

Westmeath PPN

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK
The Voice of the Community



Newsletter

DECEMBER
MÍ NA NOLLAG
2025

Hello from Mark and Martin at the WPPN.

Thanks to everyone who attended the Autumn Plenary in November. We hope you found it interesting and informative.

We've now started to organise our annual funding workshops and clinics for early in the New Year. The provisional dates are as follows

- 20th Jan Athlone - Funding Info Event
 - 22nd Jan Mullingar - Funding Info Event
 - 27th Jan Athlone - Funding Walk in Clinic
 - 3rd Feb Mullingar - Funding Walk in Clinic
- more details to follow....

We had a number of new WPPN Reps ratified at the Plenary, namely - Brian Browne (Biodiversity Working Group); John Bawle (Secretariat and Local Community and Development Committee); Joe Whelan (Midlands Region Drug and Alcohol Taskforce). Four WPPN Reps were also appointed to the Local Community Safety Partnership - Cathy Whelehan, Cara Guilfoyle, Pat Grimes and Philip Woods.

We'd like to thank all these reps for putting their names forward and we wish them every success in their new roles.

All the best,

Mark Ahern and Martin Fagan
Westmeath PPN



Minister of State at the Department of Rural and Community Development with WPPN Secretariat and Staff at the recent PPN National Conference in Trim

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

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



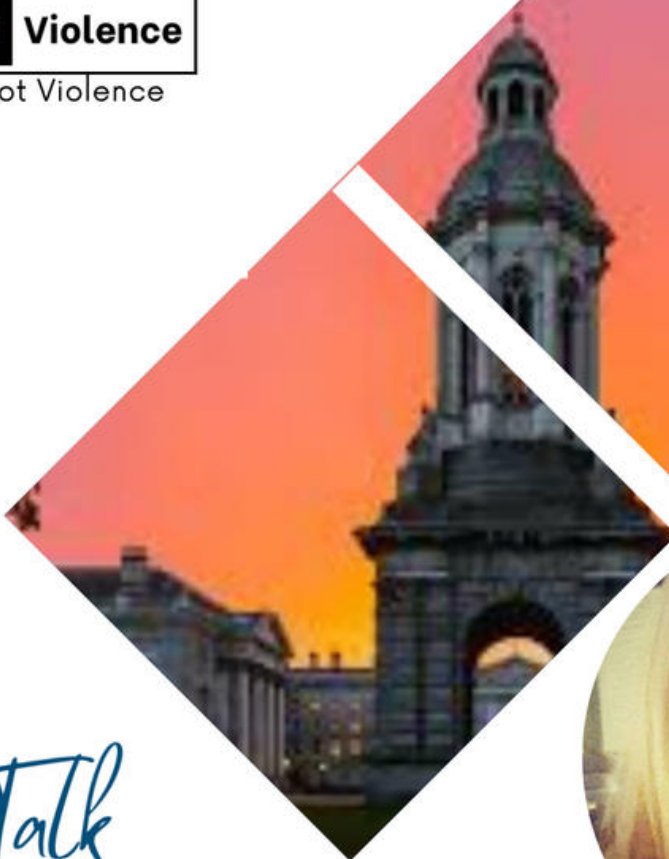
WPPN Autumn Plenary

24th Nov 2025



RETHINK Violence

Empathy not Violence



Let's Talk

RETHINKING VIOLENCE: CONVERSATIONS FOR AN EMPATHETIC IRELAND

**DECEMBER 6TH, SATURDAY, 2025
3:00PM - 4:00PM**

Positioning EMPATHY not only as an emotional response but as a strategic prevention tool against raising hostility and violence towards migrants.



Guest Speaker

ANNA TULIN

PHD CANDIDATE AND LECTURER AT
GALWAY UNIVERSITY

Register: <http://bit.ly/4r9maRl>

Enquiry: 0894088250 |
rethinkviolenceireland@gmail.com
Facebookpage:Rethink Violence

Clink on this Link -
<http://bit.ly/4r9maRl>



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Public Consultation

Notice of proposed Material Alterations to
Proposed Variation No. 1 to
Westmeath Co. Development Plan 2021-2027

- To incorporate a Settlement Area Plan for Mullingar under Volume 9 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.
- To integrate the Specific Planning Policy Requirements (SPPRs) from the Sustainable Residential Development and Compact Settlements Guidelines for Planning Authorities (2024) into the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027.

