



Newsletter

JUNE
MEITHEAMH
2025

Hello from Mark and Martin at the WPPN.

Big announcement this month! The WPPN website is now up and running.

Once you've flicked through this Newsletter click on the website. Take a look at the 'Members' section - find your own group and see how expansive and broad the WPPN network is in Westmeath!

<https://westmeathppn.ie>

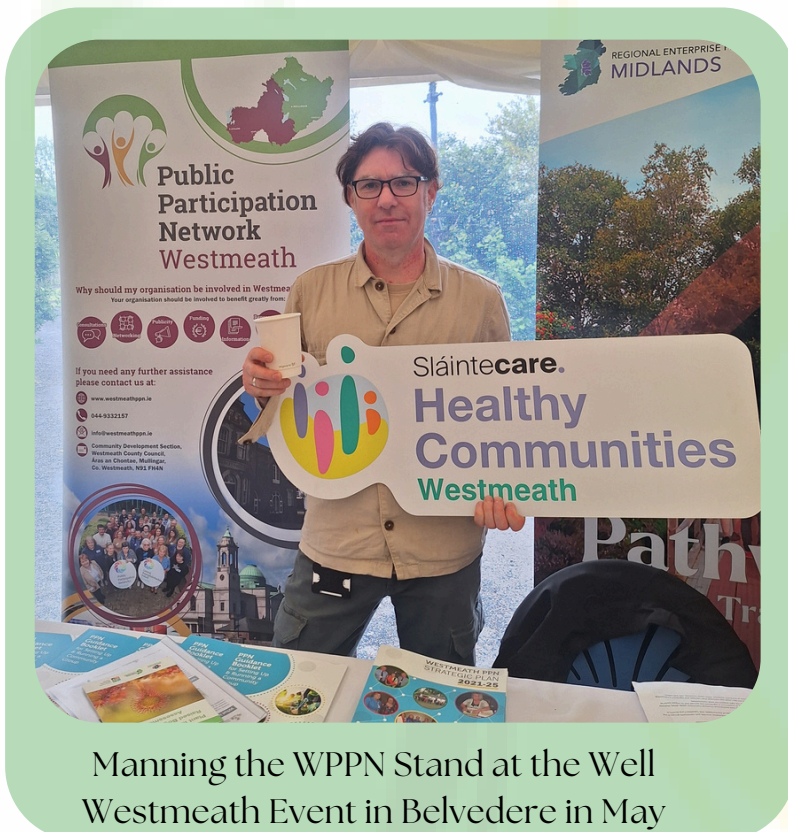
In other news we attended a number of WCC Community Section events in May. These included a Disability and Older Persons event and Age Friendly Day, the Cathaoirleach Awards and Sláinte Care Events in Belvedere and Walkability Studies in Kilbeggan, Kinnegad, Rochfortbridge and Castlepollard.

Thanks to all who signed up to attend the the first round of Linkage Group Meetings last month. Four hybrid meetings were held in total.

The presentations delivered at these meetings were really informative. We've included summaries of these in this newsletter and copies will also be put on the website. We'll hold more Linkage Group Meetings later in the year - hopefully more of you will consider attending these then.

All the best

*Mark Ahearn and Martin Fagan
Westmeath PPN*



Manning the WPPN Stand at the Well Westmeath Event in Belvedere in May

Visit our new WPPN Website at <https://westmeathppn.ie/>

Contact Mark or Martin at ppn@westmeathcoco.ie or call 044 9332157



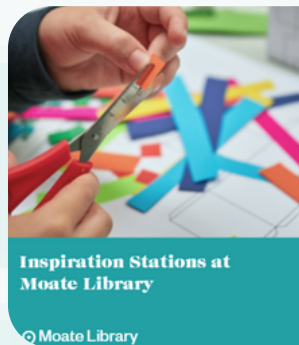
AGE
FRIENDLY
AGM
MAY
2025



Cruinniú na nÓg - 7th June

Westmeath

A day of free creativity for children and young people



Full Event Listings at
<https://westmeathculture.ie/creative>
<https://cruinniu.gov.ie/events>



Cruinniú na nÓg - 7th June

Westmeath

A day of free creativity for children and young people



Mindfulness Meditative Workshop

📍 Crane Bird Art Studio



Let Your Creative Spirit Flow

📍 Devine Art Studios



Let Your Creative Spirit Flow

📍 Devine Art Studios



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg - Creative Writing with Lorraine

📍 The Refill Mill



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg - Chocolate with Nadia

📍 The Refill Mill



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg - Mindful Movement with Kim

📍 The Refill Mill



Animated Athlone

📍 St. Mary's Hall



The Rubbish Room

📍 Oúige Art Studio



Blossoms, Beats and Treats

📍 Water Street Association



Inspiration Stations at Castlepollard Library

📍 Castlepollard Library



Buzz, Flutter, Crawl: Insects Workshop

📍 Tuar Ard Arts Centre



Music Jam Live! NTE Event

📍 Columb Barracks

Full Event Listings at

<https://westmeathculture.ie/creative>

<https://cruinniú.gov.ie/events>



Your WPPN Reps

Updates from recent Linkage Group meetings



Jack O'Sullivan

Rep to Environment Climate Action Rural Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee

Jack gave an update on the work of this SPC - including how to raise public awareness of climate change; what happens to Irish waste (most is incinerated or exported, glass is recycled but none of our paper; derelict sites (144000 in Ireland and too many in Westmeath); report on farm inspections in the county (noted that the EPA have no control over the spreading/transport of pig slurry outside the piggery - drinking pools for cattle versus solar powered water pumps from streams into troughs); water quality (work of LAWCO and welcome move away from deep dredging of river beds by OPW)

Michael Ward

Rep to Economic Development Enterprise Agriculture Tourism Strategic Policy Committee

Michael provided a report on the work of this SPC. Issues included - review of funding applications; the new Economic Development and Promotion Fund (hiring of a National Famine Way Communication and Engagement Coordinator / Midland Radio hospitality awards / promotion of Destination Athlone / Athlone Family Resource Centre / Streamstown Tailhead Café extension / Midlands Corporate Policy Engagement Forum); discussion on the recruitment of a Festival and Events Coordinator; overview of Business Promotion Fund including funding for shop fronts; overview of EU Just Transition support schemes (including work on an Athlone Enterprise Space and Kinnegad Enterprise Co-working Hub); tourism in Mullingar; developing policy around the Local Government Rates Waiver Scheme and upcoming deadline for public consultation on this scheme; focus on derelict buildings especially on high-streets in Mullingar and Athlone.

Hugh Farrell

Rep to Housing Community Recreation and Culture Strategic Policy Committee

Hugh reported on the work of this SPC, noting that issues included the committee's Work Programme; an update on Library and Culture Activities presented by County Librarian; review of draft Midlands Region Homeless Action Plan; scheme of letting priorities which the Council is reviewing; presentation on Retrofit programme for homes; update on Capital Housing Programme (where houses are being built and what progress is being made).

