



## Newsletter

OCTOBER  
DEIREADH FÓMHAIR  
2025

Hello from Mark and Martin at the WPPN.

Last week we learned of the sudden passing of Mick Kenny of Delvin.

Mick was a longtime supporter of the WPPN and served until recently on the Secretariat.

Together with the Secretariat and our colleagues in the Community Section of WCC, we wish to extend our deepest sympathies to Mick's family and his many friends.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam.



We held our Linkage Group Meetings in September. For those of you who couldn't attend we're placing the presentations given on our website - see the Resources page.

The date for the Plenary has been set for 24<sup>th</sup> November.

There's a few spaces left for our organic planting event on the 8<sup>th</sup> October in Murtagh's Organic Farm, Ballynacarrigy. See the ad on the next page for details.

The newly Westmeath Local Community Safety Partnership is looking for nominees to come forward from our WPPN groups. (see advert on page 3)

All the best

*Mark Ahearn 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](mailto: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 8<sup>TH</sup> 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!**



## Public Participation Network **Westmeath**

### WPPN Plenary

Date of the Autumn Plenary is

**24<sup>th</sup> November**

More details to follow.

### Local Community Safety Partnership Nominees Sought

The newly established Westmeath LCSP is seeking nominations for WPPN Rural Area Interest Representatives from WPPN community groups working outside the urban areas of Mullingar and Athlone.

This is a unique opportunity to contribute your experience, insights, and leadership to a forum dedicated to making your county a safer and more vibrant place to live, work, and visit.

For more info on this role contact Brigid Geoghegan, Local Community Safety Partnership Co-Ordinator at -

044 9338918 | [bgeoghegan@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:bgeoghegan@westmeathcoco.ie)

### Municipal District Submissions

Thank you to all our community groups who have taken the time to identify and write submissions highlighting issues of concern for their group, area and community.

The deadline for receipt of submissions has now passed.

We are currently processing these forms and will be in contact with the submitting groups shortly.



**WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí  
Environment Section News

# DISPOSE OF YOUR OLD MATTRESS FOR FREE



**MATTRESS  
COLLECTION DAYS**

**FREE FOR TWO DAYS ONLY**

*Recycle your old mattresses at:*

**Mullingar Recycling Centre,** **Sat. 4th Oct**  
Mullingar Business Park N91 X768 9am - 3pm ONLY

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://mulleadys.com/booking/>

**Athlone Recycling Centre,** **Sat. 11th Oct**  
Golden Island, Athlone, N37 T625 9am - 3pm ONLY

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <https://cportal.barnarecycling.com/booking/>

- CLEAN, DRY MATTRESSES ONLY
- MAXIMUM OF 5 MATTRESSES PER CUSTOMER
- DOMESTIC CUSTOMERS ONLY

- Registrations are available to Westmeath residents only (Eircode to be provided when registering)
- Standard charges will apply for other material/items brought to the Amenity Centre

**PLEASE SECURE MATTRESSES CAREFULLY DURING TRANSPORT**

Enquiries: Westmeath County Council, Environment Section | Email: [environment@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:environment@westmeathcoco.ie) | Tel: 044 93 32125

**FOR MULLINGAR GOTO [HTTPS://MULLEADYS.COM/BOOKING](https://mulleadys.com/booking)**

**FOR ATHLONE GOTO [HTTPS://CPORTAL.BARNARECYCLING.COM/BOOKING/](https://cportal.barnarecycling.com/booking/)**



**WE'RE FINALISTS!**

**LONGFORD WESTMEATH  
COMMUNITY TRANSPORT CLG**

**MOBILITY & TRANSPORT  
CILT MOBILITY & SUPPLY CHAIN AWARDS**



“This recognition reflects the dedication of our team and the impact of our work in rural Ireland. We’re proud to represent our communities.”

**Hugh Farrell**

**THANK YOU TO OUR STAFF, BOARD, AND PARTNERS**

**#CILTawards #TFILocalLink #CommunityTransport**

Longford Westmeath Community Transport CLG

- <https://locallinklwr.ie/about-us/>



# WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

## Community Section News



**Pride of Place Awards 2025**

**MILLTOWNPASS TIDY TOWN**

Westmeath Nominee for village category





# WESTMEATH INTEGRATION

Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)



## RAINBOW REFUGEE AWARENESS WORKSHOP

Thursday, 6 November 2025 | 10:00-13:00  
Athlone Civic Centre



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.

[https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/  
communitydevelopment/lait/](https://www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/communitydevelopment/lait/)

<https://www.facebook.com/LAITWestmeath>





An Coimisiún Toghcháin  
The Electoral Commission

# Get registered to vote in the presidential election

Friday 24 October 2025 has been announced as Polling Day for the presidential election. Register to vote or update your details today.

Electoral Commission Website

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

Your Vote is Your Voice



# WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

## Community Section News



### Pride of Place Awards 2025

### WESTMEATH COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Westmeath Nominee for Age Friendly Communities category





# WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

## Community Section



Public Participation  
Network Westmeath



Make way on our streets  
for people with disabilities.



