
"We hope this resource will now allow that experience to be shared with many more groups across Wicklow and beyond." Deirdre McCormack, a director of the Blessington District Community Employment Scheme, through which the Blessington Tourist Office is run, explained: "We know from our own experience that sustainability can sometimes feel like a big challenge, particularly for small community organisations that are already very busy.

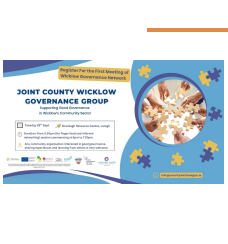
"Sustainabilityplan.ie helps to break that challenge down into manageable steps and gives groups a practical way to identify priorities and set goals.

"Having a clear sustainability plan can also strengthen funding applications by helping organisations demonstrate how individual projects contribute to their wider sustainability ambitions."




Introducing SustainabilityPlan.ie a new free Website
Blessington Tourist Office
Online
Public Participation Network Wicklow
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS




JOINT COUNTY WICKLOW GOVERNANCE GROUP

Wicklow Governance Network Group - Supporting Stronger Community Organisations

The first meeting of the Wicklow Governance Network Group took place on the 29th September in Brockagh Resource Centre, Laragh. This collaborative initiative brings together Wicklow PPN, County Wicklow Partnership (SICAP) and Wicklow Volunteer Centre to support community and voluntary organisations in strengthening their governance practices.

The meeting provided an informal and supportive space for participating groups to share experiences, identify common challenges and explore how they could learn from and support one another. Topics identified for future discussion included minute-taking, digital systems for managing committee documents, risk management and guidance on the use of WhatsApp for group communications.

The network will continue its work in 2027, with plans for approximately two online meetings to explore these topics and provide practical support to community and voluntary groups across Wicklow.

The initiative reflects the partners' shared commitment to building the capacity, confidence and sustainability of local community organisations.

Food for Thought: County Wicklow Food Partnerships Symposium 2026 on Thursday 1st October in the Brockagh Resource Centre

Wicklow PPN was delighted to attend the **Food for Thought Symposium** at Brockagh Resource Centre in Laragh, bringing together community organisations, food partnerships and local services to explore practical ways to tackle food poverty across County Wicklow.

The event showcased inspiring local initiatives, including Bray's BIA Food initiative, Donard Community Garden, the Rathdrum practical budgeting and cooking supports, and surplus food redistribution through FoodCloud.

Wicklow PPN was also pleased to assist with the facilitation of an interactive, county-wide discussion, mapping community services and exploring opportunities to strengthen connections, collaboration and support networks.

The symposium provided a valuable opportunity to share local knowledge, learn from community experiences and identify practical ways to improve access to healthy, affordable food.

Wicklow PPN would like to thank everyone involved in the organisation of this event and in particular Aisling, County Wicklow Food Co-ordinator, for bringing people together for this important conversation.

Wicklow
#EndFoodPoverty

Keep an eye on our Website for all things PPN, including our Funding & Events Calendar, Funding Resource, 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 10th November 2026. Minutes from the Secretariat meetings are available to view on our website.

Check out our YouTube channel to view our 10th Anniversary Messages, Sustainable Development Goals Animation, our series of Wellbeing videos (Super Charge Your Self-care) and more.

Local News

Red Squirrel Awareness Week: Help Map Wicklow's Wildlife

Find out More & Get Involved

Wicklow County Council is encouraging residents to take part in the 2026 All-Ireland Squirrel and Pine Marten Survey by reporting sightings of red squirrels, grey squirrels and pine martens.

Every sighting helps researchers better understand these woodland mammals and supports efforts to protect native wildlife and inform conservation action.

Spotted one? Make your sighting count!

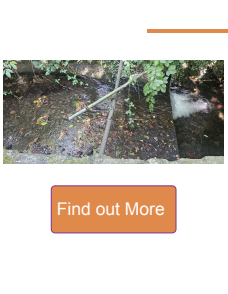
Anam Cara Bereavement Information Evenings

Find out More

Anam Cara supports all bereaved parents, regardless of the age of their child, or the circumstances of their death.

Thursday 15th October: Online Bereavement Information evening from 7pm
Register
HERE

Monday 19th October: Anam Cara Wicklow Monthly Meeting for Bereaved Parents, Parkview Hotel Newtownmountkennedy; 7:30 pm.



