



Laois PPN Newsletter

December 2019

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2019 was another busy and successful year for Laois PPN with events taking place across the county.

At present membership of Laois PPN stands at 549, representing social inclusion, community/voluntary and environmental groups within Laois.

Even though it may seem like a lifetime ago, our year kicked off with our Disability Special Interest Group gathering. This resulted in a comprehensive report being created and submitted on behalf of those present. Work with this group is ongoing with a number of events planned for 2020. In quick succession we held our annual Funding & Resources Workshop in the Midlands Park Hotel. With 180 members in attendance this was one of our biggest events on the 2019 calendar.

To date Laois PPN have participated in over 90 scheduled events, meetings, and training. We have worked with other PPN's from the Midlands Area to delivery on cross county projects including the very successful Environmental Showcase Event which was held in Lullymore. Laois PPN was also afforded the opportunity to make a number of submissions during the year all of which are available to be viewed on our website.

So what did Laois PPN do in 2019, well here is just a little taste:

- CPR training
- Irish Sign Language Training (ISL)
- Funding Workshops
- SPC Consultation
- Disability Consultation
- Laois Connects Talk with Angela Hayes and Brendan Courtney in Castle Durrow

Laois PPN were also delighted to be associated with the 2019 Community & Voluntary Awards, it being in its 10th year. Once again this was a great success mainly attributed to the fantastic organising team. Well done to all involved.

Laois PPN would like to take this opportunity to thank our member organisations for their continued support. We look forward to working with you once again in 2020.



LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK



VISION FOR COMMUNITY WELLBEING

What do we need for the wellbeing of the community of Laois?

That is the question being posed by Laois PPN, and we want to hear from all the groups and organisations in Laois. Developing a Vision for Community Wellbeing means thinking about what we have and what we need to help Laois to be as great as it can be for us and for the many generations that follow on from ours.

**12TH MARCH 2020
7:00PM**

**THE MIDLANDS PARK HOTEL,
PORTLAOISE,
CO. LAOIS**

Booking essential.

**Contact Laois PPN via phone on [057-8605861](tel:057-8605861) or
email ppn@laoiscoco.ie**

*This is a FREE event.
Light food and refreshments will be served.*



An Roinn Feabhartha
Tuaithe agus Poblach
Department of Social and
Community Development

2019 Town & Village Renewal Scheme

Laois	Ballacolla	Installation of footpaths and construction of wildlife walking track in wildlife park.	€55,000
Laois	Ballinakill	Upgrade outdoor swimming pool.	€100,000
Laois	Camross	Provide lighting to Camross Village Walkway, and secure the perimeter of the Village Park.	€35,000
Laois	Castletown	Upgrade of Castletown Community Centre.	€47,761
Laois	Portarlington	Public Realm Works and improvement of pathway at perimeter of People's Park to link the Leisure Centre with the Lake Development.	€200,000
Laois Total			€437,761

Mr Michael Ring TD, the Minister for Rural and Community Development, announced that 156 rural towns and villages across the country are set to benefit from €15 million in funding under the 2019 Town and Village Renewal Scheme. Minister Ring made the announcement in Killawalla, Co. Mayo, which is one of the successful villages that will receive funding under the 2019 Scheme.

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme is a key part of the Action Plan for Rural Development and the Government's Project Ireland 2040 Programme for Rural Regeneration. Funding awarded to individual towns and villages this year generally ranges from €20,000 to €100,000, with 26 projects receiving between €100,000 and €200,000 for more ambitious proposals.



**An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail**
Department of Rural and
Community Development



New Government Funding to Support Community Mental Health Initiatives in Laois

Sports and community organisations in Laois are set to benefit from new Government funding for community mental health initiatives. **€3 million** in funding will be available nationally for sports and community organisations working to promote mental health and alleviate loneliness as part of their work. I strongly encourage local groups to apply for this funding which could really boost their work.



This new funding is targeted to support local organisations to continue doing great work in their communities in the area of mental health.



I strongly encourage all interested organisations to find out about the type of actions planned under the Fund and how to apply. They can contact the Local Community Development Committee (LCDCs) through Laois County Council.