# Athlone Community Services Council

St. Mary's Hall  
Tuesdays 8-9.30pm  
Begins 23<sup>rd</sup> September

## 'Best Foot Forward'

Free 5 week Motivational  
Programme for Men 

Physical activities & guest speakers to  
kickstart your motivation

For more information & to book your place



0906472174



reception@acsc.ie



[www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com](http://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com)

[More info at](http://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com/)

<https://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com/>



**WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí  
Transportation Department

# WALKTOBER

**1<sup>st</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2025**  
Team-Up and Get Walking



**FOR MORE INFORMATION CLICK ON THIS LINK**




Great Prizes To Be Won  
**Sign Up Today!**

Scan the QR code or visit  
ActiveTravelLogger.ie

# WCC Library Events

**Mullingar Library Book Club**

## Mullingar Library Book Club



Mullingar Library Book Club meet on the last Thursday of every month from 6:30pm - 7:30pm. New members always welcome

Please contact the branch for more information on 0449332161 or email [mgarlib@westmeathcoco.ie](mailto:mgarlib@westmeathcoco.ie)

**Halloween Costume Swap**

## HALLOWEEN COSTUME SWAP



MULLINGAR LIBRARY  
TUESDAY 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER  
FROM 3PM - 4:30PM

Got old children's Halloween costumes lying around? We're hosting a fun and sustainable Costume Swap this October in Mullingar Library. Come along on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> October from 3pm to 4:30pm and refresh your Halloween look without...

**Halloween Dress Up, Storytime & Colouring**

## HALLOWEEN DRESS-UP STORYTIME & COLOURING



Join us for a spooky storytime, dress-up and colouring this Halloween in Mullingar Library.

Halloween Dress Up is optional!

Suitable for age 5+

Places are limited so booking is required...

**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 Breastfeeding Week**

## Celebrating National Breastfeeding Week

Mullingar Library

Friday October 3rd at 11am



National Breastfeeding Week runs from Oct 1st to 7th and to celebrate, join the Breastfeeding Support Group in Mullingar Library on Friday October 3rd, from 11am. Pop in for a cuppa and a chat with Public Health nurse Colleen, who will be on hand with lots ...

**Soil Your Scarf**

## SOIL YOUR SCARF



PARTICIPATORY SCIENCE RESEARCH

Have you ever heard about soil health?

Soil isn't "just" dirt. It is full of life, nutrients, and it plays a vital role in keeping water pure. Learn more about soil ecology and health with Soil Your Scarf in Mullingar Library...

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

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





**WESTMEATH  
SPORTS  
PARTNERSHIP**  
— SPORT IRELAND —

**WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**  
Comhairle Chontae na h-Iarmhí



**SAFEGUARDING 1  
CHILD WELFARE &  
PROTECTION  
BASIC AWARENESS  
WORKSHOP**



**SAFEGUARDING 2  
CLUB  
CHILDREN'S  
OFFICER**



**SAFEGUARDING 3  
DESIGNATED LIASON  
PERSON WORKSHOP**



**ATHLONE  
COMMUNITY  
SPORTS HUB**

**Men on the  
Move**

The best MOVE you'll ever make

**SOCIAL FITNESS GROUP FOR MEN**

**THURSDAYS @18:30PM**  
9<sup>TH</sup> OCT-13<sup>TH</sup> NOV 2025  
€20 FOR 6 WEEKS  
ATHLONE REGIONAL SPORTS CENTRE

More info available at  
[www.westmeathsports.ie](http://www.westmeathsports.ie)

**CAMARADERIE AND CRAIC  
THE LADS LEAGUE  
SATURDAYS | 11 AM  
ATHLONE REGIONAL SPORTS CENTRE**



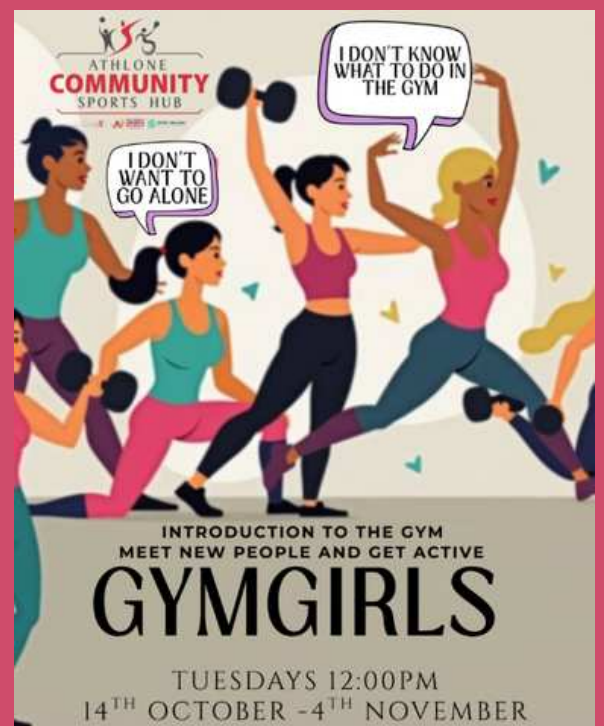
**BASKETBALL**  
COME AND GIVE THEM ALL A TRY

**PICKLEBALL**  
11<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - 1<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER

**PETANQUE**  
€20 FOR 4 WEEK COURSE

**SOCCER**

CALL TO BOOK 0906470975  
MORE INFO: JOANNE@ATHLONERS.C.IE



**ATHLONE  
COMMUNITY  
SPORTS HUB**

I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO IN THE GYM

I DON'T WANT TO GO ALONE

INTRODUCTION TO THE GYM  
MEET NEW PEOPLE AND GET ACTIVE

**GYMGIRLS**

TUESDAYS 12:00PM  
14<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER



## Information & Advocacy Event

Tuesday, October 14th 2025 at 7.00pm

Annebrook Hotel Mullingar

# HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Human trafficking is one of the fastest-growing crimes, along with drugs and arms trafficking, and a highly profitable business, generating an estimated \$150 billion in profits each year.

