



**Public
Participation
Network
Westmeath**

Free copy

NEWSLETTER

September 2026

Nuachtlitir Mheán Fómhair

Welcome to our September newsletter!

Connecting Communities, Shaping Priorities

As we move into the autumn period, preparations are underway for the WPPN Municipal District Budget Submissions Process for 2027. The annual submissions process provides an opportunity for community and voluntary groups to identify local priorities and bring them directly to the attention of Westmeath County Council. At our upcoming information meeting, member groups will learn how the 2027 process will operate.

Seeking PPN Members to be PPN Representatives on committees and working groups.

Becoming a representative is an opportunity to ensure that the voices of PPN Members are heard in local decision-making.

Whether you are interested in planning, community development, environment, transport or social inclusion, there are many ways to get involved.

For details on representative vacancies, upcoming events, training opportunities, meeting dates and all the latest PPN news, please visit the Westmeath PPN website.

We encourage all member groups to stay connected, get involved and help shape the future of their community.

Visit: Website: <https://westmeathppn.ie/>

PPN Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Follow us on our Facebook Page: [Westmeath Public Participation Network](#)

*Edel & Lourdes
Westmeath PPN*

WELCOME

TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

1. Castlepollard Pioneer Association
2. Coole Hall Committee

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

Contact us by emailing ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

or call 044 933 8903 / 044 933 8939



SCAN ME

EVENTS

Municipal District Submissions (2027).

In person

PPN Members are invited to attend public meetings in September regarding Municipal District Submissions. This will be an opportunity for the community to

- Receive feedback on submissions
- Get advice on completing submissions
- Elect delegates to discuss the submissions at Municipal District Meeting

As part of the formal process of drafting the Municipal District Budgets for 2027, WPPN asks member groups to identify and make submissions on issues affecting their locality or community.

2nd September

Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone
7pm to 8pm

9th September

Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar
7pm to 8pm

[Register your attendance here](#)



Municipal District Submissions (2027 Online meeting)

16th September
Microsoft Teams
5pm to 6pm



[REGISTER HERE](#)





WESTMEATH PPN INFORMATION SESSION

What is Westmeath Public Participation Network?

Join us for an online information session

NEW and **established** member groups of the PPN are welcome

The session will be 1 hour, including time for PPN member groups Q&A
Please pass on the message to members in your group

Westmeath PPN members
Information session- 29th
September (ONLINE)



DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Tue, 29 th Sept	10am to 1pm	Online meeting
Tue, 29 th Sept	4pm tp 5pm	Online meeting

REGISTER HERE



044-933 8903/ 8939



ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Grow your Own

with **Colman Power**

Organichorticulturist, author, nutritionist, educator
and personal coach



**Public Participation
Network Westmeath**



5th October (Mon)



**Coole Hall, Co Westmeath
N91 E525**



11:30am to 3pm

What You'll Learn:



Growing Tips & Guides

Learn how to grow your own food with seasonal tips, Seed saving, tutorials, and expert advice.

**Places are
limited**

Reserve Your Spot Now!

**REGISTER
HERE**



Athlone River Festival

MADCAPS Coarse Angling match



Athlone River Festival Angling Competition brought anglers together for a competitive and enjoyable weekend of fishing.

The event showcased the skill and dedication of participants while highlighting Athlone's potential as a premier coarse angling destination.

Organisers thanked all sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who helped make the competition a success. 🙌👏



Castlelost Heritage Event



The **Castlelost Heritage Event** brought together local residents and visitors to explore the history of Castlelost and Gaulstown through a series of informative talks and heritage visits. Highlights included presentations on Gaulstown Graveyard, stories of Mary Molesworth and the "Wicked Earl," insights into the history and conservation of Castlelost Graveyard, and a visit to Kieran Geoghegan's Museum of historic household and farming artefacts. The event celebrated local heritage while promoting awareness of ongoing conservation efforts.

-Organised by Castlelost Heritage Committee

COMING SOON!

Wednesday, 25th Nov 2026
Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar



“Building a Stronger Community Together, Inspired by Community, Driven by Action”

Members of the PPN will have the opportunity to:

- Share ideas and experiences
- Elect committee members
- Review the year's achievements
- Highlight issues important to your community
- Discuss future priorities

Everyone has a role to play in creating an inclusive and connected community. Come along, have your say, connect with other groups and learn what's happening across Westmeath.



WESTMEATH COUNTY COUNCIL NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

For the past number of years
Westmeath County Council have provided financial assistance to
Tidy Town groups and Business groups to help purchase, erect and
maintain Christmas lighting in their local towns / villages.



APPLY HERE

Closing Date for receipt of applications is
Friday 18th Sept 2026.

For further information please contact the Community Development
Section of Westmeath County Council on 044 933 2196.





Arts and Health in Older Persons Services: Guidance Documents

You are invited to join Minister Murnane O'Connor for the launch of Arts and Health in Older Persons Services: Guidance Documents. These resources will support staff in residential and day care services for older persons to plan and deliver creativity and arts programmes. They include practical advice on how to use person-centred creativity to support the daily routines of residents, contribute to the goals of individual care plans, and make a service feel more like a home.

The launch will be of particular interest to managers, activity co-ordinators, and care staff working in residential and day care services who are interested in developing arts activities in their settings, and connecting with arts and cultural opportunities in their communities. It will also be of interest to artists and arts organisations supporting arts programming in Older Persons Services.

These guidance documents have been developed by Réalta, the national resource organisation for arts and health, on behalf of the National Creative Arts and Health Group which is an ongoing partnership between the Department of Health, through the Healthy Ireland programme; the Creative Ireland programme at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport; the Health Service Executive; and the Arts Council.

The guidance documents include:

- The Arts in Older Persons Services: A Guide for Working with Artists and Arts Organisations
- Transforming Your Care Setting with Art: A Guide for Older Persons Services
- Building Creativity into Care: A Guide for Older Persons Services

Who should attend:

This event is for anyone working with, or interested in, older people's health and wellbeing, including healthcare professionals, care home staff, activity coordinators, artists, arts organisations, and policy makers.