Alison Hough

Rep to Planning Regeneration and Transport Strategic Policy Committee

Alison noted that issues discussed at the SPC were the draft Mullingar and Athlone Area Plans; Regeneration Team Projects re buildings across Westmeath being put back into use. Noted that she was successful in raising the issue of tree management and maintenance and is now trying to get recently introduced pesticide policy and management of hedgerows policies monitored through the SPC. She presented her draft discussion paper on Trees and Hedgerows Policy covering areas like tree policy, felling permits; hedgerow management policy and alignment with the Westmeath Biodiversity Plan; council managed hedgerows; cooperation with farming groups; future survey of Westmeath hedgerows.

Voice your opinion by contacting your WPPN reps and attending
Linkage Group Meetings- email ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Disability Participation News Hub

This news hub brings together everything you need to know about collective disability advocacy news in Ireland into one place every week.



Centralising disability advocacy news so Disabled People, DPOs, families, and allies have equal access to the information that matters.

Sign up to their newsletter or
follow on social media

<https://mailchi.mp/3ce7ca8f3fc3/disability-participation-news-hub>



WCC Arts Office Notes

New website launched to showcase Westmeath as Filming Location.

Promoting Westmeath landscapes, architecture, and urban infrastructure, with the aim of promoting filmmaking activity in Westmeath and helping productions to find a location ideal for their shoot

Emerging Filmmakers are invited to apply for the 2025 Westmeath Film Award

www.filmingwestmeath.ie

Submissions open until 18 June 2025

2025 Westmeath Film Award.

€10,000 award aimed at emerging filmmakers to produce a short 10-15 minute fiction film/documentary in Westmeath.

Deadline 18th June 2025

Keep up-to-date with WCC Arts News at

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025

Award Winners Include

Overall Cathaoirleach Award

Declan Leonard

for extensive community involvement spanning GAA, community recreation, and emergency support services

Community Involvement

Helen Conneely

for 25 years of transformative community leadership

Environment & Heritage

Dalton Park Community Garden

for creating a thriving community space promoting environmental awareness

Equality & Social Inclusion

Claire Garry

for supporting vulnerable community members through specialised artistic programmes

Sports & Recreation

Dermot Garvin

for over 30 years of GAA volunteering and community service

Active Elderly

Rose Wright

for her leadership in developing community facilities and older persons' programmes

Children & Youth

Mary Finnegan

for bringing young and older people together through creative community initiatives

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May





MIDLAND REGIONAL DRUG & ALCOHOL TASK FORCE

Athlone Health Centre, Coosan Road, Athlone, N37 W275

Remembering and Celebrating Our Loved Ones Together

An event for communities across Ireland
impacted by HIV & AIDS and Drug use

1pm Saturday, 14th June, 2025.

at the HIV & AIDS National Monument, Phoenix Park, Dublin.
*Just a 10 minute walk from Heuston Station in The People's Garden,
opposite the Wellington Monument.*

Supported by a collective of community workers from a number of organisations including ACET, Rialto Community Drugs Team, HIV Ireland, Canal Communities Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, Wide, Mid-West Regional Drugs and Alcohol Task Force, UISCE and others.

The Midland Regional Drug Task Force is one of ten Regional Drug Task Forces.

It works to facilitate a more effective response to the drugs problem in areas experiencing the highest levels of substance misuse and involve those directly affected by the problem in the development of an area based drug strategy.

More info at <https://mrdatf.ie/>

Spotlight on a WPPN Member

St Mary's Residents Group, Athlone



In January the St Mary's Residents Group met with WCC staff and councilors to highlight issues causing concern for their community - traffic management, residents parking, illegal parking hindering access, path repairs, derelict houses belonging to WCC. The resident's group state that they will *'continue to assertively address these problems through the proper channels'*

At their next meeting the group intend to examine the Athlone Urban Design and Regeneration Framework and the proposed Loughanaskin Master Plan. They *'will have to consider all possible impacts, good and not so good, these proposed developments will have on our day to day lives'*.



This year the group intends enter the Tidy Towns competition again under the Small Estates Category - the estate finished third in this section in 2024 - see photo

The group are encouraging no chemical spraying in St Mary's Place. They were guided by Westmeath County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan, which aims to to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides containing glyphosate. Under the plan, a new system for spraying weeds in estates under the charge of WCC has being put in place.



Tell us about your group's work and we'll include it in our next WPPN Newsletter - email ppn@westmeathcoco.ie



**WESTMEATH
SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP**

— SPORT IRELAND —

<https://www.westmeathsports.ie>

Athlone Bike Fest

May 31st - June 2nd 2025

**PEDAL INTO ATHLONE FOR A WEEKEND OF
UNFORGETTABLE BIKING FUN!!**

Sat 31st May

Charity Spin-athon

Sun 1st June

**Bike parade
@2:30**

**More fun & events to
be announced!!**

Mon 2nd June

**Savage skills BMX Stunt show
Bike stalls & info stands**

**Follow
Athlone Bike Fest
on Facebook or email
athlonebikefest@gmail.com
for more details**



Athlone
Bike Fest



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmh



**WESTMEATH
SPORTS
PARTNERSHIP**
SPORT IRELAND

WPPN Linkage Group Meetings



We had very informative presentations on national/local government programmes given at our recent Linkage Group Meetings. Copies of these presentations can be emailed to any interested group.

Community Climate Action Programme: Andrea Geoghegan, CCA Officer

This programme aims to 'support and empower communities in partnership with their Local Authority to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities to contribute to national climate and energy targets. Andrea went through the eligibility criteria for groups seeking support and the five project themes of the programme; gave examples of projects funded in 2024; noted that phase two of the grants is due to be announced by the Dept soon. Noted that successful groups are not required to provide matched funding and that successful groups can be assisted with some bridged funding support.

Active Travel Investment Programme: Rachel Brown, WCC Transport Dept

Rachael gave an overview of the National Investment Framework for Transport in Ireland 2021, the National Sustainable Mobility Policy 2022, the National Climate Action Plans 2023-2025. She gave a breakdown of Westmeath County Council Active Travel Investment Grants 2025. She also explained the Dept of Transport's Active Travel Investment Programme, the National Transport Authority's Role in Active Travel Projects, Mullingar Local Transport Plan and Athlone Area Based Transportation Assessment (ABTA) 2023.

Creative Ireland Programme for Westmeath: Grace Dignam, Creative Communities Engagement Officer

As part of her overview of the programme and supports available, Grace noted the names of those on the Culture and Creativity Team and the Creative Practitioners in Residence in Westmeath. She listed the Creative Community Projects in Westmeath. She has invited all to attend Chruthú le Cheile in Autumn and is open to hearing from local groups with ideas on how to support the arts locally.