(United Nations, 2024)

**Guest Speakers: Minister Robert Troy, Detective Gardaí Niall Stack, Vincent Reynolds & Karen Coghlan, RTÉ's 'The Case I Can't Forget' and Sara Wallace, Ruhama**

ALL WELCOME

Soroptimist International is a global volunteer movement working together to transform the lives of women and girls with nearly 72,000 Members in 121 countries.

**[Info on Soroptimist Ireland: Mullingar Branch](https://soroptimistireland.com/club/mullingar-and-district/)**  
**<https://soroptimistireland.com/club/mullingar-and-district/>**

# Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society

## Workshops October 2025

Saturday 4th Oct, 9:30am – 4pm

Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar

Dr Janice Mann: Genealogy and local studies

Gretta Connell: Tracing your Westmeath Ancestors

Dr Tom Hunt: Doing the history of your local sports club

Saturday 11th Oct, 9:00am – 4pm

Greville Arms Hotel, Mullingar

Seamus O'Brien: Bringing the great Irish Famine in your local area  
to book

Paul Gosling: Descriptive writing for Archaeology and local studies

**Visit the WAHS Website at <http://whahs.ie>**



# ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL

IS TEAMING UP WITH

ATHLONE RSC'S PARK RUN

FOR OUR

# HALLOWEEN FUN RUN

RAFFLE  
ON THE  
DAY!

PRIZE FOR  
BEST FANCY  
DRESS!

ATHLONE REGIONAL SPORTS CENTRE  
SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025  
STARTING AT 9:30AM

IN AID OF ACSC'S  
OLDER PERSON SUPPORT SERVICE

WALK, RUN, OR JOG 5K - OR GO AS FAR AS YOU CAN!

CONTACT US TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST  
OR SIMPLY SHOW UP ON THE DAY!

090 6472174

RECEPTION@ACSC.IE

WWW.ATHLONECOMMUNITYSERVICESCOUNCIL.COM

More info at

<https://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com/>

# Westmeath Just Transition Officer

## Dysart River Project Wins the Irish Times Ireland's Greenest Community Award



The Dysart River Project is a participatory community initiative to improve river water quality.

At the core of this project was the collaboration between local farmers and community, the Trout Preservation Association, LAWPRO scientists and community officers, Teagasc Agricultural Sustainability Support and Advisory Program (ASSAP) advisers, Inland Fisheries Ireland, Westmeath County Council

This pilot helped make the case for the establishment of a €60 Million funded European Innovation Partnership (EIP) on water agriculture. This EIP called Farming for Water was launched in March 2024 at one of the pilot farms in Dysart.



The Just Transition Officer nominated the project for the Irish Times Greenest Places award. This project won Ireland's Greenest Community category.



# WPPN Member News

## Derravaragh Music Association

Derravaragh Music Association and the National String Quartet Foundation present

# ESPOSITO QUARTET



Mia Cooper violin  
Anna Cashell violin  
Joachim Roewer viola  
William Butt cello

*Music by Shostakovich, Glazunov, Raynaldo Hahn and Seóirse Bodley*

## Tullynally Castle, Castlepollard

### Saturday 25th October 2025 at 7pm

Tickets from [derravaraghmusic.ie](http://derravaraghmusic.ie) or [nsqf.ie](http://nsqf.ie)



funding  
music

RTÉ lyric fm



More info at <http://derravaraghmusic.ie>



**ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL**



☎ 090 6472174    ✉ RECEPTION@ACSC.IE

WWW.ATHLONECOMMUNITYSERVICESCOUNCIL.COM



**JOIN US FOR OUR**

# **BAKE SALE**

**IN AID OF ACSC'S  
OLDER PERSON SUPPORT  
SERVICE**



**FRIDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2025**

**11AM-1PM**

**GARRYCASTLE GAA CLUBHOUSE**



**EVERYONE WELCOME!**

**YOUR SUPPORT IS GREATLY  
APPRECIATED**



**RAFFLE  
PRIZES  
ON THE DAY!**

**More info at**

**<https://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com/>**

# RestoreNature.ie

## Help to shape Ireland's Nature Restoration Plan

- Following the adoption of the Nature Restoration Law in Europe in August 2024, all Member States must produce their own Nature Restoration Plan..
- Public Community Consultation Events are being held throughout the country this autumn.
- This is an opportunity to ensure policies reflect the realities of communities, while deepening our collective connection to the natural world.

18th Oct, 4pm-6pm

St Aidan's GAA Hall, Ballyforan, Co. Roscommon  
With online events to be announced

Nature  
Restoration  
Law



For more information visit  
[www.restorenature.ie/get-involved](http://www.restorenature.ie/get-involved)



# WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

## Community Section



Public Participation  
Network Westmeath



Make way on our streets  
for people with disabilities.





# ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL



INVITES YOU TO OUR ANNUAL EVENT FOR

ARTS AND CRAFTS

## INTERNATIONAL OLDER PERSONS DAY

DANCING

GUEST SPEAKERS

MUSIC

LET'S CELEBRATE  
OUR OLDER  
COMMUNITY!



JOIN US FOR AN INSPIRING DAY OF ART, MUSIC, AND CONNECTION  
PACKED WITH FUN ACTIVITIES, DELICIOUS FOOD AND FUN!



FRIDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER



11:00AM - 01:00PM



ABBAY ROAD ARTISTS STUDIOS, ABBAY ROAD, ATHLONE, CO. WESTMEATH

More Information: ✉ [reception@acsc.ie](mailto:reception@acsc.ie)



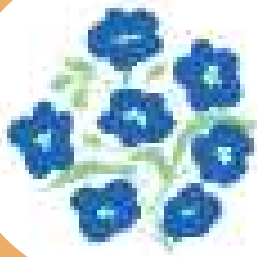
090 6472174



[www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com](http://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com)

**More info at**

**<https://www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com/>**



THE Alzheimer  
SOCIETY OF IRELAND

**BOOK YOUR PLACE FOR THE DEMENTIA AWARENESS TRAINING TODAY!**



Tuesday, 21st October 2025



2pm | 4pm | 6pm |



Buckley's SuperValue, Mullingar, N91 WPX9, Co. Westmeath.



Tara Rice | tara.rice@alzheimer.ie | 087 6338484 |



**DEMENTIA** IS NOT SIMPLY A HEALTH ISSUE BUT A **SOCIAL ISSUE** THAT **REQUIRES A COMMUNITY** RESPONSE!



**WHAT IS A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY?**

A Dementia Inclusive Community is one in which people living with Dementia and their families fully participate in society and is one in which the people in the community are aware of and understand Dementia.

**HOW CAN YOU (AS AN INDIVIDUAL), YOUR BUSINESS, SPORTING CLUB OR COMMUNITY ORGANISATION HELP CREATE A DEMENTIA INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY IN YOUR LOCAL AREA?**

Participate in one of the Dementia Awareness Induction Workshops that will be run locally. This will give you an insight into how your organisation can help to build a Dementia Inclusive Community in your area today!

**ASI Westmeath Dementia Advice –**  
**<https://alzheimer.ie/county/westmeath/>**

midlands  
**LGBT+**  
project

Get involved  
today.



## HEARTLANDS PRIDE 2025

COMMITTED TO PROVIDING VISIBILITY AND INCLUSIVITY  
TO THE LGBT+ COMMUNITY IN THE MIDLANDS



**NOVEMBER 7TH-9TH**

TO GET INVOLVED VISIT:  
MIDLANDSLGBTPROJECT.COM/  
HEARTLANDS-PRIDE

OR EMAIL:  
HEARTLANDSPRIDE.ATHLONE  
@GMAIL.COM

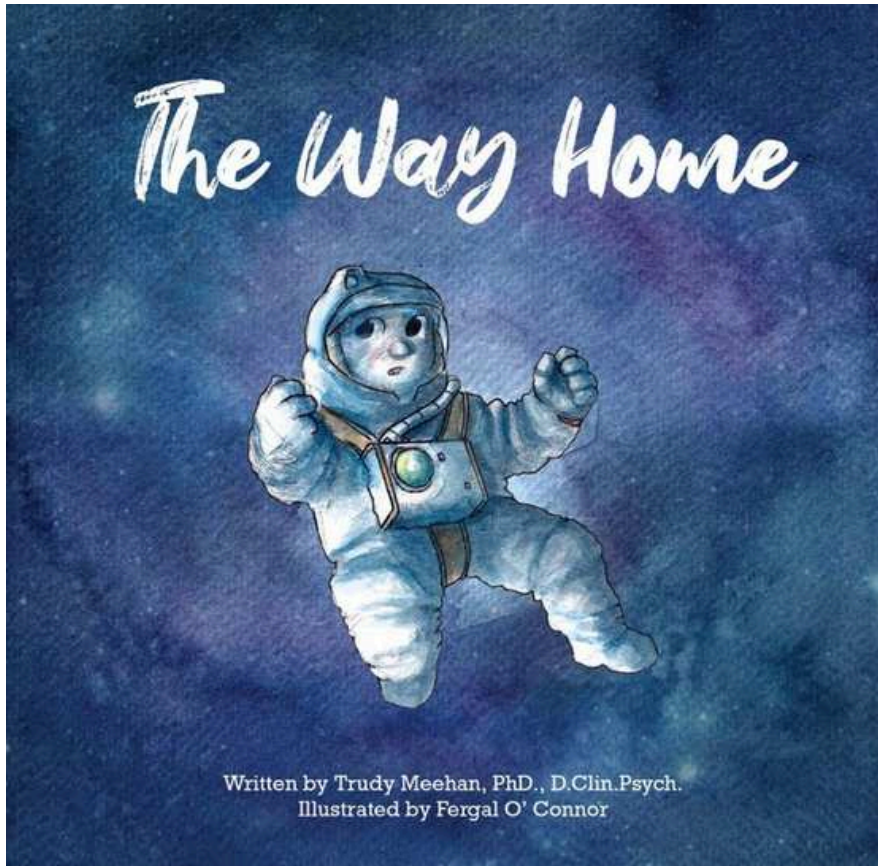


To contact and get involved visit

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

# THE WAY HOME

## AN ILLUSTRATED STORYBOOK FOR CHILDREN NAVIGATING TRAUMATIC LOSS



Dr. Trudy Meehan, Clinical Psychologist wrote *The Way Home* to help families experiencing bereavement. Inspired by her personal experience after her daughter's father died by suicide, the book uses the gentle metaphor of an astronaut lost in space—whose hope is too small and pain too big — to show how sometimes pain can be stronger than love.

