

Hello from Mark at the WPPN.

I hope you all have had a peaceful Christmas and New Year's break.

January is always an important month for announcements about public grants. This issue of our Newsletter contains notices of many of these funding opportunities.

At the end of this month the WPPN and Community Section will host our annual funding information sessions and clinics.

- **20th Jan Athlone - Funding Info**
- **22nd Jan Mullingar - Funding Info**
- **27th Jan Athlone - Walk in Clinic**
- **3rd Feb Mullingar - Walk in Clinic**

See inside for times and locations

The WPPN are offering 45 free places on Carmichael's Spring Summer 2026 Training Programme. See inside for more info.

In other news, my colleague Martin will, this month, take up a new position with the Library Section. On behalf of myself and the Secretariat, I would like to wish him well in this new position.

All the best,

Mark Ahearn
Westmeath PPN

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

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



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL & WESTMEATH PPN

Grant Information Events 2026

Westmeath County Council in conjunction with Westmeath PPN are hosting Grant Information Events in Athlone and Mullingar. This is an opportunity for members of the public and community groups to gather information and ask any questions they may have on the grants available for 2026.

Information on the upcoming Information Evenings and Walk in Clinics are outlined below:

GRANTS - 2026 INFORMATION EVENINGS

20th JANUARY 2026
Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Athlone
6pm to 9pm

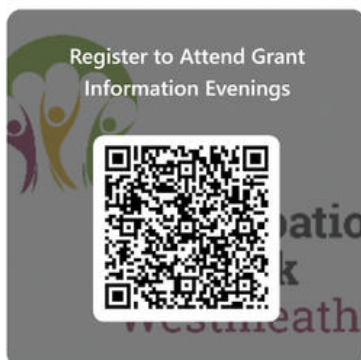
22nd JANUARY 2026
Greville Arms Hotel
Mullingar
6pm to 9pm

GRANTS - 2026 WALK-IN CLINICS

27th JANUARY 2026
Shamrock Lodge Hotel
Athlone
10am to 2pm

3rd FEBRUARY 2026
Greville Arms Hotel
Mullingar
6pm to 9pm

We will be on hand at the walk-in clinics to help you complete and finalise your application forms



ALL WELCOME TO ATTEND

For queries

Please email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie
or call **044 933 2157**

Registration is required for Grant Information sessions ONLY.

[Click on this link to the WPPN Site for up-to-date info and registration.](#)



Public Participation
Network Westmeath

Carmichael.

Free Training Courses for WPPN Members

Westmeath PPN is delighted to announce that we have purchased 45 places on Carmichael's Spring Summer 2026 Scheduled Training Programme for workers/volunteers in our member organisations.



Guiding Nonprofits

With over 30 years' experience and a wealth of unmatched expertise, Carmichael provides support to the nonprofit sector, making us more effective at what we do.

Places are available on a first come first served basis and are limited to one per person.

[Click here for more info](#)



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

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

LOCAL ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (LEP) 2026



**Applications
Now Open**

The Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) provides capital supports essential for many small community groups and organisations, particularly those who serve disadvantaged areas.

**Closing date for applications
27th February 2026**



Contact us



044 9332051



COMMUNITYGRANTS@WESTMEATHCOCO.IE



[Click on this link to the WCC Website for more info and to access the online application system](#)



COMMUNITY GRANTS 2026



COMMUNITY ACTION SCHEME GRANTS

- TIDY TOWNS GRANT
- RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION GRANTS
- COMMUNITY ACTION GRANT

**APPLICATIONS
NOW OPEN**

CATHAOIRLEACH COMMUNITY AWARDS

- WESTMEATH PERSON/GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD
- COMMUNITY PROJECT OF THE YEAR AWARD
- RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION PROJECT AWARD
- AGE FRIENDLY RECOGNITION AWARD
- PRIDE OF PLACE
- STEM GRANT (SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING & MATHEMATICS)
- SCHOOLS ENVIRONMENTAL COMPETITION