[REGISTER HERE](#)



Advance Planning. Start your Enduring Power of Attorney (EPA) Journey

Public Information Evenings

This is an information evening with the Director of the DSS, Áine Flynn. Áine will introduce the key reforms under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015, the guiding principles, the new support framework, and the tools for advance planning.

- key reforms under the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015
- the guiding principles
- the new support framework
- the tools for advance planning
- the functions of the DSS

Limerick

When: Tuesday 8 September

Where: Castletroy Park Hotel The Castletroy Park Hotel | Hotels in Limerick | 4 Star Hotels Limerick

Time: 6-7pm

Partners: HSE-Mid West and the Assisted Decision-Making Team at University Hospital Limerick

Booking

- Ring Freephone (01) 211 9750 and ask for the EPA Helpdesk
- email EPAhelpdesk@decisionsupportservice.ie or

North Dublin

When: Tuesday 10 November

Where: Carlton Hotel, Dublin Airport Carlton Hotel
Dublin Airport | Book Direct & Save

Time: 6-7pm

Partners: HSE Assisted Decision Making (ADM), Integrated Health Areas of Dublin North County

Booking

- Ring Freephone (01) 211 9750 and ask for the EPA Helpdesk
- email EPAhelpdesk@decisionsupportservice.ie

or

Webinar Invitation

Working together to make Every Move Count:
Connecting to Community

Time: 11:30am - 12:45pm
Date: Thursday 24 September 2026

For all healthcare professionals and community partners who have an interest in supporting people to become more active.



[Register here](#)

Community Archive Scheme Launch

Date: Aug 26, 2026
Time: 11:00 AM in Dublin

Description

The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)'s Community Archive Scheme enables low- or no-funded organisations and individuals to gain Associate Membership to the DRI, including all related benefits.

Previous winners include:

- Long Kesh Style Archive
- Computers in Education Society of Ireland
- Folklore.ie
- Frank Donaldson 'Tidy Towns' Collection

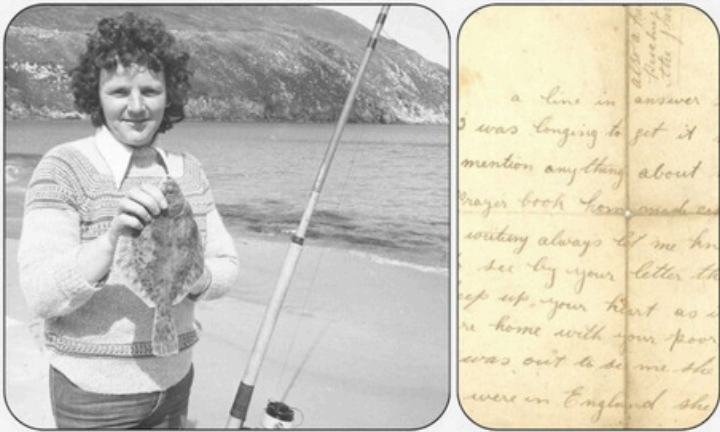
Join us on 26 August 2026 for a one-hour webinar where you can find out more about the scheme, including eligibility and how to apply.

Meeting REGISTRATION

DRI Community Archive Scheme 2027

**APPLY
NOW**

COMMUNITY dri ARCHIVE SCHEME



The Digital Repository of Ireland (DRI)'s **Community Archive Scheme** enables low- or no-funded organisations and individuals to gain Associate Membership to the DRI, including all related benefits.

Previous winners include:

- Long Kesh Style Archive
- Computers in Education Society of Ireland
- Folklore.ie
- Frank Donaldson 'Tidy Towns' Collection

Online Information Session
26 August 2026
From 11.00-12.00pm



For more information and to apply, please visit www.dri.ie

The Digital Repository of Ireland would like to invite applications for our 2027 Community Archive Scheme!

Opening date for the DRI Community Archive Scheme: 26 August 2026

Information session: 1st October 2026 at 11am

Closing date for applications: 5th November 2026 at 5pm

[DRI community Archive Scheme application form](#)

For more information, and for past winners, view our dedicated [Community Archive Scheme website section](#).



Volunteer SUPPORT PROGRAMME 2026

Support your volunteers. Strengthen your club.



Clubs can receive up to €1000 each towards the training and education costs of their club volunteers



OPEN TO SPORTS CLUBS, COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS OR GROUPS

Sports clubs and organisations / community groups who provide physical activity in their communities can apply.



Priority will be given to those applicants working within disadvantaged areas (**Mullingar and Athlone RAPID Area**) and or working with people with a disability.



APPLICATIONS CLOSING DATE:
FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER



For more information and to apply, visit
www.westmeathsports.ie



Volunteer Support Programme 2026

The programme offers grants of up to €1,000 to support the training, education and development of volunteers within sports clubs, community organisations and physical activity groups across Westmeath.

[APPLY HERE](#)



Important changes to the Heritage Council Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2027, which is due to launch in late August 2026.

The 2027 Heritage Council Community Grant scheme will introduce a new two-stage application process and an earlier application timeline, giving community groups more time to develop projects and reducing the amount of work required before they know if their project is likely to progress.

The new approach is designed to:

- ✓ Reduce the amount of work required at the initial stage
- ✓ Allow groups to put forward project ideas before investing significant time in a full application
- ✓ Give applicants a longer lead-in time to develop projects, seek advice and gather supporting information
- ✓ Provide earlier feedback on whether a project is likely to be competitive under the scheme
- ✓ Enable the Heritage Council to assess initial proposals quickly and identify projects that are best suited to progress

COMING SOON

Stage 1 – Expression of Interest (EOI) | Open: Mid-September 2026

Applicants will be asked to complete a short form providing: The EOI is intended to be straightforward and proportionate. Applicants will not be required to submit detailed budgets, quotations, permissions or extensive supporting documentation at this stage. The aim is to provide a quick and accessible first step for applicants while enabling the Heritage Council to identify projects with strong potential.

Following assessment, shortlisted applicants will be invited to proceed to Stage 2.

Stage 2 – Full Application | Invitations issued: Early November 2026

Stage 2 application period will remain open until mid-January 2027 and will be assessed through a competitive scoring process.

Further information on the themes, eligibility criteria and application requirements will be circulated in late August.