The Way Home was made possible through the support of the Irish Hospice Foundation, Creative Ireland, GoFundMe donors, the Castlebridge Primary School community, and the Natural Health Store in Wexford.

[For free download visit RCSI Repository Website](#)

[For print copies visit www.thewayhome.ie](#)

### Key Features

- Provides language for difficult “why” questions after loss.
- Offers metaphors that comfort children and adults.
- Creates opportunities for conversation and connection.
- Reminds us that even in the hardest moments, love can guide us home.
- Allows young people to choose their own ending, giving a sense of control.





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.”*

The logo for the National Disability Authority (NDA) features the letters 'n', 'D', and 'A' in a stylized font. The 'n' and 'A' are pink, while the 'D' is black.

Údarás Náisiúnta Míchumais  
National Disability Authority

**<https://nda.ie>**

## Online Webinar on Homelessness and Physical Disability Research Mon, 6 Oct 2025, 2-3pm

- Dr Julie Broderick will present her research titled “An Exploration of the Scale and Impact of Physical Disability in People Experiencing Homelessness in Ireland”.
- This will be followed by a response from a representative from the Department of Housing .
- There will also be an opportunity for questions from the audience.

Register for this webinar at

<https://eu.surveymonkey.com/r/HBWVZNX>

# Disability Participation News Hub

The DPNH would like to draw your attention to the following-

## **Save the Date!**

On behalf of Disabled Women Ireland (DWI) and the Disability Participation News Hub, we're excited to invite you to our "**Disabled Women & Poverty: The Cost of Exclusion**" event, which brings together disabled women, allies, and advocates from across the disability community and civil society to explore the connections between disability, gender, and poverty.

Through discussions and activities, participants will share experiences, identify challenges, and think together about possible solutions.

**Date:** 17th October

**Time:** 3:30pm-5:30pm

**Venue:** Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission, Dublin 7 & online.

**Registration** will take place through Eventbrite - details coming soon!

**ISL interpretation** will be available for this event.

**The Department of Social Protection supports this project as part of its funding initiative for the United Nations Day for the Eradication of Poverty.**



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

## **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**

## **EU Anti-Poverty Strategy**

European Commission

Deadline: 24th October 2025

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



## **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](mailto:kelley.keogh@westmeathcoco.ie) | 044-9332093



# lwetb

*Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí*  
Longford and Westmeath  
Education and Training Board

## WORLD DYSLEXIA DAY

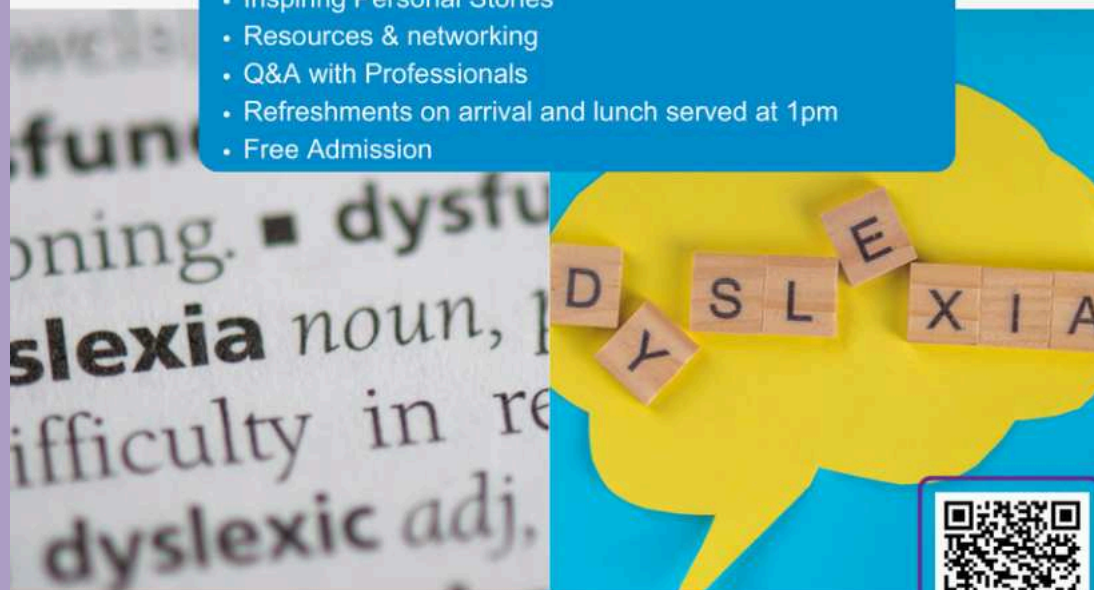
8<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2025