CLOSING DATE FOR APPLICATIONS 27TH FEBRUARY 2026

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Email: communitygrants@westmeathcoco.ie



044 9332051

[Click on this link to the WCC Website for more info and to access the online application system](#)

WCC Heritage Officer Notes

Community Monuments Fund 2026

- Applications are invited for the Community Monuments Fund 2026
- Owners and custodians of archaeological monuments may apply for grants to safeguard them into the future for the benefit of local communities and the visiting public.
- The core aims of the Community Monuments Fund are the conservation, maintenance, protection, and promotion of archaeological monuments.
- Deadline: 30th January 2026.

Historic Structures Fund 2026

- HSF offers 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 has been demonstrated, or a clear residential benefit has been demonstrated.
- Deadline: 16th January 2026.

Birdwatch Ireland Westmeath Branch

- Michael Wycherley will be giving overview of the swift survey of Mullingar during last summer. Also an overview of our ongoing counts of wetland birds at Lough Ennell and Lough Owel in the past few months and discussion on same.
- 8pm, Tuesday, 13th Jan 2026. Aras an Mhuilinn, Mount Street.

Old Athlone Society

- Dr Pádraig Lenihan lecture entitled 'Sieges without Guns, Athlone and the Midlands Dec 1641-Feb 1643'.
- 8pm, Wednesday, Jan 14th 2026. Shamrock Lodge Hotel.
- All Welcome.

[Visit the Conservation & Heritage Grants Page on the WCC for more info](#)



**WESTMEATH
INTEGRATION**
Local Authority Integration Team (LAIT)



AkiDWA
Network of Migrant Women

SAFE
SUPPORT AND AID FOR FGM
AND EFM

Guide for Frontline Professionals

Recognising and Responding to FGM and Early/Forced Marriage



Monday 9 February, 2026



11.00am - 1:00pm



Shamrock Lodge
Hotel, Athlone

SAFE (Support and Aid for FGM
and EFM) Training: Register here



An Roinn Dlí agus Cirt,
Gnóthaí Baile agus Imirce
Department of Justice,
Home Affairs and Migration

[Click here for information on AkiDWA Safe Project](#)

- In-depth training for frontline professionals working with migrants.
- SAFE (Support and Aid for FGM and EFM) project, is an EU-funded initiative that focuses on prevention, protection, and support for women and girls affected by or at risk of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and Early and Forced Marriage (EFM).



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

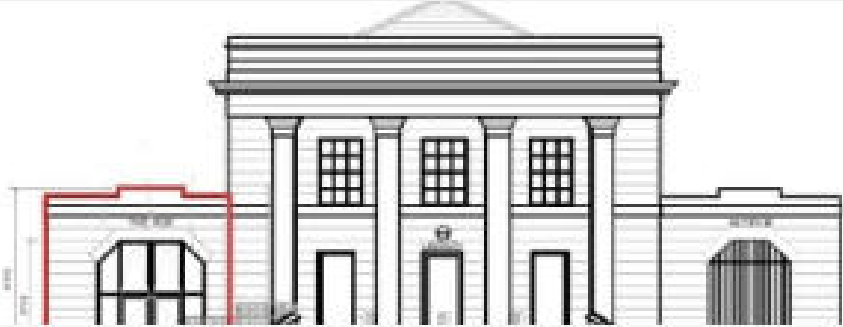
The application process will remain open until 11:30pm on Tuesday 20th January 2026.