Mullingar E-Working Centre Update

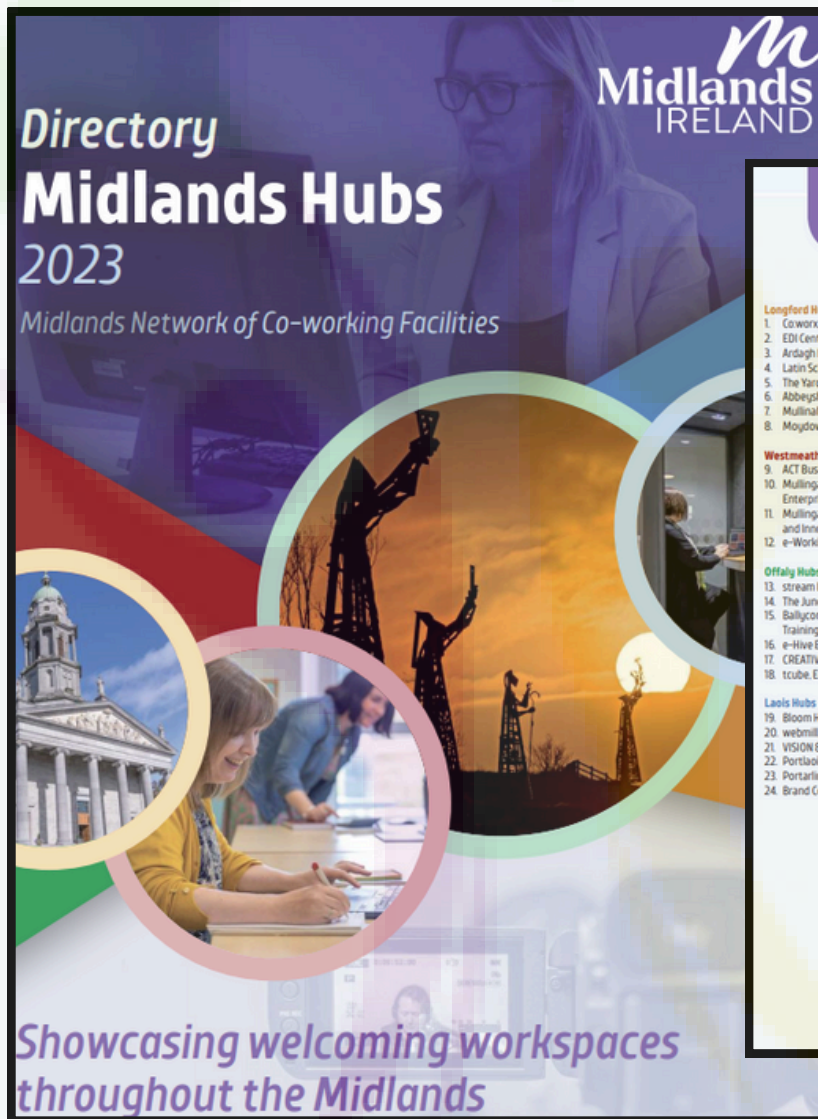
Presentation on the Mullingar E-Working Center located in a building adjacent to the WCC Building. Outlined the facilities available, target audiences, opening hours, booking system and prices.

Email ppn@westmeathcoco.ie for more info on these presentations

Remote Working Hubs in the Midlands

At last month's Linkage Group Meeting we had an interesting presentation on the remote working hub situated next to the main council buildings in Mullingar.

There are three Remote Working Hubs in the county and a further eight community hubs with flexible spaces for meetings rooms and hot desk facilities in Westmeath.



Visit this WCC website page for info and links
www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/business/e-working



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Summer Student Employment Scheme

Open to 3rd Level Students.

Closing Date, 4pm Tues 3rd Jun 2025

More info at

<https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/our-services/your-council/vacancies/>

An Garda Síochána Westmeath Youth Awards 2025

An Garda Síochána Westmeath Youth Awards are a way for communities to recognise young people who have done outstanding work or enjoyed significant achievements.

Closing date for receipt of nominations is 1st August 2025

Click on link or QR code below to nominate.

Garda Westmeath Youth Awards

Eligible for young people aged between 13 and 21



For more info on youth awards visit

www.garda.ie/en/crime-prevention/community-engagement/an-garda-siochana-youth-awards/



Supported by WCC



PCSA

Údarás Póilíneachta
& Sábháilteachta Pobail

Policing & Community
Safety Authority

Public Consultation on Policing Priorities

- The Policing and Community Safety Authority has launched a public consultation on policing priorities for An Garda Síochána for 2026-2028.
- This user-friendly online tool allows you to spend 'points' on the areas of policing that you consider are most important.
- It will take about 10 minutes to complete, and there is a short, optional survey at the end.
- The consultation runs until 08 June 2025
- It is open to anyone over the age of 16.

Visit www.pcsaireland.ie to have your say



**ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES
COUNCIL**

SOCIAL WALKING GROUP

**Join Us and Let's talk
while we walk!**

FOR OLDER ADULTS AGED 65+

**THE GROUP WILL MEET
EVERY SECOND
WEDNESDAY (WEATHER
PERMITTING) STARTING
WEDNESDAY 7TH MAY 2025**

**MEETING AT ATHLONE
REGIONAL SPORTS
CENTRE, BRAUNY ROAD,
ATHLONE @ 2PM**

**CALL: 0906472174/
0852198180 OR EMAIL:
RECEPTION@ACSC.IE**



WALK, TALK, CONNECT



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

WCC's Online Consultation Portal

- Use this site to participate in public consultations.
- View or search for open and upcoming consultations.
- View public surveys.
- Make submissions.
- Register on the site to receive notifications

<https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie>

CONTROL OF WEEDS – HOUSING ESTATES 2025

In accordance with Westmeath County Council's Biodiversity Action Plan and specifically to reduce the use of herbicides and pesticides containing glyphosate, Resident's Associations are advised that the local authority will only spray weeds in estates in the charge of Westmeath County Council if a specific request is received from the Resident's Association for that estate.

The Resident's Association must confirm that the residents wish to "opt in" for weed spraying with glyphosate based products in 2025.

If your Resident's Association wishes to "opt in", you should make contact with your relevant Municipal District office using the following email address on or before Friday 30th May 2025.

Athlone / Moate: athlonemunicipaldistrict@westmeathcoco.ie

Mullingar / Kinnegad: mkmd@westmeathcoco.ie

DEADLINE 30th MAY 2025

WPPN Member Groups Noticeboard



Midlands Polish Community CLG is inviting all to family fun day:

International Children's Day

June 2nd 1:00 p.m.
DRUM COMMUNITY CENTRE
Athlone, N37 T298

KIDS DISCO
ARTS&CRAFTS WORKSHOP
AIRSOFT SHOOTING RANGE
COSTUMED MASCOTS
ARCHERY WORKSHOP
MURAL PAINTING WORKSHOP
GAMING VAN
PINK LADIES GLAM VAN
SOAP BUBBLE SHOW
BOUNCY CASTLE
FACE PAINTING
and many more

to eat: BARBEQUE, CHURROS, ICE CREAM, CANDY-FLOSS *and other treats*
to see: FIRE BRIGADE, AMBULANCE & CIVIL DEFENCE VEHICLES *and more*

€10 wristband kids only - to access all attractions

 **midlands
polish
community**

 An Roinn Leonat, Comhionannais,
Michumais, Línphárlaisíochta agus Oige
Department of Children, Equality,
Disability, Integration and Youth

THIS INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY - FAMILY DAY IS SUPPORTED BY THE COMMUNITIES INTEGRATION FUND

Contact ppn@westmeathcoco.ie to tell us
about your group's events this summer

Kilbeggan Grand Canal Harbour Company AGM

7.45pm

10th June 2025

Harbour Buildings,
Kilbeggan

All invited to
attend!