Three Trouts Stream Restoration Reopens River Habitat for Migrating Fish

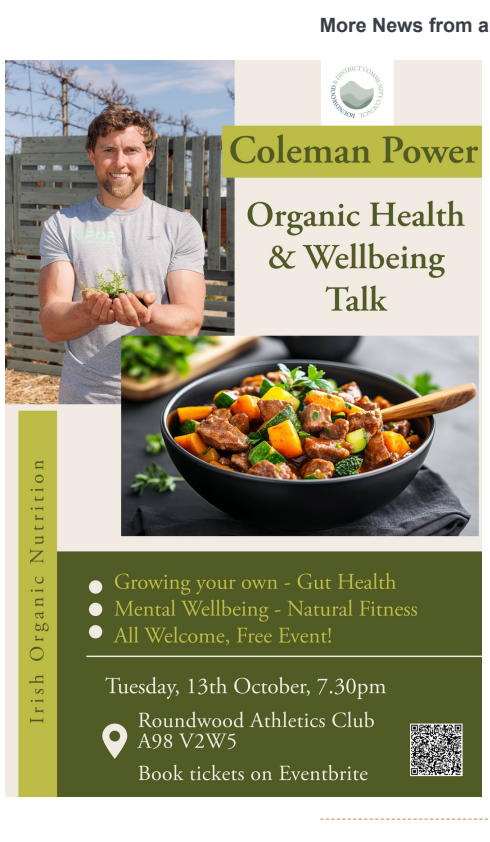
Find out More

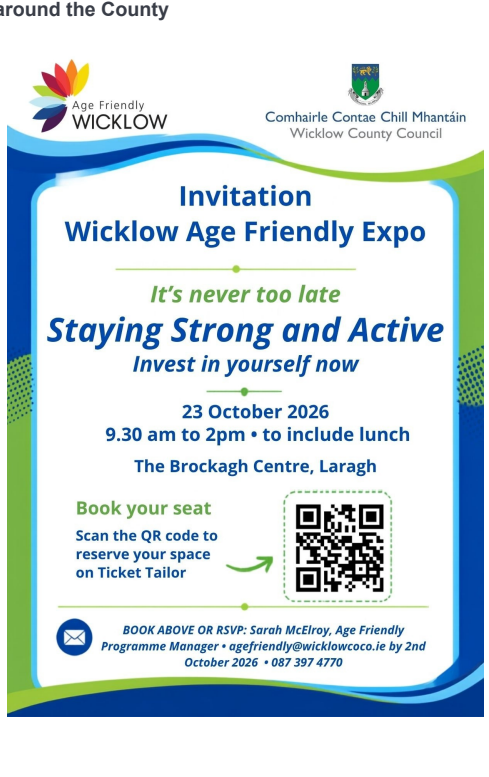
Wicklow County Council, in partnership with East Wicklow Rivers Trust, Inland Fisheries Ireland and the River Basin Management Service, has completed works to improve fish passage on the Three Trouts Stream in Delgany.

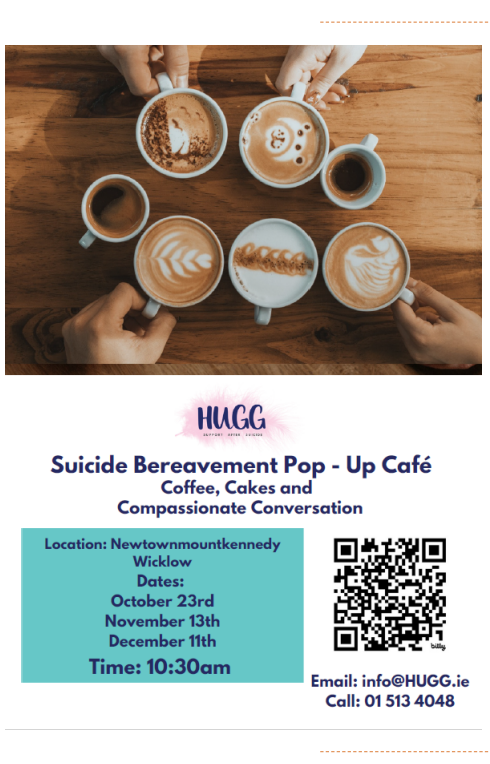
A natural rock ramp has been installed at The Glebe footbridge in Glenair Manor, removing a barrier that previously prevented migratory fish from accessing suitable upstream habitats. The project will benefit species such as salmon, sea trout, lamprey and eel, helping to restore river connectivity and support freshwater biodiversity.

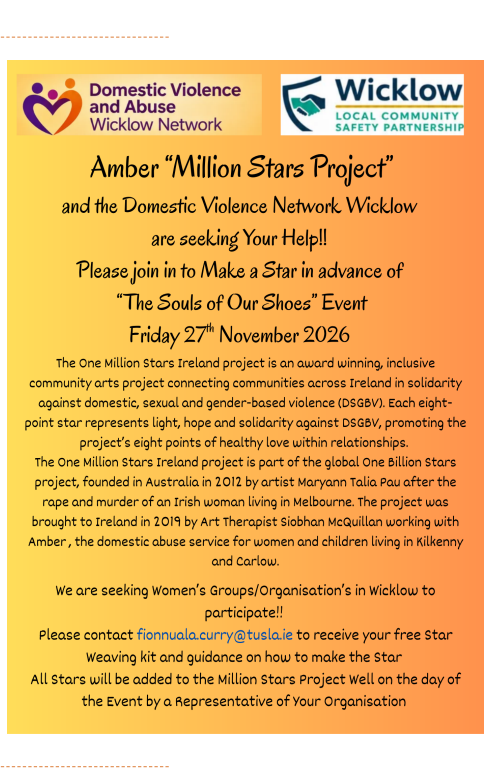
The initiative forms part of the Wicklow Fish Barrier Mitigation Programme and supports the County Wicklow Biodiversity Action Plan 2026–2031. Further surveys are planned to identify additional barriers and opportunities for river restoration across the catchment.

More News from around the County

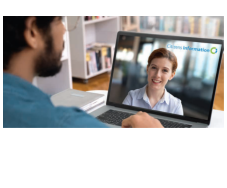

Coleman Power
Organic Health & Wellbeing Talk
Irish Organic Nutrition
Growing your own - Gut Health
Mental Wellbeing - Natural Fitness
All Welcome, Free Event!
Tuesday, 13th October, 7.30pm
Roundwood Athletics Club
A98 V2W5
Book tickets on Eventbrite


Age Friendly WICKLOW
Comhairle Contae Chill Mhantáin
Wicklow County Council
Invitation
Wicklow Age Friendly Expo
It's never too late
Staying Strong and Active
Invest in yourself now
23 October 2026
9.30 am to 2pm • to include lunch
The Brockagh Centre, Laragh
Book your seat
Scan the QR code to reserve your space on Ticket Tailor
BOOK ABOVE OR RSVP: Sarah McElroy, Age Friendly Programme Manager • agefriendly@wicklowcoco.ie by 2nd October 2026 • 087 397 4770


HUGG
Suicide Bereavement Pop - Up Café
Coffee, Cakes and Compassionate Conversation
Location: Newtownmountkennedy Wicklow
Dates:
October 23rd
November 13th
December 11th
Time: 10:30am
Email: info@HUGG.ie
Call: 01 513 4048