DECEMBER 2019



Grants for Conservation of Historic Properties

Details of conservation grants for 2020 have been announced
Built Heritage Investment Scheme & Historic Structures Fund 2020

Laois County Council invites applications under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme (BHIS) & Historic Structures Fund (HSF) for 2020, funded by the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht.

The Built Heritage Investment Scheme seeks to encourage the leveraging of private capital to invest in a number of small scale, labour intensive projects to repair and conserve Protected Structures and in certain cases, for the conservation of structures within Architectural Conservation Areas, and to support the employment of skilled and experienced conservation professionals, craftworkers and tradespeople.

The Historic Structures Fund assists with works to safeguard structures or parts of structures in immediate danger of significant deterioration. Full details of all requirements and works which qualify for funding are contained in the Circular for each scheme.

Applications must be made in hard copy only, clearly marked “Built Heritage Investment Scheme 2020” or “Historic Structures Fund 2020” and addressed to the Forward Planning Department, Laois County Council, Aras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co Laois.

The closing date for submission for both schemes is noon on Friday 31st January 2020.

Details and applications forms available on the Laois County Council website at <https://laois.ie/funding-announced-for-conservation-of-historic-buildings/>



Mental Health Engagement Training



Topics include:

Facilitation & Leadership Skills	Committee & Meeting Skills	Service User Involvement	Partnership -Working
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Open to People who use HSE Mental Health Services, Family Members, Carers, Supporters. Getting involved to improve Mental Health Services

Venue: The Longford Arms Hotel , Main St, Longford Town, Co Longford

Time: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. each day

Dates: Wednesday 4th December and Thursday 5th December
2 Day attendance essential



Training is **free of charge**. All refreshment & lunch included

Overnight accommodation available if travelling



For more information please contact
mhenage.mlm@hse.ie Tel: 087 376 1552
 Duana McArdle HSE Mental Health Engagement



VISIT SANTA

At Trumera Community Hall

Sunday 8th December 5-7pm

€5 Per Child

Music

Bouncy Castles



Visit Santa in his Grotto

Tea/Coffee & Festive Food

Everyone is Welcome

Lots of fun!





**Brought to you by the Department of Rural and Community Development
SuperValu TidyTowns – Midlands & East Regional Awards Ceremony**

This year’s SuperValu TidyTowns awards for the Midlands & East region were presented today, Tuesday, 12th November, at a prize-giving ceremony in the Blackrock Haggardstown Community Centre in Blackrock, Co. Louth. SuperValu TidyTowns winners were presented with their awards by Mr. Michael Ring T.D. Minister for Rural & Community Development and Maighréad Cremin, Community Manager with SuperValu who are longtime sponsors of the competition. Also joining the Minister on stage was Mark Mohan, Manager Ireland’s Ancient East, Fáilte Ireland

At the ceremony, Minister Ring spoke of the grant scheme which he announced recently which will enable TidyTowns committees to apply for a grant of between €1,000 and €4,000:

“I am delighted to be in a position to present the awards today and I also encourage committees to avail of the €1.4 Million in grant funding to assist them in preparing for the 2020 competition. All eligible committees will have recently received an application form for the grant and it should be returned as soon as possible to take full advantage of the funding.

“For many years, communities have volunteered with TidyTowns to make our country a place that we can all be proud of. I have nothing but admiration for the volunteers here tonight and across the country, and this grant scheme is recognition from the Government for the huge contribution made by committees every year.”

Minister Ring added:

“It is fantastic to have the opportunity, this evening, to meet TidyTowns groups from across the Midlands & East region. These awards are just a small token for the efforts of so many volunteers who take pride in their home town and work tirelessly to make their community a more sustainable and environmentally friendly place now and for future generations. We also recognise all the other TidyTowns groups not here today who are equally committed to improving their community year on year but have not achieved formal recognition in the competition this year, - well done to you all on the work you do and we hope to see you here with us next year”.