Enquiries to
Dan Scally - 0872770141

WPPN Member Groups Noticeboard



15 June 2025

For more information visit
<https://www.athloneshow.ie/>



Athlone Agri-Show Committee 2025



Contact ppn@westmeathcoco.ie to tell us
about your group's events this summer

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK

Monday 9th - Sunday 15th June 2025



Shoulder-to-Shoulder Connecting for Health

Find out more at:

www.mhfi.org



Men, on the island of Ireland, experience a disproportionate burden of ill-health.

The Men's Health Forum in Ireland works on an all-Ireland basis to identify the key concerns relating to male health; enhance the health and well-being of men and boys and increase understanding of the issues involved.

More info at <https://www.mhfi.org>

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK



Find out more at www.mhfi.org

What a bloody situation

120/80

Normal blood pressure is 120 / 80. However, raised blood pressure (hypertension) can contribute to a range of health issues including heart attacks and strokes. It is sometimes called the 'silent killer', because there are often few signs that something is wrong - until it is.

www.mhfi.org/HeartHealth.pdf



Get it on

98%

Condoms are 98% effective at preventing pregnancy - if you use them correctly every time you have sex. They also reduce the risk of sexually transmitted infections (STIs).

It's a no-brainer.

For free STI testing visit:
<https://sh24.ie> [RoI] |
<https://sh24.org.uk> [NI]

www.sexualhealthinfo.ie
www.sexualwellbeing.ie/sexual-health

>75%

Watch your head

The mental health of men and boys on the island of Ireland is often poor. Unfortunately, this is borne out in the figures for suicide each year - where **males account for over three out of four** of all the deaths. However, these deaths can be avoided if we all do our bit.

www.yourmentalhealth.ie
www.mindingyourhead.info/resources

Going up in smoke

7500

Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death on the island of Ireland - with an estimated **7,500 people dying each year** from tobacco related diseases. It harms nearly every organ in the human body and is a risk factor for developing many chronic diseases.

www.quit.ie
www.stopsmokingni.info

10.1

It's your shout



It is estimated that the intake of pure alcohol - per person aged 15+ in Ireland - is approximately **10.1 litres per year**. This is the equivalent of 36 x 700ml bottles of vodka, or 108 x 750ml bottles of wine, or 413 pints of beer per person per year.

www.askaboutalcohol.ie
www.drugandalcoholinfo.ie

Take a break

Sleep is important for both your physical and your mental health. It helps to reset and recharge your brain and your body. Generally, adult men need between 7 and 9 hours of sleep a night, while boys need more. The ideal amount is around 8 hours.

8

www.nichs.org.uk/health-information/risk-factors/sleep
www.2hse.ie/mental-health/issues/sleep-problems



MEN'S HEALTH IN NUMBERS

Do you know your numbers?

www.mhfi.org

MEN'S HEALTH COUNTS

Check your bits and bobs



Did you know that **4 out of 10 cancers** can be prevented by having a healthier lifestyle and avoiding risk factors? And here's more good news - there are a number of simple and practical steps that every man can take to reduce their cancer risk.

4/10 Find out about these today.

www.mhfi.org/CancerManual.pdf



Hazardous waist

The amount of weight you carry around your middle can affect your hormones, immune system and increase your risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and diabetes. Measuring your waist is a good way to check your fat distribution. For men, a waist circumference below 37"/94cm is considered to be low risk. However, there are ethnic differences in this cut-off point.

www.choosealivelbetter.com/content/measuring

All clogged up

<5

One of the best ways to prevent strokes or heart attacks is to keep your cholesterol at a healthy level. Cholesterol is a type of fat in your blood. Too much LDL ('bad') cholesterol can be harmful. It sticks to the inside of your arteries and makes it harder for blood to flow through them. For most people, the 'Total Cholesterol' measurement should be no more than 5.

www.direct.gov.uk/conditions/high-cholesterol
www.heart.ie/how-to-keep-your-heart-healthy/cholesterol

4

Why focus on men?

The average difference in life expectancy between men and women on the island of Ireland is 4 years. However, the difference between richer and poorer men can often be much more than this.

It's time for action!

www.mhfi.org/MensHealthNumbers1.pdf

8/10

Food for thought

It is estimated that about **8 out of 10 men** in Ireland don't eat enough fruit and vegetables. The recommended daily amount is 5-7 portions, and you should try to 'eat the rainbow' (a wide variety of colours) whenever you can.

www.safefood.net/healthy-eating

Let's get physical

30x5

All adults should aim for at least **30 minutes a day of moderate intensity physical activity on 5 days a week** (or 150 minutes a week). This time can be added up throughout the day in short spurts - at least 10 minutes here and there will still make a real difference.

www.2hse.ie/living-well/exercise
www.direct.gov.uk/articles/physical-activity

MEN'S HEALTH WEEK 2025



<https://mhfi.org/ActionMan.pdf>

www.furum.ie www.hi.ie www.hse.ie www.nhs.uk

Help yourself

Helpline numbers you need to know...

Emergency Services: 999

Samaritans [NI and RoI]:
Freephone 116 123

Pieta Helpline [RoI]:
Freephone 1800 247 247

Lifeline [NI]:
Freephone 0808 808 8000



www.mentalhealthinland.ie/five-ways-to-wellbeing

**MEN'S
HEALTH
WEEK**

Webinar – Jun 9 12:00 PM

Hosted by Lorcan Brennan, Men's Development Network.

Featuring

Bernard Jackman (Rugby Player)

Michael Darragh Macauley (Dublin Footballer)

Sean Blake (Living with Anorexia)

Joe Grogan (BowelScreen champion)



The graphic is a promotional poster for the Men's Health Week Webinar. It features a teal background with a group of men standing in a line, facing away from the camera, with their arms around each other's shoulders. In the foreground, two men are shown: one holding a microphone and speaking, and another standing next to him. The text on the graphic includes the HSE and hi logos, the title 'Men's Health Week Webinar', the theme 'Shoulder to Shoulder: Connecting for Health', the guest speakers 'Bernard Jackman and Michael Darragh MacAuley', the date 'Monday 9th June 2025', and the time '12pm to 1pm'. At the bottom, there are logos for FORUM, SE TU, and the Men's Development Network, along with a red circular logo for Men's Health Week 2025. A red banner at the bottom right contains the text 'Find out more at www.mhfi.org'.

INVITATION
Men's Health Week Webinar
Shoulder to Shoulder: Connecting for Health
Guest speakers: Bernard Jackman and Michael Darragh MacAuley

Date Monday 9th June 2025
Time 12pm to 1pm

Find out more at
www.mhfi.org

Men's Health week is about shining a light on Men's Health and encouraging all men to think and talk about their health in a positive way.

This year's theme "Shoulder to Shoulder - Connecting for Health" is all about the importance of connectivity and helping each other. Reminding everyone about the importance of not going it alone, that there are supports available and that it is important to take action. Be it, personal action relating to your own health or reaching out and connecting to a service or group to help in your journey towards maintaining both a healthier physical and mental lifestyle.

<https://healthservice.hse.ie/staff/events/webinar-mens-health-week-2025/>

Just Transition Officer Notices

Wetland Restoration Supports

Expressions of Interest (2nd Call) opening in June 2025

Tóchar can assist Landowners, Communities and Local Organisations by providing funding towards survey work, restoration planning, interpretation, raising awareness and education and restoration work on the ground



Visit Tóchar website for more info

<https://www.tocharwetlands.ie/get-involved/>

EU Just Transition Fund

Just Transition Officer Notices



**EU JTF BIOECONOMY
DEMONSTRATION INITIATIVE
2ND CALL**

Pre-call Announcement

Start preparing your
ideas and get your
partners aligned now!