Domestic Violence and Abuse Wicklow Network
Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership
Amber "Million Stars Project"
and the Domestic Violence Network Wicklow
are seeking Your Help!!
Please join in to Make a Star in advance of
"The Souls of Our Shoes" Event
Friday 27th November 2026
The One Million Stars Ireland project is an award winning, inclusive community arts project connecting communities across Ireland in solidarity against domestic, sexual and gender-based violence (DSGBV). Each eight-point star represents light, hope and solidarity against DSGBV, promoting the project's eight points of healthy love within relationships.
The One Million Stars Ireland project is part of the global One Billion Stars project, founded in Australia in 2012 by artist Maryann Talia Pau after the rape and murder of an Irish woman living in Melbourne. The project was brought to Ireland in 2019 by Art Therapist Siobhan McQuillan working with Amber, the domestic abuse service for women and children living in Kilkenny and Carlow.
We are seeking Women's Groups/Organisation's in Wicklow to participate!!
Please contact fionnuala.curry@tusla.ie to receive your free Star Weaving kit and guidance on how to make the Star
All Stars will be added to the Million Stars Project well on the day of the Event by a Representative of Your Organisation

previously listed ...



Resumption of Virtual Citizens Information Service in Wicklow Town Library from Thursday 1st October

The virtual Citizens Information Service returns to Wicklow Town Library on the 1st October 2026 after a break in the summer. This service supports members of the public to access free, confidential and trusted information and advice online in a private space in Wicklow Library. Your queries will be answered by an Information Officer based in Bray Citizens Information Centre who will be online.

This virtual service provides information and assistance on social welfare, employment, housing, immigration and much more.

Citizens Information Service can also assist you to access online government services. They will help you to setup up a new email address and myGov.id account to get you started. You can also receive help with online Social Welfare Applications, the National Childcare Scheme, Driving License Renewals, Choices Based Letting, Password Renewals, SUSI Applications and Revenue.

Contact Bray CIC on 0818 07 6780 or email bray@citinfo.ie to make an appointment.

The service is available every Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.

One Million Stars Ireland - Weaving Hope and Solidarity

Find out more

Greystones Family Resource Centre has been involved with One Million Stars Ireland since 2021, encouraging community groups to weave stars in solidarity against domestic abuse and all forms of violence. Their 2023 *16 Days of Action* project, in collaboration with Bray Women's Refuge, brought together over 200 handwoven stars, which were displayed as part of an art exhibition in the Whale Theatre.

One Million Stars Ireland is an inclusive community arts project where each eight-pointed star represents light, hope and solidarity, promoting healthy relationships and a future free from violence and abuse.

This year, the Wicklow Domestic Violence and Abuse Network, as part of the Local Community Safety Partnership, is inviting Women's Groups across Wicklow to make a star for a 16 Days of Action event at County Buildings on Friday, 27 November 2026. The stars will be showcased at the event, with representatives from participating groups invited to tie their star to the Wishing Well.

Greystones FRC's Women's Group will also be working on its own Million Stars project and would be happy to host weaving workshops for other groups who would like to come along and get involved.

A lovely opportunity for groups to come together, learn a new skill and show solidarity.

Free Property Marking Training Opportunity for Volunteers

The Wicklow Local Community Safety Partnership are seeking volunteers to participate in Property Marking Device Training taking place on:
Date: 31st October 2026
Time: 9:30am to 1:00pm
Venue: The Chamber, County Buildings, Wicklow

As places are limited, please confirm your attendance by **Friday 17th October**.

This training will provide participants with the skills and knowledge to use a property marking device, an effective crime prevention tool that helps deter theft and assists in the identification and recovery of stolen property.

By attending this training, volunteers will:

- Learn how to correctly use a property marking device.
- Gain practical crime prevention knowledge.
- Help protect homes, businesses, and community facilities from theft.
- Support local community safety initiatives.
- Increase public awareness of property marking as a theft deterrent.
- Develop skills that can be used at future community safety and crime prevention events.
- Play an active role in making our communities safer

Participation is completely free of charge.

If you are interested in becoming a trained volunteer and supporting this important community safety initiative, please contact to register your interest at Communitysafety@wicklowcoco.ie

National News

Climate Action Week
12th - 18th October

Find out more

Climate Action Week, Ireland's 10th Festival of Climate Action, takes place nationwide and online from the 12th to the 18th October.

There are lots of ways for counties, local communities, organisations and citizens to get involved, connect with others and support climate action even if the the event takes place outside the official festival dates!

Host an Event
Everyone is invited to take part in Climate Action Week, and communities are encouraged to host an event and add it to the Climate Action Week Event Guide.

Adding events helps local communities stand out on the Climate Action Week Map, and there is no limit to the number of events that can be added.

Events can be added through the 'Add Your Event' tab on the Climate Action Week website.

A Social Media Toolkit, including posters, logos and stickers, is also available in the Resources section of the website.

Attend an Event
Communities are also encouraged to check out the Climate Action Week Event Guide to discover what is happening locally and book their place.

New events are being added every day, so there is always something new to discover!

Budget 2027 - €628 Million for Rural & Community Development

The Government has announced €628 million in funding for 2027 for Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht, including increased funding for LEADER, Town & Village Renewal, community development, SICAP and the Local Enhancement Programme.

The investment will support rural communities, community and voluntary organisations, social inclusion initiatives, and Gaeltacht and island communities.

For more information on Budget 2027, including a Citizens Guide to the Budget click HERE

***Social Justice Ireland* produced a comprehensive analysis of the Budget - taxation, welfare, education, housing and more. Click HERE to access this Analysis of the Budget**

Helium Workshops

Find out more

Helium is offering FREE online autumn workshops for children and young people aged 6–16 with long-term physical health conditions.

Ages 6–8: Saturdays, 7 Nov–12 Dec | 9:30–10:30am
Ages 9–12: Saturdays, 7 Nov–12 Dec | 11am–12pm
Ages 13–16: Youth Online Autumn Camp | 27, 29 & 31 October

If a young person could benefit but there may be barriers to participation, Helium encourages professionals and families to reach out.

