



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



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

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 Ahern and Martin Fagan Westmeath PPM

Visit our new WPPN Website at https://westmeathppn.ie/ Contact Mark or Martin at ppn@westmeathcoco.ie or call 044 9332157













MAY 2025













Cruinniú na nÓg - 7th June Westmeath

A day of free creativity for children and young people



Swish & Jiggle Under the

Mullingar Library



Premiere of The Children of Lir

⊙ Mullingar Library



Pottery Jam

Mullingar Library



Blacksmith Demonstration

⊙ The Live Forge @ Dún na Sí Amenity & Heritage Park 9-12 13-15 16-18



Garden to Gallery-Couture Athlone Arts and Tourism Cruinniú na nóg Programme of Events 2025

Athlone Castle Visitor Centre, Abbey Road Artists Studios and Luan Gallery



Teens Telling Tales

⊙ YoYo Café 13-15 (16-18



Inspiration Stations at Moate Library

Athlone Youth Orchestra

Performance

Moate Librar





Mullingar Library

Mullingar Libra



⊙ Aidan Heavey Library

"The Little Prince": A **Multilingual Journey** Through Art and Story



⊘ Aidan Heavey Library





Cruinniú na nÓg - 7th June

Westmeath

A day of free creativity for children and young people



Mindfulness Meditative Workshop





Let Your Creative Spirit Flow

Devine Art Studios



Let Your Creative Spirit Flow

⊘ Devine Art Studios



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg-Creative Writing with Lorraine O The Refill Mill



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg – Chocolate with Nadia

THE

ROOM

The Rubbish Room

BBISH

⊙ The Refill Mill



Mullingar Gathers na nÓg-Mindful Movement with Kim

⊙ The Refill Mill



Animated Athlone

⊙ St. Mary's Hall



Castlepollard Library

⊙ Castlepollard Library



⊙ Tuar Ard Arts Centre



⊙ Columb Barracks

• Water Street Association

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



Your WPPN Reps

Updates from recent Linkage Group meetings



Jack O'Sullivan

<u>Rep to Environment Climate Action Rural Water and Emergency Services Strategic Policy Committee</u> 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

<u>Rep to Planning Regeneration and Transport Strategic Policy Committee</u>

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/disabilityparticipation-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 202

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



https://westmeathculture.ie



Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025

<u>Award Winners Include</u>

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

for bringing young and older people together through creative community initiatives

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May





IDLAND 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, Sialto Community Drugs Team, HIV Ireland, Canal Communities Local Drugs and Alcohol Task Fo 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

encouraging chemical The group are no 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



<u> https://www.westmeathsports.ie</u>

Athlone

Bike Fest May 31st - June 2nd 2025 PEDAL INTO ATHLONE FOR A WEEKEND OF

UNFORGETTABLE BIKING FUN!!

<u>Sat 31st May</u>

Charity Spin-athon

Ath

<u>Sun 1st June</u>

More fun & events to be announced!!

Bike parade @2:30

<u>Mon 2nd June</u> Savage skills BMX Stunt show Bike stalls & info stands Follow Athlone Bike Fest on Facebook or email athlonebikefest©gmail.con for more details

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 Prog<mark>r</mark>amme: 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 <u>www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/</u> <u>business/e-working</u>









Rialtas

na hÉireann

Government

of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann

Project Ireland

2040



Summer Student Employment Scheme

Open to 3rd Level Students. Closing Date, 4pm Tues 3rd Jun 2025

More info at

https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/o urservices/yourcouncil/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-gardasiochana-youth-awards/





Policing & Community Safety Authority

Public Consultation on Policing Priorities

- The Policing and Community Safety Authority has launched a <u>p</u>ublic consultation on policing prioities 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 <u>www.pcsaireland.ie</u> 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, BRAWNY ROAD, ATHLONE @ 2PM

CALL: 0906472174/ 0852198180 OR EMAIL: RECEPTIONGACSC.IE



WALK, TALK, CONNECT



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 east. BARBEQUE, CHURROS, ICE CREAM, CANDY-FLOSS and other treats

C10 wristhand kids only - to access all attractions



Community DiabCie, Integrate 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 mor<mark>e informa</mark>tion visit https://w<mark>ww.athlo</mark>neshow.ie/



Athlone Agri-Show Committee 2025



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



Monday 9th - Sunday 15th June 2025



Shoulder-to-Shoulder Connecting for Health



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 EALTH WEEK



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Find out more at www.mhfi.org



>75% Watch vour head

ntal health of men and boys on the island of Ireland is often poo 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 availed if we

e are a number of simple ical steps that every mar o reduce their cancer ris

Why focus

Find out about

ese today.



very organ in the human id is a risk factor for ing mos

Hazardous

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 weight

distribution. For men, a waist circumference <u>below</u> 37"/94cm is considered to be low risk. Howev there are ethnic differences in this cut-off point.

waist



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.