VISIT WCC's Online Consultation Portal for
full information and how to make your
submission - deadline 5pm, 9th Dec 2025

<https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie>



ATHLONE 88.4^{FM}
COMMUNITY RADIO

Reconnect Day

Community Event & Christmas Fair

St Mary's Hall, Athlone

Saturday 6th December | 10am – 3pm

Join us for a festive day of connection, creativity,
and community. Drop in for one activity or stay all day!



10am – 10:15am : Welcome & Registration . 10:15am – 11:am : Speed-Friending / Cup of Cheer

A fun way to meet people. Supported by ALONE. 11am – 11:30am : Memory & Story Corner

Guided storytelling with Louise Reynolds (Toastmasters) . 11:45am – 12:30pm : Random Acts of

Kindness - Creative kindness activities with Joanne Cosgrove of Community Connect

12:45pm– 1:15pm : Book & Recipe Swap / Recipe Circle - Hosted by Catherine Ivers

(Athlone Community Radio) . 1.30pm - 2.15pm : Tea & Topics discussion session with Louise Heavin

2:30pm – 3pm : Try-It-Out Mini Session: Mosaics

Hands-on creative taster with Dolores, Athlone Family Resource Centre.

Funded by the HSE National Lottery Grant 2025



WPPN Member News

Derravaragh Music Association

FOUNDED 1987

presents

MUSICI IRELAND

Concert Programme

Rebecca Clarke - *Morpheus* for viola and piano (1917)
Libby Larsen - *Black Birds, Red Hills* (1987)
W.A. Mozart - *Kegelstatt Trio* K498 (1786)
Max Bruch - *Eight Pieces Op83, nos ii, iii and iv* (1910)
Jessie Montgomery - *Peace* for piano and clarinet (2020)
Jean Françaix - *Trio* (1933)

CLICK
HERE FOR
DETAILS

Saturday 6th December 2025
at 7.00pm (doors open 6.15pm)

TULLYNALLY CASTLE, CASTLEPOLLARD

by kind permission of Thomas Pakenham

Tickets available from: www.derravaraghmusic.ie





WPPN Autumn Plenary



24th Nov 2025





WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Open Public Consultations

Currently open consultations - as on 4/12/2025



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

03.12.2025 - 09:00
14.01.2026 - 23:59

OPEN

Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the N52 Cavestown to Kilrush Road Improvement Scheme

Public Consultation




WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

01.12.2025 - 17:00
26.01.2026 - 16:00

OPEN

Burgess Park Public Amenity Masterplan Project

0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD



01.12.2025 - 09:00
23.01.2026 - 16:00

OPEN

Works to No.36 Connaught Street, Athlone Co. Westmeath N37 P2K8.

0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD



Westmeath County Development Plan
Proposed Variation No. 1 2021 - 2027

11.11.2025 - 11:30
09.12.2025 - 17:00

OPEN

Material Alterations to Proposed Variation No. 1 of the Westmeath County Development Plan 2021-2027

4 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

01.12.2025 - 17:00
26.01.2026 - 16:00

OPEN

Coosan Point Public Amenity Masterplan December 2025

0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

11.11.2025 - 09:00
31.12.2025 - 16:00

OPEN

Notice of Declaration of Public Roads - Municipal District of Mullingar & Kinnegad

0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD

<https://consult.westmeathcoco.ie>



WPPN Autumn Plenary

24th Nov 2025





WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Community Section



**Deadline - 4pm Fri,
19/12/2025**

FESTIVAL & EVENTS

GRANT 2026

NOW OPEN FOR ONLINE APPLICATIONS

Westmeath County Council is inviting community groups and business groups to apply for grant support for Festivals and Events taking place in Westmeath in 2026.

Events should generate increased economic activity for the local area, involve significant voluntary input and attract increased visitor numbers to Westmeath.



For queries, please contact the
Community Development Department on
044 933 8969 or 044 933 2196.



[Click this link to apply!](#)



INDEPENDENT LIVING
MOVEMENT IRELAND

FREEDOM • RIGHTS • EMPOWERMENT

Independent Living Movement Ireland has just released a series of short 30 seconds videos with disabled people talking about key concepts such as ableism, intersectionality, and internal oppression.

