

August 2020

# Laois Public Participation Network

## August 2020 Newsletter



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## Artist in the Community Scheme Round 2 Reinstated

### Funding for Artist in the Community Scheme Reinstated.

**The Arts Council and Create are delighted to announce a second round to the Artist in the Community Scheme 2020.**

**With additional funding from Government, we will now proceed with a second round of the Artist in the Community Scheme 2020.**

**This scheme offers funding to enable artists and communities of place / or interest to work collaboratively. This scheme is open to artists from any of the following artform disciplines: architecture, circus, street art and spectacle, dance, film, literature (Irish and English Language), music, opera, theatre, visual arts and traditional arts. The projects can take place in a diverse range of social and community contexts such as arts and disability, arts and health, arts and older people, arts and cultural diversity and arts and communities.**



**Application forms and guidelines for round two of Artist in the Community Scheme are now available to download from the AIC Scheme awards page:**

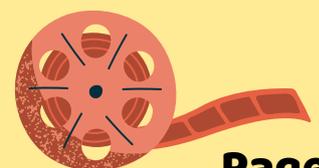
**<https://www.create-ireland.ie/projectsubpage/aic-awards/>**

**Deadline for receipt of applications is Monday 28th September 2020.**

**The Artist in the Community Scheme is managed by Create, the national development agency for collaborative arts, on behalf of the Arts Council.**



**create** national development  
agency for collaborative arts



## Funding Opportunity - Funding for Community Centres and Community Facilities

Minister Joe O'Brien recently announced details of €5 million Funding for Community Centres and Community Facilities.

€128,195 has been allocated to Laois under the scheme. Read the Press Release in full at:



<https://bit.ly/2fedLcL>



### Who is eligible to apply?

Any not for profit community or voluntary group can apply. Commercial organisation and individuals are not eligible for funding.

### What projects are eligible for funding?

The funding covers capital projects only. In cases where both current and capital works are carried out together, only the capital element can be funded through this Programme. The following provides a non-exhaustive list of capital projects that could receive funding under the programme:

- Development / Renovation of Community Centres
- Once off maintenance of premises. This does not include regular routine maintenance.
- Community amenities
- Development of sports / recreation facilities
- Improvements to town parks and common areas and spaces

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- **CCTV equipment**
- **Public realm improvements**
- **Streetscaping**
- **Development of play / recreation spaces**
- **Energy efficiency type projects**
- **Purchase of equipment**
- **Adaptations or equipment needed as a result of COVID-19**

**Target Groups:** This funding is targeted at measures that stimulate local economies, while enhancing community facilities for individuals and communities that are impacted by disadvantage as identified in the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

**Application Forms and Guidelines can be downloaded at:**

**<https://laois.ie/departments/community/communityenhancementprogramme/>**

**For further information, contact Rose Doolin, Community Development, Telephone **057 86 64206** or email **dce@laoiscoco.ie****

**The closing date for receipt of applications is Friday 11th September 2020 at 4.00pm.**



Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland

Brought to you by the Department of Rural and Community Development



Laois County Council

Áras an Chontae, Portlaoise, Co. Laois

# Snap that

## Life through the lens of Ireland's 18- to 25-year-olds

What objects or places have helped or inspired you? Are there things that may have held you back? Capture and tell the story of your generation through the lens of your smartphone.

### How to share your story

- **Identify**

What place or object helps, inspires or hinders you? Is there an object that symbolises the people who shape your story? Think about an image that will creatively capture the essence of that.

- **Frame**

Draw people into your story with a photo that catches the eye and imagination. Try a different angle, a close-up, or use a filter.

- **Caption**

Your photo should tell the main story. A caption can help people understand the importance to you of the object or place in the image.

- **Send**

Submit your photo via [ria.ie](http://ria.ie) (maximum of five photos per person) so it can be part of the bigger picture.