Literacy Opens Doors
NALA

Literacy Opens Doors 2026
Free Online Training for Community and Voluntary Organisations

Find out more

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) is hosting Literacy Opens Doors, a free four-part webinar series during November 2026 for people working and volunteering in the community and voluntary sector.

The series will explore practical ways to support adult literacy and inclusive learning, covering topics such as learning for work, supporting adults with dyslexia, creating clear and accessible leaflets and posters using Plain English, and helping adults access personal development and learning opportunities.

The webinars will take place online on 6th, 13th, 20th and 27th November, from 10am to 11am. Participants who attend all four sessions will receive a NALA Certificate of Completion.

Community and voluntary organisations are encouraged to take advantage of this free training to build their knowledge and make their services and communications more literacy-friendly.

Irish Environmental Network

Sharing their October Newsletter which includes a report from the West Wicklow Environmental Network Bat Walk. Click HERE to access the Newsletter

previously listed ...

Europe's Rural Mobility Future: Setting Standards
27th - 29th October
Kilkenny

Find out more & Register

The European Rural Mobility Network (ERMN) is bringing together rural mobility stakeholders to explore how better transport and mobility services can support more connected, accessible and sustainable rural communities.

This year's core theme is *"Setting Service Standards for Rural Mobility to achieve greater Equity and Cohesion and to contribute to Europe's Climate goals"*.

The conference will focus on policy and standards for rural mobility, which significantly impact on achievement of European goals on environment, society and rural development, while also impacting at local level in many thousands of rural communities throughout Europe. It will explore the growing concept of "service standards" for mobility in rural areas.

The event will feature discussions, workshops and networking focused on the future of rural mobility across Europe.

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards

Find out more & Register

ECO-UNESCO's Young Environmentalist Awards (YEA) is an all-Ireland programme that rewards and recognises young people aged between 10-18 who take environmental action. Since its inception in 1999, YEA has involved over 75,000 young people across Ireland.

Since 1999, the programme has celebrated youth-led solutions to real-world environmental challenges, from climate change and biodiversity loss to waste reduction and sustainable living.

By taking part, young people gain the tools and support to raise awareness, take action on issues they care about from biodiversity loss to climate change and inspire others to do the same. Over 75,000 young people have participated in the programme, gaining valuable life skills while driving positive change at both a local and national level. The YEA programme is a fun and exciting way to empower young people to become better citizens.

Through My Eyes: A Photovoice Study (Irish Hospice Foundation)

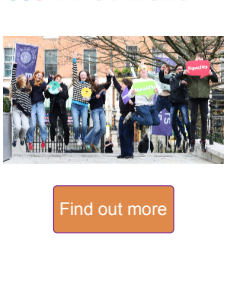
Find out more

The Irish Hospice Foundation is inviting adults living with a life-limiting condition or receiving palliative care to take part in Through My Eyes, a photovoice project exploring what matters most to people at this stage of life and into the future.

Participants will have the opportunity to share their experiences and perspectives through photography, helping to build a better understanding of what matters to people living with life-limiting conditions.

The project is open to people aged 18 and over who are living with a life-limiting condition or receiving palliative care.

For more information, contact Sara Leitão at research@hospicefoundation.ie or 1800 1800 18



Free YSI Programmes for Youth & Community Groups

Find out more

Young Social Innovators (YSI) offers a range of free programmes for youth and community groups, supporting young people to explore the issues that matter to them and take meaningful action in their communities.

Through creative and hands-on learning, participants can develop valuable skills including confidence, communication, teamwork, leadership and critical thinking, while building a stronger sense of belonging and active citizenship.

Whether a group is looking for a longer programme, a short-term project or a one-off workshop, YSI has flexible options to suit different groups and needs.

Youth workers and coordinators are encouraged to explore what's available and discover how YSI can support young people to turn their ideas into positive change.

Consultations

Crosschapel Flexible Generation Project
Public Information Event Monday 19th October in Blessington

info pack

leaflet

A public consultation is underway on the proposed Crosschapel Flexible Generation Project, a 385 MW flexible electricity generation plant proposed for the former Red Bog Quarry at Crosschapel, Co. Kildare. While the site is located in Kildare, it is close to the Wicklow border and the wider Blessington area.

Local communities, organisations and stakeholders are invited to learn more about the proposal, ask questions and provide feedback as part of the consultation process.
A Public Information Drop-In Event will take place on Monday, 19 October 2026, from 12 noon to 8pm at the Coimín Centre, Main Street, Blessington, Co. Wicklow, W91 VY44.

Members of the project team will be available to discuss the proposal and answer questions. Further information, including the project information pack and consultation materials, is available at crosschapelflexgen.ie. Comments and queries can also be submitted to crosschapelflexgen@kpmg.ie.

National Survey of Older Adults about Home Support
Closing Date: Wednesday 30th September

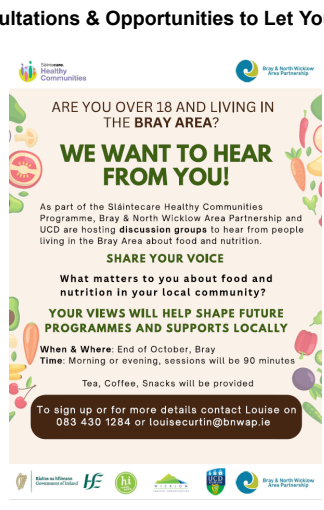
Find out more & Have Your Say

The Attune Project (funded by the Health Research Board) is running a survey of older adults currently in receipt of any type of home support. Over 550 older adults have completed the survey so far. The results will directly inform the Department of Health, HIQA guidelines and Health Service Executive decision making about the new Statutory Home Support Scheme.

The survey has full ethical approval from RCSI University Dublin.