Title is “Everything You Wanted to Know”.

View these videos at
<https://www.youtube.com/@ilmi-independentlivingmove2423>

YouTube

Search

Everything you wanted to know about
Disabled Persons' Organisations (DPOs)

CLICK HERE TO WATCH

Independent Living Movement Ireland
www.ilmi.ie

What does the DPO mean to you?

Play K

Disabled persons organisations (DPO)

ILMI - Independent Living Movement Ireland
144 subscribers

Subscribe

1 0 Share Download Save ...

WCC Heritage Officer Notes

Historic Structures Fund

- HSF will offer grants from €50,000 up to €200,000 with a focus on large enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures where a clear community or public benefit or a clear residential benefit has been demonstrated.
- Deadline: 5pm on 16th January 2026.



Peatlands and Natura Community Engagement Scheme

- National Parks and Wildlife Service
- Open for 2026 applications - closing date of 9th January 2026
- [Click here for more info](#)

Heritage Council Grant Schemes

- Heritage Stewardship Fund - deadline 5pm, 19th Jan 2026
- Heritage Organisations Support Fund - deadline 5pm, 26th Jan 2026
- [Click here for more info](#)

BirdWatch Ireland Garden Birds Survey

- 1 December 2025 to 23 February 2026.
- [Click here for more info](#)

A Talk by Wildlife author Conor O'Brien

- Westmeath Branch Aras an Mhuillinn, Mullingar
- 8pm, Wed 17th December

Westmeath Archaeological and Historical Society

- Book Launch
- Greville Arms Hotel
- 7.30pm, Wed 17th December

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



The Creative Ireland Programme has announced three funds, with a combined value of €4.6 million supporting creativity, connection and wellbeing across the island of Ireland.

**Creative
Communities on a
Shared Island**

**Creative Health &
Wellbeing**

**Creative Youth
Nurture Fund**

Closing Date: February 27, 2026 — 1pm

[Full info on these grants available here at https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-grant-call-2025/](https://www.creativeireland.gov.ie/en/creative-grant-call-2025/)