DYSLEXIA IN ADULTHOOD

INFORMATION MORNING 9.30 - 12.45

Join us in the Shamrock Lodge Hotel Athlone N37 CK73

- Expert talks on Adult Dyslexia
- Inspiring Personal Stories
- Resources & networking
- Q&A with Professionals
- Refreshments on arrival and lunch served at 1pm
- Free Admission



RSVP BY 30TH SEPTEMBER - SCAN THIS CODE



[Book you place here](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/regionalliteracycoordinator/1860911)

[https://www.tickettailor.com/events/  
regionalliteracycoordinator/1860911](https://www.tickettailor.com/events/regionalliteracycoordinator/1860911)



### lwetb

*Bord Oideachais agus Oiliúna  
an Longfoirt agus na hIarmhí*  
Longford and Westmeath  
Education and Training Board

COLLEGE OF FURTHER  
EDUCATION & TRAINING



Adult  
Literacy  
for Life



## 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.

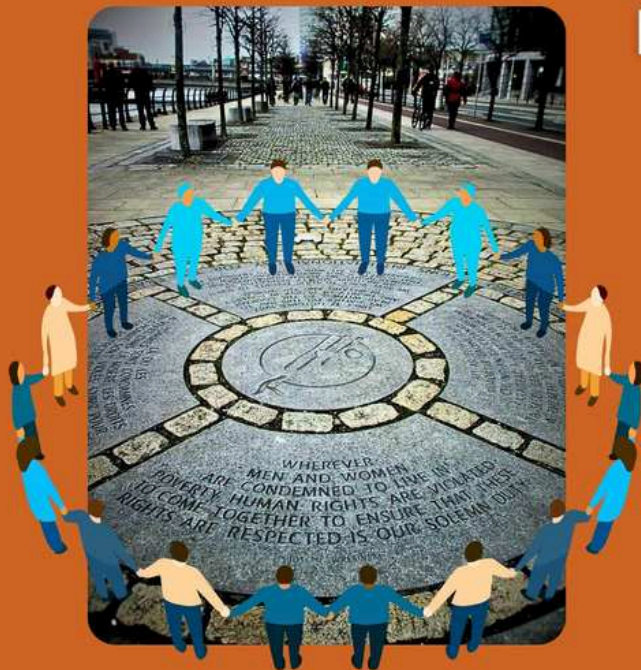
[Click on this gov.ie link for more info](#)



**All Together in Dignity - Ireland**  
Working with those affected by chronic poverty

**Working Together with a Radical Hope and Decisive Action to End Poverty and Leave No One Behind**

## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty



National Irish 17 October committee

October 17

11 - 12.30pm

Human Rights and Poverty Stone,  
Famine Statues, Custom House  
Quay, Dublin 1

Listen to the Voice, Experience & Expertise of  
People living with Poverty, Displacement and  
Discrimination

2025 Marks 25 Years of Commemorating  
17th October in Dublin



More info on the work of ATD at  
<https://www.atdireland.ie>



TFI local link Longford Westmeath Roscommon

**Route 816**  
Longford to Mullingar

**NEW ROUTE 816**  
LONGFORD ↔ MULLINGAR

Save up to 30%  
TFI LEAP CARD

CONNECTIONS TO REGIONAL BUS AND RAIL SERVICES

PEAK-TIME SERVICES

Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan



TFI local link Longford Westmeath Roscommon

**ROUTE 818**  
MULLINGAR ↔ COLLINSTOWN ↔ CASTLEPOLLARD

Save up to 30%  
TFI LEAP CARD

PEAK-TIME SERVICES

CONNECTIONS TO REGIONAL BUS SERVICES

Connecting Ireland Rural Mobility Plan

More info on Local-Link Services for Longford-Westmeath-Roscommon at <https://locallinklwr.ie/>



# 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](mailto:ageoghegan@westmeathcoco.ie)  
to register your interest



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Cairdealltóir Chontar na hÉireann

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



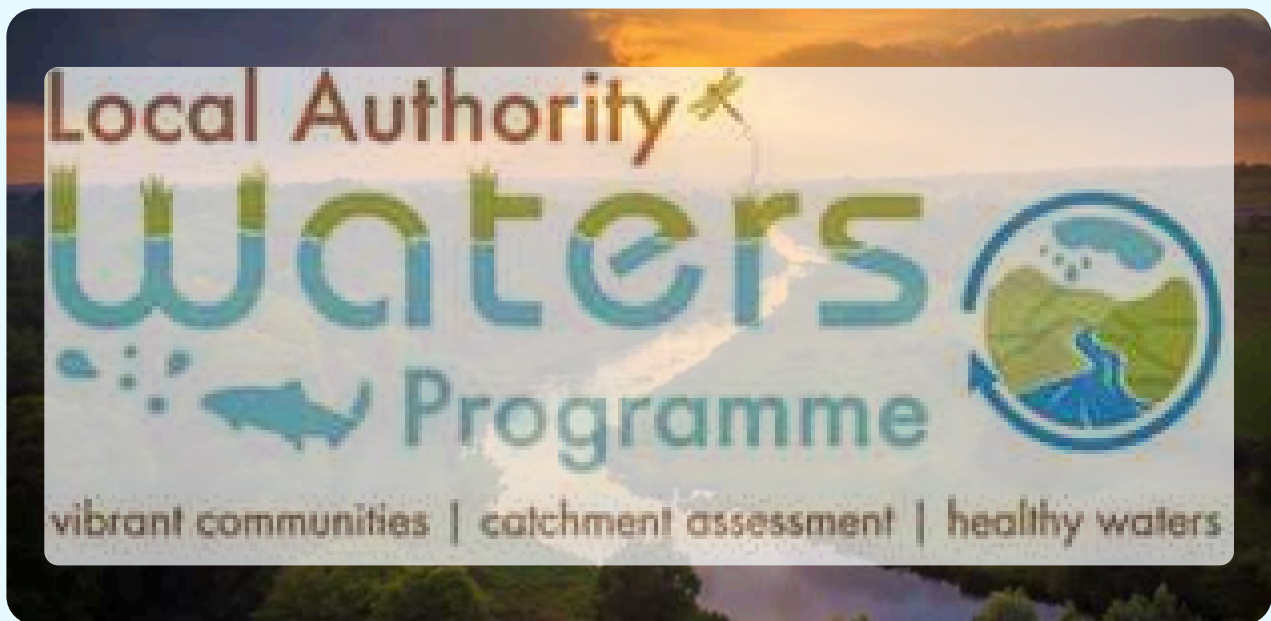
If you would like to attend, please complete the registration form at this link