More Local Consultations & Opportunities to Let Your Voice Be Heard

Help Define the Future of Aughrim
ACT



ARE YOU OVER 18 AND LIVING IN THE BRAY AREA?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As part of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and UCD are hosting discussion groups to hear from people living in the Bray Area about food and nutrition.

SHARE YOUR VOICE

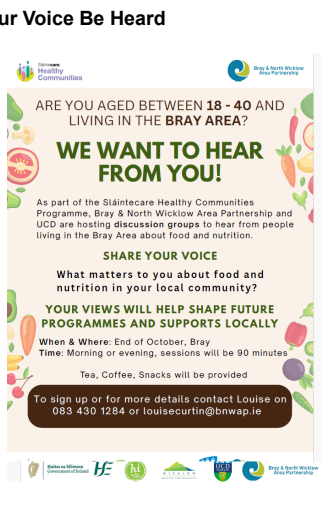
What matters to you about food and nutrition in your local community?

YOUR VIEWS WILL HELP SHAPE FUTURE PROGRAMMES AND SUPPORTS LOCALLY

When & Where: End of October, Bray
Time: Morning or evening, sessions will be 90 minutes

Tea, Coffee, Snacks will be provided

To sign up or for more details contact Louise on 083 430 1284 or louisecurtin@bnwap.ie



ARE YOU AGED BETWEEN 18 - 40 AND LIVING IN THE BRAY AREA?

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

As part of the Sláintecare Healthy Communities Programme, Bray & North Wicklow Area Partnership and UCD are hosting discussion groups to hear from people living in the Bray Area about food and nutrition.

SHARE YOUR VOICE

What matters to you about food and nutrition in your local community?

YOUR VIEWS WILL HELP SHAPE FUTURE PROGRAMMES AND SUPPORTS LOCALLY

When & Where: End of October, Bray
Time: Morning or evening, sessions will be 90 minutes

Tea, Coffee, Snacks will be provided

To sign up or for more details contact Louise on 083 430 1284 or louisecurtin@bnwap.ie

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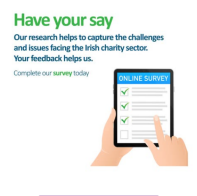


Challenges and Issues facing the Irish Charity Sector

Find out more

Every two years the Charities Regulator surveys Irish charities to find out how they are doing. The valuable information and insights we gain help the sector and us in our respective work. Every view matters so we are asking charity trustees, volunteers, employees and those who provide services to the sector to take our survey.

The survey should take around 20 minutes to complete

The Irish Volunteering Index

Find out more

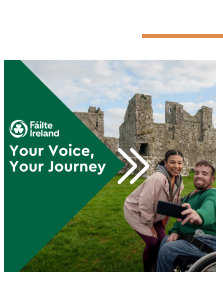
Local Authorities, community organisations and sectoral bodies are invited to join the Irish Volunteering Index and help build a national picture of volunteering in Ireland.

The survey explores how people engage in volunteering, what motivates them, the barriers they face and where further support is needed.

Registered organisations can receive insights specific to their organisation and/or county, with the opportunity to compare findings with national and regional results.

The Irish Volunteering Index is:

- Free to join
- Simple to take part
- Communication materials provided to help share the survey



Your Voice, Your Journey: Shaping Accessible and Inclusive Tourism in Ireland
Closing Date: Thursday 29th October 2026

Find out more

Fáilte Ireland is inviting people across Ireland to take part in its Your Voice, Your Journey Visitor Consultation, exploring experiences and expectations of accessible and inclusive tourism.

The consultation will look at areas including trip planning, transport, accommodation, attractions and visitor experiences, helping to identify barriers, opportunities and priorities for future tourism development.

The survey has been co-designed with national advocacy organisations representing disability, sensory impairment, age-friendly and access and inclusion interests.

Wicklow County Council Consultation Hub
Let your Voice be Heard on local Plans and Schemes

Consultation Hub

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

Open Consultations - Let your Voice be Heard

Part XI / Part 8 former Central Garage Site, Parnell Road, Bray. Closing Date for submissions: 12 Noon Thursday 15th October 2026.

Aughrim Library Part 8 - Application closing date, 12 noon Thursday 5th November 2026

ALLIANCE FOR INSURANCE REFORM
Insurance Survey 2026 Charity, Community & Voluntary Sector

Insurance Survey for Charities & Community Groups

Is Your Organisation Feeling the Impact of Rising Insurance Costs?

Have your Say

Community and voluntary organisations are encouraged to take part in the Alliance for Insurance Reform's annual insurance survey.

With rising insurance premiums continuing to place pressure on charities and community groups, the survey provides vital evidence to help inform government, policymakers and the media about the challenges organisations are facing.

It takes less than a minute to complete, requires no specific financial information, and helps strengthen the case for further action to reduce insurance costs across the sector.

Barriers to Accessing Bank Accounts for Small Community Groups
Closing Date: Saturday 31st October

Have your Say

Social Justice Ireland is an independent think tank and justice advocacy organisation that advances the lives of people and communities through providing independent social analysis and effective policy development to create a sustainable future for every member of society and for society as a whole.

They are conducting a short survey to better understand how Community Groups access basic financial services, and where gaps may exist. As Community Groups need a dedicated bank account in order to receive grants and funding, by sharing your perspective, you'll contribute to research that aims to improve access to basic financial products for community groups. The survey is quick, anonymous, and open to everyone.

Government of Ireland Public Consultations

Consultation Portal

There are a number of public consultations currently open that provide an important opportunity for individuals and groups to Have your Say & Let your Voice be Heard

Funding Opportunities

Circular Economy Innovation Grants Scheme
Closing Date: Monday 12th October

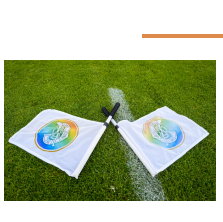
Find out more & Apply

The Circular Economy Innovation Grant Scheme (CEIGS) has launched for 2026, with total funding increased to €1.5 million. A Government of Ireland initiative led by the Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment (DCEE), the scheme supports organisations developing, demonstrating and scaling practical circular economy solutions in Ireland. It is administered by CIRCULÉIRE and its secretariat, Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR).