To celebrate the release of the 1926 Census, Westmeath County Council is delighted to host a landmark exhibition curated by the National Archives, entitled 'The Story of Us: Independent Ireland and the 1926 Census'.

Free public exhibition

25th August to 4th September

Atrium at Westmeath County Buildings, Mullingar

Open weekdays, between 10am and 4pm, with late openings until 8pm on Thurs 27th August, Tues 1st and Thurs 3rd Sept.

Public launch event – 6pm. Tuesday 25th Aug. No booking required and all welcome.

The website to point people to is the [Westmeath Culture News Website](#)



BHIS Conservation **Grant Launch**



The Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) 2027 is now open for applications.

This grant scheme will provide grants of between €2,500 and €50,000 for the conservation of historic structures. To be eligible for the grant buildings must be on the Record of Protected Structures or be within an Architectural Conservation Area (ACA). Vernacular structures and Historic Shopfronts are also eligible for funding under this grant scheme.

BHIS Historic Thatch Buildings (HTB) fund 2027 is also open for applications. This grant scheme is for historic thatched roof buildings.

Applications for both of these grant schemes must be accompanied by a detailed method statement and the deadline for applications is 30 October.

For full details and application form can be found in the [WEBSITE:](#)

This grant scheme is funded by [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#) and administered by [@westmeathcoco](#)
[#fundingopportunities](#) [#BuiltHeritage](#) [#GrantScheme](#)
[#builtheritageconservation](#) [#Thatch](#)



Phase 2 of Affordable Purchase Scheme

PHASE 2 OF AFFORDABLE PURCHASE SCHEME AT COOLA MEADOWS, KILBEGGAN

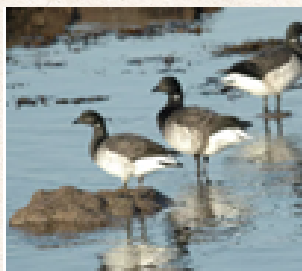
Westmeath County Council in partnership with Brennan McCann Developments Ltd. and with the support of the Department of Housing Local Government and Heritage is delighted to launch Phase 2 of the Affordable Purchase Scheme at Coola Meadows, Kilbeggan.

A total of 6 affordable homes will be available for sale at a reduced price to eligible buyers. The scheme will consist of 2 Bed and 3 Bed Semi Detached and Terraced Units. These properties are open to people who are First Time Buyers or qualify under the 'Fresh Start Principle'. Applicants should have Mortgage Approval in Principle secured when applying.



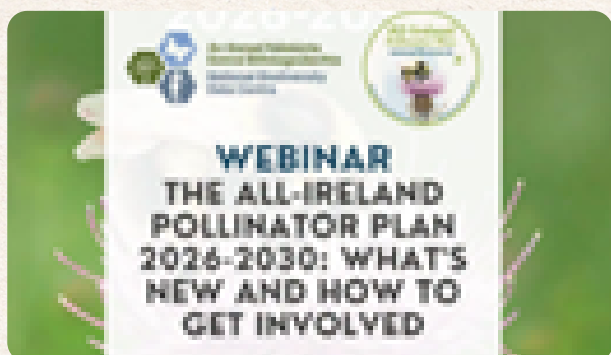
Applications can be made between **Monday 31st August at 12pm and Sunday September 20th at midnight.**

Please [visit www.westmeathcoco.ie](http://www.westmeathcoco.ie) to find out more and apply for the scheme.



 Wetland bird species are part of Ireland's wetland heritage.

In this CWF webinar, Owen Murphy, Senior Project Manager of the Breeding Waders EIP, will talk about what community groups that are engaged in managing, restoring and protecting Ireland's wetlands can do to help protect the bird species at risk. For more information, please visit the [CWF website](#).  [Zoom link to Webinar](#).



 This National heritage Week, join the All-Ireland

Pollinator Plan for an online talk. Find out more about the new Plan and how to get involved. Booking is required. Visit [pollinators.ie](#) for details. [Register here](#). For more details and the full programme of events, visit [www.heritageweek.ie](#).

Click on the workshops to register:

 **17** [Check, Clean, Dry: Practical Biosecurity for Waterway Users - 12th September](#) - ATU Sligo, Ballytivnan, Co. Sligo

 **17** [Biosecurity for Water Sport Events Toolkit- Launch Day - 3rd September](#)

Galway City Museum. Co. Galway | 1:00 - 3:00pm
Free (registration required)

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Click on the following workshops to register!

 **17** [Check, Clean, Dry: Practical Biosecurity for Waterway Users - 12th September](#) - ATU Sligo, Ballytivnan, Co. Sligo

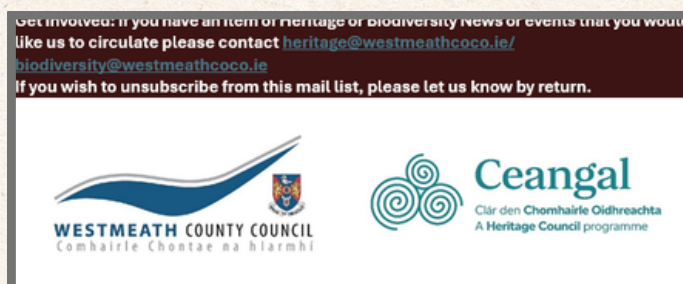
 **17** [Biosecurity for Water Sport Events Toolkit- Launch Day - 3rd September](#) - Galway City Museum. Co. Galway | 1:00 - 3:00pm | Free (registration required)

 Bat Conservation Ireland's Bat Surveyor's course for beginners

Online theory Course €170 [Book Here](#).

[Bat Surveying for Beginners – Part 2 Fieldwork – Bat Conservation Ireland's Online Training Platform](#)

€325 non-members/ €310 members non-residential | 2 & 3 September 2026 two-day course Netterville Institute, Douth, Co Meath





If your child is aged between 4-6 years, and starting primary school in September 2026 this is for them. Libraries have put together a bag of books just for them that can be collected in any library. It can help them to navigate starting school.

Age-Friendly Book Club in Castlepollard Library

Castlepollard Library Age-Friendly Book Club:
Castlepollard Library Age-Friendly Book Club is a book club for retired persons. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 1st September at 11:00 am when participants will be discussing "All the Diamonds in Paris" by Kristen Harmel, copies of which should be available in the library shortly. New members are always welcome.