The Minister also thanked TidyTowns’ main sponsor SuperValu:

“For 28 years, SuperValu, as the main sponsor, have been involved in this competition at local and national level. SuperValu has helped the competition to flourish and grow and continues to demonstrate a real commitment to supporting local communities and has worked closely with Department officials to help make it the success it is today.”

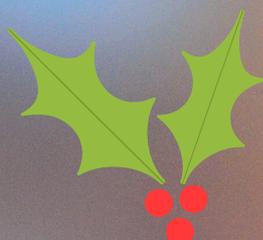
Maighréad Cremin, SuperValu Community Manager said:

“2019 was another landmark year for SuperValu TidyTowns, with a record number of committees and groups taking part in the competition. The TidyTowns programme continues to be the greatest sustainability and community initiative in Ireland and it really positively impacts on our towns and villages across our country.

“SuperValu are proud sponsors of the TidyTowns competition for almost 30 years now. Over this time we have seen first-hand the competition grow and evolve to a level that no one could have foreseen. In recent years, the SuperValu TidyTowns competition is increasingly focused on sustainability, biodiversity and conservation. Working together, we are making important steps in protecting our natural environment now and into the future. This is all made possible by the remarkable dedication and commitment shown by TidyTowns groups and SuperValu retailers around the country. This tireless work has a hugely positive impact on our communities”.

Interest in the SuperValu TidyTowns competition has been stronger than ever in recent years with a record number of communities entering the competition in 2019. The competition has been running since 1958 and is organised by the Department of Rural and Community Development. The competition has been sponsored by SuperValu since 1992.

Blackrock in Co. Louth won the regional title and a full list of all of today’s prize winners can be found below.





Kilias na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Midlands & East Regional Awards 2019

Ireland's Tidiest Small Town – sponsored by SuperValu

Recipient	County	Award
Blackrock	Louth	Ireland's Tidiest Small Town

Midlands & East Regional Award for 2019 – sponsored by Department of Rural and Community Development

Recipient	County	Award
Blackrock	Louth	Midlands & East Regional Award

Midlands & East Medallist 2019 – sponsored by SuperValu

Recipient	County	Award
Abbeyleix	Laois	Gold Medal
Abbeysrule	Longford	Gold Medal
Ardee	Louth	Gold Medal
Arklow	Wicklow	Gold Medal
Blackrock	Louth	Gold Medal
Dalkey	Dublin	Gold Medal
Dragheda	Louth	Gold Medal
Dundalk	Louth	Gold Medal
Geashill	Offaly	Gold Medal
Leixlip	Kildare	Gold Medal
Malahide	Dublin	Gold Medal
Maynooth	Kildare	Gold Medal
Naas	Kildare	Gold Medal
Skerries	Dublin	Gold Medal
Straffan	Kildare	Gold Medal
Trim	Meath	Gold Medal
Tullamore	Offaly	Gold Medal
Wicklow	Wicklow	Gold Medal
Athlone	Westmeath	Silver Medal
Aughrim	Wicklow	Silver Medal
Birr	Offaly	Silver Medal
Bray	Wicklow	Silver Medal
Cabinteely	Dublin	Silver Medal
Celbridge	Kildare	Silver Medal
Greystones	Wicklow	Silver Medal
Kill	Kildare	Silver Medal
Moynalty	Meath	Silver Medal
Newbridge	Kildare	Silver Medal
Portlaoise	Laois	Silver Medal
Shankill	Dublin	Silver Medal
Swords	Dublin	Silver Medal
Athboy	Meath	Bronze Medal
Ballinacorney	Westmeath	Bronze Medal
Ballymore Eustace	Kildare	Bronze Medal
Carlingford	Louth	Bronze Medal
Clane	Kildare	Bronze Medal
Clombullogue	Offaly	Bronze Medal
Knockbridge	Louth	Bronze Medal
Longford	Longford	Bronze Medal
Lucan	Dublin	Bronze Medal
Lusk	Dublin	Bronze Medal
Newtownscastle	Longford	Bronze Medal
Raheny	Dublin	Bronze Medal
Rathangan	Kildare	Bronze Medal
Tallinstown	Louth	Bronze Medal

