



About Limerick PPN

Limerick PPN is a network of community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental groups/organisations, working together for a better Limerick through public participation in local democratic structures. Visit [our website](#) for more information



PPN membership now stands at 180 members

Limerick PPN membership continues to grow and you can check out all our members [on the Membership directory](#) on the LPPN website. Register to join Limerick PPN at the following link: [Registration form](#)

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Publication of PPN Structural Review

Following the Structural Review of the Public Participation Network carried out by Mazars on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCDC), which many of our members contributed to last summer, a report has now been published.

Click on the links at the side to view the letter from Minister of State, Joe O'Brien announcing the publication, a summary of the report courtesy of our Resource Worker colleague in Cavan PPN, Daniel Downey and also the full report produced by Mazars.

As per the correspondence below from the DRCDC we will be providing feedback to the department. If you have any feedback you would like us to include please email ppn@limerick.ie by close of business Monday August 22nd and we will correlate all the feedback into one final written response from Limerick PPN and share it with all Limerick PPN members.

Alternatively, Social Justice Ireland is hosting a series of online consultations in order to facilitate a broad range of input, details of which are included in the next item.

Subject: PPN Structural Review 2022

Dear Stakeholder,

Please find attached a letter from Minister of State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities, Joe O'Brien, concerning the independent report reviewing Public Participation Network structures, which has now been published on the Department's website. The link to the report can be found in the Minister's letter and a copy is also attached.

Our Department will contact key stakeholder groups next week to seek written input on the contents of the report over the summer period. We plan to hold a webinar on the Report in September to allow discussion of its findings and begin the process of prioritising its recommendations. Further information will be circulated next week.

We would like to take this opportunity to signpost some actions already underway which will address some of the findings/recommendations set out in Mazars report. As you will be aware, the Department has entered into a contract with Alice PR & Events to develop the PPN Communications Campaign. Work on the project is underway and, once completed, the resulting communications campaign is likely to address the recommendation at section 3.2 in the report to establish "...a PPN wide communication structure that improves the visibility and accessibility of PPNs".

In addition, DRCDC has recently awarded the tender for the Advisory Supports Services to The Wheel. The Advisory Supports Service, once up and running, will provide an additional supports system to PPNs to give them access to professional advice on HR, governance and conflict resolution queries. This is likely to go some way

Click to view a
Summary of the
PPN Structural
Review

Click to view letter
from Minister of
State, Joe O'Brien.



towards addressing the recommendations on staffing and skills set out in section 3.5 of Mazars report.

Finally, work has begun on drafting the terms of reference for a piece of research on barriers to participation in the PPNs, as the Minister has mentioned in his attached letter. Once complete, the research will contribute to addressing the recommendations around increasing diversity set out by Mazars in section 3.3 of the report.

Best Regards,

PPN Unit

Community and Voluntary Supports and Programmes

An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail

Department of Rural and Community Development

Telephone: 076 106 4900

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Social Justice Ireland Consultation on the PPN Structural Review

To facilitate as much feedback as possible on the recommendations and structure options put forward in the PPN Structural review, [Social Justice Ireland](#) are holding online consultation events in July.

They have put together 5 online meetings dates, scheduled across different days and times in order to facilitate as much participation as possible.

- **Friday 15th July 12 – 2pm**
- **Tuesday 19th July 2 – 4 pm**
- **Wednesday 20th July 5 – 7 pm**
- **Saturday 23rd July 10am – 12 pm**
- **Monday 25th July 7 – 9 pm**

These events are not being held on a regional basis, so anyone can go to any event. Click on the link at the side to view further details and for the registration links for each consultation. A report will be drafted at the end of each session and circulated to the attendees. This will form part of the final submission to the Department.

As this will set the form of PPNs into the future they are hoping to see as many participants as possible from the broad spectrum of stakeholders - PPN Members, Representatives, Staff, Secretariat members, Local Authority Staff and Councillors.



Community Engagement

New Newsletter from the Department of Rural & Community Development

The Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD) has published their first Newsletter in order to bring developments on the department's many policies and schemes. Their aim is to issue a quarterly update.

This issue covers:

- Community Centres Investment Fund 2022 (**Closing date 3pm July 14th**)
- Connected Hubs Voucher Scheme
- Town Centre First Policy
- National Ploughing Championships 2022
- TidyTowns
- OECD International Rural Development Conference in 2022



Click to view DRCD Newsletter

North Kerry, West Limerick: Smart Villages, Stronger Communities' Project

KPMG Future Analytics are currently working with West Limerick Resources (WLR) on the '**North Kerry, West Limerick: Smart Villages, Stronger Communities'** project - an initiative also jointly led by North, East and West Kerry Development (NEWKD) in association with University College Dublin. The project addresses the unique challenges facing Ireland's rural regions today and is funded under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014-2020.

