



Newsletter

AUGUST | MEÁN FÓMHAIR
2025

Hello from Mark and Martin at the WPPN and hope your WPPN groups are running well.

We have a very full calendar of events and news for you this month.

We hosted a pollinator workshop last week in Belvedere. And we're running a free organic workshop in Ballinacarrigy on the 8th Oct - there's still some spaces available.

Our Linkage Group Meetings kick off again this week. The dates and times are in the following pages and there's still time to register to attend.



We've recently held our two Municipal District Submissions meetings in Athlone and Mullingar. Delegates have been chosen for each district. Now it's over to you to send in your group's submissions which you'd like to be considered as part of the process of setting Municipal District budgets. Deadline 21st Sept.

Community Section have launched the Christmas Lights Grant for 2025 and are organising the annual Make Way Day. Our STEM Officer has also put a call out to schools and community groups who would like to host free workshops (see inside).

We are also planning to start a re-registration process where we invite all our groups to update their details and inform us of any changes to their committees etc.

Our WPPN Secretariat will man a stand at the Ploughing next week - say hello if you spot them!

All the best,

Mark Aherne and Martin Fagan
Westmeath PPN

[Keep up-to-date with the WPPN Website westmeathppn.ie](http://westmeathppn.ie)

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



Public
Participation
Network
Westmeath

GROW YOUR OWN WORKSHOP WITH ORGANIC HORTICULTURIST *Colman Power*



GUEST SPEAKER
**COLMAN
POWER**



**MURTAGH'S ORGANIC
FARM N91 PV04**

**OCTOBER 8TH 2025
11:30AM-3PM**

**REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE PROVIDED**



Limited places available contact
Westmeath PPN to book your place

CLICK THIS LINK

Parking available on road outside entrance

Or Scan QR Code



Visit the WPPN Website to sign up!





Municipal
District
Submissions
Meetings.
Athlone and
Mullingar.
Sept 2025



Municipal District Submissions 2025-2026

As part of Westmeath County Council's formal process of drafting Municipal District Budgets for 2026, WPPN are again seeking submissions from our membership.

- Consult with your group and ask them to identify issues of concern for their group, area and community.
- Include as much information as possible. What? Where? When? Have you photos/map coordinates/Eircode etc
- Also include any suggested solutions from your group.
- Your submissions will be collected and compiled by the WPPN Team and will then be presented to the relevant Municipal Districts as part of their budgetary process.

Click to download a blank word-doc form from our website.

Fill out electronically or by hand – email or post completed forms to

- ppn@westmeathcoco.ie
- or post to WPPN, Community Development Section, Westmeath County Council, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath

Completed sheets and documents should be returned to us by **21st September 2024**

If you have any questions or need clarifications, please contact Mark or Martin by email or by phone at 044 9332157.



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí
Community Section News

WCC Christmas Lighting Grant 2025



Online Applications and more info on this grant can be made by visiting the Community Section of the WCC Website -

<https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/communitydevelopment/communitygrants/>

Closing date for applications: 19th Sept 2025

Community Development Section can be contacted on 044 933 8969 or 044 933 2196



Public Consultations

Public feedback is encouraged on the following scheme(s) -

- Ashe Road, Mullingar - cycleway and footpath



04.09.2025 - 14:43
18.09.2025 - 16:00

OPEN

Ashe Road, Mullingar - Cycleway and footpath

Public Consultation

The scheme is designed within the existing road boundaries. It aims to continue the cycle tracks and footpath on the northern side of Ashe Road into town in a similar design to those being provided as part of the adjacent residential development (Greville Park). The scheme includes a raised pedestrian crossing with central refuge; school zone road marking treatments; junction tightening and raised crossings across the access to the Ashefield cul-de-sac, apartment development access (Dún Mhic Colum under construction) and Gaelscoil An Mhuilinn's entrance and exit.

The works will generally consist of the following project elements:

- Excavation and disposal (to an authorised waste facility) of hard surface, soils and subsoils;
- Importation, placement and compaction of hardcore (crushed stone);
- Ducting for and provision of zebra crossing beacons;
- Relocation of drainage gullies and new pipework to connect to existing;
- Installation of 50mm macadam surfacing;
- Plantings and
- Noise and general construction disturbance during daytime hours.

Visit the WCC Consultation Portal for more info and closing dates - <https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie>



STEM Officer Callout

Kelley, our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) Officer, is looking for schools and voluntary groups etc who would be interested in hosting free STEM workshops in their locality.



This is part of WCC programme to encourage interest in young people in Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, with a particular focus on Computer Science.

Examples of workshops would include robotics, coding, micro-bits and AI.

GOTO STEM WEBPAGE FOR MORE INFO

Kelley Keogh, STEM Engagement Officer, c/o Community Development Section, Westmeath County Council, Mullingar.
Email: kelley.keogh@westmeathcoco.ie | 044-9332093

WCC Arts Office Notes



[Click to See What's On in Westmeath this Culture Night](#)

POLLINATOR PLANTING WORKSHOP WITH AOIFE MUNN BELVEDERE HOUSE 3RD SEPT



Get Involved with WPPN Linkage Group Meetings!

[Click Here to register to attend WPPN Linkage Group Meetings this Autumn https://forms.office.com/e/kFaumPcYw2](https://forms.office.com/e/kFaumPcYw2)

Dates and Times of Meetings

Economic Development, Enterprise, Agriculture, Tourism Linkage Group
11th Sept, 6.30pm . Council Buildings, Mullingar

Environment, Climate-Action, Rural-Water, Emergency Linkage Group
23rd Sept, 6.30pm. Council Buildings, Mullingar

Housing Community, Recreation, Culture Linkage Group
25th Sept, 6.30pm. Council Buildings, Mullingar

Planning, Regeneration, Transport Linkage Group
1st Oct, 7.30pm. Radisson Blu Hotel, Athlone

Why should I consider attending?

- The WPPN has four Linkage Groups which mirror the 4 Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) of Westmeath County Council (WCC)
- There are WPPN Representatives on each SPC
- These Reps have been directly elected by the WPPN Member groups.
- These public meetings provide an opportunity for WPPN members to participate in the local democratic process in Westmeath
- Put forward your views and concerns to your WPPN Reps, which can then be fed into WCC through the SPCs
- These meetings are hybrid – so the public can attend online or in-person in Mullingar/Athlone.