County Awards 2019 – sponsored by SuperValu

Recipient	County	Award
Skerries	Dublin	County Award
Dalkey	Dublin	Highly Commended
Cabinteely	Dublin	Commended
Brittas	Dublin	Endeavour *
Maynooth	Kildare	County Award
Straffan	Kildare	Highly Commended
Naas	Kildare	Commended
Kilcullen	Kildare	Endeavour *
Abbeyleix	Laois	County Award
Castletown	Laois	Highly Commended
Ballacolla	Laois	Commended
Ballinakill	Laois	Endeavour *
Abbeysrule	Longford	County Award
Newtownscastle	Longford	Highly Commended
Longford	Longford	Commended
Lanesborough	Longford	Endeavour *
Blackrock	Louth	County Award
Tallinstown	Louth	Highly Commended
Ardee	Louth	Commended
Sandpitt	Louth	Endeavour *
Trim	Meath	County Award
Moynalty	Meath	Highly Commended
Athboy	Meath	Commended
Bettystown	Meath	Endeavour *
Geashill	Offaly	County Award
Tullamore	Offaly	Highly Commended
Birr	Offaly	Commended
Shannonbridge	Offaly	Endeavour *
Ballinacorney	Westmeath	County Award
Tyrrellspass	Westmeath	Highly Commended
Athlone	Westmeath	Commended
Kilbeggan	Westmeath	Endeavour *
Wicklow	Wicklow	County Award
Arklow	Wicklow	Highly Commended
Aughrim	Wicklow	Commended
Lacken	Wicklow	Endeavour *

Endeavour Award winners are those who achieved the greatest improvement in score in 2018

Special Awards 2019

Inclusive Communities Award – sponsored by SuperValu

Recipient	County	Award
Abbeyleix	Laois	Inclusive Communities Award

School Award – sponsored by SuperValu

Recipient	County	Award
Portlaoise Educate Together	Laois	Regional Winner

Gum Litter Award – sponsored by The Gum Litter Taskforce, with funding from Mars Ireland

Recipient	County	Award
Duleek	Meath	Village & Small Town Category
Longford	Longford	Large Towns & Urban Centre Category
Longford	Longford	National Winner

Appropriate Fenestration Award – sponsored by The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland

Recipient	County	Award
Birr	Offaly	Winner

Tree Project Award – sponsored by The Tree Council of Ireland

Recipient	County	Award
Ferbane	Offaly	Joint National Winner

Waters & Communities Award – sponsored by Inland Fisheries Ireland, Waterways Ireland & The Local Authority Waters Programme

Recipient	County	Award
St. Joseph's Forgive Club	Westmeath	Commended
Legan	Longford	Highly Commended
Friends of the Camac	Dublin	Regional Winner
Friends of the Camac	Dublin	National Winner

Local Authority Pollinator Award – sponsored by Local Authorities

Recipient	County	Award
Geashill	Offaly	Regional Winner Small Town Category
Geashill	Offaly	Overall Winner Small Town Category
Durtboyne	Meath	Regional Winner Large Town Category

Waste Prevention Award – sponsored by the Environmental Protection Agency

Recipient	County	Award
Enfield	Meath	Highly Commended
Dromiskin Tidy Towns	Louth	National Winner

Additional Waste Prevention Award – sponsored by The Clean Technology Centre of Cork Institute of Technology

Recipient	County	Award
Arklow Tidy Towns	Wicklow	Additional Award

Sustainable Development Award sponsored by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment.

Recipient	County	Award
Ballyboden	Dublin	Runner Up
Raheny	Dublin	Runner Up
Mullingar Shamrocks Healthy Clubs	Westmeath	National Winner

DECEMBER 2019

National Positive Ageing Strategy - Stakeholder Forum

A recent National Positive Ageing Strategy - Stakeholder Forum highlighted the difficulty experienced by senior citizens when using public transport.

Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport are conducting a public consultation on a Review of Sustainable Mobility Policy and have provided the link below for groups and Departments who wish to participate in the consultation. The public consultation commenced on 14th November 2019 and will conclude on 24th January 2020.