All clogged up





nutes a day of m physical activity on 5 days a week (or 150 minutes a week), be added up throughou short spurts - at least 10 and there will still make a real diffe



MEN'S HEALTH **WEEK 2025**



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



It's time for action!



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

Help yourself



ans INI a Freephone 116 123

Pieta Helpline [Rol]: Freephone 1800 247 247

Lifeline [NI]: Freephone 0808 808 8000

Webinar - Jun 9 12:00 PM

Hosted by Lorcan Brennan, Men's Development Network. <u>Featuring</u> Bernard Jackman (Rugby Player) Michael Darragh Macauley (Dublin Footballer) Sean Blake (Living with Anorexia) Joe Grogan (BowelScreen champion)

.TH

EEK



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

EU Just Transition Fund

Just Transition Officer Notices



More Information at www.gov.ie

https://www.gov.ie/en/department-of-agriculture-food-and-themarine/publications/2025-eu-just-transition-fund-bioeconomydemonstration-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



Dear Children,

First

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.

Libraries

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

Righten Attion Dreams

For more info visit https://westmeathculture.ie/news/librarynews/sparking-a-new-chapter-in-young-readers-lives/

taken and the set





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.

RDOSE

dock | #129954763

More info at <u>https://activeirl.ie</u>

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

Mutps://westmeathculture.ie

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 <u>heritage@westmeathcoco.ie</u> 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/







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











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

Tuaithe Our Rural

Future

- 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



Tionscadal Éireann roject Ireland



Lár Bailte ar dTús **Town Centre First**





Tionscadal Éireann Project Ireland

aithe agus Pohail



Lár Bailte ar dTús

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.

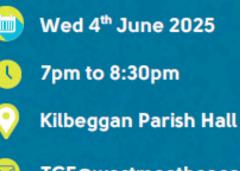
4. Connect with Passionate Locals Join a dynamic team of people who care about the future of Kilbeggan.

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.

Town Team Formation Evening





- 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







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 -<u>https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe_2z3CsmC</u> <u>nUyE-ISI380ebbMMyJI83d1NR7cQYMutt-SrL_w/viewform</u>



CIETY OF IRELAND

Athlone Day Centre opening in June.

Athlone Support Group

Address St Mary's Hall, Northgate St, Athlone <u>Open on Google Maps</u>

- Opening Hours
 Last Tuesday of each month @ 7pm to 8pm.
- Contact
 Eileen Kenny
 Phone: <u>085 8723 720</u>
 Email: <u>eileen.kenny@alzheimer.ie</u>

Visit their website for more information <u>https://alzheimer.ie/location/athlone-support-group/</u>

Westmeath County Council Cathaoirleach Awards 2025 Belvedere House - 23 May



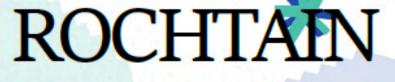












DEMOCRATISING ADVOCACY



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 <u>here</u>. More information on Rochtain can be seen by clicking <u>here</u>.







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.



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



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



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.









Rialtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland

R	st Annual AAY 30 th June 1 st 2025 HE GO	Where Wealth Accumulates and Men Decay" Must Economic Progress Mean Social Inequality DSMITH FESTIVAL
000-		OLIVERCOLDSMITHFESTIVAL.COM
		All Events over 3 days for just €25. Book online
	riday May 30 th	The Rustic Inn, Abbeyshrule. Adm. €10
8.00pm	Recital: Official Opening:	Innyside Singers Senator Michael McDowell
	Chair:	Michael Carrigy T.D.
	Address:	Prof. Frances Ruane 'The role of place in a time of change:
	Music and Song:	Learning from Oliver Goldsmith' Slavek Debski
Sotur		
9.30am	Goldsmith Literary To	UIT: Beginning at Goldsmith Monument, Ballymahon Library and including Forgney Church, the Schoolhouse, Lissoy Parsonage, the Alehouse, the Hawthorn Bush, Kilkenny West, the Busy Mill and the Three Jolly Pigeons.
12.30pm	Prof. David O'Shaugh	
1.15pm	Frank McNally Goldsmith 'Live'	Goldsmith: 'An idiot in the affairs of the world' Chair: Síona Cahill Skelly's Courtyard, Ballymahon FREE EVENT
2.30pm	Costumes, Bookstalls	
3.00pm		rings" String Quartet Recital
4.00pm		aret" The Goldsmith Cabaret presents the brilliant and lovable figure
		of Oliver Goldsmith at the centre of his own musical show.
0.000	Music & Song	with Siofra Jordan & Shane Kennedy
8.00pm	The Three Jolly Pigeo	ons Traditional Music & Readings with Tony Dunne, Jim Mulkerrins Kieran Burke, Colum McDaid & Others
Sunda	y June 1 st Go	Idsmith Room, Ballymahon Library Adm. €10
12.00pm		any with Musical Accompaniment
		eduan, Joan Mulvihill, Benny Reid, Ollie Hegarty, Rev Paddy Conlon
		eamus McCormack
3.30pm	Goldsmith's E 'Poetry at Pallas'	Birthplace, Pallas, Abbeyshrule FREE EVENT
3.30hiii		y readings by the winning entrants of the Goldsmith Poetry competitions.
	Prizes	s sponsored by Nally Bros, Circle K, Ballymahon
		: Noel Monahan Schools: Mary Melvin Geoghegan
	Poetry Reading by No CHEESE & WINE Spons	el Monahan Chair: Ms. Anne Tully sored by Joe and Chris Farrell, Pallas
WESTMEATH COUR Combairle Chostae	ITY COUNCIL 2 Sizesta	FORT Clár Éire Ildánach Creative Ireland Programme CIRCLE (C

From the Rural Development Officer, Westmeath Community Development

Free Green-Economy Training

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

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)

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

Sign Up By

June 2nd

COMMUNITYD



<u>Click Here to Sign Up to Green Economy Training</u>

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













Department of Rural and Community Development



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

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



independent social justice think tank.

https://www.socialjustice.ie

REGISTER FOR TRAINING Click Here to Register

Department of Rural and Community Development



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

<u>Funding Call for Pilot Place-Based Philanthropy projects</u>

- €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 <u>https://www.gov.ie</u> 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 OUR 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.





- 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.



- 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/

All the brank the





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

Pre-Registration Training for Childminders

The **Pre-Registration Training** is mandatory training for childminders and is the first step in registering with Tusla.

It will give you all the information you need to be a childminder, understand the new Childminding Regulations and documents required to register with Tusla.

This training:

- takes approximately 6 7 hours and is FREE
- will be delivered either online or in person
- has no assessment
- will provide you with a certificate of completion
- is available via Westmeath County Childcare Committee

Thursday 5th June On-line 6.30pm - 8.30pm Thursday 12th June On-line 6.30 - 8.30pm Thursday 19th June <u>in Person 10am - 12 noon</u> @ Westmeath CCC Office. Contact Michelle by email: childminding@westmeathchildcare.ie or call 087-433 7700









An Roinn Leanaí, Comhionannais, Míchumais, Lánpháirtíochta agus Óige Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth



SANCTUARY Runners

Set the Pace - Lead the Change!



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 and
- Saturday morning
 Call or email to find out more

083 4083621

annemarie@sanctuaryrunners.ie







New WPPN Website

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

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'.

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organisatori rvane Pirenars	36 Clear Filters	Y Monicipanoisa ita
	< (1 2 3 >	2.2
Airc Midlands Charity supporting children with additional needs Social Inclusion Children Athlone More o	Baile na Rinne Youth Group Community Children Mullingar	Ballymore Community Coders
Ballymore Parent and Baby/Toddler Group Community Children Athlone More o	Ballynacargy Community Childcare - Little Blessings Community Children Athlone More	Barnardos Children's Charity Community Children Athlone More
Cairdeas Community Childcare	Castledaly Community Playground Community Community Community Athlone More o	Castletown Geoghegan Foroige Club Social Inclusion Children Athlone More
Castletown Geoghegan Playground Community Community Children Children Athlone	Church of the Assumption Youth Group (Delvin youth Group) Community Children	Collinstown Parent, Toddler & Baby Group Community Community Children Mullingar

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 DDDDDDDO(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK The Voice of the Community