On September 23rd Mullingar Library are holding a **Change Clothes workshop** at 11:30am - 1pm as part of Sustainable Development Goals Week 2026. A Skills for Life event.

Booking required at www.westmeathculture.ie

Workshops with Anna Browne of Big Sky Flowers

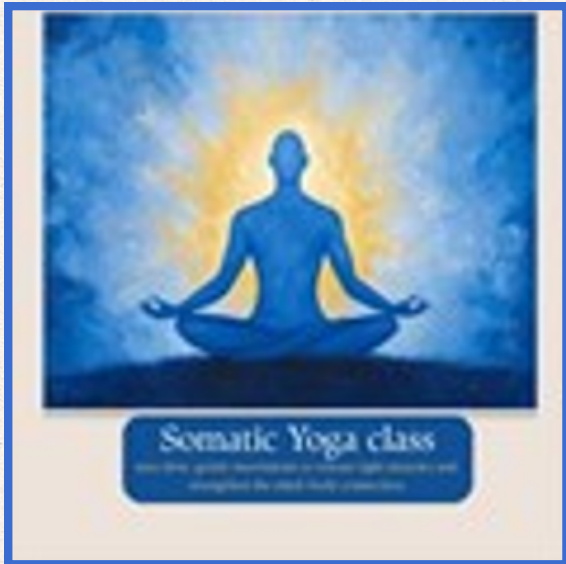
Booking is essential.
For full details please visit:
www.westmeathculture.ie



There is a **Seed saving Workshop with Anna Browne** being held in Kinnegad on
Wednesday 09 Sep 2026 - 1:30 PM to 3:00 PM

Unlock the secrets of seed saving and cultivate your own sustainable garden! Saving seeds is a heritage skill that has been forgotten. Rediscover this practice and how it yields healthy strong plants. Learn practical tips, connect with fellow seed enthusiasts, and embark on a journey of seed stewardship. Participants will go home with a selection of recently saved seeds.

These workshops have been funded by the Creative Communities grant.



Kinnegad Library Somatic Yoga

Running for 4 weeks

Starting Tuesday 25 August from 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday 01 Sep 2026 - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday 08 Sep 2026 - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Tuesday 15 Sep 2026 - 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

Join us for a Somatic Yoga class series in Kinnegad Library from Tuesday 25h August. Somatic Yoga uses slow, gentle movements to release tight muscles and strengthen the mind-body connection. The session is for adults over 18, and participants must be able to rise from the floor unaided.

Equipment: Please bring a mat, a small towel, and a rug or blanket.

Workshops with Anna Browne of Big Sky Flowers

Booking is essential.

For full details please visit:
www.westmeathculture.ie



Why not join the **Workshop with Anna Browne of Big Sky Flowers** on September 25th Athlone Library

11.30am - 1pm

Booking required at www.westmeathculture.ie

Athlone Library have a fun, eight-week programme for parents and their children, designed to support early language, reading, and numeracy through music and play. Eight, one-hour sessions starting Saturday September 19th at 10.00 am

Participants must be able to attend all 8 sessions. Booking is essential as places are limited. Contact athlib@westmeathcoco.ie for more information.



Culture Night, Friday September 18th 4-5pm.

Make and design your own kite in Moate Library. Design, colour and decorate your own cardboard kite using markers, pencils and other mixed media with visual artist Claire Guinan. The is suitable for children aged 5-8
Booking required.



Kilbeggan Library Adult Book Club

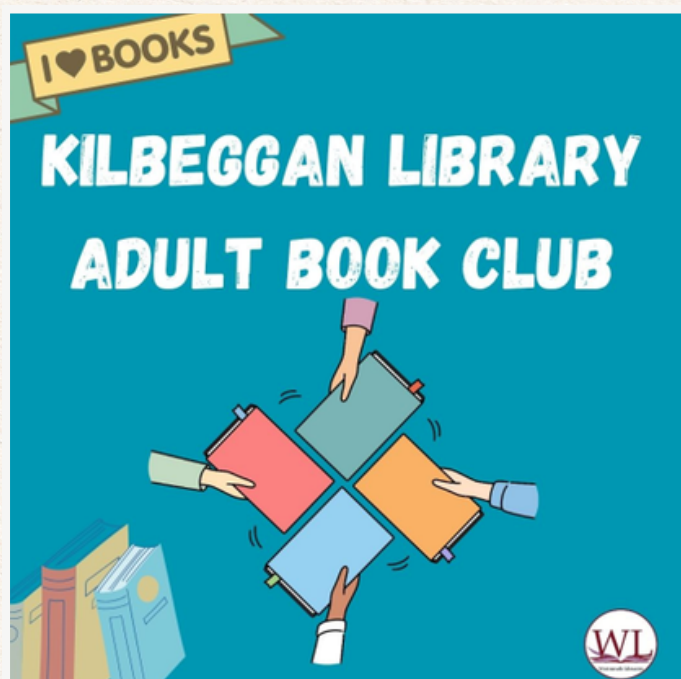
on Thursday 24th September at 6.30pm

Come along to Kilbeggan Library's Adult Book Club.

No need to buy any books, we will order them for you through the library.

Everybody welcome, just come as you are and have a chat with other readers.

This month the Kilbeggan Library Adult Book Club is reading "The Queen of Dirt Island" by Donal Ryan.



Email:

info@westmeathculture.ie

Phone: 044 9332000



Fix & Reinvent – Practical Repair Skills workshop
with Change Clothes in Kilbeggan Library on Friday 25th
September at 3.15pm

Facilitated by our friends in Change Clothes, these workshops aim to teach participants basic or creative stitches for repair, zipper & button fixes, patching holes: practical & decorative, darning & felting: wool repair and duplicate stitching. Through these simple methods, we can extend the life of our clothes greatly, and be more responsible consumers.

As part of Sustainable Development Goals Week 2026.
A Skills for Life event.

Safe Routes to School

Works are now underway on the Safe Routes to School Scheme at St. Joseph's National School, Killucan.