Funding is available through two strands:
Strand 1: Up to €50,000 for projects of up to six months.
Strand 2: €50,001–€150,000 for projects of up to twelve months.

This year's programme has broadened eligibility by removing previous restrictions on organisation size, and introduced a more streamlined application process.

Applications close on the 12th October and must be submitted through the CEIGS online application portal.



Camogie Association Funding - Improving Inclusion and Accessibility for Disabled People
Closing Date: Monday 19th October

Find out more & Apply

The Camogie Association has announced funding to support clubs in improving inclusion and access for disabled people. This initiative aims to help clubs create more accessible and welcoming environments, encouraging greater participation in camogie.

Camogie clubs are encouraged to review the funding details to learn more about the support available, eligibility criteria and how to apply.

#OurEUStory Awards 2026
HOW TO APPLY STEP-BY-STEP
Access Europe

The #OurEUStory Awards 2026
Closing Date: Friday 23rd October at 5pm

Find out more & Apply

These Awards will give Irish organisations involved in EU-funded projects the chance to showcase their impact and win a cash prize!

Organisations are invited to create a short video (maximum 140 seconds) sharing their EU story and post it on LinkedIn and/or Facebook using **#OurEUStory**.

1st prize: €1,000
2nd & 3rd prizes: €500 each

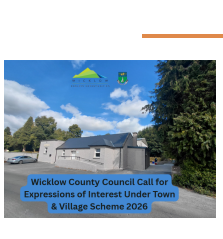
Funding Fairer Futures
Closing Date: Friday 30th October

Find out more & Apply

CAN Europe has announced a new call for proposals through its Climate Action Engagement Fund, providing grants of €10,000 per project to support civil society organisations and grassroots groups promoting climate justice and a just transition within the European Union.

The fund aims to support awareness-raising, campaigning, public engagement, mobilisation and advocacy. It particularly welcomes projects that promote gender equality, disability inclusion, intersectional approaches and the participation of young people and communities experiencing marginalisation in climate action.

Small and medium-sized organisations and groups, particularly those with limited resources or access to funding, are encouraged to review the eligibility criteria and consider applying.


Wicklow County Council Call for Expressions of Interest Under Town & Village Scheme 2026

Town & Village Renewal Scheme
Closing Date for EOIs: Monday 2nd November

Find out more & Apply

Wicklow County Council is inviting Expressions of Interest from community groups for the 2026 Town & Village Renewal Scheme.

The scheme supports small to medium-sized capital projects that help revitalise rural towns and villages, strengthen town centres and enhance local community life.

Funding of €50,000–€500,000 is available under the main scheme, with up to €50,000 available for project development.

Community groups interested in applying should submit an Expression of Interest to Wicklow County Council.

Parent Peer Support Fund
Closing Date: Monday 2nd November

Find out more & Apply

The Supporting Parents, Parent Peer Support Fund 2026/27 provides grants to statutory, community, and voluntary organisations leading or coordinating peer support projects for parents and those in a parenting role. The fund aims to expand access to high-quality parent peer supports and encourage collaboration with parents in developing these initiatives.

Funding Available:
Tier 1: €2,500 – for new or existing parent peer support projects
Tier 2: €5,000 – to scale up existing projects with proven positive impact
(*Organisations may apply for one tier only.*)

Circular Communications Grant
Closing Date: Monday 9th November

Find out more & Apply

The Circular Communications Grants have been launched to support organisations in raising awareness and encouraging action around Ireland's transition to a circular economy.

Whether you are running a local upcycling session, building awareness around a community reuse and repair initiative, or simply looking to reach more people with your circular mission, these €100,000 in grants are designed to support you and your activities.

This grant programme aims to build awareness of the innovative work happening across Ireland and increase support for a more sustainable future for all.

A €1,000 grant to support communications and marketing activities that strengthen an initiative's physical presence,

A €5,000 grant to support initiatives looking to expand their digital presence,

A €10,000 grant to support more established initiatives looking to scale their communications and reach.

AI for Good Fund
Closing Date: Monday 9th November

Find out more & Apply

Rethink Ireland has opened applications for its €1.75 million AI for Good Fund, supported by Google.org and the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The fund aims to help eligible not-for-profit organisations develop their understanding and responsible use of artificial intelligence (AI), enabling them to strengthen their operations, support their missions and increase their social impact.

Selected organisations will participate in a 12-month AI Accelerator programme, including expert guidance, training, peer learning and support to develop an AI adoption roadmap. Cash grants of up to €15,000 are also available to support participating organisations with eligible costs associated with their AI adoption journey.

The opportunity is open to eligible not-for-profit organisations that are already operating, have identified a challenge AI could help address, and can commit staff and leadership time to the programme.

Active Travel Community Fund
Closing Date: Monday 11th November

Find out more & Apply

The National Transport Authority (NTA) has opened the Active Travel Community Fund 2027, providing funding to support community-led initiatives that encourage and promote active travel.

The fund aims to support projects that encourage people to walk, cycle and use other sustainable forms of transport, while helping communities to develop initiatives that promote healthier, more accessible and sustainable travel.
Community and voluntary organisations are encouraged to consider whether the fund could support an initiative in their local area.

Walking Track Upgrade Funding for Sports Clubs

#HealthyIreland

IRFU
Closing Date: 16th October
Find out more: HERE

GAA
Closing Date: 19th October
Find out more: HERE

FAI
Closing Date: 23rd October
Find out more: HERE

Conservation and Climate Fund
Next Closing Date: Friday 27th November

Find out more & Apply

The Awesome Foundation's Conservation and Climate chapter provides $1,000 grants to support innovative projects that promote environmental conservation, biodiversity and climate action.