Call will officially open
soon

BIOECONOMY IRELAND



 **Rialtas na hÉireann**
Government of Ireland

 **Árda chomhchistlú ag
an Aontas Eorpach**
Co-funded by the
European Union

 **Tionól Réigiúnach an
Oirthir agus Lár Tíre**
Eastern and Midland
Regional Assembly

More Information at www.gov.ie

<https://www.gov.ie/en/departments/agriculture-food-and-the-marine/publications/2025-eu-just-transition-fund-bioeconomy-demonstration-initiative-call-2/>

EU Just Transition Fund



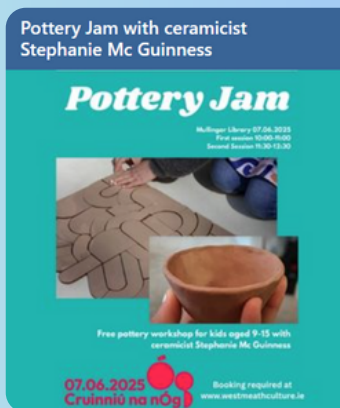
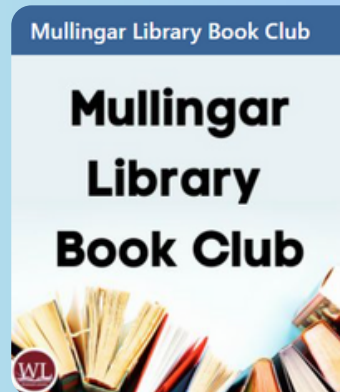
PRIDE FLAG CEREMONY

**Mayor Frankie Keena will be
raising the Pride Flag!**

**Athlone Civic Centre,
N37 P2T5,
Wednesday,
4th June 10am.**



WCC Library Events



For more info on the many events being held visit

<https://westmeathculture.ie/library/>



WCC Library Scheme

First 5

There's a Little Library Bag for every child!

Pick up their **FREE** Little Library Book Bag at your local library

My Little Library Bag

Dear Children,

We know that you are starting school in September. To celebrate this, the Minister for Children has asked us to make a gift of a My Little Library Bag just for you.

The stories in the books are about starting school, being happy in yourself, or making friends, and the bags are waiting for you in a very special place: your local library.

A library card and a special Little Library card wallet is also included with every bag. We hope that you will join the library and come and borrow lots more books whenever you can.

You can also come and hang out and read some books in the library with your parents or guardians if you have some free time.

We hope that this gift of books will lead you to a lifelong link with your library and a love of books and reading.

We look forward to meeting you, and we hope you enjoy the books,

Your local library

Libraries Ireland

Right to Read at your Library

Safefood

First 5

Libraries Ireland

Right to Read at your Library

Safefood

Library Card

For more info visit

<https://westmeathculture.ie/news/library-news/sparking-a-new-chapter-in-young-readers-lives/>





MIDLANDS REGIONAL NETWORK

SUMMER EVENT

Sponsored by DOVIDA (Formerly Home Instead)



TULLAMORE COURT HOTEL, TULLAMORE

THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2025

9.30AM-3.30PM

INFORMATION HUB

GUEST SPEAKERS, RAFFLE, DANCE.



More info at

<https://activeirl.ie>

WCC Heritage & Biodiversity Notes

The Great Irish Fossil Hunt



University College Cork's citizen science initiative.
The Irish Public are encouraged to find, photograph and contribute photos of their fossil finds.

Information to be used to build a fossil map of Ireland.

Closing date 31 August 2025.

<https://www.ucc.ie/en/fossil-heritage/thegreatirishfossilhunt/>

National Biodiversity Data Centre



Makes biodiversity data and information freely available.
Check out their website for other citizen science surveys.

<https://biodiversityireland.ie/>

Keep up-to-date with WCC Heritage News at

WCC Heritage & Biodiversity Notes

Planning your Heritage Week Event?

Deadline for inclusion in county guide is 30th June

The Heritage Week Event registration portal is now open.

The Heritage Office is happy to discuss event ideas and support in any way that we can, please reach out to heritage@westmeathcoco.ie or call Melanie 087 6074496 to discuss your ideas.

There will be a printed county guide again this year so register your event details by 30th June to ensure it is included in the print guide.

<https://www.heritageweek.ie/>



**National
Heritage Week**
A Heritage Council programme

**Exploring Our
Foundations**

16 – 24 August 2025

Keep up-to-date with WCC Heritage News at



CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE'S SERVICES COMMITTEES

**Edgeworthstown
Parent & Baby/Toddler
Group**

Tuesday

10:30 - 12:00pm

The Green, Edgeworthstown

'Every Week on Tuesday'

CONTACT: BRID 087 412 2922

Longford Westmeath Children and Young
People's Services Committee

Co-ordinator: Gráinne Reid

044 935 3957 - grainne.reid@tusla.ie

Primary Care Centre, Harbour Road, Mullingar

More info at <https://www.cypsc.ie/>

Town Centre First

Recent Public Surveys in Castlepollard



To speak to one of the organizers contact
Jason McCormack at 044 9338926 or the
Community Section at 044 9338969 or
email TCF@westmeathcoco.ie with your query



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuisithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Tionscadal Eireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ar dTodhchaí
Tuaithí
Our Rural
Future



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Town Centre First

Community Surveys and Town Centre Health Checks for
Kilbeggan , Rochfortbridge, Kinnegad and Castlepollard

KINNEGAD Town Team Formation

Sector Groups evening Wed 28th May 2025 is cancelled,
New meeting date **Wednesday 18th June 2025** at 7pm
at the Kinnegad GAA Hall, N91 C998

To be considered for membership in the Kinnegad Town Team,
your attendance at this meeting is required.

The Community Development Section of Westmeath Co. Council would like to invite all community members and groups from the Kinnegad area to discuss and decide what sectors should make up the Kinnegad Town Team. All are welcome to this meeting.

Participants will be asked to sit at named sector tables that are of interest to them . A non exhaustive list of possible sector groups that could make up a town team are shown opposite.

If you have an interest in becoming a Kinnegad Town Team sector group member please attend this event and sign up on the night.

Refreshments will be available at the meeting

LIST OF SECTOR GROUPS THAT COULD MAKE UP THE KINNEGAD TOWN TEAM

- Heritage & Conservation
- Residents Associations
- Development Associations
- Youth & Children associations
- Education groups
- Business, Commercial and Social enterprise
- Social inclusion and Age friendly
- Community & Voluntary
- New communities
- Tourism
- Disability and Mental health
- Agriculture and Transport
- Religious group
- Tidy Towns
- Arts & Culture
- Sports
- Elected members
- Political representation organisations
- Biodiversity organisations
- Social Service
- Youth Outreach
- Drugs mental health outreach
- Older persons community outreach
- Community safety & security organisations
- Specialist interests organisations
- Other

For queries please email: TCF@westmeathcoco.ie or phone 044 9332000 and ask for Community Section



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Poball
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Tionscadal Eireann
Project Ireland
2040



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First





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Project Ireland
2040

Ár dTírdhach
Tuithe
Our Rural
Future



Lár Bailte ar dTús
Town Centre First



Invitation to join Kilbeggan's Town Team

6 EXCITING REASONS



1. Celebrate Kilbeggan's History

Help preserve and promote our rich heritage—from the distillery to the canals.