More information available
<https://lawaters.ie/cwdf/>



Open Public Consultations









17.12.2025 - 09:00
10.02.2026 - 16:00

OPEN

**DEVELOPMENT OF A COMMUNITY OFFICE
ADJACENT TO THE MOATE LIBRARY (RPS
030 035) MAIN STREET, MOATEGRANOGE,
MOATE**

0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD

 <p>22.12.2025 - 09:00 16.01.2026 - 16:00</p> <p>Proposal to re-name road L-11371 Butlers Bridge, Lynn, Mullingar To Boithrin na mBan</p> <p>0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>	 <p>13.12.2025 - 09:00 06.02.2026 - 16:00</p> <p>PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT OF 94 NO. DWELLING UNITS AT LANDS 150m NORTH OF THE N55, LISSYWOLLEN TD., ATHLONE, CO. WESTMEATH <small>Part: 10 Planning Application (An Coimisiún Pleanála)</small></p> <p>0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>
 <p>03.12.2025 - 09:00 14.01.2026 - 23:59</p> <p>Emerging Preferred Route Corridor for the N52 Cavestown to Kilrush Road Improvement Scheme <small>Public Consultation</small></p> <p>0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>	 <p>01.12.2025 - 17:00 26.01.2026 - 16:00</p> <p>Coosan Point Public Amenity Masterplan December 2025</p> <p>4 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>
 <p>01.12.2025 - 09:00 23.01.2026 - 16:00</p> <p>Works to No.36 Connaught Street, Athlone Co.Westmeath N37 P2K8.</p> <p>0 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>	 <p>01.12.2025 - 17:00 26.01.2026 - 16:00</p> <p>Burgess Park Public Amenity Masterplan Project</p> <p>3 SUBMISSIONS DASHBOARD</p> <p>OPEN</p>

Click to Visit WCC Consultations Portal



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

Mullingar Active Travel Scheme

Public Information & Feedback Session

Monday | 12 January 2026 | 3pm – 8pm

Áras an Chontae/County Buildings, Mullingar



- Westmeath County Council, in conjunction with the National Transport Authority (NTA), invites residents, local stakeholders and members of the public to attend a Public Information and Feedback Session on the Preliminary Design for the Mullingar Courthouse to Saunders Bridge Active Travel Scheme.
- The preliminary design will be on display, and council staff and designers will be available to answer questions.
- Feedback is welcome until close of business Friday 16 January 2026

More information at

<https://www.mullingaractivetravel.com/courthouse>

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 this Spring



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





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



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



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

Arts Office

ARTS OFFICE
**COW HOUSE
STUDIOS
RESIDENCY
AWARD**

DEADLINE FOR
APPLICATIONS:
8 JANUARY 2026



WESTMEATH ARTS OFFICE
Oifig Ealaíon na hIarmhí

**COW
HOUSE
STUDIOS™**

Creative Ireland Grant Call

The Creative Ireland Programme is delighted to announce three new funding calls to a combined value of €4.6 million supporting creativity, connection and wellbeing across the island of Ireland.

Westmeath County Council Arts Office are inviting expressions of interest in the following:

- Creative Communities on a Shared Island*
- Creative Youth Nurture Fund*
- Creative Health and Wellbeing*

Please email a short expression of interest to the Creative Communities Engagement Officer at siobhain.boyce@westmeathcoco.ie

Visit the Westmeath
Culture Website for up-to-
date info on Arts Office
opportunities and events





National Stakeholder Survey

Understanding community needs and preventing drug and alcohol use and related harm

The Health Service Executive (HSE) is undertaking this survey to understand community needs and prevent drug and alcohol use and related harm

They are inviting professionals and organisations from across sectors to complete a short online survey.

The survey seeks to capture the perspectives of those working with children, families, young people, communities, and underserved groups, including those whose work focuses on health, wellbeing, education, community development, and social support.

Coordinated by the National Health Improvement Team (Public Health).

The deadline for completing the survey
is 12th January 2026

To participate in the survey.
click on this link





Announcements from the Department

New €2 million Community Centre in Moneygall, Co Offaly

- Project funded under the Community Centre Investment Fund (CCIF)
- The CCIF New Build Measure invests in new build multi-functional community centres with a minimum grant of €1 million up to a maximum of €6 million