Public Consultation on a Review of Sustainable
Mobility Policy

<http://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/f1b503-public-consultation-on-a-review-of-sustainable-mobility-policy/>





Age Action Workshop

Age Action offers workshops to groups throughout the country around the Spring & Development programme. The interactive exercises, led by an expert in the older people's developing countries, work to encourage participants to generate and share practical ideas to improve their own situation and the situation of other people in their own programmes.

Working with both A&D, our goal is to increase public understanding of older people's needs and to raise awareness of the role of Ireland's overseas development work in addressing these challenges. By 2020, nearly one million people in developing countries will be over 60. Population ageing increases economic and social, and development countries have not been able to adjust to the consequences. Ireland's overseas development assistance is helping partner countries prepare for the impact of the demographic change. Age Action would like to tell you more about this work.



For more information or to register for a course contact Age Action at 01 475 6989



The Ageing and Development Programme is funded by Irish Aid in partnership with HelpAge International.



Getting Started

One to One Computer Classes for the over 55's

Getting Started

Getting Started in Age Action's computer literacy programme for those aged 55 and over. It offers FREE one to one computer literacy tuition and free access to a computer in a safe environment.

Learn to use email, social media, bank online, video calling, use the web, use apps, etc. on your computer, smartphone, tablet, etc.

Age Action will also provide one-to-one help for those who are blind. Training takes place in small class groups and one-to-one, computer centres, clubs, cafes, leisure centres, senior citizens centres, and leisure centres for older people.

Please contact us if you would like more information or register for classes.

TELEPHONE: 01 475 6989

About Age Action

Age Action supports and advocates for equality and human rights for all older people. Everything we do is based on our recognition of the diversity of older people and understanding older people are a diverse group for all older people. In addition to ageing, we work to ensure a comprehensive perspective on and response to ageing. The impact of ageing and human rights is embedded in our work to promote participation, independence, and health and wellbeing for older people, recognizing their roles as active citizens. Our work is done in partnership with government, civil society, and the private sector and the needs of diverse participants, locally, social justice, and professionalism.

The International Computer Literacy programme is funded by the Department of Communications, Culture, Arts and Government under the Digital Skills for Citizens Funding Fund.



Digital Literacy

The Department of Finance's policy includes better arrangements to ensure that technology is accessible to all people in our society.

Finance Ireland has supported its older generation colleagues with the Digital Literacy programme to ensure that older people aged 55 and over can use the digital skills they need to access services and opportunities.

Helping people to understand more of the digital skills needed to access services and opportunities.

Government supports its citizens' progress to an inclusive digital society. To ensure that digital services are accessible, but many older people are unable to access these services.

Finance Ireland has supported older people, and supports their own initiatives to ensure that older people can access digital services and opportunities. The programme will help older people access digital services and opportunities to ensure that older people can access digital services and opportunities.



LAOIS FIT FEST 2020

25th
JAN 2020



Time
12-5pm






*Trampoline, Twerkfest, Yoga Classes, Nutrition Talk
Zumba, Abs & Butt HIIT, Fitness Talks/Advice, Twerk Dance
Yoga ,Q&A ,Affirmations*

Tickets

//// 100 Trampolines Available Over 18: €25 Under 18: €12.50 Under 5: Free

 **Portalington Community Centre**



FIT FEST ACROSS SCHOOL IN LAOIS

JAN / FEB 2020

OVER
20
SCHOOLS



TRAMPOLINE

*Great way to get them aware
of exercising as part of their
daily routine*

Kids Nutrition Talk

Contact Us

Phone: 057 - 8665661



Email:

ppn@laoiscoco.ie

www.laoisppn.ie

Postal Address:

**Laois Public Participation Network,
JFL Avenue, Lyster Square,
Portlaoise, Co. Laois**



You can follow us on:



DECEMBER 2019



LAOIS PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NETWORK

Christmas Closure

THE OFFICE OF LAOIS PPN
WILL BE CLOSED FROM

Friday 20th December - Wednesday 1st January (inclusive)

The Office will re-open on Thursday 2nd January 2020.