2. Bring Fresh Ideas to Life

Whether it's a festival, public art, or a tidy towns project—your voice matters.

3. Create a Greener, Cleaner Kilbeggan

Support local environmental projects, green spaces, and sustainability efforts.

4. Connect with Passionate Locals

Join a dynamic team of people who care about the future of Kilbeggan.

5. Turn Big Ideas into Real Change

Influence decisions on town improvements, funding, and local development.

6. Be Part of Something Bigger

Support Kilbeggan in the national "Town Centre First" strategy and shape it's future.

*Your
VOICE
MATTERS*

Town Team Formation Evening



ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND



Wed 4th June 2025



7pm to 8:30pm



Kilbeggan Parish Hall

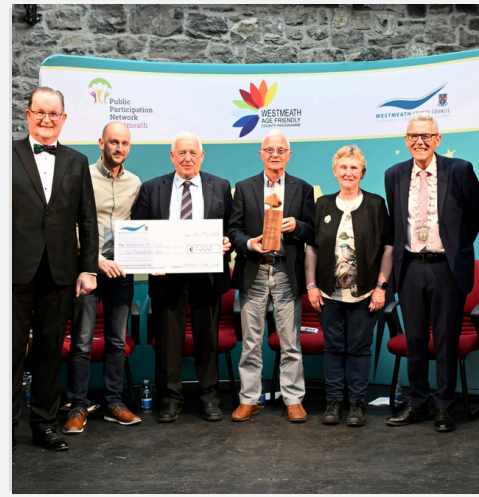
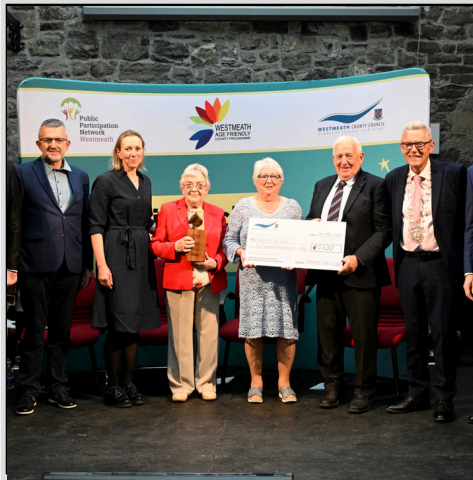
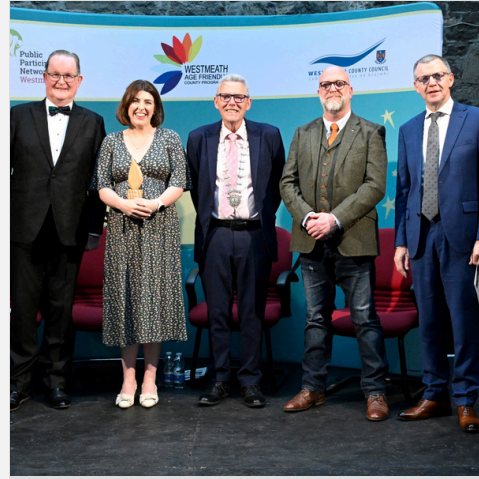


TCF@westmeathcoco.ie



044 933 2133

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May



National Learning Network

Learn to change your story

APPLY NOW

QQI Level 3 Ar aghaidh Linn

**Rehabilitative training
for individuals with
Physical and sensory
challenges**

**Call now:
0867839078**

life-changing **courses**
and **supported** ***training for work***



lwetb
Local Work Enterprise Training Board
Education and Training Board

Romanian Community of Ireland

RCI are conducting an anonymous survey into the needs of the Romanian diaspora in Ireland.



They are calling out to the Romanian speaking community in Ireland, which includes and is not limited to Romanian and Moldovan nationals, members of the Roma community and anyone living in Ireland who speaks Romanian.

Closing Date 22nd of June 2025.

Survey available at -

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_2z3CsmCnUyE-ISI380ebbMMYJI83d1NR7cQYMut-SrL_w/viewform



THE Alzheimer
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

THE ALZHEIMER SOCIETY OF IRELAND

Athlone Day Centre opening in June.

Athlone Support Group



Address

St Mary's Hall, Northgate St, Athlone

[Open on Google Maps](#)



Opening Hours

Last Tuesday of each month @ 7pm to 8pm.



Contact

Eileen Kenny

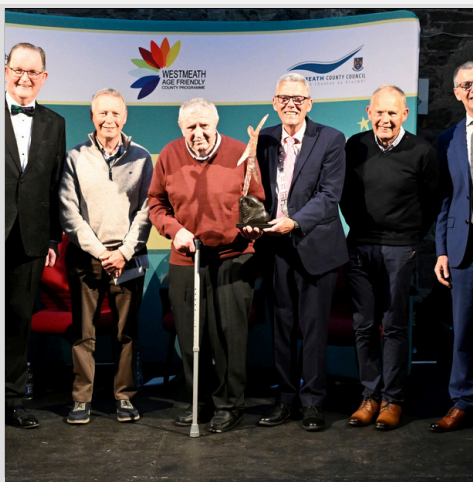
Phone: [085 8723 720](tel:0858723720)

Email: eileen.kenny@alzheimer.ie

Visit their website for more information

<https://alzheimer.ie/location/athlone-support-group/>

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May





Political Communications and Advocacy Skills Workshop

The Irish Council for Civil Liberties (ICCL) with support from St. Stephen's Green Trust are delighted to offer a **free** online political communications and advocacy workshop on **Thursday June 5th, 18:00-20:00**

This workshop is aimed at PPN members in the Midlands and Border area and will cover topics such as;

- *Understanding the political system*
- *Knowing when and how to effectively communicate with TDs and senators*
- *How to research and present information on your causes to enhance political impact*
- *Understanding your lobbying obligations*

To register for this free event please click [here](#). More information on Rochtain can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Scan to access the
'Code of Practice for
the Safe Operation of
Recreational Craft'



SIX STEPS TO SAFE BOATING

The Irish Coast Guard, Water Safety Ireland and the RNLI are sharing **key water safety advice** to help keep you safe on the water:



Check weather, wind, and tides before going on the water.



Always wear a lifejacket.



Inform someone ashore of your plans and return time.



Ensure there is an emergency action plan in place, and everybody has an onboard briefing.



The 'Code of Practice for the Safe Operation of Recreational Craft' contains information & guidance for users.

**112
or
999**

If you see somebody in trouble on the water or along the coast, or think that they are in trouble, dial 112 or 999 and ask for the Coast Guard.



Garda C sta na h ireann
IRISH COAST GUARD



Lifeboats



Rialtas na h ireann
Government of Ireland

From the Rural Development Officer,
Westmeath Community Development

Free Green-Economy Training

***** Extended Deadline - June 2nd *****



FREE!