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

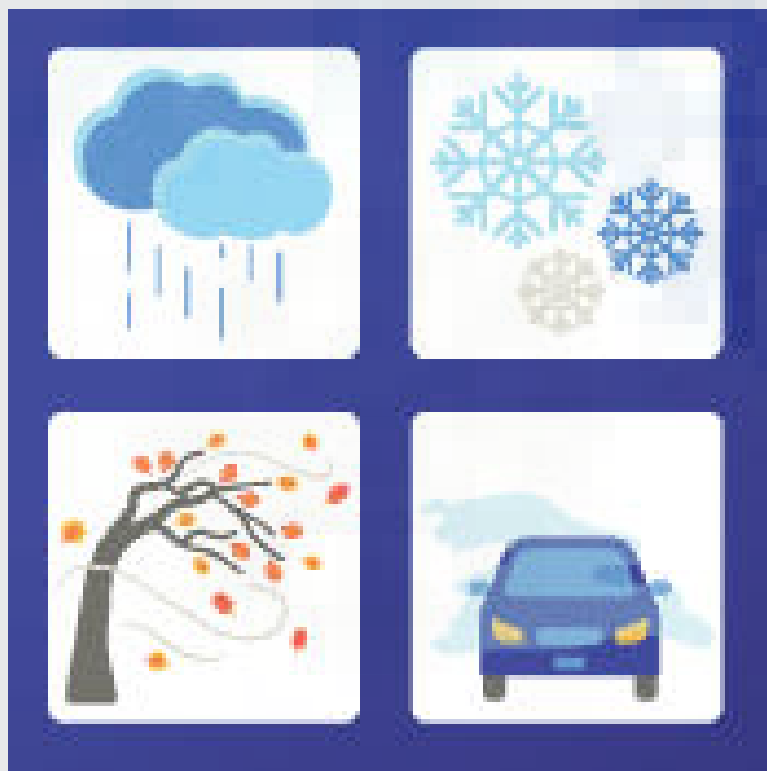
Be Winter-Ready

Visit Westmeath Co Co Website for information on

SEVERE WEATHER TEXT ALERT SERVICE

WESTMEATH MAJOR EMERGENCY PLAN

ROAD GRITTING ROUTES IN THE COUNTY

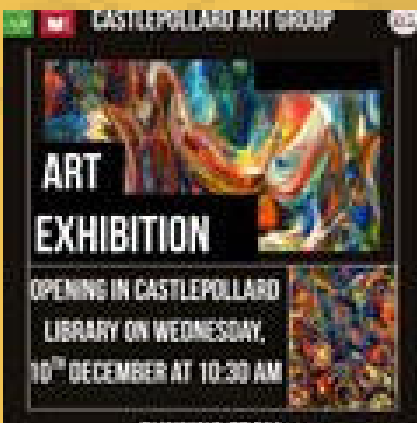


WCC Library Events

Westmeath Libraries are offering the public the opportunity to attend Money Made Simple classes this December and January in their Mullingar, Kinnegad and Moate Libraries.



Check out these events in your local branch over the Christmas Period



For more info on the many events being held visit <https://westmeathculture.ie/library/>



YOUR VOICE MATTERS

Share your views in an online focus group on how Universal Health Coverage could work in Ireland.

The Institute of Public Health, on behalf of the Department of Health, is running online focus groups to hear the public views on Universal Health Coverage in Ireland.

If you are:

- Aged 18+
- A low user of GP and Primary Care health services
- Happy to take part in a focus group to share your views and understanding of UHC

Please click www.publichealth.ie/uhc  to read more and/or indicate your interest to participate.

[CLICK HERE FOR INFO](#)



As a token of appreciation - focus group participants will receive a €30 gift voucher.



An Roinn Sláinte
Department of Health

Institute of
Public Health





WPPN Autumn Plenary

24th Nov 2025



HeARTlands

An exhibition & sale of work by
artists from the
Hidden Heartlands Region



**Edgeworthstown Library
Main Street, Edgeworthstown,
County Longford N39 F7Y8**

Friday 21st November - Friday 19th December 2025

Closing Date for Submissions 9th November 12pm

**For conditions of submission
Email : heartlandsartexhibitions@gmail.com**

More info at

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

WPPN Member News

9th Westmeath Milltownpass Scout Group

Santa Express 2025

Tickets now on sale!



Dates & Times

Saturday 13th December, 13:15 and 15:15

Sunday 14th December, 11:15 and 13:15

Location

Mullingar Railway Station

N91 HKR4



More info at

<https://9thwestmeathscouts.com/santa-express-2025>



Announcements from the Department

€12.3 million for projects under the 2025 CLÁR programme

- Investment in sports clubs and community facilities nationwide
- Funding for playgrounds, astro-turf pitches, walking tracks, spectator stands and upgrades of community centres

Social Enterprises Recognised at the First National Social Enterprise Awards

- The National Social Enterprise Awards highlight the positive impact social enterprises have on our communities and raises awareness and understanding of social enterprise across Ireland

€16.5 million for outdoor recreation projects

- Investment in recreational facilities such as walking trails, cycleways, water-based amenities and mountain access routes
- Projects directly support the ambition of the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy: 'Embracing Ireland's Outdoors'

New Solutions Social Innovation Hub and funding

- Funding of over €2.5 million also announced for social innovation initiatives
- Total funding of over €5 million allocated to support and grow the social innovation ecosystem in Ireland

Funding for Foras na Gaeilge and the Ulster-Scots Agency

- North South Ministerial Council meeting at Monaghan Peace Campus
- €20 million joint funding and €2 million additional funding.
- Budget for Clár na Leabhar Gaeilge increases to €2m in 2026

Baile an Róba Language Plan

- €672,000 funding made available for Gaeltacht Service Town

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



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil

Local Enterprise Office

An Iarmhí • Westmeath

Food Starter Programme Workshops Nov-Dec

The Food Starter programme is an online 4 x 1/2 day programme designed to help those with a food idea, or those at a very early stage of starting up a food business. It will cover everything from an overview of the Irish food sector to the specifics of starting a food production business.

Workshop Dates

24, 26 Nov and 08, 10 December

2pm to 5:30pm each day.

