

NOVEMBER 2025

FINGAL PPN NEWSLETTER



Líonra Rannpháirtíochta Pobail **Fhine Gall**
Public Participation Network **Fingal**

PPN News

The Fingal PPN Plenary took place in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Dublin Airport on the 5th November, and was attended by over 80 member groups.



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www.fingalppn.ie

Fingal PPN Plenary



Fingal PPN Plenary



Snapshot of the Year 2024



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



Public Participation Networks Ireland

20,421

MEMBER



16,383 Community and Voluntary Groups

3,217 Social Inclusion Groups

817 Environmental Groups



Public Participation Networks Ireland

2024 was an important year for the PPNs as it marked the **10th anniversary**



2024 was also a year of change and renewal for the Irish political landscape with **local, European and national elections held.**

834

PPN REPRESENTATIVES

sat on 341 Boards and Committees bringing the voice of the community to the decision-making table.



Global events

continued to impact locally in 2024 with households still experiencing rising costs, hitting the lowest income households the hardest. With increasing levels of conflict and climate chaos across the world more people are on the move, including to Ireland. All of this has led to increased tensions and impacted on social cohesion in our communities.



As always, the Community and Voluntary sector proved to be a vital part of the national response to these issues at a local level highlighting time after time, just how necessary and vital the Community and Voluntary sector is.

Local knowledge was key.



Local elections took place in May 2024, which resulted in SPCs having to be stood down and then reconstituted.

There was continuous engagement with member groups, ensuring that vital information was widely disseminated.



Limerick PPN and Limerick City and County Council hosted the 6th National Public Participation Network Conference in October.

This year's event marked the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the PPNs across Ireland. The conference welcomed 160 delegates representing community and voluntary groups, social inclusion and environmental organisations from across the country, alongside local authority officials, elected representatives, and others who support the work of PPNs. The theme for this year's conference, "Collaboration for Resilient Communities," celebrated the essential partnerships needed for the delivery of government programmes at both national and local levels. The PPNs 'play a crucial role in facilitating these collaborations by providing representatives on committees and steering groups, sharing information, building capacity, and offering support'.¹



The PPN Implementation Roadmap was published in July 2024. It was drafted by the Roadmap Working Group, made up of PPN stakeholders including PPN volunteers and staff, civil society groups, CCMA and relevant government departments. The Roadmap sets out tangible actions to strengthen PPNs and enable them to more effectively fulfil the overall objectives set out for them in the 2014 Working Group Report on Citizen Engagement with Local Government.

The PPNs continued to adapt in response to the changes experienced by their communities and develop innovative solutions using a bottom-up approach to problem solving.

Consultations continue to be a vital part of the work of the PPN and took place across a wide variety of topics.



The PPNs continue to make
**a real difference to the
communities they serve.**

¹ <https://www.limerickppn.ie/national-ppn-conference-2024/>

Funding

LAWPRO Community Water Development Fund



The 2026 Community Water Development Fund is now open for applications

The Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO) has launched the Community Water Development Fund for 2026 and are welcoming grant applications from community groups nationwide.

The Community Water Development Fund enables community groups to enhance the quality of local streams, rivers, lakes, and coastal areas. Under the fund local communities and groups are invited to apply for financial assistance to support the delivery of projects and initiatives to enhance water bodies and benefit water quality and biodiversity.

The Community Water Development Fund is funded by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage and administered by LAWPRO, the national shared service working on behalf of the 31 local authorities in Ireland coordinating efforts to achieve good water quality in every county.

The fund supports communities to deliver positive actions for water quality, protection and awareness through community grants. In the 2025 funding call, €1,047,265.26 was awarded to 54 projects across 24 counties.

The fund is open to all community and voluntary groups to help in the protection and management of water quality, both locally and in their wider river catchment. The deadline for applications is 20th January 2026.

Interested community and voluntary groups can download the guidelines and [complete the grant application form online](#).

Visit www.lawwaters.ie/cwdf for more information.

Festival & Events Funding Scheme

Applications for Festival and Events Funding Scheme 2026 is now open, and will close on Saturday 20th December. Successful applicants will be advised in February 2026.

Please see Terms and Conditions and apply online <https://submit.link/48k>

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



Festivals and Events are a celebration of creativity and diversity and have an immensely positive impact on the cultural wealth of Fingal. Every year, over 100 events occur across the county, from major music and theatre festivals to seafood festivals, local summer festivals, community run events and parades. They offer a host of economic, social, and cultural benefits to communities.

The scheme offers an opportunity for funding under three Strands for Festival & Events taking place in 2026.