# LAWPRO

## Local Authority Waters Programme

### Boyne Pilot Catchment Community Forum

- New consultative forum around Water Quality in the Midlands East Area - Boyne Catchment
- A forum for local community deliberation on water quality data, support local community action, and influence local plans linked to our local environment and influence regional/national decision making around how we manage our natural waters



Public Meeting  
Wed 1st Oct 2025, 7.30-9pm  
Newgrange Hotel, Bridge Street, Navan

**For more info visit LAWPRO site [www.lawwaters.ie](http://www.lawwaters.ie) |  
David Quinn, new LAWPRO Community Water Officer**



# WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí



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

## WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL SHOPFRONT ENHANCEMENT GRANT SCHEME 2025

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



- 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.

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.

For full details and application forms please log on to [www.westmeathcoco.ie/en/ourservices/business/business/shopfrontenhancementgrantscheme/](http://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](mailto:localenterprise@westmeathcoco.ie)



WORKS COMPLETED PRIOR TO GRANT APPROVAL WILL NOT BE FUNDED

For more information click on link below



**Westmeath County Council (WCC) Our Services**  
Westmeath County Council services and information  
[www.westmeathcoco.ie](http://www.westmeathcoco.ie)

### 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](http://fostering.ie)

**Freephone:** 1800 226 771

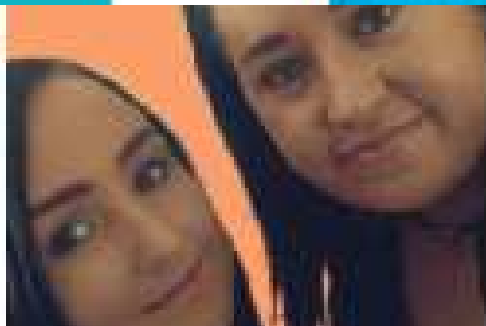
**Email:** [tusla.fostering@tusla.ie](mailto:tusla.fostering@tusla.ie)

**TUSLA**  
An Ghníomhaireacht um  
Leanaí agus an Teaghlach  
Child and Family Agency

**Tusla  
Fostering**

## We foster, could you?

Discover the Rewards of Fostering



**More info at**

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



# 2023-2027 LEADER PROGRAMME FUNDING INFORMATION EVENT




LEADER is an EU funded programme aimed at improving the quality of life in rural areas and diversifying the rural economy.

In Westmeath the 2023-2027 LEADER Programme has an overall budget of €4.2M.

**Projects will be awarded funding under the Themes of ; Economic Development & Job Creation; Rural Infrastructure and Social Inclusion ; Sustainable Development & Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation.**

**Public Funding Information Event**  
October 1<sup>st</sup> @ 7:30pm, Mullingar  
Park Hotel ,  
October 2<sup>nd</sup> @ 7:30pm, Raddison  
Blu Hotel , Athlone

 044 93 48571

 westcd.ie

 Leader@westcd.ie



For more information on Westmeath Community Development Services goto <https://westcd.ie>

# 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/>

# 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/)



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

## Skills for Life program to be delivered by Public Libraries

- Public libraries partner with Media Literacy Ireland to train over 50 librarians as Media Literacy Champions.
- This program is part of the Public Library Strategy
- It will equip individuals with essential skills to navigate modern life.
- The programme will be available across all 30 local authority library services and will offer support in six key areas:
  - Basic Digital Skills
  - Financial Literacy
  - Media Literacy
  - Business and Employment Skills
  - Health Awareness
  - Sustainable Lifestyles and Environmental Awareness



**[Click here for information on the Public Library Strategy](#)**



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

## SICAP “In Our Words” Event in Athlone

- Social Inclusion and Community Activation Program
- 250 delegates from Local Development Companies, City & County Councils, the Community and Voluntary sector and national representative organisations in attendance
- The day long gathering celebrated the power of lived experience, bringing together individuals from all parts of Ireland to share their personal journeys and others to highlight the impact of community-led projects supported by the SICAP program.