Price €20

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)

For enquiries please contact
Bernadette.Martyn@westmeathcoco.ie



Join the free Beginners Climate Course for the Over 55s

with **Jacinta Barrins, UN diplomat and Climate Mentor.**

Over six weeks we'll get together for a cuppa and a chat about Climate Change

When: Wednesdays 10.30am - 12.30pm
Where: Mullingar County Buildings

Wednesday 14th January 2026



Understanding the Basics

Discuss basic climate related terms in everyday language

Wednesday 21st January 2026



Changing behaviour

Chat about the barriers to climate action

Wednesday 28th January 2026



Carbon footprint

Learn what your carbon footprint is

Wednesday 4th February 2026



Take Action

Choose ONE action to do

Wednesday 11th February 2026



Prepare

Discuss the barriers to achieving your ONE action

Wednesday 14th April



Share progress

Share the story of your action

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

SIGN UP →

Tel : 044 933 2269

Email: dearbhla.sheridan@westmeathcoco.ie

Book online: westmeath.spydus.ie



WPPN Member Group: CUIGE



Mulling Gathers **NOLLAIG NIBBLES**

COMMUNITY MEETUP

COME AND JOIN US FOR A COZY AFTERNOON TO REVEL IN THE JOY OF THE FESTIVE SEASON. ENJOY A HOT CHOCOLATE OR MULLED WINE AND BRING YOUR FAVOURITE HOLIDAY SNACK TO SHARE. ALL ARE WELCOME.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN
GET YOUR TICKETS HERE



SUNDAY 14 **DECEMBER**

4PM **CÚIGE STUDIOS**
DOMING ST, MULLINGAR

Visit mullingargathers.com
for up-to-date info



2025 CLÁR programme

- €12.3 million for projects under the 2025 programme
- Investment in sports clubs and community facilities nationwide
- Funding for playgrounds, astro-turf pitches, walking tracks, spectator stands and upgrades of community centres
- Including the following Westmeath projects

Westmeath	Ballymore	Ballymore Community Centre	Community centre upgrade works	€65,000
Westmeath	Fore/Castlepollard	Westmeath County Council in conjunction with Fore Heritage Group	Community and sensory area seating at Nancy to Nelly	€28,800
Westmeath	Kilbeggan	Kilbeggan Shamrocks GAA	Pitch upgrade works and refurbishment of toilets	€54,000
Westmeath	Streamstown	Streamstown Tidy Village/ Westmeath County Council	Creation of cycle track	€100,000
Westmeath	Mullingar	St. Oliver's Hall, Moyvore	Community hall upgrade works	€65,000
Westmeath	Mullingar/Kinnegad MD	Westmeath County Council bins and furniture	Solar bins	€40,005
Westmeath	Coole/Castlepollard	Westmeath County Council/Coole Development Group	Repair work to Mayne church	€37,350
Westmeath	Lacken/Multyfarnham	Westmeath County Cemetary/Lacken Parish Council	Upgrade works cemetery	€44,550
Westmeath	Rathowen	Rathowen Community Development	Community centre upgrade works, Rathowen	€36,000
Westmeath Total			9	€470,705

Westmeath	Mullingar	IWA	Mobility Transport/Cancer Care	Diesel	€44,123
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Visit <https://www.gov.ie> for more info



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Arts Office

Luan Gallery in collaboration with Westmeath Arts Office presents

MYTHOLOGIES OF THE PERSONAL AND THE LAND

29 NOVEMBER – 2 FEBRUARY

Caroline Coyle

Martina Coyle

Teresa Doyle

Bertille de Lestrade

Mark Duffy

Helen Duncan

Lorraine Dunne

Mariia Golubieva

Tina Hayes

Lelia Henry

Liz Johnson

Fiona Kelly

Orla Kelly

Hilary Kinahan

Garry Loughlin

Ursula Meehan

Lorraine Mimmagh

Aishling Muller

Joan Mulvihill

Emma O'Brien

Valeriia Poliushko

EL Putnam

Catherine Rock

Paul Roy

Mimi Seery

Nóilín Shaw

Celine Sheridan

Annette Treacy

Ann Wingfield

Lesley Wingfield

A group exhibition featuring work by Westmeath Artists
selected by Guest Curator **Miguel Amado**

Luan Gallery, Elliott Road, Athlone
Tues-Sat 11-5pm Sun 12-5pm
090 6442154 @luangalleryathlone



More info
at <http://www.athloneartsandtourism.ie/luan-gallery/art-gallery>

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.