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

WCC Community Section Notes



Make way on our streets
for people with disabilities.

Make Way Day on September 27th

[Click here for more info -](#)

<https://www.makewayday.com/about>



WCC Library Events



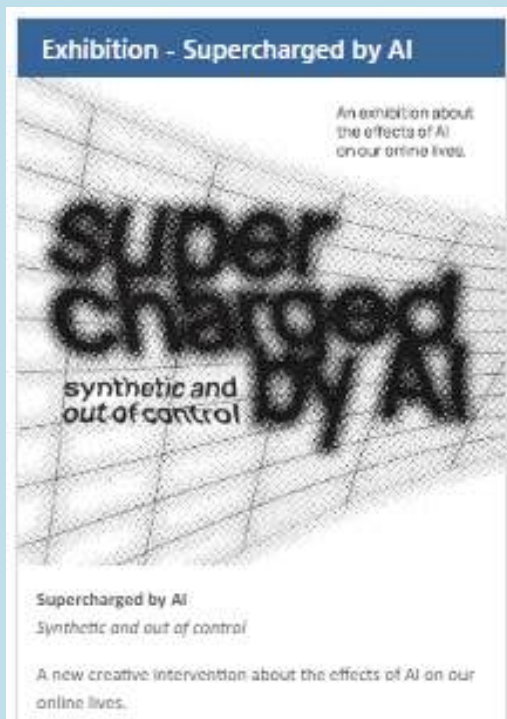
First 5 Libraries Ireland *Makes Every Library Your Local Library*

My Little Library 2025

Parents! Is your child making the big jump from pre-school to primary school?

Your child can collect a free My Little Library Book Bag from your local library. We have lots of books and resources for you!

Riailtas na hÉireann Government of Ireland Right to Read at your Library Riailtas Áitiúil Éireann Local Government Ireland



Exhibition - Supercharged by AI

An exhibition about the effects of AI on our online lives.

super charged by AI

synthetic and out of control

Supercharged by AI
Synthetic and out of control

A new creative intervention about the effects of AI on our online lives.



Kimekomi Workshop

Kimekomi workshop with Wren & Mabel

This Wren and Mabel workshop introduces participants to the Japanese art of Kimekomi, a craft that involves tucking fabric into grooves cut into a base to create decorative items. Participants will learn to make a festive themed Kimekomi decorative...



Creative Expression: Unleash the Writer Within

Creative Expression: Unleash the Writer Within

With Leah Egan



A dynamic 4-week creative writing workshop with award-winning storyteller and filmmaker Leah Egan.

Designed to spark imaginative exploration, strengthen skill and empower writers to overcome creative blocks; each session will offer participants an...



National Public Libraries Open Day

NATIONAL PUBLIC LIBRARIES OPEN DAY

SEPTEMBER 27TH 2025

WL Libraries Ireland

Saturday 27th September 2025 in National Public Libraries Open Day! To celebrate #NPLOD, Mullingar Library will have a variety of events running throughout the day to show-off the many services we provide. No booking, all fun!...



Fix-It Fast: Basic Clothing Repair

FIX-IT FAST: BASIC CLOTHING REPAIR

PART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS WEEK 2025

WESTMEATH COUNTY LIBRARY WL

Facilitated by our friends in Change Clothes, this workshop aims to teach participants how to sew on a button, repair a small tear, or hem trousers. Through these simple methods, we can extend the life of our clothes greatly, and be more responsible consumers...

For full listings on the many events being held in your local libraries visit

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



WCC Environmental Awareness Officer Notes



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For more info visit the REPAK Website at
<https://repak.ie/resource-awards>

WESTMEATH ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Lecture Schedule 2025-2026 Season

2025

21 August: Emma Rothwell

Heritage Week Lunch Time Lecture
Sources for Westmeath Local Studies in the Royal Irish Academy
1pm Mullingar Library

23 August: Seamus O'Brien, Fr Jimmy Murray

Heritage Week field trip. Ballagh Famine Village. 2:30pm Ballagh, Rosemount, Co Westmeath

**30 August: Mosaic Seminar in association with the
Mosaic Artists Association of Ireland (MAAI).**

Prof Anne Byrne: Hidden in plain sight - The Cathedral Mosaics
Vanessa Power: How to use lettering in mosaics
Conducted tour of mosaic chapels in the Cathedral afterwards
Greville Arms Hotel beginning at 11am. Supported by MAAI

24 September: Eamon Doyle

The March into Meath - The 1798 Rebellion in Wexford and the Midlands

4 October: History Workshop. Dr Janice Mann: Genealogy and Local Studies.

Gretta Connell: Tracing your Westmeath ancestors.

Dr Tom Hunt: Doing the history of your local sports club.
9.30am - 4pm Greville Arms Hotel

11 October: History Workshop. Seamus O'Brien

Bringing the Great Famine in your local area to Book.

Paul Gosling: Descriptive writing for Archaeology and Local Studies
9.00am - 1.30pm Greville Arms Hotel

Supported by Creative Ireland and Westmeath County Council

22 October: Dr Gareth Prendergast

Clear Hold Build - How the Free State won the Irish Civil War

26 November: Dr Myles Dungan

Land is all that matters - The struggle that shaped Irish history
Preceded by:

Launch of Iarmhi - Journal of the Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society
launched by Dr Paul Hughes at 7.30pm. *Supported by Westmeath County Council
Decade of Centenary Fund.*

17 December at 7.30pm Book Launch

2026

28 January: Michael Stanley

Dispatches from the debris fields - the late prehistoric and early medieval archaeology
of Toar Bog, co Westmeath

25 February: Dr Edel Breathnach

Monasticism in the early medieval Midlands

28 March: WAHS 9th Annual Conference

Heritage week 15-22 August 2026

North Westmeath Historical Society

Talks to mark the 100th anniversary of the
abolition of Delvin Rural District Council



Saturday 20th of September 2025
St Patrick' Hall Delvin



3.00pm
Talk by Bill Ryan.