The fund aims to encourage individuals, community groups and organisations to develop creative ideas that deliver positive environmental benefits, from protecting local habitats and wildlife to raising awareness of climate change and inspiring community-led action.

International Trans Fund Grants
Closing Date: Tuesday 1st December

Find out more & Apply

The International Trans Fund (ITF) has opened applications for its Empower Trans Movements grant programme, supporting trans-led organisations working to advance the rights and wellbeing of trans communities worldwide.

The programme offers two types of one-year grants. SEED Grants of US$10,000–US$25,000 are available to eligible organisations that have not previously received ITF funding. THRIVE Grants of US$25,000–US$50,000 are available to organisations previously funded by the ITF and in good standing.

Applicants must be trans-led, have an annual operating budget below US$100,000, focus their work on benefiting trans communities, and contribute to movement-building through activities such as organising, advocacy, community-building or capacity development. Organisations and informal groups can apply; individuals are not eligible.

Arts Capital Investment Fund
Closing Date: Friday 18th December

Find out more & Apply

A new €6 million Arts Capital Investment Fund has opened to support not-for-profit arts and cultural organisations, community groups and voluntary organisations across Ireland.

The fund provides support for equipment purchases, construction and refurbishment works, including accessibility improvements, climate action upgrades and health and safety works. Community and voluntary groups can also apply for equipment funding to encourage greater participation in the arts.

Grants of up to €100,000 are available for equipment for arts and cultural facilities, up to €200,000 for construction works, and up to €15,000 for community and voluntary groups. Eligible projects may receive up to 95% of costs, subject to the relevant scheme criteria.

Cash4Clubs
Closing Date: Friday 1st January 2027

Find out more & Apply

Cash4Clubs, funded by Flutter UKIA grant scheme supports grassroots sports clubs in the UK and Ireland with funding for equipment, coaching, facilities and sustainability.

Texaco Support for Sport
Closing Date: Thursday 21st January 2027

Find out more & Apply

The Texaco Support for Sport initiative is now open for applications, offering a €5,000 cash award to one eligible sports club in each of the 26 counties of the Republic of Ireland.

The initiative supports the important contribution sports clubs make to their local communities, regardless of their size or sporting discipline. Clubs are invited to outline their activities, their community impact and how the award would be used to benefit their members and facilities.

Eligible applicants must be properly constituted sports clubs affiliated with a recognised sporting association or federation in the Republic of Ireland and hold a valid Games and Sports Exemption (GS) Number, meeting the scheme's eligibility requirements.

2026 Community Sport Facilities Fund

Community Sport Facilities Fund
Closing Date: 25th February 2027

Find out more & Apply

The Government has announced the 2026 Community Sport Facilities Fund (CSFF), formerly known as the Sports Capital Grant. The scheme is the Government's main funding programme for helping sports clubs and communities across Ireland develop and improve sporting infrastructure.

The new SPRAOI grant management system opened for registration on 28th September 2026, with funding applications opening on 19th October 2026.

The 2026 scheme includes grants of up to €250,000 for local projects, Tier 2 grants of €250,000–€550,000, and a new Tier 3 providing grants of up to €750,000 for larger multi-sport facilities.

The scheme will also place a strong focus on multi-sport collaboration, partnerships between sports clubs and schools, equal access for men and women, and the "sport for all" ethos.

Clubs and organisations that are not already registered should register on SPRAOI as the first step towards applying. Existing OSCAR registrations will be transferred automatically, but organisations should check that their details are correct.

Michael Guinee Charitable Foundation
Closing Date: No specific Date

Find out more & Apply

The Michael Guinee Charitable Foundation supports sustainable projects that positively impact people and communities. It provides funding to registered Irish charities and not-for-profit organisations/CLGs for viable projects that deliver a public benefit and align with the Foundation's objectives.

Areas supported include arts, culture, education, community welfare, inclusion and initiatives addressing disadvantage.

Applicants must demonstrate strong financial governance and provide evidence of the need, costings and timelines for their proposed project. The application process begins with organisation registration and an eligibility review, followed by a Letter of Inquiry and, if suitable, a full application.

The Foundation currently advises that new submissions have a processing time of approximately four months.

NEXT GENERATION AHEAD

Youth Funding Opportunities - Empowering the Next Generation of Changemakers

Youth Climate Changemakers Fund for Informal Groups – Closes: 25th October

The Youth Climate Changemakers Fund for Informal Groups, delivered by Generation Climate Europe, supports informal groups of young people working to strengthen climate action and promote climate justice across the EU.
The fund's latest round offered micro-grants of up to €1,000, alongside training, networking and capacity-building opportunities. It aims to help grassroots groups develop their ideas, engage communities and build a more inclusive climate movement.

Further information: Generation Climate Europe – Youth Climate Changemakers Fund for Informal Groups

Slingshot Challenge – Closes: 5th February 2027

The National Geographic Society is inviting young people aged 13–18 from around the world to participate in the Slingshot Challenge, which encourages young changemakers to develop creative solutions to environmental issues.

Participants are asked to submit a one-minute video presenting their idea for positive environmental change. Selected entrants may receive funding of up to US$10,000 to help turn their ideas into reality.

The challenge offers an opportunity for young people to showcase their creativity, raise awareness of environmental issues and contribute to a more sustainable future.

Further information: National Geographic Society – Slingshot Challenge

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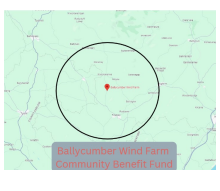


Ballycumber Wind Farm Community Benefit Fund
Closing Date: Friday 13th November

Find out more & Apply

The total value of the Ballycumber Wind Farm fund is €10,000.