Sign up to their newsletter or follow on social media

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





The Community Water Development Fund 2026 is now open for applications.

The application process will remain open until 11:30pm on Tuesday 20th January 2026.



[More information available
https://lawaters.ie/cwdf/](https://lawaters.ie/cwdf/)



Westmeath Community Development represented Westmeath at the recent IPB Pride of Place awards ceremony.



Westmeath Community Development, Westmeath County Council. Age Friendly Communities. Runner Up. Pictured with: Carol Dunbar (Co-operation Ireland) and John Kearns (CEO IPB Insurance). © KIERAN RYAN BENSON

The 'Live Longer and Prosper' programme was a runner up in the 'Age Friendly Communities' category.



Enjoy the

WESTMEATH OLIVER GOLDSMITH HERITAGE & LITERARY AUDIO TRAIL

with narration and commentary by local experts



- 1 The 3 Jolly Pigeons
- 2 The Old Schoolhouse and the Busy Mill
- 3 Lissoy Parsonage
- 4 Kilkenny West Church
- 5 The Hawthorn Bush
- 6 Ballymahon

Scan the QR code to download
the multilingual audio tour

Scan an cód QR chun turas
fuaime ilteangach a íoslódáil

Available in English and Irish.



DIGITAL SKILLS CLASSES

BEGINNERS TO ADVANCED

Free one-to-one digital skills sessions for anyone who needs help with computers, smartphones & tablets

Mullingar Library

2pm-4pm: Monday

- November 17th

10am-12:30pm: Tuesday

- November 18th & 25th
- December 2nd & 9th
- January 13th & 20th

To reserve a slot:

Call 0449332161 or

Email: mgarlib@westmeathcoco.ie



Enquire at desk for more information



Adult
Literacy
for Life

Childminding

Are you a childminder or thinking of becoming a childminder in your own home?

Would you like information and/or support on:

- Running a childminding business
- Grants/funding available for childminders
- Training for childminders including Pre-Registration Training
- National Action Plan for Childminding



Join our local network of childminders who support each other!

Who are we?

We are your local Childcare Committee.

Why not talk to our childminding specialist in confidence about support available in your area?



Contact Michelle @Westmeath CCC -



0874337700



childminding@westmeathchildcare
.ie



www.westmeathchildcare.ie



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



National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028

Childcare
Committees
Ireland 

Coillearnacha
Dúchasacha



Woodlands
of Ireland

Native Woodland Strategy 2026-2030 Public Consultation

Woodlands of Ireland is conducting an online public consultation from now until Friday, 16th January 2026, followed by webinars and a gathering.



To contribute follow this link -
<https://www.woodlandsofireland.com/nws-consultation-form/>

WPPN Member Groups Noticeboard

Heartlands Pride



***Funding Secured for Heartlands Pride 2026 & Our
New Social Group for Athlone & Monksland***



An Roinn Leanaí, Míchumais
agus Comhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality

**“This project is supported by the LGBTIQ+ Community Services Fund
2025”.**

**[https://www.midlandslgbtproject.com/
heartlands-pride](https://www.midlandslgbtproject.com/heartlands-pride)**



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Community Section



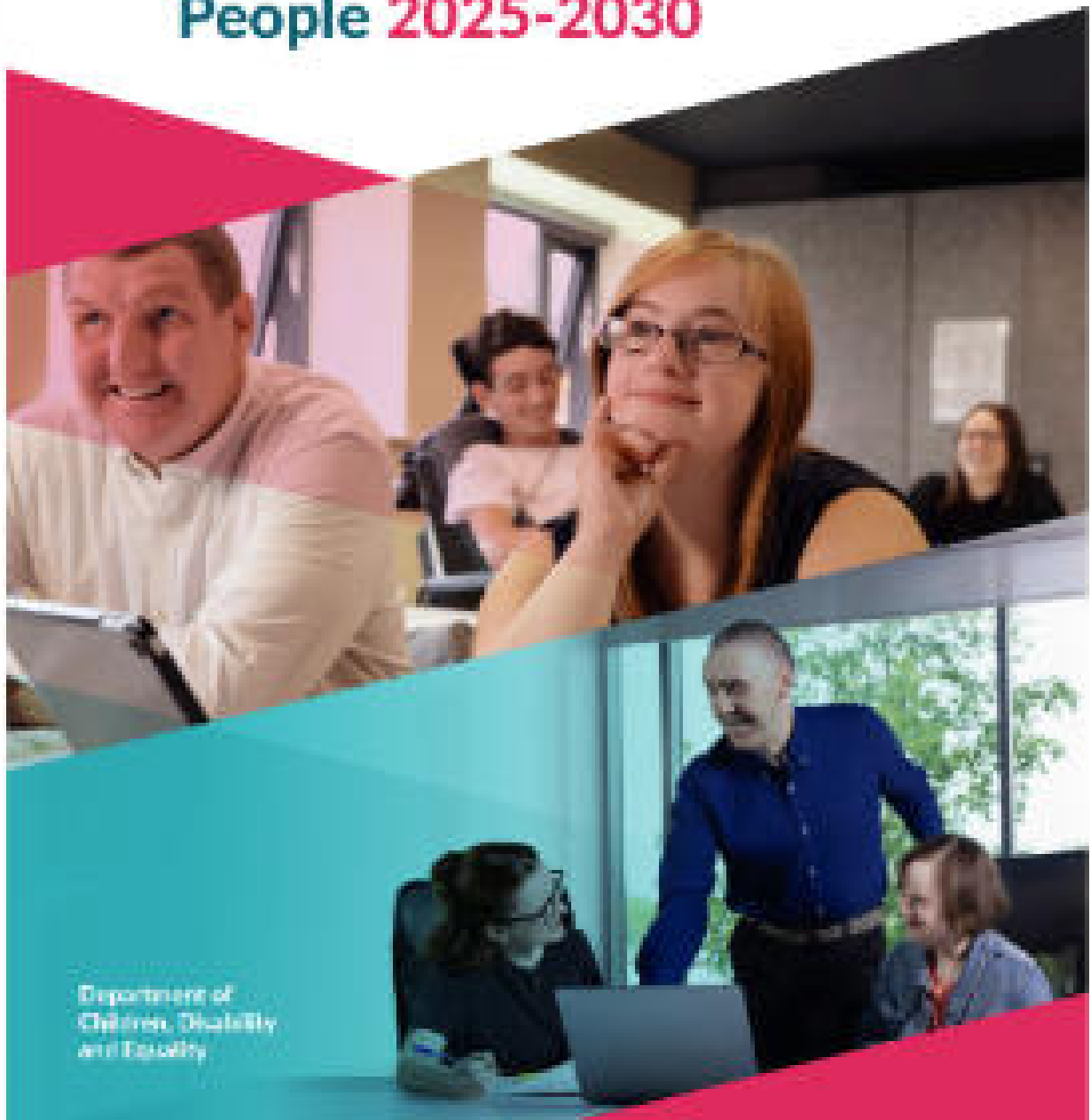
The new Westmeath Age Friendly Strategy, which was launched recently, brings together key agencies, community and service providers to collaborate on improving the lives of older people in Westmeath.

[Click this link to view the strategy.](#)





National Human Rights Strategy for Disabled People 2025-2030



Department of
Children, Disability
and Equality

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

The Climate Connected Project is a national platform designed to support and celebrate community-based climate action across Ireland.



Developed through a co-creative process with local authorities, Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs), Decarbonising Zones (DZs) and community partners, the platform brings together real examples of local climate initiatives, an interactive DZ map, and practical supports to help communities learn from each other and get more involved in climate solutions where they live.

<https://climateconnected.ie>

RECLAIM THE FLAME

Weaving Brigid's Cloak



A CALL TO UNITE IRELAND!

- **THE PROJECT:**
Colossal Textile Tapestry
RECYCLED, REPUROSED Materials

- Spanning the River Shannon
Athlone, January 31st



CONTRIBUTE:


1-Metre Square

Deadline: Jan 6th, 2026

All Skill Levels & Textile Arts Welcome!

fresh green, purple, soft-pink, Silver



✉ beanfeasa23@gmail.com 

facebook.com/groups/communitywellnessblanket



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

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

Westmeath

PPN



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Voice of the Community