Westmeath County Council is delighted to announce the commencement of works on the Safe Routes to School Scheme at St. Joseph's National School, Killucan. These works will help create a safer more accessible environment for pupils walking, cycling and scooting to school.

The scheme design was based on the Safe Routes to School Outline Delivery Plan prepared by the An Taisce Green-Schools Safe Routes to School Infrastructure Office in consultation with the school community, Westmeath County Council and the National Transport Authority.



[Learn more about the Safe Routes to School programme:](#)

#SafeRoutesToSchool #ActiveTravelWestmeath
#WestmeathCountyCouncil #Killucan #RoadSafety
#NationalTransportAuthority#SustainableTransp

Safe Routes to Schools

This programme is an initiative of the Department of Transport and supported by the Department of Education. The Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Programme aims to create new and safer walking, cycling and wheeling routes within communities, alleviating congestion at the school gates and increasing the number of students who walk or cycle to school.

An Taisce Green-Schools coordinates the programme and a dedicated Infrastructure Officer works with schools who applied to be in the programme.

In Westmeath, 12 schools have applied to take part in the programme. The selection is being rolled out in phases:

- **Round 1:**

Scoil Chroí Naofa, Rochfortbridge
St. Joseph's Secondary School, Rochfortbridge

- **Round 2:**

Athlone Community College
Scoil an Chlochair, Kilbeggan

- **Round 3:**

Cluain Maoláin National School, Clonmellon
Columba College, Killucan
St. Joseph's National School, Killucan

- **Round 4:**

Coralstown National School, Mullingar,
St. Michael's National School, Castletown Geoghegan
St. Patrick's National School, Ballinagore

A further two schools will be included in subsequent rounds of the programme:

- Gaelscoil an Choillín, Mullingar
- An Grianán National School, Mount Temple, Moate

[View scheme details and design drawings:](#)

DRIVE Brief Advisor Training

Drug related intimidation and violence is a serious and insidious problem that affects individuals, families and communities throughout the country. Drug related intimidation occurs when a criminal or criminals allege that a sum of money is owed as a result of drug debt. Individuals or family members may be subjected to intimidation or the threat of intimidation. Drug related intimidation can take many forms, some forms include verbal threats, physical violence, damage to home or property or sexual violence.

DRIVE (Drug Related Intimidation & Violence Engagement) is an interagency project with systems and structures to respond to drug related intimidation and associated violence in Ireland. The DRIVE project is funded by the Drugs Policy Refugee and Inclusion Health Unit in the Department of Health. Capacity building and shared commitment is a key Pillar of the DRIVE Framework. It recognises the importance of developing an increased understanding of drug related intimidation in communities and improving the capacity of frontline workers and other relevant organisations to respond effectively.

The Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF) has now organised for the roll out of a number of DRIVE Brief Advisor Training sessions across the counties of Laois, Offaly, Longford & Westmeath. The table below sets out all the scheduled dates for these training sessions.

To register to attend and more training session options in Midlands area, please click the link below:

www.mrdatf.ie/education-and-training

Westmeath locations

Date	Sessions	Venue
Vednesday 9th of September	Morning session 9:30am – 12:30pm sharp Registration from 9:00am	Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel, Clonown Road Athlone, N37CK73
	Afternoon session 1:30pm – 4:30pm sharp Registration from 1:00pm	Shamrock Lodge Country House Hotel, Clonown Road Athlone, N37CK73
Thursday 5th of November	Morning session 9:30am – 12:30pm sharp Registration from 9:00am	Mullingar Youth Project Youth Work Ireland Midlands Grange Meadows, N91HK00
	Afternoon session 1:30pm – 4:30pm sharp Registration from 1:00pm	Mullingar Youth Project Youth Work Ireland Midlands Grange Meadows, N91HK00

DRIVE Brief Advisor Training

This training is an in-person half day training programme for people in community settings who may come in contact with individuals who are impacted by drug related intimidation.

Learning Objectives

At the end of the training participants will:

- Recognise and describe the prevalence and impact of drug related intimidation & violence in Ireland
- Explain and summarise the DRIVE Project and its operation at the community level
- Identify and outline the key features of the Drug Related Intimidation & Reporting Programme
- Locate and summarise the range of confidential support services available for individuals impacted by drug related intimidation and violence in their locality
- Demonstrate and apply the ability to hold a brief, supportive conversation with someone impacted for drug related intimidation, and direct them to appropriate support services confidentially

Who should attend

People who perform a role in the community whereby they meet, engage with or interact with other members of the community in supportive, advisory or helping capacities. People who are likely to meet people experiencing drug related intimidation and may have the opportunity to signpost to supports or provide brief information.

EU Funding News and Tips

EU Funding for climate action - and a new CERV opportunity

Live Online Workshops

Are you currently planning or writing an EU funding proposal under Horizon Europe, CERV or LIFE?

Regular online workshops offer expert-led, application-oriented guidance to help you develop stronger EU funding proposals, with a particular focus on Horizon Europe, EU funding for the green transition, and the Citizens, Equality, Rights and Values Programme (CERV).

Each workshop helps you understand how to translate your project concept into a competitive proposal, how evaluators assess proposals, and how you can apply this perspective to strengthen your own application.



Upcoming EU Funding Workshops

How to Develop a Convincing CERV Project Proposal

Interactive and step-by-step CERV Proposal Writing Workshop

Thursday, 24 September 2026 · 9h30–13h00 CET

[More information](#)

Horizon Europe Proposal Writing Workshop for First-Time Applicants

A hands-on introduction to crafting a clear and competitive grant application

Thursday, 8 October 2026 · 9h30–13h00 CET

[More information](#)



MACE Community Grants 2026



MACE has launched the second year of our MACE Community Grants initiative where we invite local groups and clubs across Ireland to apply for a share of a €50,000 fund designed to support projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

The campaign will award fifty grants of €1,000 each to community organisations, supporting projects that make a positive and lasting difference at a local level.

This is the second year of our largest community initiative and builds on a very successful inaugural year that saw widespread participation from local groups and retailer engagement across the MACE network.

Fronted by MACE brand ambassador and former Ireland rugby captain Johnny Sexton, this year's campaign features a series of videos showcasing three of last year's grant recipients and the tangible impact the funding has had in their communities.