This project aims to empower local communities in shaping a smart and sustainable future for the region through the co-development of an integrated development plan for the North Kerry, West Limerick region. This will be further supported by the development of a series of 25 local community plans.

To support this process, the team will be hosting a series of drop-in 'Community Clinics' on Tuesday, 12th of July and



Wednesday, 13th of July for residents in the region. The main aim of these clinics' is to provide a space for people to drop in (even for 5/10 minutes) and share their thoughts on the future development of the region, its towns and villages. Click on the links at the side for further information and to view the Poster with details of the Limerick Clinics.

'North Kerry, West Limerick: Smart Villages, Stronger Communities'
Click for Information

Limerick March for Housing Justice - 1pm Saturday July 16th, Bedford Row

Raise The Roof is a national housing coalition body made up of housing NGOs, political parties, housing academics, trade unions and many other advocacy/voluntary / community bodies.

The focus of the campaign is to draw attention to the housing crisis and loudly call for support for those acutely affected by homelessness, lack of housing to buy or to rent, people facing eviction, rising rents and lack of security of tenure.

A recent public meeting in Limerick had a great attendance and in an effort to build on that momentum, **Raise the Roof Limerick** is holding a march for Housing Justice on the 16th of July in Bedford Row at 1pm



Training/Webinars/Events

Limerick ParkRun

Limerick Parkrun is a free, fun and friendly weekly event offering an opportunity to walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it is up to you!

A way to meet new people or perhaps just get some time out for yourself. Most take part for the enjoyment, so everyone can go at their own pace!

It is entirely organised by volunteers - email limerick@parkrun.com to help.

Limerick Parkrun
Click for Information

Limerick Parkrun's are held in numerous locations in Limerick city and county, such as the Boat House in UL and in Mungret Park.

Limerick Pride LGBTQ Festival 2022

Limerick Pride Festival is running all this week until Sunday, July 10 and features a multitude of events from workshops, support meetings and discussions to evenings of music and club nights, to cater to the Pride needs of everyone. For the first time since 2019 the Pride Parade returns to the streets of Limerick City on this coming Saturday, July 9 bringing some extra colour and music to Limerick City Centre, gathering at Pery Square from 12.20pm for floats, with groups gathering from 12.50pm. The Parade will leave strictly at 2pm, the Parade will make its way across Mallow Street to Henry Street, past Arthurs Quay Park, ending at the Hunt Museum.

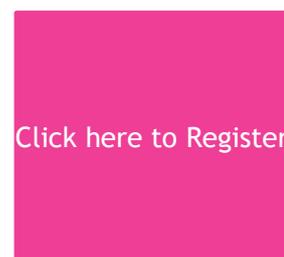


Nature Workshop Castletroy Greenway, Saturday, 9th July, 2-5pm

Part of the [GoGreenRoutes](#) Project
Meet at the new natural play area on the greenway (halfway point).
Explore the location's wildlife shelters, and greening ideas for the greenway.

- Hands-on workshop making wildlife shelters and bug hotels!
- Explore opportunities to 'green' and activate the greenway
- Meet some of the GoGreenRoutes student researchers and project team

Comfortable clothes advised.



Useful Resources

Useful Tips When Applying for a Grant - Courtesy of The Wheel

No two grant applications are identical. However, there are some basic things to expect and organise for when writing an application.

Your contact details

The first and usually the easiest part of the application asks for your group's name, address and telephone/fax numbers. However, many applications will expect the most senior person or chairperson to be the designated contact for signing contracts etc if you are successful so be sure to have someone who can sign the application on the organisations behalf listed as the key contact.

Top Tip: Why not print out your organisations registered charity number/company no/CHY number and sellotape it to your computer or inside your notebook? This way you always have it to hand and don't have to keep going back to look up those numbers you've forgotten... again.

Your organisation aims & objectives

Also referred to as your vision and mission, it is useful to have a standard set of aims and objectives that your organisation has agreed to that you can copy and paste into every grant application

Top Tip: Start a document full of the things that you add into grant applications regularly. This will save you time in the future having a single document with all of these pieces of the application to hand.

Background of your organisation

Most funders will want to know a little bit about your history. They will want to determine have you done similar work to that for which you are applying. What size/scale has your organisation been working to in the past? If the funder gave you this money would you have the capacity and previous experience to implement the project as you propose?

Giving a good background of your organisation relevant to the grant that you are applying is what is required here.