Town and Village Renewal Scheme News

- €26 million announced for over 100 projects nationwide under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme
- Focusing on tackling vacancy and dereliction to bring additional footfall into town centers and assisting with pre-development costs associated with projects to help communities develop applications for future funding calls
- Example of a project:
 - Kerry County Council were awarded €250,000 under the 2025 Building or Land Acquisition Measure to cover the full cost of purchasing Teach Siamsa na Carriage, Baile na nGall. This centre was one of the National Folk Theatre of Ireland's 'Tithe Siamsa', which were built in the 1970's as training feeder centres for local traditional talent through the medium of Irish. The intention is to return it to use as a multi-purpose Arts Centre

'Fighting Words' Irish language and Gaeltacht programme

- Funding of €300,000 over 3 years (2025-2028) for this programme
- Fighting Words Irish language programme contributes to the use of the language among young people and to the use of Irish in the education system – in Gaeltacht areas and other locations across the country

Community Services Programme

- 400 community organisations nationwide to benefit from increased funding and 9 new organisations to join the programme in 2026
- Over 50 organisations set to benefit from a higher funding category, 11 organisations' contracts extended to end 2027 and plans to open the CSP Programme to new applications early next year

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



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL
Comhairle Chontae na hIarmhí

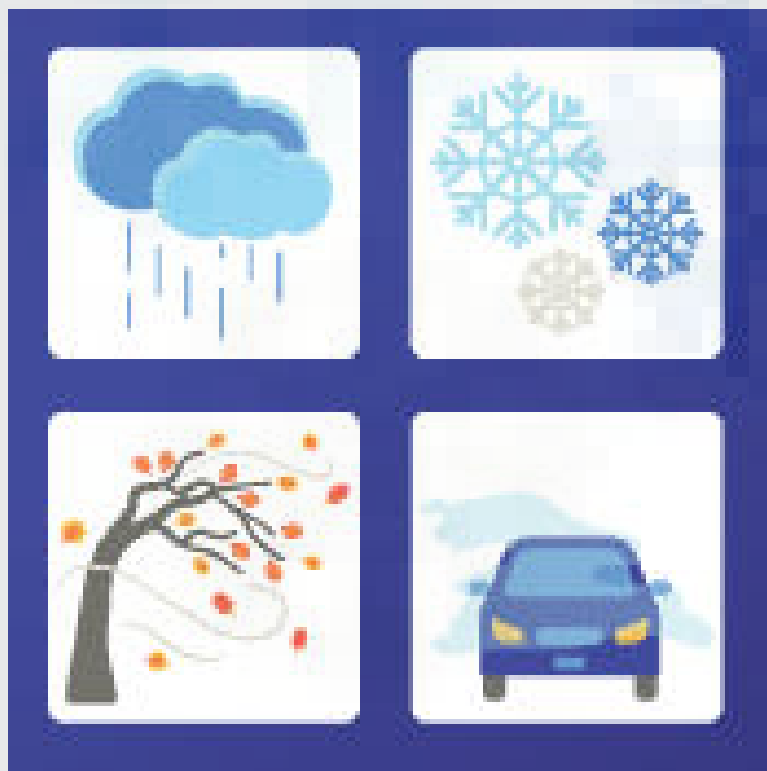
Be Winter-Ready

Visit Westmeath Co Co Website for information on

SEVERE WEATHER TEXT ALERT SERVICE

WESTMEATH MAJOR EMERGENCY PLAN

ROAD GRITTING ROUTES IN THE COUNTY



Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht



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



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



Public Participation Networks Ireland

Public Participation Networks

Annual Report 2024



[PPN Annual Report for 2024 available here](#)



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.](#)



Pre-Registration Training for Childminders



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

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

This training:



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

Thursday 15th January on-line 6.30pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 21st January on-line 6.30 - 8.30pm

Wednesday 28th January in Person 10am - 12 noon

@ Westmeath CCC Office. Contact Michelle by email:

childminding@westmeathchildcare.ie or call 087-433 7700



**National Action Plan
for Childminding
2021-2028**

**Childcare
Committees
Ireland**



**An Roinn Leanaí, Michumais
agus Combhionannais
Department of Children,
Disability and Equality**

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/>

Westmeath

PPN



PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

The Voice of the Community