Applications open on 20 August and close on 10 September.

[ENTRY FORM HERE](#)



support | advocacy | education
for mental illness



Shine.ie

Join the social movement and start a conversation to make a difference

Wear the Green Ribbon to show you are open to talking about mental health
Talk to others about this important campaign; talking about mental health helps to **increase recovery rates**
Donate to support the growth of this movement



Donate here

Follow us on social media
@ShineOnlineIE

www.shine.ie

Registered Charity Number: 20011512 CHY 6380

This work is supported by:



Ireland in Conversation: Supporting Mental Health in Rural Ireland

Join us for a free 60-minute lunchtime webinar exploring mental health, isolation and connection in rural Ireland.

We'll look at what isolation really looks like on the ground, why it persists and how communities, organisations and individuals can respond in meaningful ways. Alongside expert perspectives, we'll hear about lived experiences and explore the small but powerful connections that can make a real difference.

Our speakers include Maria Walsh MEP; George Graham, Chairperson of Awareness Head to Toe; Mona O'Donoghue Concannon, Honorary Secretary & Chair ICOSA; and Enda Egan, CEO of the Irish Men's Sheds Association.

 **Wednesday, 2nd September 2026**

 **12.30pm–1.30pm**

 **Online (Microsoft Teams)**

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Let Them Make Art: The Helium Creative Health Youth Forum

Do you want the opportunity to have your voice heard and meet other like-minded young people? Join us for a day of creativity, idea-making and fun!

The Helix, DCU, Dublin, D09 FW22

Ages: 13-16, 16+

Workshop Dates: **26 September 2026**

Workshop Times: 09.30 - 16:30



BOOK A WORKSHOP



Connect. Create. Make your mark.

Hear from keynote speaker Joanne O'Riordan, paint with award-winning artist Helen Steele, get involved in hands-on creative workshops and meet other young people from across the island of Ireland at Let Them Make Art – the first all-island Creative Health Youth Forum for young people living with long-term physical health conditions.

Taking place on 26 September 2026, this free, fully accessible event is for young people aged 13–24 living with a long-term physical health condition, as well as siblings, young carers, close friends and family members. You don't need to have taken part in a Helium programme before – everyone is welcome.

Meet our keynote speaker: Joanne O'Riordan

Joanne O'Riordan is an internationally recognised disability activist, columnist and motivational speaker. Born with the rare condition Tetra-amelia syndrome, Joanne has become one of Ireland's leading voices for disability rights, challenging world leaders and speaking at the United Nations about creating a more accessible future. Her powerful story of resilience, determination and independence has inspired audiences across Ireland and beyond.



Creative workshop with Helen Steele

Award-winning Irish artist and designer Helen Steele is celebrated for her bold use of colour, expressive style and signature wearable art. During the forum, Helen will lead an exclusive painting workshop, giving participants the chance to explore their creativity alongside one of Ireland's most exciting contemporary artists

What's happening on the day?

This year's theme is Access to the Arts.

Together, participants will explore what helps or creates barriers, and what could make the arts more accessible and inclusive.

The ideas, artwork and conversations from the day will be shared with decision-makers to help shape future thinking around accessibility in the arts.

Throughout the day you'll have the opportunity to:

- Hear Joanne O'Riordan's inspiring keynote address.
- Take part in an exclusive painting workshop with Helen Steele.
- Enjoy creative workshops including zine-making and junk print-making.
- Meet and connect with other young people from across Ireland.
- Share your experiences and ideas through creative activities and facilitated discussions.
- Help shape conversations about improving access and inclusion in the arts.



Women's
Collective
Ireland
Mullingar

She Flourishes

**Health, wellbeing and self-care for
women in our community**

A FREE PROGRAMME CREATED FOR WOMEN OF ALL AGES TO PAUSE,
CONNECT, LEARN AND FLOURISH.

**JOIN US FOR A WELCOMING AND SUPPORTIVE
PROGRAMME EXPLORING:**

- HEALTH & WELLBEING
- SELF-CARE & CONFIDENCE
- MINDFULNESS & RELAXATION
- HEALTHY LIVING
- MONEY & WELLBEING
- TIME FOR YOU



**WHETHER YOU WANT TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW, MEET OTHER
WOMEN, OR SIMPLY TAKE SOME TIME FOR YOURSELF — YOU
ARE VERY WELCOME.**

FREE • FRIENDLY • OPEN TO WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

When: Mondays - 10-1pm

Where: SWEETS, The Crescent, Kilbeggan, Co. Westmeath, N91 KN2V

Starts: 28th September for 6 weeks

To find out more or book your place: contact Paula/ Maureen @ 0896184338 or
email: devworker.mullingar@womenscollective.ie

**Come along. Take a breath. Make time for you.
She Flourishes — because your wellbeing matters.**



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

Heartlands Pride Athlone

Heartlands Pride Athlone Receives Five Gala Awards Nominations

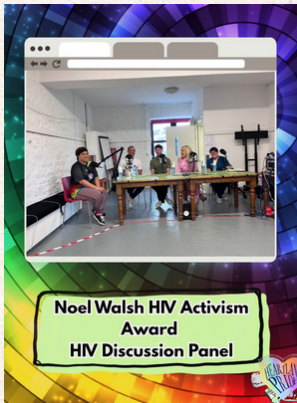
Heartlands Pride Athlone has been shortlisted in five categories at this year's National LGBTQ+ GALA Awards, recognising the group's outstanding contribution following its first Pride Parade.

The nominations include:

- Pride of Ireland – Heartlands Pride Athlone
- Arts & Entertainment – Aoife Doolan for the Project Síle na Gig Float
- Ally of the Year – Michelle Jinks
- Person of the Year – Christine O'Mahony, Chairperson of Heartlands Pride Athlone
- Noel Walsh HIV Activism Award – with nominees including the HIV Panel Discussion, Ciaran Hanniffy, and Rebecca Tallon De Havilland

Two categories, Person of the Year and Arts & Entertainment, are decided by public vote. The group is encouraging the community to support local nominees Christine O'Mahony and Aoife Doolan by voting through the link below:

Public Voting: THE GALAS 2026



Christine O'Mahony said the achievement is particularly significant as this was the first year the group sought nominations.