Evidence of need

Increasingly funders will want to see that there is evidence to prove that what you are applying for is needed in the community or location where you are applying. How can you prove it? Have you looked at national statistics and seen if your area performs above or below the national average? Have you conducted quantitative or qualitative surveys or other forms of feedback in your community to see what the residents say? In order to demonstrate the extent of the 'need', it is often useful to cite statistics from a recognised source. So do some homework. Ask around. Find out what are the needs in your community and what is the evidence for it.

What are you applying for?

In reality you may be applying for more staff or resources for your organisation. But many funders are not keen to fund organisations regardless of how worthy the cause. Most funders make funding available to tackle particular societal or social needs within communities. So you need to articulate what you are applying for in terms that allows the funder determine that funding you contributes

[Click here for more useful tips on The Wheel's website](#)

to them successfully tackling the problem they have sought to address. In reality that may amount to seeking more staff or resources but now, at least, it is written in terms that allows the funder know that you are helping them solve their problems.

Top Tip: Try and see things from the funders point of view and write your application accordingly. As Atticus Finch in 'To Kill A Mocking Bird' says: *"You never really understand a person until you consider things from his point of view ... until you climb into his skin and walk around in it."*

How does your project meet the criteria?

Talk to any funder and they will tell you how difficult it is to fund every worthy cause that applies. That's why they impose strict criteria. So think of the criteria like when applying for a job. When you apply for a job the cover letter offers you the chance to tell your prospective employer why you are the best person for the job. The best cover letters respond to the criteria set out in the job description and demonstrate how the applicant meets all of the criteria. Bad cover letters tell the employer why you are the best person for the job without referencing the job spec.

Equally you stand a greater chance of receiving funding if you can outline how your application for funding meets all of the criteria set out. Then you move beyond being merely worthy. Now you are worthy and relevant.

How Will You Monitor and Evaluate the Project?

Most funders will want to know how successful (or not) their investment in a project has been. At a minimum they will ask for projects to be self-assessed. That is, the applicant will state up front how it plans to assess the project, collect the monitoring information and conduct the evaluation of the project. If the monitoring and evaluation processes are included at the project planning stage, this becomes much easier to answer.

For larger projects an external evaluator may be brought in to assist with the project's evaluation or to provide an independent eye.

Project Budget

Every funder will require a realistic and well costed budget to be submitted with the application. Regardless of what you ask the funder for - you will need to fully cost the project and include every possible expense.

Funders will not generally pay for items retrospectively, ie. they will not back date a grant for items purchased or salaries already paid. You need to wait to hear if you have been successful before any expenditure for the items requested can be made.

When applying for funding to cover capital build and equipment, you will need realistic estimates and quotes. For salaries, you are recommended to choose a salary level from a recognized scale. You can check out the pay & benefits survey available through The Wheel and Community Foundation of Ireland. For overheads, it is necessary to detail how you have calculated the costs, for example from previous bills or costs in similar projects.

If you are budgeting for a project, which lasts for more than a year, you will have to take inflation and general cost of living increases into account. Staff salary increases, potential increases in electricity, telephone charges and even stationery all have to be budgeted for. Also if you are applying for a project that is due to start several

months away, will prices have increased during that ten month period?

Some funding bodies may accept volunteer hours as a community contribution known as a contribution in-kind as match funding. Match funding is where a funder agrees to fund only a percentage of costs and expects funding to be 'matched' from other sources.

Is the Project Sustainable?

When a funder asks is the project sustainable they want to know how you will fund the project beyond the amount of money they will provide. You have 3 options:

- that the project will finish at the end of the grant period
- that the project will secure funding from other sources
- that the project will generate its own revenue through services/contract delivery etc.

Don't rely on other organisations to sustain your project for you. It would be unrealistic to state that you expect a statutory body to take on the funding of your project unless you have very strong evidence and commitments to that effect. You are best advised to demonstrate what you can realistically do within your own resources to secure ongoing funding for the project and/or show how you can wind down the project in an orderly manner.

After Completing an Application

What happens after you put your application in the post-box? Once you have submitted an application there are still some steps you should take:

Know What Happens to It: where is it going? Who is assessing it?

Know How it is Progressing: When will assessment be complete? When will you be notified?

Keep Records of Correspondence: Ask for feedback, especially if unsuccessful. Learn and improve.

Make other Applications: Good grant writers can enjoy a 1 in 4 success rate with applications. So that means 3 out of 4 rejections. So you will need a thick skin and you will need to stay resilient and keep submitting regardless of the outcomes. Practice, makes perfect at the end of the day.