Acadamh Ríoga na hÉireann  
Royal Irish Academy



# Laois PPN August Events



## Writing Successful Funding Applications - Workshop 2

**Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said "Following the success and high demand of our July 2020 Laois PPN Event - Writing Successful Funding Applications - Laois PPN ran a second Funding Application workshop on the 5th August 2020.**

**The purpose of these workshops was to assist Laois PPN Member Groups in submitting a successful funding application. This second workshop was offered Free of Charge to Laois PPN Member Groups via ZOOM on Wednesday the 5th August from 7.30pm - 9.30pm. The trainer who ran the workshops had over 10 years experience and came highly recommended.**

**"Over the course of the two workshops, Laois PPN had 33 attendees representing 33 different Laois PPN Member Groups from across the county."**

## **Social Media Training Workshop for Community Groups**



**Dan Bergin, Laois PPN Resource Worker said "With the ever growing power of Social Media and the part it can play in assisting Community Groups in growing their numbers and getting their message out into the public domain, Laois PPN provided a FREE online two hour workshop to PPN Members."**

**The workshop took place on Thursday the 27th of August at 7.30 via ZOOM and was run by Gert Ackermann of The Wheel. The workshop covered the fundamentals of how to engage with social media and get your organisations message out there.**

**There was a large amount of interest, all the spaces on the workshop were filled within two days, with 20 participants from 15 PPN Member groups across the county taking part.**

**" The response to the online workshops that Laois PPN has offered has been phenomenal. Laois PPN will be offering PPN Member Groups a variety of online workshops in the future, allowing Laois PPN Member Groups to stay informed and engaged in their communities during COVID-19.**



# *La Leche League Portlaoise*

*Breastfeeding Help and Information*

**Are you pregnant and planning to give breastmilk to your new baby. Would you like to know more about preparing for breastfeeding after the birth of your new baby?**

**La Leche League Portlaoise** has been supporting breastfeeding in Laois and surrounding counties for over 30 years. We are one of 39 groups across Ireland, and affiliated to **La Leche League International** operating in over 80 countries throughout the world.

**Ready and waiting to receive a text, WhatsApp message or a call from you are:**

**Fiona F: 086 870 3591**

**Jenna: 087 671 6031**

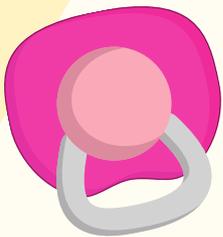
**Fiona M: 087 773 6720**

**Shirley: 087 697 8488**

**Heather: 086 346 6734**

**Brid: 087 669 3735**

**Or visit La Leche League Portlaoise on Facebook.**





These six trained and accredited **La Leche League** Leaders are volunteers who have breastfed or are breastfeeding their own children. They offer **FREE** and **CONFIDENTIAL** mother to mother support and evidence-based information on breastfeeding and topics related to breastfeeding.

Contacts we receive range from new mothers trying to understand newborn feeding patterns, weight gain concerns, questions relating to medications and breastfeeding, expressing, pumping, returning to work, weaning and so much more.

**Would you like to link up with other breastfeeding mum's?**

Over recent months we have been hosting our first Tuesday of every month meeting on ZOOM where we discuss a wide variety of topics and issues relating to breastfeeding.

We also host Breastfeeding Beyond Infancy and Coffee Morning link ups.

For a ZOOM meeting link, please email us:

[llportlaoise@gmail.com](mailto:llportlaoise@gmail.com)

with your name, email address, your due date or baby's age.

**La Leche League International** supports the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommendation for breastfeeding immediately after birth, even when a positive COVID-19 test has been obtained. Breastfeeding is important for an infant who is born to anyone who tests positive for COVID-19 or who has a close family member who has tested positive. It is critical that all newborns be supported in breastfeeding within one hour after birth so they can benefit from the immunological components that colostrum provides.



# **Minister Ring welcomes publication of 2019 Annual Report from Department of Rural and Community Development**



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



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

**Mr Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development has welcomed the publication of his Department's Annual Report for 2019.**

**The report gives a comprehensive overview of the work of the Department in 2019, as well as the programmes and initiatives through which these supports were delivered.**

**Highlight include the completion of the first projects supported through the Rural Regeneration and Development Fund, which was launched at the end of 2018. Continued investment in the fund led to the approval of €148 million in funding to 110 projects by the end of 2019.**

**Significant investments in rural development continued through the LEADER Programme, Town and Village Renewal Scheme, the Local Improvement Scheme, the Outdoor Recreation Scheme and the CLAR Programme. 2019 also saw the first phase in increasing the number of trails in the Walks Scheme, with an additional 10 trails added to the scheme.**

**Local organisations and vulnerable people also received increased supports through community development programmes such as the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme, the Community Services Programme and the Seniors Alert Scheme.**