8.00pm
Ruth Illingworth on 'Delvin Workhouse'

Free admission
Tea/coffee after both events
Supported by a grant from Westmeath County Council



Heartlands Pride 2025

7th-9th of November 2025.

Committed to providing the visibility and inclusivity to the LGBT+ community in the midlands.



To contact and get involved visit

<https://www.midlandslgbtproject.com/heartlands-pride>



Join Our Team

**ESF+ Social Innovation
in Sport Officer**

Full job description and person specifications available on www.westmeathsports.ie

Closing date for applications is Friday, 12th September 2025 at 4pm





LATEST NEWS

Job Opportunity

- Westmeath County Council invites applications from suitably qualified persons who wish to be considered on a panel from which a fixed term contract post for the position of ESF & Social Innovation in Sport Officer will be drawn.
- The role involves providing Support access to employment for young people and under-represented groups
- Promote skills and lifelong learning
- Tackle poverty and social exclusion

Follow us on social media or check out our website
Website: www.westmeathsports.ie
Call: 044-9390208.
Email: info@westmeathsports.ie

Busy September at Community Sports Hubs

- Four new exciting programmes are due to begin in September at our Community Sports Hubs in Co. Westmeath;
- Get ready for the autumn with the inclusive programmes designed for everyone, from mothers and babies; ladies only and mixed Pilates; physical activity classes for children and teens with additional needs and line dancing enthusiasts at our Community Sports Hubs.



MAROON LAKERS
Physical activity group for children with additional needs
Get active and make new friends
 SATURDAY 10:00AM - 11:00AM
 8 week programme (12th Sept - 10th Oct)
 COST - €30



ATHLONE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB
LINE DANCING
 10TH SEPT - 15TH OCT
 WEDNESDAYS @ 12:30 - 1:15
 ALL SKILL LEVELS WELCOME



ATHLONE COMMUNITY SPORTS HUB
MOTHER & BABY POSTNATAL PILATES
 Mothers and babies up to 6 months
 10th September - 15th October
 €30 for 6 weeks
 Wednesdays @ 13:30-14:30
 Athlone Regional Sports Centre



Castletown Geo Community Sports Hub
Pilates Classes
 Ladies Only
 10:00AM - 12:00PM
 To Book
 044 939 0208 or email
 info@communityhub@geo.ie
 Mixed Class
 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Westmeath Just Transition Officer Notices

Community led Dysart River Project shortlisted for national environmental prize



A community project in Dysart has been selected for the longlist of The Irish Times Ireland's Greenest Places 2025 awards. This project is good example of building awareness and different groups and individuals working together.

The Dysart River was selected as a priority area for the Local Authority Water Programme (LAWPRO) because it was thought to be polluting Lilliput bathing waters. Losing this amenity as a bathing spot would be a huge loss to the community. Poor water quality can have an effect on an entire community, and it takes community action to fix it.

One of the issues affecting water quality in Lough Ennell, from an agricultural point of view, was cattle access points along the Dysart River. Farmers within the catchment wanted to play their part in protecting and improving water quality. Remedial actions such as solar-powered cattle drinkers on farms were put in place.

At the core of this community project was the unique relationship between LAWPRO scientists and community officers and Teagasc Agricultural Sustainability Support Advisory Programme (ASSAP) advisers and landowners who worked to put remedial actions in place. Lilliput Lough Ennell is classified as achieving Good Water Quality in 2024 based on the assessment of bacteriological results for the period 2021 to 2024

The official shortlist for Ireland's Greenest Places 2025 will be announced at the end of August, and winners will be announced in mid-September



Westmeath Just Transition Officer



Tóchar
Athchóiriú Bogach Lár na Tíre
Midlands Wetland Restoration

Public Information Evening
Fens
The Hidden Treasure of the Midlands

Thursday, September 11th
7:30–8:30pm
Bloomfield House Hotel, Co. Westmeath, N91 HP8E

Tóchar Wetland Restoration

- Expressions of interest open
- Incentive payment to landowners available plus 100% for restoration planning and works.

Tóchar Community Stories

- Workshops and informal conversations to facilitate people living in the region to map their journey, past, present and envisioned future.

Visit <https://www.tocharwetlands.ie/> for more info OR
Contact Edel Ennis, Westmeath JTO at edel.ennis@westmeathcoco.ie



Westmeath Just Transition Officer

Circular Communication Grants

Are you part of a community group, voluntary organisation, or small business with circularity at its core?

If so, then Circular Communication Grants are here to help you share your message and grow your impact.

Are your group involved in practices that keep materials and products in use?

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 grants are designed to support you.



Visit <https://www.circular.ie/circular-communication-grants> for info

WCC Heritage Officer Notes

Built Heritage Grants 2026

WCC is inviting applications to apply to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2026.



- This scheme offers funding for repair/conservation works to qualifying structures including protected and proposed protected structures; structures in Architectural Conservation Areas; vernacular buildings and historic shopfronts.
- The BHIS Historic Thatch Buildings (HTB) fund 2026 also provides support for the conservation of historic thatched buildings.

For more information please visit

<https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/planning/conservationheritage/conservationheritagegrants/>

Deadline for submission of completed applications is 4pm on 26th September 2025

Keep up-to-date with WCC Heritage and Arts News at



Heritage Keepers

HERITAGE KEEPERS **ROUND 5**

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

Free workshops and a grant to support local heritage action and fieldtrip for community groups and primary schools nationwide



Visit heritagekeepers.ie for more information



APPLY NOW



heritagekeepers.ie



Heritage
Keepers

burren**b**o**t**r**u**st
connecting people and place



Sunflower
Charitable Foundation

WCC Heritage Officer Notes

Heritage Council Networking Event

Free Community Heritage Group
Information and Networking Event
9.30am- 3.30pm
27th September 2025
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore

Keep up-to-date with WCC Heritage and Arts News at



<https://westmeathculture.ie>



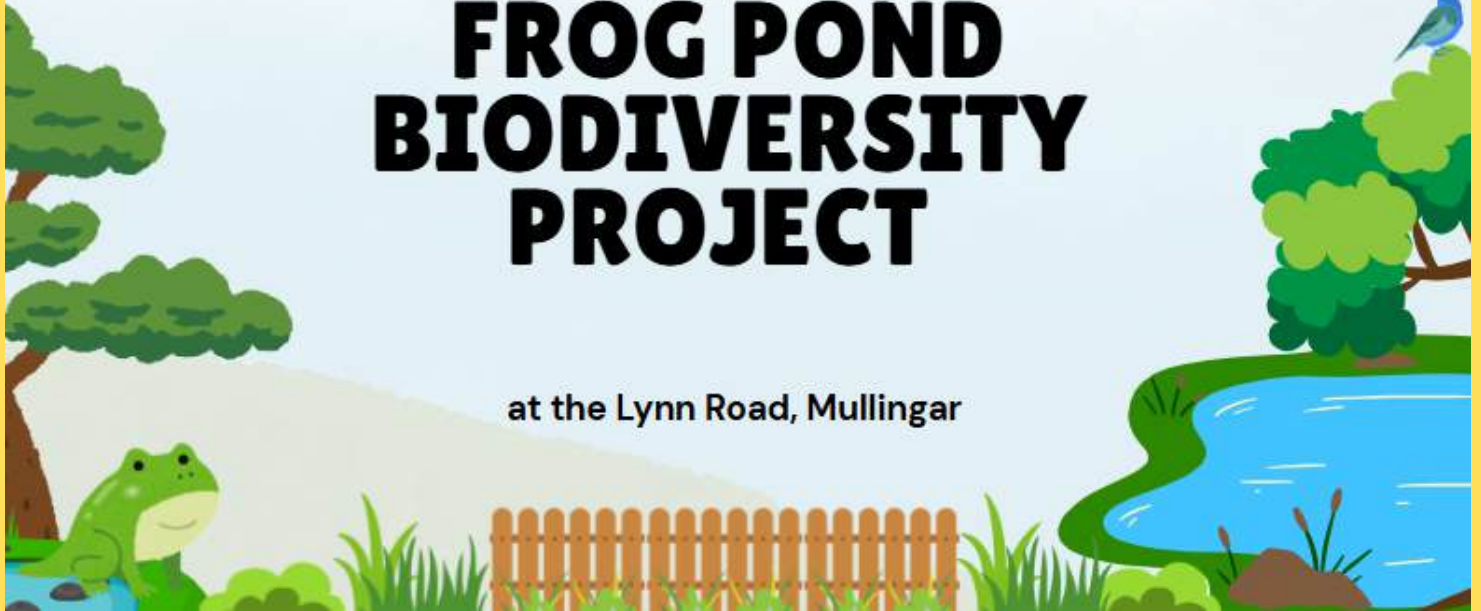


GAELSCOIL AN CHOILLIN AGUS A CHAIRDE
PRESENTS



FROG POND BIODIVERSITY PROJECT

at the Lynn Road, Mullingar



Gaelscoil an Coillín are working to create a wetland habitat on the school grounds with a collaborative wetland building project involving multiple local groups.

The project will raise awareness among students and staff of local schools about the importance of aquatic biodiversity and will be a focus area for everyone in Mullingar to get a greater understanding of water quality generally.

[Click here for presentation on this project](#)

WCC Biodiversity Notes

Community Foundation Ireland Biodiversity Fund 2025



Now open. Closing 4pm, Fri 17th October 2025.

- Community groups may apply for a grant to engage an ecologist and develop a Community Biodiversity Action Plan (CBAP) for their local area.
- Any organisation who has a CBAP may apply for funding to implement its recommendations. This strand is also for groups seeking to renew their CBAP.
- Please check the [Actions for Biodiversity](#) website and consult with the Westmeath Biodiversity Officer before applying.

More info at

<https://www.communityfoundation.ie/grants/biodiversity-fund-2025/>

National Landscape Forum 2025



“Managing our Heartland Landscape and the Rivers that define it”
9am, Thurs 25th and Fri 26th Sept 2025
Sheraton Athlone Hotel

[To book your place click here](#)



This EU wide public consultation explores all areas relevant to affordable housing in the EU



Have your say by filling out the online questionnaire by 17 October 2025.

Dan Jørgensen: European Commissioner for Housing

- *“Tackling the housing crisis which is affecting millions of Europeans requires inclusive action”*
- *“The voice of our citizens is extremely important to shape a European Affordable Housing Plan which can really impact people’s lives across the entire European Union.”*
- *“If we want to make sure all Europeans have an affordable, sustainable and decent home, we need to work together across all levels of governance and sectors.”*



Public Consultation

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities: Strategy to support the community and voluntary sector



- The Department are currently leading on the development of a successor strategy which will run until 2030
- As part of this process the Dept will engage with national and local government and key stakeholders from the community and voluntary sector.
- [Click on this link to visit Consultation Website](#)

Sustainable, Inclusive and Empowered Communities

- A five-year strategy to support the community and voluntary sector in Ireland 2019-2024/5
- The Department are currently leading on the development of a successor strategy which will run until 2030
- As part of this process the Dept will engage with national and local government and key stakeholders from the community and voluntary sector.

Pobail Inbhuanaithe, Chuimsitheacha agus Chumhachtaithe

- Straitéis cúig bliana chun tacú leis an earnáil phobail agus dheonach in Éirinn 2019-2024
- Sa straitéis cúig bliana chun tacú leis an earnáil phobail agus dheonach in Éirinn, leagadh amach fis fhadtéarmach dár bpobail in Éirinn. Leagadh treo ginearálta amach inti do bheartas an rialtais i ndáil le forbairt phobail, forbairt áitiúil agus na hearnálacha pobail agus deonacha do na deich mbliana atá romhainn.
- Chuir an Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta, comhghleacaithe an Rialtais Láir agus Áitiúil, agus na hearnálacha pobail agus deonacha an Straitéis i dtoll a chéile.

[Click on this gov.ie link for more info](#)

WPPN Member News

Newtown Lawns Housing Estate

A Community Property Marking Event was held on 5th August 2025 in the estate

Organised by Community Gardai from Mullingar Station using the WPPN property marking machine.

Property such as bicycles were security marked to discourage potential thieves.