The three strands of Events and Festivals funding are:

S1: Delivery and Programming of Small Scale & New Festivals & Events

S2: Delivery and Programming of Medium and Large-Scale Festivals and Events

S3: Festival and Events Economic Development and Sustainability
Applications will be submitted online.

If you are successful in securing funding for an event, which is intended to be held on (or part of) Fingal land, you must apply for an Event Permit to your Operational Area. More details can be found [here](#)

Literacy in the Community

Literacy friendly in the community, takes place this Friday 28 November, 10am - 11am. This is the third webinar in a four-part Literacy opens doors series.



You can register for each webinar in the Literacy opens doors series through the links below.

[Webinar 3: Literacy friendly in the community - Friday 28 November, 10am – 11am](#)

[Webinar 4: Adult literacy and learning in recovery - Friday 5 December, 10am – 11am](#)

Clean Air Strategy 2025

Public Consultation on Updating Clean Air Strategy 2025 is now open for submissions until 20 February 2026



**An Roinn Aeráide,
Fuinnimh agus Comhshaoil**
Department of Climate,
Energy and the Environment

The purpose of the Clean Air Strategy as published in 2023 was to set out the priorities and policy framework to ensure continued reductions in air pollution emissions. It established a number of high-level actions to drive delivery of air quality improvements.

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment is seeking feedback on the strategy in order to assess the potential for new actions to be included. This public consultation will collect views and recommendations from the public on how the Strategy could potentially be updated so that it remains fit for purpose and to ensure that continuous improvements in air quality are delivered.

More information on the Strategy, air quality challenges, and actions taken to date can be found in the consultation document [here](#).

Respondents are welcome to provide submissions through one of the following methods:

- 1. email to airquality@dcee.gov.ie**
- 2. Post to: Clean Air Strategy Public Consultation
Air Quality Division
Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment
Newtown Road
Wexford
Y35 AP90**
- 3. Online submission at [Online Survey](#).**

Future Fingal Sustainable Strategy

Future Fingal Sustainable Strategy Workshops by Grant Thornton- Tuesday 2nd of December: Please RSVP by Friday 28th November

The Economic Development Unit and its consultants, Grant Thornton are hosting a series of Workshops to gather input into the development of the new Future Fingal Sustainable Strategy.

**Comhairle Contae
Fhine Gall**
Fingal County
Council



This Strategy is an externally focused Strategy which seeks to support businesses in Fingal to become more sustainable, to identify the challenges businesses are facing and how these can be addressed and how businesses can work collaboratively with the Council and other stakeholders, including their local communities to advance green projects, implement business sustainability measures, advance the circular economy and make progress towards Ireland's climate action targets.

The Strategy is a deliverable under the Future Fingal: Economic Development Strategy and seeks to build on the Council's Climate Action Plan.

The Economic Development Unit invites you or a nominated member of your team to attend the Stakeholder Engagement Session to bring your insights and expertise to the development of the Strategy and ensure it is robust, effective and meets the needs of businesses and local communities in Fingal.

Please RSVP (Accept/Reject) by COB Friday 28th of November to attend the workshop in person in County Hall, Swords, or online on Tuesday 2nd December @ 4.00pm – 5.00pm.

Doctorate in Community and Voluntary Sector Management

Development of a Professional Doctorate in Community and Voluntary Sector Management

The Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) (Ireland), University of Burgos (UBU) (Spain), NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (NHL Stenden) (Netherlands), Häme University of Applied Sciences (HAMK) (Finland) and “Dunărea de Jos” University of Galația (UGAL) (Romania) are exploring the development of a new Professional Doctorate programme in the area of Community and Voluntary Sector Management. You are invited to participate in a survey to help design this programme. The vision is that this programme will provide advanced professional development opportunities for leaders and practitioners in the community and voluntary sector.

The purpose of this questionnaire is to:

Identify the needs and priorities of organisations within the community and voluntary sector.

Ensure the programme supports leadership, innovation and sustainable impact.

Why your organisation?

Your organisation plays a vital role in the sector, and your insights will help ensure the programme is relevant and impactful. Input from organisations of varying sizes and missions across Europe is being sought.

What participation involves

Participation involves completing an online survey (approximately 10 minutes). Participation is voluntary. You are free to skip any question you do not wish to answer and you may withdraw from the study at any time without giving a reason.

At the end of the survey, you will be asked if you would like to participate in a follow-up focus group (60 minutes) to review draft programme proposals and provide feedback as the programme is being designed. This is optional.

For more information, go to:

https://qualtricsxm2d6nv8qbj.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0P8wCU6laahrxrg