**Minister Ring said:**

**" I am very pleased with the great progress my Department has made in a very short time since its establishment in 2017. The supports being provided are having are having positive impacts up and down the country. We invested more than €290 million in rural areas and communities in 2019, ensuring that Government funding and investment is supporting our objectives throughout the country.**

**" I was also delighted to launch a number of key Government strategies in 2019, including Ireland's first National Social Enterprise Policy and a five-year strategy for the Community and Voluntary Sector. Work began on a new national volunteering strategy and the next rural development policy was also substantially advanced during the year".**

**Minister Ring also thanked the staff of the Department and his ministerial colleague, Sean Canney TD, for their work in 2019, adding:**

**" I'm grateful to Minister of State Canney for his dedicated work during 2019, and would also like to mark the invaluable contributions of the staff and management team in the Department."**

**The Department's Annual Report has been published bilingually and can be found here:**

**<https://www.gov.ie/en/organisation-information/91ae40-annual-reports/>**

# #LoveLaois

**The **LoveLaois** campaign is designed to encourage all those who live in Laois to think local first and support our local businesses and providers whilst always aware of public health guidelines. The corona virus pandemic has made us all rethink how we live our lives, spend our time and resources.**



**Our shops, hotels, pubs and tourism businesses aren't just a series of buildings where things are bought and sold. The people who run local businesses are our brothers and sisters, our friends, our aunts and uncles, our neighbours. Whether it's an emergency pint of milk or catching up with old friends at Christmas in the local pub, our local businesses have always been there for us.**



**Our small businesses, whether a pub, cafe, campsite, vegetable grower or bed & breakfasts, they are the lifeblood of our local economy. They take risks each and every day to create jobs and prosperity to maintain our way of life.**

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**#LoveLaois**



**Now is the time to support them to get back on their feet. Now is the time to be there for them. Now is the time to think local first. This is about Laois and making sure we as a community get through this together.**

**We are asking you to:**

- 1. **LoveLaois** yourself, buy local first.**
- 2. Share and retweet messages and offers of local businesses.**
- 3. On your own social media, share pictures of you in Laois Businesses.**
- 4. Share pictures of you holidaying in Laois, even if you just take your normal walk down your own lane. Laois is beautiful, lets make sure we show people.**
- 5. Use the Hashtag **#lovelaois** **#supportlaois** **#yourewelcome** **#yourewelcometolaois****

**LoveLaois** is a campaign brought to you by Laois Tourism, Laois Chamber and Laois Today.



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## Minister O'Brien, launches the 2019 Annual Report of Charities Regulator



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



An Rialáil  
Carthanas  
Charities  
Regulator

**Joe O'Brien TD, Minister of State for Community Development and Charities at the Department of Rural and Community Development, launched the 2019 Annual Report of the Charities Regulator. The report demonstrates that Regulator is helping to increase public trust and confidence in charitable organisations.**

**Minister O'Brien was speaking at the launch of the Charities Regulatory Authority's Annual Report for 2019 which was presented to the minister and laid before the Houses of the Oireachtas in accordance with the Charities Act of 2009.**

### **Minister O'Brien, said:**

**"Charities and Voluntary and Community organisations play a very important role in every community across the country with 10,500 charities on the Authority's Register of Charities at the end of 2019.**

**"One of the chief aims of the Charities Act is to promote public confidence and trust in the charities' sector and the annual report demonstrates that the Regulator is achieving this aim. The maintenance of the public register increases transparency, accountability and ultimately confidence in the sector."**

### **Minister O'Brien continued:**

**" Public concerns are also welcome and I note that the Regulator received 649 concerns during 2019, with 597 closed by the end of the year. The capacity to address these concerns increased during 2019, and I would continue to urge anyone who has concerns about the charities to raise these with the Regulator.**



An Rialálaí  
Carthanas  
Charities  
Regulator

**" It is important that my Department continues to support the Regulator in enabling it to carry out the functions that are intended under the **Charities Act**. My Department, in conjunction with the Regulator, is drafting amendments to the Act that will strengthen its regulatory functions."**