WPPN Member News

Comhaltas : Frank Gavigan Branch

 **Comhaltas**

THE FRANK GAVIGAN BRANCH CCE

INVITE YOU TO JOIN US FOR AN EVENING OF MUSIC, FOOD & FUN ON

WEDNESDAY 17TH SEPTEMBER '25

8PM – 10PM

LAUNCH OF OUR NEW DVD

“Echoes of Milltown and Rathconrath, Music through the Generations”

In

The Annebrook Hotel, Mullingar

Admission Free!

Finger Food provided & showing of DVD followed with Music by The Rathconrath Ceili Band.

Raffle on the night!

RSVP BEFORE 10TH SEPTEMBER TO moyra1@live.com or call 087 2624242

There will be a Bus to/from the Annebrook with pick-ups at Milltown School, McCawleys-Moyvore & Gunnings Pub-Rathconrath - €5 per person.

If interested please contact Paddy Gavigan on 086 3030589 BEFORE 10th Sept '25

Westmeath Community Climate Action Officer Notices

Phase 2 - *Launching Sept 2025*

Community Climate Action Fund

Building **Low Carbon
Communities** in Westmeath

Funding will be made available to local community groups to support local projects which help:

- ✓ Reduce Greenhouse gas emissions
- ✓ Increase climate resilience
- ✓ Assist transition to a low carbon economy

*Funding available for
Small, Medium and Large
Projects*

EMAIL:
ageoghegan@westmeathcoco.ie
to register your interest



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Contae na hIarmhí

**Contact Andrea Geoghegan, Community Climate
Action Officer, to register your interest -
044-9332125 ageoghegan@westmeathcoco.ie**

[More info on the WCC website's Environment page](#)



FREE WORKSHOP ON

SUSTAINABILITY AND BIODIVERSITY

Join us for an inspiring workshop dedicated to empowering communities through sustainable action and the celebration of local biodiversity!

- **Who should attend?** Members of Tidy Towns, Sustainable Energy Communities, or anyone interested in Biodiversity & Sustainability topics.
- **What to expect:** Engaging sessions led by experts, and practical knowledge you can take back to your group with a focus on improving your Sustainability and Biodiversity categories for Town Teams adjudication.

Where: Belvedere House &
Gardens
October 18th

To attend and for further details register here:
<https://forms.microsoft.com/r/Lf8ucXsX6E> or Scan the QR
code:



If you would like to attend, please complete the registration form at this link

Midland Sustainability and Biodiversity Network



Midlands Sustainability & Biodiversity Network

The Midlands Sustainability & Biodiversity Network is a grouping of community organisations with a common interest in Sustainability and Biodiversity. The Network is supported by The Wheel's *Training Links* programme. Led by the EDI Centre in Longford, the Network includes Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC's) and Tidy Towns groups in Laois, Longford, Offaly, Roscommon, and Westmeath.

Our main objective is to develop capacity and create synergies among the extensive network of Tidy Towns groups and SEC's in Ireland – empowering them to deliver Sustainability and Biodiversity projects.

The Network will deliver a series of Sustainability & Biodiversity workshops across the Midlands in 2025 & 2026, together with SEAI County Mentors and Consultants from *Woodrow Environmental Consulting*. Workshops will include details of the Tidy Town's Biodiversity and Sustainability adjudication categories and visits to local sites and projects.

The first workshop will take place on **20th September 2025** in **Lanesborough, Co Longford** – in association with Longford County Council, Ballyleague Tidy Towns, and the Longford Renewable Energy SEC. All community organisations are welcome. To attend this workshop please register at: <https://forms.office.com/e/e8MeH3TV7S>

Workshops are also scheduled for October/November in Laois, Offaly, Roscommon & Westmeath. For further details, please phone or email:

087 2222543

HBaxter@CerenaConsulting.onMicrosoft.com



If you would like to attend, please complete the registration form at this link

<https://forms.office.com/e/e8MeH3TV7S>

LAWPRO

Local Authority Waters Programme

Athlone Canal Heritage Committee Annual Canal Awareness Event



Mon 22nd Sept 2025
10.30am-12.30pm
Shamrock Lodge Hotel

[ACHC Facebook Page](#) | Supported by LAWPRO

Visit **LAWPRO** site for more
details www.lawwaters.ie

Disability Participation News Hub

The DPNH would like to draw your attention to the following open Public Consultations

Call for written submissions on the draft guidelines on addressing multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination against women and girls with disabilities

Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Deadline: 15th October 2025 - **Deadline Extended**

Public Consultation on the Tertiary Education Strategy

Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science

Deadline: 19th September 2025

Climate Conversations 2025 Consultation

Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment

Deadline: 22nd September 2025

EU Anti-Poverty Strategy

European Commission

Deadline: 24th October 2025

Public consultation on the successor to Pathways to Work 2021-2025

Department of Social Protection

Deadline: 30th September 2025



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

Sign up to their newsletter or follow on social media
<https://mailchi.mp/3ce7ca8f3fc3/disability-participation-news-hub>

WPPN Member News

Milltownpass Tidy Towns

Milltownpass Bog & Woodland Trail has been entered as an entry for Westmeath in the National Pride of Place competition





WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT GRANT SCHEME 2025



- 75% grant aid up to €4,500 for solo applications.
- 75% grant aid up to €6,000 for collaboration projects and disability and Age Friendly access works.
- Previous grant recipients may apply for a second grant within 5 years for different works.
- Includes painting of upper floors of building to blend in with shopfront.

For full details and application forms please log on to www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/business/shopfrontenhancementgrantscheme/ or contact:
Local Enterprise Office, Westmeath County Council,
Áras an Chontae, Mount Street, Mullingar, Co. Westmeath
Tel: 044 9338945
Email: localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie



WORKS COMPLETED PRIOR TO GRANT APPROVAL WILL NOT BE FUNDED

[For more information click on link below](http://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/business/shopfrontenhancementgrantscheme/)

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Westmeath County Council has funding available for business owners to improve the building facades of their properties.

The aim of the scheme is to enhance the streetscape and environment of towns and villages.