Heartlands Pride Athlone was longlisted in eight of the 14 award categories before being shortlisted in five.

Winners will be announced at the GALA Awards in Dublin this October.



Mullingar Pride

Mullingar Pride Event 2026

- Thursday 3rd of September we kick off events with our 'Women of Pride' comedy night in association with the Mullingags Comedy fest (18+ | FREE)! In the Colombia bar at 8.30pm.
- Friday 4th of September (18+) with the electric acoustics of our trans punks from the big smoke! [@uptightdadband](#) and [@survivalhorror.band](#) , in Chambers at 8pm!
- Saturday the 5th of September! We will have a family fun event in Mullingar town park from 2pm to 5pm. -our parade starts in the town park at 3pm and will run on til 3.30pm! All are welcome!

In the evening we will have our main event (18+), hosted by the one the only Crème Brûlée!! This will be held at the final fence from 7pm onwards.

-And to wind things down, on Sunday September 6th, we will be having a barbecue in Chambers in the Afternoon - first 25 free.



2026 Cycle of Hope Mizen to Malin Challenge

5th -12th September 2026

Hop on your bike & join us for World Suicide Prevention Day

Register Now

WWW.CYCLEAGAINSTSUICIDE.COM

Cycle of Hope-Mizen to Malin Challenge - September 6th to 11th

Cycle of Hope-Mizen to Malin Challenge - September 6th to 11th

World Suicide Prevention Day, September 10th, is a global reminder that suicide prevention is everyone's business. It is a day to raise awareness, challenge stigma and encourage conversations that can save lives.

This year's theme, "Changing the Narrative on Suicide," calls on all of us to replace silence with understanding, stigma with compassion, and isolation with connection. By creating a culture where people feel safe to talk and seek help, we can give hope to those who may be struggling.

To mark World Suicide Prevention Day, Cycle Against Suicide invites you to join our Cycle of Hope: Mizen to Malin Challenge, taking place from 6th-11th September. (Travel days Saturday 5th & 12th).

Whether you ride for a day, a few days or the full journey, you will be part of a powerful movement bringing communities together, supporting those impacted by suicide and promoting help seeking behaviour.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Disability Participation

AsIAM National Autism Conference 2026

Join AsIAM for their 2026 National Autism Conference, a landmark event bringing together Autistic people, families, professionals, policymakers and allies to shape a more inclusive future.

Building on their commitment to a society where every Autistic person is accepted “as they are” – equal, valued and respected – this year’s conference will explore what it truly means to create an Autistic affirming society in Ireland today.

Date: Saturday, 12th September 2026 at 9am to 5pm

Where: The Grand Hotel Malahide, Dublin

[More information and register your place here.](#)

Irish Deaf Society (IDS): Level 6 Advocacy Course for Family Carers

The Irish Deaf Society have a new course starting in September, the Advocacy Certificate Level 6, for Family Carers — A free Course for the Deaf Community.



Who Is This Course For?

Deaf people who are caring for a family member or loved one.

Course Information

Start Date: September 2026 (Exact date TBC), online course

Duration: 12 weeks

Fees: Free

This course is fully funded through the Supporting Family Carers Across Ireland project.

Training in Mental Health Peer-Support with Cycle Against Suicide

Our peer-support programme sets out to educate senior personnel and team leads on how stress and mental health problems can affect their employees. It is designed for companies to not only prevent mental ill health but to integrate mental health and wellbeing into all parts of the workplace. Participants are trained in the use of a structured interview schedule to ascertain whether individuals might be experiencing significant levels of distress and on how to practically managed distressed individuals. Furthermore, participants will be trained to mentor individuals to take positive resilience enhancing actions, such as positive coping. They will be trained on how to recognise more complex symptoms requiring professional interventions. They will develop skills based on the principal of motivational interviewing to encourage individuals to speak with a health care professional where necessary.

This training is delivered over two full days 9.30am to 5pm and accredits 13.5 CPD points. FREE of charge

We currently have 2-full day, 9.30am-5pm, live online training taking place on the following dates:

Mount Street, Mullingar

Mon 21 & Tues 22 September

Wed 21 & Thurs 22 October

Wed 18 & Thurs 19 November

Please follow this link to register and choose the date that suits best: [Mental Health Peer Support- Proigramme](#)

Belvedere Food & Apple Festival 2026



Sunday 6th September 2026 |

10:00am – 5:00pm

Cooking Demo with Celebrity Chef

Catherine Fulvio at 12 Noon

Adults €15

OAP/Students €12 (Valid ID)

Belvedere Members €12

Children Free

Admission includes entry into Belvedere Gardens & Woodlands.

For more information see [Belvedere Apple Festival 2026](https://www.belvedere-house.ie)

Celebrate the rich heritage of the Belvedere Apple at the Belvedere Apple Festival, a wonderful day out for the whole family in the stunning surroundings of Belvedere House, Gardens & Park.

Discover a vibrant festival dedicated to one of Belvedere's most treasured fruits, bringing together local food producers, artisan makers, and apple enthusiasts for a day of flavour, learning and family fun.

What's On

Artisan Food Market featuring local producers and delicious apple-inspired treats.

Live Demonstrations showcasing cooking, baking and traditional skills.

Expert Talks on apple growing, heritage varieties, gardening and sustainability.

Arts & Crafts with talented local makers offering handcrafted products.

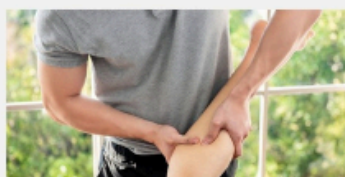
Seasonal food and refreshments throughout the day.



Independent
experienced
tutors available
for hire



Adaptive
activities for
adults of all
abilities



See over for full details
or
call 0852751804



Music lessons and group sessions

Tutor
Frank Byrne



Frank has two decades experience
teaching music and running drum
circles with people of all ages
and abilities.

He offers versatile and adaptable music tuition across a wide
range of instruments, drawing on his experience as a working
musician and educator.

Frank tailors his lessons and incorporates creative, music-
inspired approaches to suit every learner's individual needs.

Sessions offered in his music studio or by arrangement in
residence.