**Speaking on the Charities Regulator's developments in 2019, Minister O'Brien added:**

**" I am also pleased to note the work of the **Charities Regulator** in terms of assisting the staff and trustees of charities to meet duties and obligations relating to the sound management of charitable organisations. 2019 was a key year in supporting the **Charities Governance Code**, with significant guidance provided to charities and their trustees. This support consisted of a toolkit, Meet the Regulator seminars, guidance documents and surveys."**

**" I am aware of the significant impact on charities in the current pandemic. The Regulator has continued to operate in difficult circumstances and I wish to recognise the ongoing work of the Board, management and staff of the Regulator, both in this regard, and also with its ongoing functions."**



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

## **Creative Activation Package 2020**

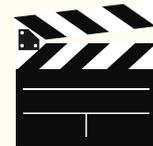
**Following the announcement of the Government's July Stimulus Package - which aims to accelerate the economic recovery following the impact of COVID-19, Laois Offaly Local Creative Youth Partnership (LO LCYP) as part of that package were allocated a once-off grant under the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht through the Creative Ireland Programme.**

**As a result of the Stimulus Package, a 'Creative Activation Package' (CAP) has been made available by Laois Offaly Local Creative Youth Partnership (LO LCYP) to all Youth Organisations, Projects, Clubs and Groups across Laois and Offaly.**



**Application Forms can be downloaded from:**

<https://www.loetb.ie/news1>



### **Important Details**

- **The CAP 2020 Funding is available to ALL Youth Organisations, Projects, Clubs and Groups across Laois and Offaly.**
- **The CAP 2020 funding is targeted at young people aged 12-15 and 16-20 years across Laois and Offaly.**
- **As a result of current COVID-19 restrictions, these programmes can be delivered in a safe space (either online or physical) in keeping with current guidelines.**
- **Closing date for applications is close of business, 5pm, Friday 4th September 2020.**
- **The maximum grant that can be applied for under the CAP 2020 funding is €2,500.**
- **Please post completed applications to :**

**Patricia Wallis, LOETB Office, Ridge Road, Portlaoise, Co. Laois, R32 NN82**



**For any further information, please contact LO LCYP Creative Co-ordinator Patricia Wallis by email:**

[pwallis@loetb.ie](mailto:pwallis@loetb.ie)



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## **Ministers Humphreys and O'Gorman announce second tranche of COVID-19 Stability Funding**

**Minister for Social Protection, Rural and Community Development and the Islands, Ms Heather Humphreys TD and Minister for Children, Disability, Equality and Integration, Mr Roderic O'Gorman announced funding of €4.1 million to 101 organisations under the **COVID-19 Stability Fund.****

**This funding from the **Dormant Accounts Fund** is designed to support community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises that are experiencing financial difficulties as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**Once-off cash injections of between €2,000 and €20,000 are being awarded to qualifying organisations that provide critical services to those most vulnerable in society. This will help with short term cash flow issues caused by the COVID-19 crisis.**

**This is on top of Tranche One of the funding, which was announced on the 26th June 2020 and benefited 179 organisations.**

**These organisations provide services in a diverse range of areas including addiction support, disability services, health and well-being, youth services and social services and supports for disadvantaged individuals and communities.**

**Some of the successful applicants today include:**

- **Empowerment Plus - €200,000**
- **Navan Travellers Workshop Company Limited by Guarantee - €59,731**
- **A Little Lifetime Foundation - €39,467**
- **Comhairle Ceantar na nOileann Teo - €29,564**
- **Kerry Rape & Sexual Abuse Centre - €25,066**

**Laois had one successful group, Laois Youth Services CLG trading as Youth Work Ireland Laois who received €35,343 in funding.**

**Speaking this morning, Minister Humphreys said:**

**" I am delighted to join with my colleagues, Ministers O'Gorman and O'Brien, to announce this support package aimed at organisations that provide hugely valuable services to our most vulnerable communities.**



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

**"The purpose of the **Stability Fund** is to provide immediate, short term cash flow to those organisations that are unable to carry out their usual funding or trading actively as a result of the restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic.**

**" I would like to express my deep gratitude and admiration for these organisations for the work that they do and I hope the funding provided today will assist them to continue to provide their valuable services to communities all over Ireland."**