The following towns/villages are eligible -

Mullingar, Athlone, Castlepollard, Kilbeggan, Kinnegad, Moate, Ballinagore, Ballinalack, Ballykeeran, Ballymore, Ballynacarrigy, Castletown-Geoghegan, Clonmellon, Collinstown, Coole, Delvin, Finnea, Glasson, Killucan/Rathwire, Milltownpass, Multyfarnham, Raharney, Rathowen, Rochfortbridge, Tyrrellspass.



<https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/business/shopfrontenhancementgrantscheme/>



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

UK Emergency Alert

This Sunday, 7th September, at 3 pm the UK Government will test its emergency alert system.

Those located in border counties at that time may receive a text and audio alert, and a vibration of up to 10 seconds on their phones. This emergency alert will look and sound different to other types of messages such as SMS text messages.

There is no cause for concern, and no action needs to be taken by you.

Important message
for those living in,
or visiting, border
counties.

Public Notice of
UK Emergency Alert Testing
Sunday 7th September, 3pm



Riadas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Hedge Cutting season 2025 - 2026

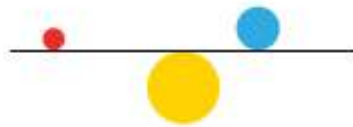
NOTICE TO LANDOWNERS AND OCCUPIERS OF LAND REGARDING OBLIGATION TO CUT/TRIM ROADSIDE HEDGES/TREES

Landowners including householders and occupiers of land are reminded that the period for Hedge Cutting runs from 1st September 2025 to the 28th February 2026.

- Please ensure that your roadside hedges and trees do not put any person's life in danger.
- Section 70 of the Roads Act 1993 obliges landowners to ensure that any structures, trees or hedges on their property:
 - Do not obstruct or interfere with the safe use of the public road or footpath
 - Do not obstruct or interfere with the maintenance of the public road or footpath
 - Do not pose a hazard to people using the public road or footpath
- Hedgerows along public road that require cutting or trimming back should be cut immediately and all cuttings removed from the roads and verges. Adequate signposting should be provided.

For more information visit

<https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/yourcouncil/councilnews/hedgecuttingseason2025-2026.html>



Balancing Stress

Practical skills to cope with stress



- 1 Understanding stress
- 2 Managing worry
- 3 Managing anxiety
- 4 Managing low mood and depression
- 5 Stress and relationships
- 6 Balancing stress now and into the future



A free HSE online stress management programme

What is it?

Balancing Stress is the HSE's free online programme to manage stress, worry, anxiety, low mood and relationship difficulties.

How do I take part?

www.hse.ie/balancingstress
No registration is required. There are six sessions you can watch anytime, at your own pace.

Presented by:

Dr Niamh Clarke
HSE Principal Psychologist



Visit <https://www2.hse.ie/mental-health/self-help/balancing-stress/> to learn more

Start Your Journey Today

Every foster child's journey begins with a person like you. Could you be the person who gives a child a chance at a better life? Take the first step towards becoming a foster carer and help make a positive difference in your community. Join us and together we can show children that they are valued, loved, and deserving of a bright future.

Visit: fostering.ie

Freephone: 1800 226 771

Email: tusla.fostering@tusla.ie

TUSLA

An Ghníomhaireacht um
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach
Child and Family Agency



We foster, could you?

Discover the Rewards of Fostering



More info at

<https://www.tusla.ie/services/alternative-care/foster-care/>

IRVA YOUTH PLEDGE CAMPAIGN

Take a Stand for Safer Roads

I pledge to:

- Never drive under the influence of alcohol or drugs
- Never use my phone while driving
- Speak up if I feel unsafe in a car
- Always wear a seatbelt
- Always wear a helmet when using bikes or scooters
- Slow down and respect speed limits
- Protect lives by making safe choices on the road

[Click here for Pledge Webpage](#)



Irish Road Victims Association

For more info on Westmeath Comhairle na nÓg visit <https://comhairlenanog.ie/local-comhairle/westmeath/>

Athlone Community Radio

Athlone Community Radio - 88.4FM

<https://athlonecommunityradio.ie/>

Listen back to podcasts on Mixcloud.

Local broadcaster Ursula Ledwith attended Young at Heart's 5th anniversary event 'A Day of Unity' and spoke to guests from AA and Al Anon about life with alcohol and beyond.

Their journeys, laughter and tears all wrapped up into one hour of courage.

Programme originally broadcast on 25th December 2018 on Athlone Community Radio



This project is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme

POWER TO CHANGE

Building capacity within community groups to take positive actions to address the challenges of Climate Change

Community Groups' Greatest Challenges



[Take a short survey by clicking here](#)

Power to Change initiative is -

- research into the key challenges facing the community and voluntary sector
- measuring effects on grass roots community activity and volunteering
- undertaken by Atlantic Technological University in partnership with Sligo PPN
- intended to be of benefit to the entire PPN network and the broader community sector
- funded under the Community Climate Action Programme
- [more info at https://www.sligoppn.com/power-to-change](https://www.sligoppn.com/power-to-change)



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Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040





**ATHLONE COMMUNITY
SERVICES COUNCIL**



HEALTHY AGEING LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME

EMBRACE HEALTH, WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY

Structured Exercise Classes - Nutrition Workshops -
Meditation and Wellness - Social Activities

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Starting September 2025

☎ 090 6472174 or 085 2198180

✉ reception@acsc.ie

🌐 www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL

DIGITAL SKILLS WORKSHOP

Build confidence using your smartphone

Join us for friendly, supportive learning sessions

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!



STARTING SEPTEMBER 2025

☎ 090 6472174

✉ reception@acsc.ie

🌐 www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com





ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL



JOIN US FOR JOYFUL SINGING!



SING ALONG SESSIONS

COMMUNITY SINGING GROUP

BOOK YOUR PLACE TODAY!

Starting September 2025

☎ 090 6472174

✉ reception@acsc.ie

🌐 www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

Institute of Public Health



FREE ONLINE WEBINAR

*“Physical Activity in Later Life:
Staying Active in an Online World”*

10am Thurs 23 Oct 2025

The Institute of Public Health’s webinar will focus on staying active in a digital world, particularly as we age.