Frank 0858058262

gofrankgo28@gmail.com

One-one activities

With
Bob mcdermott

Bob currently provides
1:1 activities for men who cannot attend group
sessions

Current activities inclue fishing, walking,
gardening, listening to music



Would suit individuals
in our studio, your home or centre
contact Bob on 0877108500

Amatsu Massage

Practitioner
Bob mcdermott

Bob has over 20 years
experience as an amatsu
practitioner and specialises
in the treatment of long
term physical problems

For any age and ability
Adapted techniques and
methods

For mobility, flexibility,
pain relief and prevention

Bob is fully qualified in first
aid response, is garda
vetted and has been fully
trained in safeguarding
adults with additional
needs & dementia



Would suit individuals
in our studio, your home or centre
contact Bob on 0877108500

art classes

Tutor
Claire Garry

Claire has over 15 years
experience working with
adults with additional
needs, dementia
sufferers and those with
reduced mobility

For any age and ability
Adapted techniques and
methods



Would suit individuals or groups
in our studio, your home or centre

Contact Claire on
0852751804

Indoor Gardening classes

Tutor
Bob mcdermott

Bob has over 5 years
experience working with
adults with additional
needs, dementia
sufferers and those with
reduced mobility

For any age and ability
Adapted techniques,
tools and methods



Would suit individuals or groups
in our studio, your home or centre
contact Bob on 0877108500

Killucan Community Centre CLG

Eyes Down! Tuesday Night Is Bingo Night! 🎯

Looking for a fun night out with fantastic prizes and great company? Join us every single Tuesday at Rathwire Hall! Whether you are a seasoned pro or a complete beginner, everyone is welcome to come along, share a laugh, and try their luck. Bring your lucky charms, bring your friends, and get ready for a brilliant atmosphere. You have to be in it to win it!

Doors open 7.30pm—grab your books, claim your lucky seat, and let's play! See you this Tuesday!



Ph: 044 93 74725

Killucan Community Centre CLG

Discover New Adventures with Cairde at Rathwire Hall ☀️

Looking to stay active, learn new skills, and meet fantastic people in your community? Cairde welcomes you with open arms! We are a vibrant group of locals who believe that retirement is just the beginning of your next great chapter.

Whether you want to try new activities, enjoy social outings, or simply share a laugh over a cup of tea, there is a place here for you.

Don't stay at home—come along and see what Cairde is all about. New members are always welcome!!



Ph: 044 93 74725

Killucan Community Centre CLG

Golden Years Lunch Club

Where: Rathwire Hall, Killucan

When: Every second Wednesday from 1pm

What: Golden Years Club lunch, live entertainment, and fantastic guest speakers.

We are more than a club—we are a community! Join us for local day outings, exciting getaways across Ireland. We love a good celebration! Come along to mark big birthday milestones, celebrate our annual Club Birthday, and festive cheer at our Christmas Party.

Need a lift? Our free collection bus runs every club day. We can't wait to welcome you!



Ph: 044 93 74725

For Queries

Killucan Community Centre CLG

Phone: 044 93 74725

Email: rathwirehall1@gmail.com

Killucan Community Centre CLG

Rathwire Hall

Killucan

Co. Westmeath

N91 YEV1



St. Mary's Hall
Tuesdays 8-9.30pm
Begins 20th January

'Best Foot Forward'

Free 8 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

ATHLONE COMMUNITY SERVICES COUNCIL

HEALTHY AGEING LIFESTYLE PROGRAMME



EMBRACE HEALTH, WELLNESS AND COMMUNITY

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

Takes place in St Mary's Hall, Northgate St, Athlone
Every Wednesday @ 3:45pm

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

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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

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reception@acsc.ie

www.athlonecommunityservicescouncil.com

Written Submissions on the Draft National Strategy for Improving Community Safety

The Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration has published a draft national strategy for improving community safety - “An Enabling Framework for Community Safety”.

The aim of this national strategy is to serve as an enabling, foundational framework for the whole of government, whole of society, approach to community safety as set out both in the [Policing Security and Community Safety Act 2024](#) (the Act) and the Department’s [Community Safety Policy](#).

The National Strategy for Improving Community Safety aims to respond to the needs and concerns of communities and help public services and communities work together in a joined-up way to make communities safer.

This draft National Strategy for Improving Community Safety, has been informed by learnings from a comprehensive consultation process undertaken with communities, government departments, statutory organisations, and other sectoral interest.

In line with the Act, the Minister for Justice, Home Affairs and Migration, invites final written submissions on this consultation-informed draft National Strategy.

The draft National Strategy for Improving Community Safety can be accessed here:

[View the draft strategy.](#)

[View the draft strategy \(MS Word, compatible with screen readers\).](#)

Who should complete this form

This survey is open to anyone living in Ireland. No personal information will be collected, and all responses will be anonymous. The views and opinions collected will be considered and used to inform the further development of the strategy and they may also be published in a summary report on our website.

Freedom of Information

As it falls within the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration’s consultation process, answers to this survey may be subject to requests under the Freedom of Information (FOI) Act 2014. This means by law we must release this information if it is requested by an individual or organisation. If there is any personal information in the answers, it will be removed before we release information under FOI requests

How to make a submission

The closing date for feedback is by 5pm on the 11 September 2026

Please provide your feedback by completing this survey.

[START THE SURVEY](#)

This digital survey is anonymous, if you require the survey by alternative formats such as Word .doc/.docx, please contact Strategy@communitysafety.ie.



Public Participation Network Westmeath

Public Participation Network (PPN) are county-based networks that allow local authorities to connect with community groups around the country.

Westmeath Public Participation Network (WPPN) is a network of more than 1,000 community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental organisations in Co Westmeath.

to join PPN please [CLICK HERE](#) or scan the QR code



Westmeath Public Participation Network

c/o Community Development Section

Westmeath County Council

Áras an Chontae, Mullingar Co. Westmeath

Email: ppn@westmeathcoco.ie

Contact number: 044-933-8903 / 044-933-8939

Website: Westmeathppn.ie



☀️ We've launched a NEW Facebook page! ☀️
Follow us for all the latest news, events,
workshops, and grant opportunities.
Don't miss out—join us today! 🙌