**Minister O'Gorman said:**

**" I very much welcome today's announcement of a further tranche of supports to organisations in the community and voluntary, charity and social enterprise sectors. Organisations in this sector have played a central role in the wider community response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in many cases supporting isolated and often vulnerable people. They are deserving of our deep appreciation for the valuable work that was carried out in very difficult circumstances. I hope that the supports that I and my colleague Minister Humphreys are announcing today will assist these organisations as they continue with their good works."**

**Joe O'Brien TD, Minister for State with responsibility for Community Development and Charities added:**

**" This funding will provide much needed support to organisations that are at the heart of our communities at a time when their communities need them the most. We owe a great debt to these organisations and I hope that this funding will go some way to show our appreciation for their work and the supports and services they provide in general and particularly during this difficult time."**

**Due to the considerable interest in the COVID-19 Stability Fund and in order to ensure that funding is released as quickly as possible, applicants are being considered in smaller groupings and the funding being announced is the second tranche. There remains a small number of organisations that have applied for funding where further checks are ongoing. Additional tranches will be announced shortly.**

**A full list of successful applicants under Tranche Two is available at:**

**<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/3957e-covid-19-stability-fund-successful-applicants/>**



# Community Heritage Grant Scheme 2020

## Aim of the Community Heritage Grant Scheme

The aim of this scheme is to support capital projects that improve access and inclusion to heritage sites; that apply good heritage practice to the management of places, collections or objects (including buildings). The scheme also supports the purchase of essential equipment.



## Who can apply?

The scheme is open to:

- **voluntary and community groups**
- **heritage-related non governmental organisations (NGOs)**
- **not-for-profit heritage organisations**
- **Museum Standards Programme for Ireland (MSPI) participants**
- **Adopt a Monument Programme participants (supported by funding from National Monuments Service)**

**Applicants from other organisations, private companies or individuals will not be considered.**

## Closing Date

**Applications must be submitted through the Heritage Council's online grant system on or before Tuesday 15th September 2020 at 5 p.m.**

**<https://www.heritagecouncil.ie/funding/on-line-grants-system>**

## Project Timeframe

**Only projects that can be commenced after an offer date at the end of September and completed before 23rd November 2020 can be considered under this scheme.**

**Applicants should read the Application Guidance Document carefully before attempting an application online.**



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# **IPB Pride of Place 2020 - Mountmellick**



**" People coming together to shape change and enjoy all that is good about their area"**

**Mountmellick has been put forward for the IPB Pride of Place 2020 awards under the Creativity Section.**

**Creativity is at the heart of Mountmellick. Yarn Bombing Mountmellick, Mountmellick Community Art Centre and the MDA (Mountmellick Development Association) came together and showed all that is best about the creative side of Mountmellick.**



## **Yarn Bombing Mountmellick**

**Yarn Bombing lights up Mountmellick each year, putting smiles on people's faces. Their creativity and colour is seen around Mountmellick and shared on Facebook with followers as near as home and as far away as Australia. Described as an army of yarn lovers and "A herd of a different colour", Yarn Bombing Mountmellick loves to Yarn Bomb the lovely town of Mountmellick with colour and strives to brighten the days of those in their community.**





## Mountmellick Community Art Centre

**Mountmellick Community Art Centre is home to dancers, bingo players and movie lovers. A place enjoyed by young and old in Mountmellick. A place where people of all ages get to share and express their creativity with people of their community.**



## Mountmellick Development Association

**The MDA (Mountmellick Development Association) showcases the past, present and future of creativity in Mountmellick and the many forms it can take.**

**A hub for the Community of Mountmellick comprising of:**

**The Musuem:** Housing heirloom pieces showcasing the rich history of textile creativity in Mountmellick.

**The Kitchens:** Concept centre where entrepreneurs test new products being brought to today's market.

**The futuristic Beale Centre - home to the Webmill Digital Hub:** From tech to finance, deisgn to engineering, this is a cutting edge environment. This is a hub that will enable Mountmellick residents to face their destiny and future head on.



**Paddy Buggy**

**Laois PPN Secretariat Member**

**Manager of The Beale Centre and Webmill, Mountmellick**



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## CONTACT US

**As per Government guidelines, our office is closed to the public, but the team continue to work behind the scenes.**

**You can still contact Dan or Ailish by**

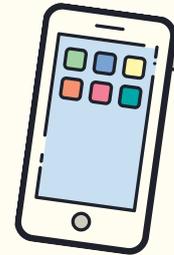


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