Including presentations from -

Professor Adrian Bauman, Director of Prevention Research
Collaboration, Sydney School of Public Health

Dr Jacqueline Mair, Senior Scientist, Mobile Health
Interventions, Singapore-ETH Centre

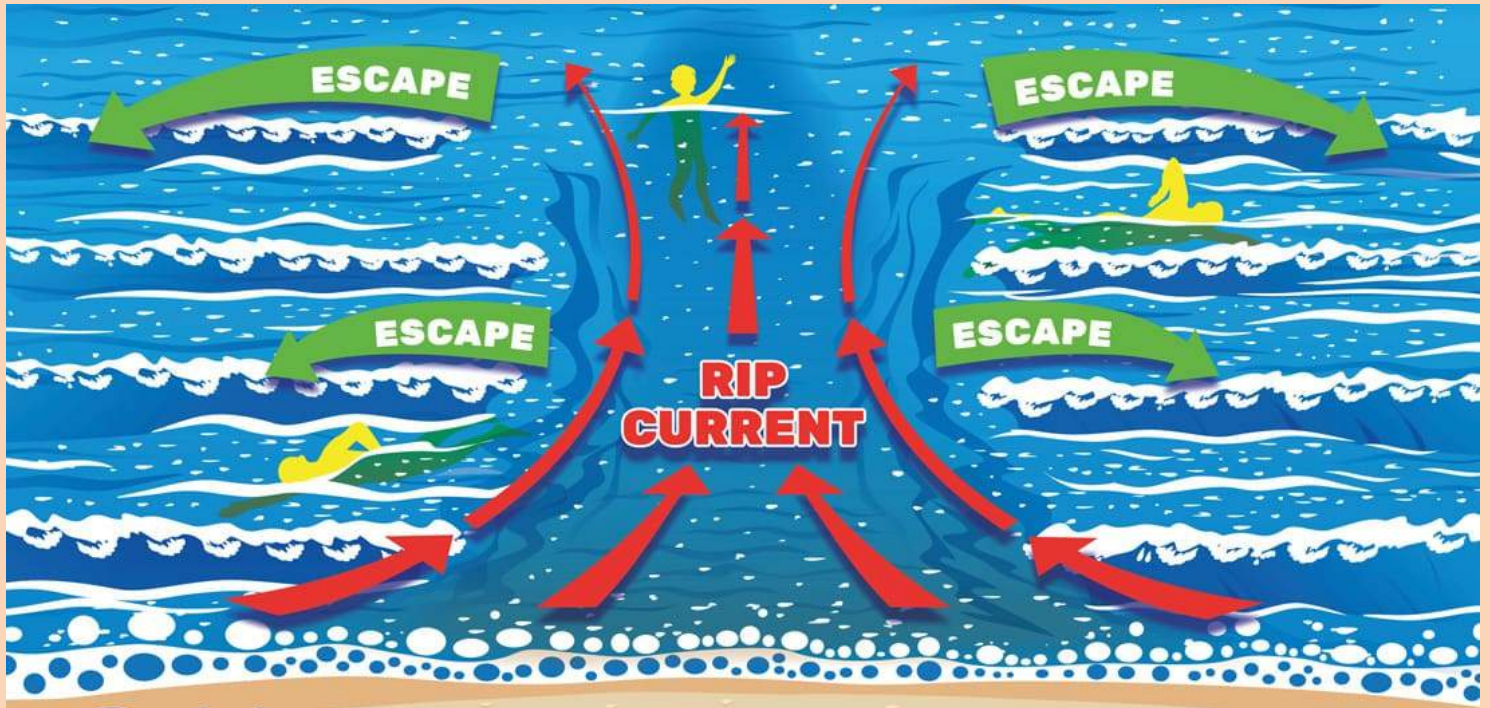
Meg Hegarty, Active Programme FitLine Coordinator, Age and
Opportunity

[More info at https://www.publichealth.ie/](https://www.publichealth.ie/)



**SÁBHÁILTEACHT UISCE
NA hÉIREANN**
WATER SAFETY
IRELAND

Get informed about Water Safety at
<https://watersafety.ie>



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.



Westmeath Community Development

FREE SNA & INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY STUDIES COURSES IN ATHLONE



Westmeath Community Development would like to offer you the opportunity to participate in **FREE** training in Athlone

- **Special Needs Assisting QQI level 5**
Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd October, 6th & 13th November 2025 from 10am - 3pm each Thursday
- **Special Needs Assisting QQI level 6**
Thursdays 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd October, 6th & 13th November 2025 from 10am - 3pm each Thursday
- **Intellectual Disability Studies QQI level 5**
Mondays 13th & 20th October, 3rd, 10th, 17th & 24th November 2025 from 10am - 3pm each Monday

Eligibility: Anybody who is unemployed, working part-time, or on a CE/TUS scheme, living in Co. Westmeath and permitted to work in Ireland

You do not need to be in receipt of a jobseekers payment.

For more info visit - <https://westcd.ie>



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Áras chomhoibriste ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-Funded by the
European Union



pobal
government supporting communities

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
COMhairle Contae na h-Éireann



The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is co-funded by the Irish Government, through the Department of Rural and Community Development, and the European Social Fund Plus



Westmeath Community Development

LEADER

Development led by local communities

**OFFICIAL
LAUNCH**

Of



**— TASTE OF —
WESTMEATH**

at

a Unique Market Event

at

Killua Castle

on

28th September 2025

Westmeath Community Development 2023-2027 LEADER Programme in collaboration with Taste of Westmeath are offering an opportunity to Westmeath Food and Drink Producers as well as Westmeath's Craft Makers to participate in this unique event.

If you're interested in participating, please contact

acorroon@westcd.ie

to request an Expression of Interest form, which must be completed to be considered for eligibility.