## Annual Report of SICAP Program 2024

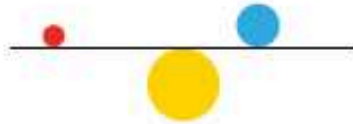
- **Click Here to view report**
- 2,368 Local Community Groups supported
- 1995 individuals progressed into employment
- 260 Community activists or community groups supported
- 473 Social Enterprises were supported by SICAP.
- 32,490 individuals were supported in 2024
- 53,133 Children & parents were supported in 2024.

## New board members appointed to Board of Pobal

- Pobal is a not-for-profit organisation that works on behalf of Government to support communities and local agencies towards achieving social inclusion and development
- Paul Rogers, Vincent Keenan and Michael Heaney appointed to 16 member board



**For further information  
visit POBAL website  
<https://www.pobal.ie>**



## 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](https://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**

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

**Eligibility:** Anybody who is unemployed, working part-time, or on a CE/TNS 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



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



pobal  
government supporting communities

WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL  
Táinigimid Chomairle arís le Seirbhíocht



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** COUNTY COUNCIL  
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

# Public Consultations

Visit the WCC Consultation Portal  
for news of upcoming consultations  
- <https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie>

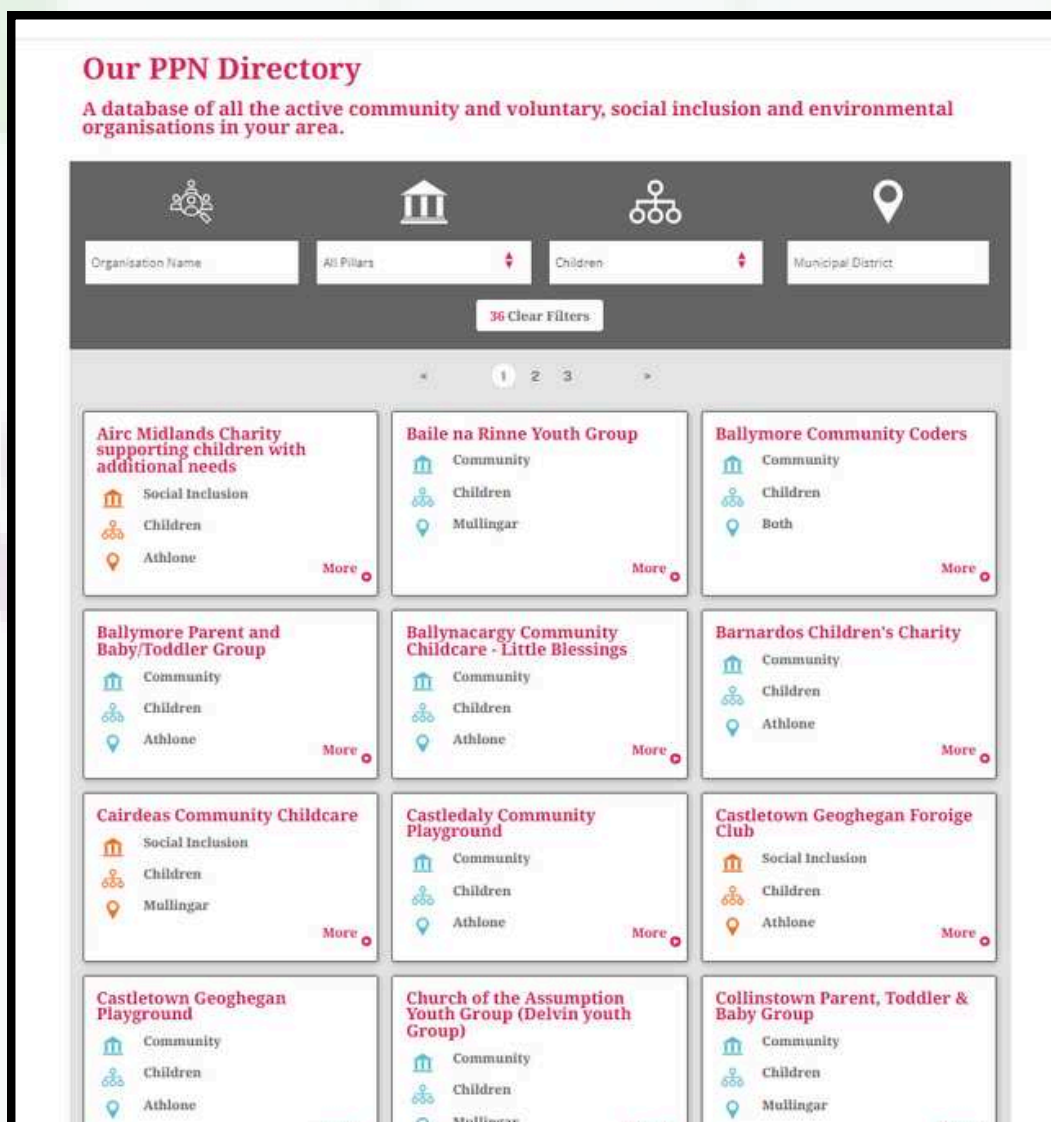
# WPPN Website

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](mailto:ppn@westmeathcoco.ie) and we will make contact on your behalf

Westmeath  
**PPN**



**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK**

**The Voice of the Community**