Green Economy Training Summer 2025

For individuals, community groups, and businesses

- Sustainability
- Biodiversity
- Circularity (e.g. reuse, repair, refurbish)
- Waste management
- Climate action
- Initiatives (e.g. plastic-free, repair café)

**Sign Up By
June 2nd**

7 sessions of practical in-person and online training

Register to meet like-minded people and learn about how make our future greener, cleaner and more sustainable!

Email: leader@westcd.ie

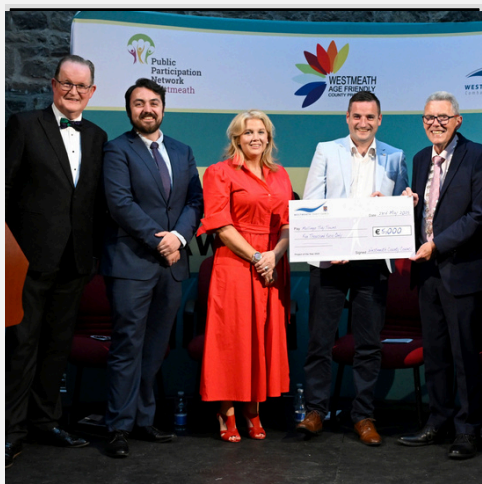
Telephone: 044-934-8571



[Click Here to Sign Up to Green Economy Training](#)

If you have any questions please email Westmeath Community Development at leader@westcd.ie or call 044-934-8571

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May





Free Online Training Course PPN Stakeholder Training

Online self-paced training videos programme for PPN stakeholders.
Registrations for the online only training is now open.

The online training covers the following

- Introduction to the PPNs
- Local Government Budgets
- PPNs and Local Government
- Effective Participation in Consultations
 - Effective Facilitation
 - Strategic Planning
- Measuring Outcomes and Impacts

Provided on behalf of the Department by Social Justice Ireland



<https://www.socialjustice.ie>

REGISTER FOR TRAINING

[Click Here to Register](#)



Announcements from the Department

Launch of the CLÁR 2025 programme

- €11 million available to further build resilience of rural communities
- Focus on community facilities and amenities
- Continued support for vehicles for first responders, meals on wheels and cancer care transport
- Targeted support for island communities and Gaeltacht areas

€1 Million funding to support the work of Men's Sheds

- Funding to support up to 450 Men's Sheds with their running costs
- Grants of up to €3,000 available to Sheds
- Funding will be distributed by Irish Men's Sheds Association

€4 million funding to support social enterprises

- 42 social enterprises to receive between €15,000 and €100,000.
- 83 social enterprises to receive between €1,500 and €15,000.
- Investments made through the Growing Social Enterprise Scheme supported by the Dormant Accounts Fund

Walks Scheme and investment in walking trails

- Funding of €465,000 to upgrade 49 walking trails across the country
- 22 new trails, across 10 counties, added to the Walks Scheme
- 164 trails, involving 2,850 landholders, now supported

Funding Call for Pilot Place-Based Philanthropy projects

- €600,000 fund for pilot place-based philanthropy projects
- Key objective of the National Philanthropy Policy 2024-2028 to promote Government and sectoral partnership
- Supporting community led projects that test innovative, co-funding approaches to addressing local issues

Visit <https://www.gov.ie> for more info



GROW MENTAL HEALTH PEER SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

**National Learning Network Centre
Belhavel Building, Golden Island, Athlone.
Every Wednesday. 7.30pm-9.30pm**

**1428 Retirement Club
Harbour Street, Mullingar.
Every Tuesday. 7.30pm-9.30pm**

**CONTACT ASSUMPTA -0868114135
assumptalyons@grow.ie
www.grow.ie Infoline-0818474474**

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May





'GREEN'

YOUR FESTIVAL & EVENTS



Catering

- Choose local catering companies to reduce transportation miles
- Prevent the creation of waste by limiting the use of disposable items e.g. take away cups, tableware, cutlery, napkins, straws etc.
- For unavoidable waste, provide bins to segregate waste into recyclables, general waste and food waste.
- Encourage the use of reusable water bottles & provide water foundations/refill points at the event.
- Promote a reusable cup system for hot drinks.



Transport

- Promote the use of public transport, have public transport information readily available to and from the venue.
- Plan start and finish times to coincide with public transport timetables.
- Plan and promote efforts like park and stride
- Promote the use of bicycles and have bicycle facilities in place.



Waste

- Never litter – always ensure you bring your waste home or use the bins provided.
- Minimise literature by using emails, online marketing and information boards.
- Use signage and posters that can be reused.
- Encourage use of your website for informational material
- Limit the size, quantity and frequency of printed materials. If printing is required, print double-sided using recycled paper.
- Any branded materials, such as pens etc. should be made of recycled, biodegradable and sustainably sourced materials.



Energy

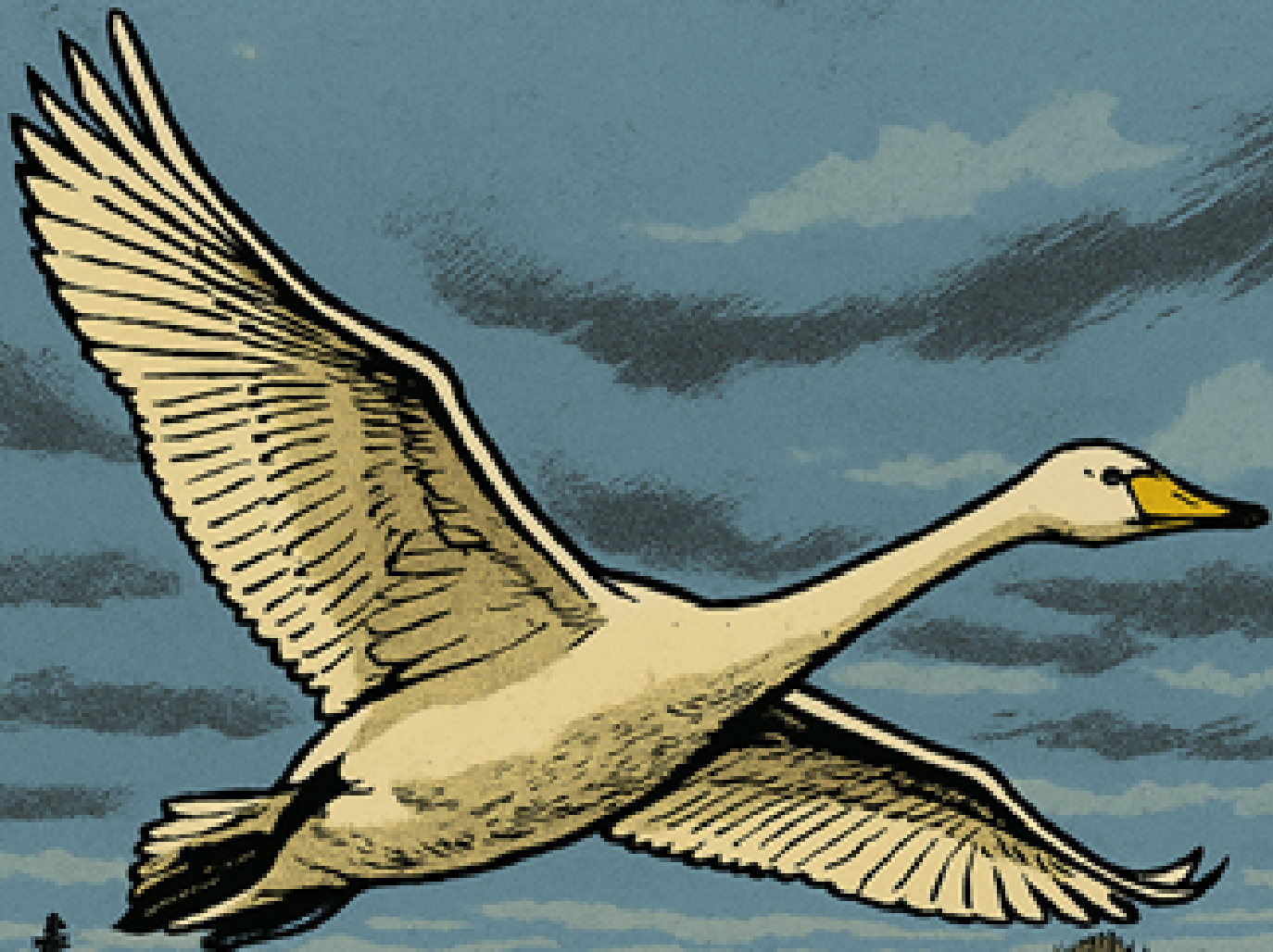
- Use energy efficient equipment where possible
- If using boilers or generators, use sustainable carbon neutral fuels such as biodiesel or wood pellet.
- Use natural daylight as much as possible