<https://westcd.ie/official-launch-of-taste-of-westmeath-28-09-25/>



Riadas
na hÉireann
Government
of Ireland

Tionscadal Éireann
Project Ireland
2040

Ára chomhchistíú ag An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Geolaíochta
Co-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Galteea

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Ára chomhchistíú ag
an Aontas Eorpach
Co-funded by
the European Union



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

National Ploughing Championship Stand

- Visit the 'Our Rural Future - Supporting Communities and Our Language' stand at The Ploughing - Block 3, Row 16, Stand 312 - 314
- Face-to-face info from staff on Seniors Alert Scheme, Community Services Programme, Volunteering and Public Participation, Community Funding, Tidy Towns and Rural Funding, Water Safety Ireland and more



National Philanthropy Policy for Ireland 2024-28

- New policy launched in late 2023 - Annual update available
- The purpose of this policy is to deepen understanding and knowledge, create an enabling environment and accelerate engagement with philanthropy in Ireland for social good.
- [List of successful projects can be viewed here](#)



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

Support for Recreation Trails in Midlands

- €350,000 over five years to maintain the midlands trail network and Lough Boora trails
- Partnership with Bord na Mona
- Part of 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoor - National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023-2027'



Investment at Coillte Recreational Sites

- €4m in Department funding for infrastructure projects and the maintenance of existing trails on Coillte lands.
- Additional €1.4m towards ongoing repair of storm damaged trails.

For further information visit the Department's website



- Westmeath's Local Authority Integration Team is in place to support new arrivals into communities.
- They identify supports needed to help integrate people into the community.
- They provide clinics onsite at accommodation centres, in the community, online or where required.

For more info and contact details of the LAIT Team visit the Community Section page of WCC website at <https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/communitydevelopment/lait/>

For regular updates follow Westmeath Integration on their social media page <https://www.facebook.com/LAITWestmeath>



iReport.ie Racist Incident Reporting System:

Racism.
See it
Send it
End it

iReport.ie is a national, confidential and easy to use online racist incident reporting tool for people who experience or witness racism to do something about it.

For more info visit - <https://www.ireport.ie>



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Supported by



**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**

September is World Alzheimer's Month

This World Alzheimer's Month, there are 6 simple actions we can all take to support someone with dementia.



See the person,
not the dementia



Talk about dementia



Stay in touch



Ask how
you can help



Support people
to keep up hobbies
and interests



Make sure your
service or space
is easy to use

Westmeath Alzheimer Memory Walk

3pm. Sunday 21st of September
Coffee Shop, Belvedere House.



Ramble at your own pace or sit and have a cup of tea and a chat!

20 euro to register online or on the day at Belvedere.
Call Rosaleen at 0962406473 for more info



Use our service finder to get support
or call the helpline provided by The Alzheimer Society of Ireland on 1800 341 341.



#WorldAlzheimersMonth

Visit alzheimer.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/>



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

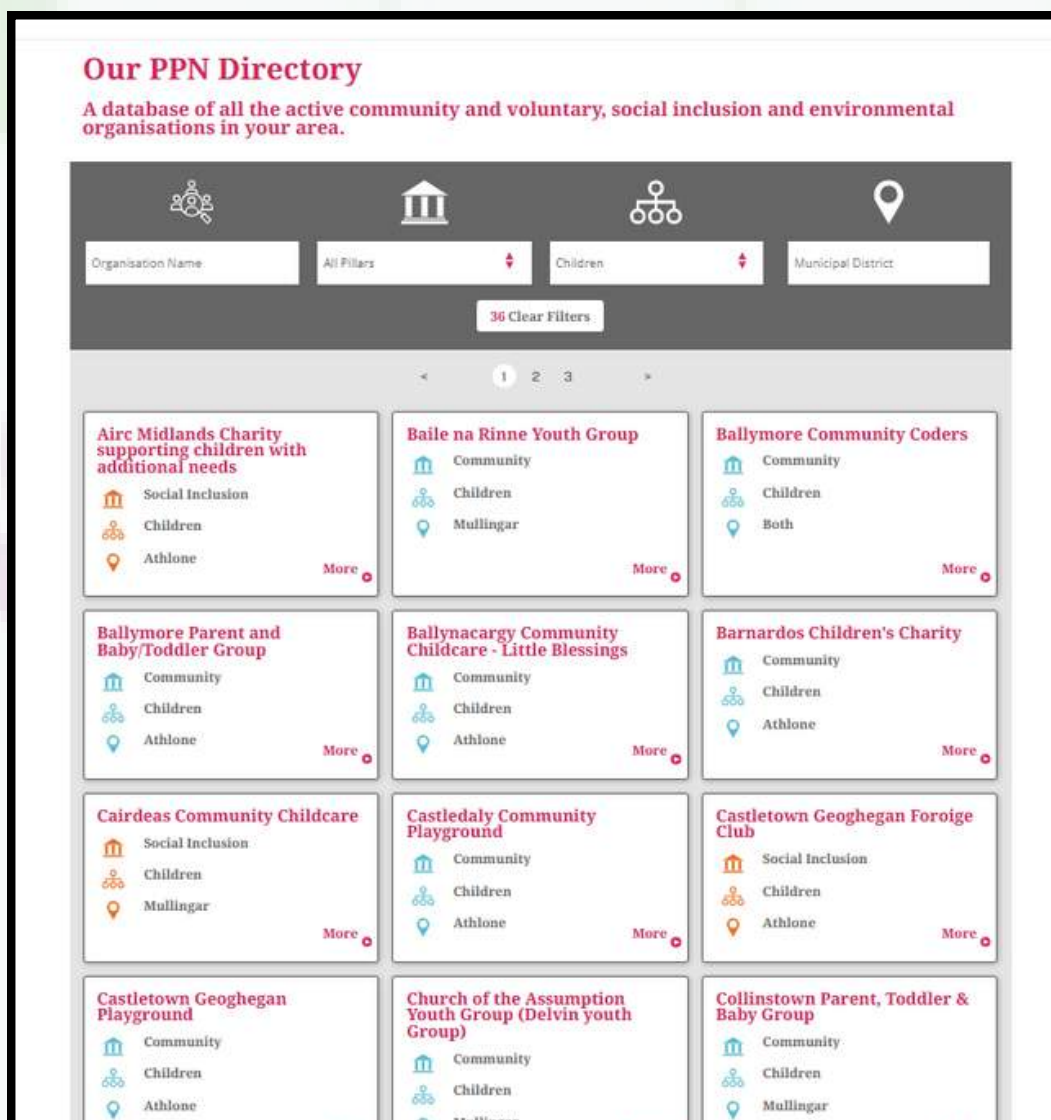
WPPN Website

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