The funds aim to support community and voluntary projects which are located near to the Wind Farms. with a focus on projects/activities which clearly contribute to at least one of the following categories:

• Health and wellbeing
• Village and community enhancement
• Sport, leisure and recreation
• Social Inclusion, including children, youth and active retired age groups
• Community infrastructure
• Environmental projects, including biodiversity and habitat conservation, in line with the principles of the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan (www.pollinators.ie).

Organisations currently supported by the wind farm are eligible to apply, however, it should be noted that such applications may not be prioritised. Unincorporated groups may apply to the fund, up to a project value of €2,000.

The NTR Wind Farm Community Benefit Funds will prioritise applications from local community groups and organisations within the environs of the wind farms.
However, please note that high quality projects from key service centres will be considered where there is a clear and defined additional impact on the communities within the area of benefit.

Outdoor Recreation

Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme
Measure 1 & Project Development applications close 25th September
Measure 2 & 3 applications close 15th December

Find out more

Local authorities, local development companies, community groups and stakeholders involved in outdoor recreation are being encouraged to explore the newly launched 2026–2027 Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS).

The scheme will provide €20 million to support the development, upgrade, maintenance, and promotion of outdoor recreation infrastructure in rural areas, with targeted supports for Gaeltacht and island communities.

Funding is available for projects ranging from small-scale repairs and promotion to large strategic trail and amenity developments. Groups with project ideas are encouraged to engage with their local authority or local development company.

Community Heritage Grant Schemes
Closing Date for Submission of EOI: Friday 16th October

Find out more & Apply

The Heritage Council is pleased to announce that the Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2027 will open for applications on 18 September 2026.

This scheme supports community-led projects that protect, conserve, celebrate, record, share and promote Ireland's heritage.

New for 2027: Two-Stage Application Process
To make the application process simpler and more accessible, the scheme will operate a new two-stage application process:

- Stage 1: Expression of Interest (EOI)
- Stage 2: Full Application

Grants will range from €800 to €25,000 and will support practical projects that deliver heritage benefits, community engagement and lasting public value.

Applications will be invited under five themes:

- Heritage at Risk
- Biodiversity & Nature Restoration
- Traditional Skills & Conservation
- Digital Heritage, Access & Storytelling
- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion

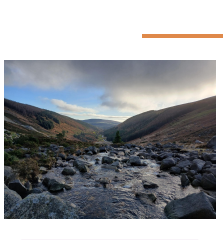
Built Heritage Schemes
Closing Date:
Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) and Historic Thatched Buildings (HTB): 4.00pm, Friday 30th October
Historic Structures Fund (HSF): 4.00pm, Friday 27th November

Find out more & Apply

Applications are now open for the Built Heritage Grant Schemes 2027, administered by Wicklow County Council on behalf of the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

The funding schemes support the conservation, repair and protection of historic buildings and structures across County Wicklow and include:

- Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) – supporting small-scale, labour-intensive conservation and repair works to protected structures, buildings within Architectural Conservation Areas, vernacular buildings, including thatched properties, and historic shopfronts.
- Historic Structures Fund (HSF) – supporting larger-scale conservation projects that safeguard historic structures, extend their lifespan and deliver public or community benefit.
- Historic Thatched Buildings (HTB) Stream – providing dedicated funding for the conservation and protection of traditional thatched buildings.



LAWPRO Small Grants and Events Scheme
Closing Date: Friday 18th December

Find out more & Apply

This grants scheme is for community groups to apply for small scale initiatives and events outside of LAWPRO's targeted open calls. It covers events such as World Wetland Day, Biodiversity Week, Science Week, etc. It may also be used for small awareness raising initiatives such as surveys and plans, citizen science, hosting a meeting, workshops, litter pick, publications, biodiversity signage, or other such small scale initiatives.

Applications must have a water quality or water awareness focus.

Please do not use this application form to apply for events to be hosted during Heritage Week (August 15th to 23rd 2026). A separate application process for Heritage Week grants will be advertised at a later date and well in advance of Heritage Week 2026.

LEGACY FUND

Pilgrim's Europe Legacy Fund
Closing Date: not specified
This fund may be of interest to groups in the Shillelagh and surrounding areas

Find out more & Apply

This fund has been created to strengthen local connections and provide meaningful support to organisations that make a positive difference - ranging from community and voluntary groups to educational, cultural, environmental and youth initiatives.

Grants are in the range of £5000 / €6000. Pilgrim's Europe reserves the right to increase or decrease the sum as it sees fit.

Arts Council Funding Opportunity
Closing Dates: Various Dates

Find out more & Apply

Arts organisations & creatives are encouraged to explore the range of funding opportunities available through the Arts Council.

Applications are now open for Strategic Funding, which supports key arts organisations to strengthen their sustainability and capacity to deliver high-quality arts experiences, services, events and activities for audiences across Ireland.

Strategic Funding is open to formally constituted organisations (CLGs and DACs) that meet the eligibility criteria, including having previously received Arts Council funding.

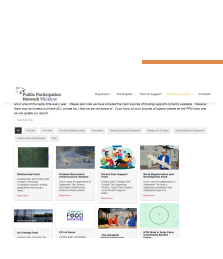
Discover EU Funding Opportunities with Access Europe

Find out more & Apply

Access Europe provides a valuable resource for organisations, communities and individuals interested in exploring EU funding opportunities.

The Access Europe website brings together information on a wide range of EU funding schemes, helping users discover available programmes, understand eligibility requirements and find opportunities that can support their projects and ambitions.

From arts and culture to community development, research, inclusion and beyond, Access Europe offers guidance and information to help people navigate the many funding opportunities available.



Wicklow PPN Funding & Events Calendar

Visit our website

Remember to check out the Funding Calendar on our Website for details of funding opportunities.

You'll also find some support resources on making funding applications on our Website.

Best of luck with your funding applications!

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

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

Copies of all our News Updates are available in pdf format on the PPN News Page on our Website.

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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