SPRING/SUMMER 2025

Flood Talks Rivers

A NEWSLETTER FOR MIDLANDS AND EAST WATER COMMUNITIES



Sign up for the Local Authority
Waters Programme newsletter –
visit <https://lawaters.ie/>



DRINKAWARE

New events page on promoting alcohol-free events in Ireland.



From coffee meetups, creative workshops, sober speed-dating and raves, run clubs ... this page will make it easier to socialise in supportive, sober settings.

Visit DRINKAWARE website at

<https://www.drinkaware.ie/dry-vibe-hub-alcohol-free-events/>

Hosting an event??

contact info@drinkaware.ie



SANCTUARY RUNNERS

Set the Pace - Lead the Change!

- **Solidarity**
- **Friendship**
- **Respect**

Everyone is welcome at Sanctuary Runners!

Come and join the friendliest running & walking group

WHO WE ARE:

- Bringing together your entire community, including asylum seekers, refugees, migrants & Irish residents
- Build friendships, networks & learn from each other
- Get fit, get outside and have some fun!

HOW IT WORKS:

- Come along and walk or run, all abilities welcome!
- Join us at events around the country!
- Be part of the blue wave in your Sanctuary Runner t-shirt!

- 
- New group launching in Mullingar!
 - Run Jog or walk together each Saturday morning
 - Call or email to find out more

 083 4083621

 annemarie@sanctuaryrunners.ie

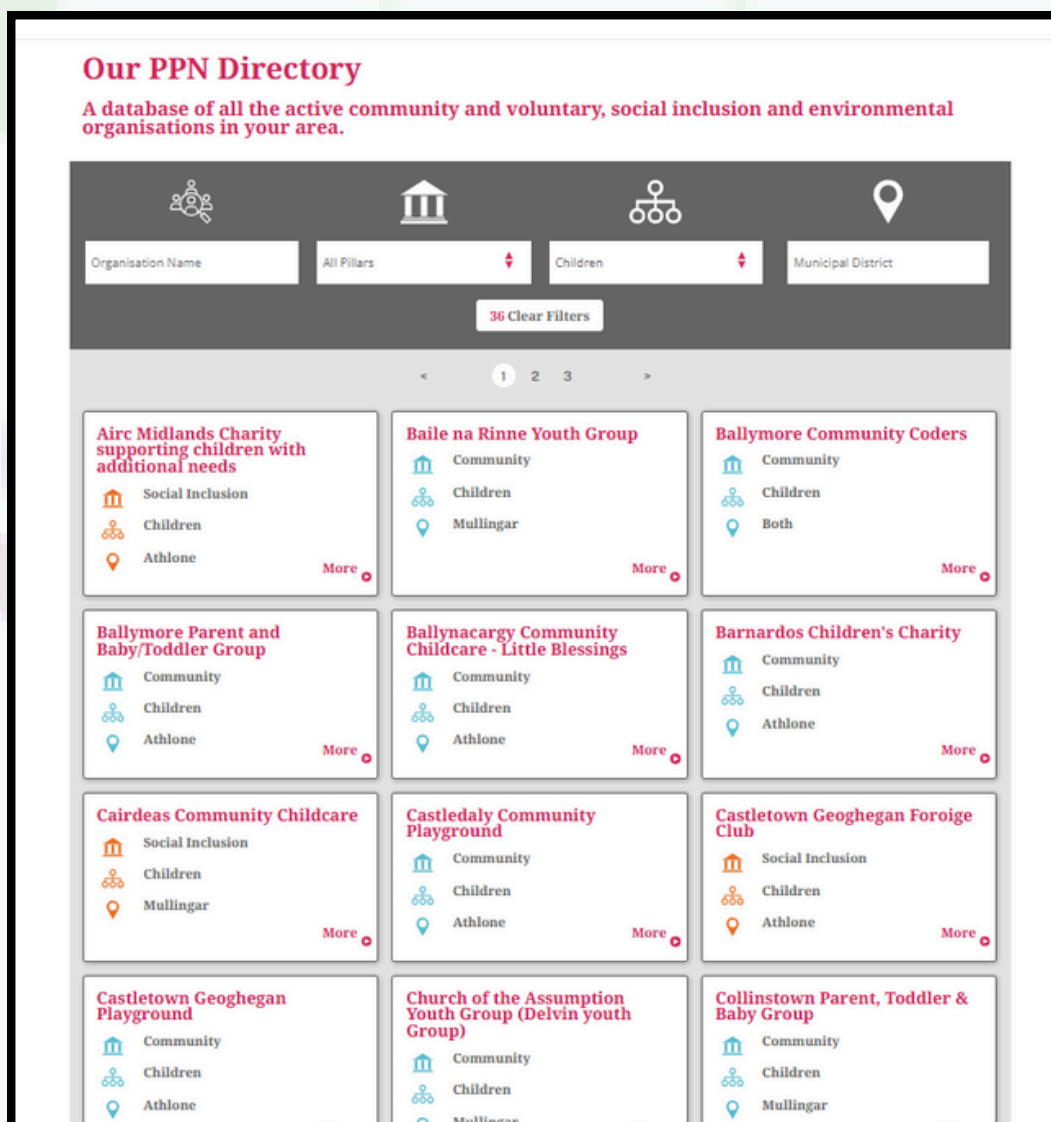
New WPPN Website

Members Page - <https://westmeathppn.ie/members/>

One of the great features of the the website is the 'Members Directory'.

You can use this feature to search for groups in your area, and/or groups doing similar work.

Here's an example to show it could be useful to you. Just say you'd like to see what youth groups are near you. Set the 'Cause' filter to groups that are involved with 'Children'.



Personal contact details are not shared on the site - but if you would like to get in touch with a group, email us at ppn@westmeathcoco.ie and we will make contact on your behalf

Westmeath PPN



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Voice of the Community