

february



Laois Public Participation Network

February 2021 Newsletter



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On Thursday, 28th January, Laois PPN held a 'Crime Prevention Talk' for their members.

This online event was facilitated by guest speaker Garda Sergeant Graham Kavanagh (Crime Prevention Officer for Laois Offaly.

Over 20 sports clubs and community groups took part in the event.

Garda Sergeant Graham Kavanagh gave advice and tips on keeping personal belongings and property safe. He spoke about empty club houses and community halls that are at risk of criminal damage and theft due to the COVID-19 restrictions that are currently in place and what practices they should use to protect their property.

Garda Sergeant Kavanagh also encouraged people to report strange activities to the Gardai and to follow the Laois Offaly Garda Facebook page which has regular information on crime prevention.

For more information, you can email graham.b.kavanagh@garda.ie



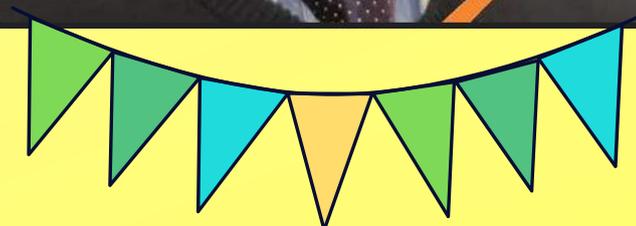
**Garda Sergeant
Graham Kavanagh
Crime Prevention Officer**



Congratulations



**Laois PPN wish to congratulate
Naeem Iqbal following his election as
a Laois PPN Social Inclusion Rep to
the Local Community Development
Committee (LCDC)**





Sports Capital Programme



€40 million is being made available in 2021 under a new round of the Sports Capital and Equipment Programme (SCEP).



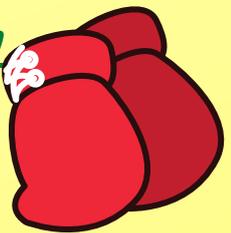
The programme, which is open from Friday, 11th December 2020, welcomes applications from sports clubs, voluntary & community groups, National Governing bodies of sport and Local Authorities. Third Level Colleges, ETB and schools may only apply for funding jointly with a sports club(s) or organisation(s). Funding is available for;

- **natural grass sports pitches, tracks and courts (including pitch drainage)**
- **Energy Efficient Floodlighting**
- **artificial sports pitches, tracks, courts and multi-use games areas**
- **security fencing, ball stop netting and goal posts**
- **hurling walls / handball alleys**
- **building or refurbishment of dressing rooms, showers and toilets**

- **building or refurbishment of sports halls and gyms**
- **non-personal sports equipment**
- **limited COVID-19 related works / equipment**
- **modifications to sports facilities to reduce energy consumption**
- **any other capital projects that are clearly sporting in nature and that will increase participation in sport or improve performance.**



Potential applicant groups must have been registered on OSCAR, the online system by Monday, 15th February 2021.



All applications must be completed online on www.sportscapitalprogramme.ie before 5pm on Monday, 1st March 2021.

The login is your Group's Tax Registration Number and the password would have been entered by your Group when registering on OSCAR.





Farm and Community Biodiversity Initiative Funding Opportunity



Community Groups, Farmers, NGO's, Local Authorities encouraged to apply for the new Farm and Community Biodiversity Initiative.

The €1.25 million initiative, which is under the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine's Rural Development Programme, invites project applications from Community Groups, Farmers Groups, local action groups, NGO's or Local Authorities.

The project being submitted in response to the call should have a value of at least €50,000 and they should take no longer than one year to complete, after planning is done and relevant permissions are received.

The call will be competitive, and an evaluation committee will determine the projects to be funded.

Applications should be submitted by midnight on the 31st March 2021 to

EIP@agriculture.gov.ie

Download the guidelines

<http://bit.ly/3tL2KEv>





Shop Front Grant



The Shop Front Improvement & Accessibility Grant Scheme 2021 is now open. Last year, Laois County Council allocated €15,500 in funding to 23 Laois businesses.

Eligible businesses can apply for a grant up to a maximum of €750 or 50% of the costs.

This year, to promote the Age Friendly Initiative, Laois County Council will increase the maximum to €1,000 where applicants are installing accessibility features (e.g. accessibility ramps or railings).



Applications are available at:



<https://laois.ie/wp-content/uploads/SHOPFRONT-GRANT-SCHEME-APPLICATION-FORM-2021.pdf>



On December 24th last, Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys announced funding of €1 million for TidyTowns groups to help them to prepare for the 2021 SuperValu TidyTowns competition.

This allocation will provide €1,000 for every eligible TidyTowns group in the country.

The funding announced by the Minister is in addition to the €1.4 million allocated to these groups at the end of 2019, some of which will also be used to help them prepare for the 2021 competition. In total, there are 987 eligible TidyTowns groups registered across the country. Pobal will be administering the payment of this grant on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

In light of current restrictions as a result of COVID-19, Pobal will be communicating where possible with eligible groups via email.

It would be desirable therefore, if groups could submit their form electronically rather than going to a post office. While we accept some groups do not have access to email, Pobal will post forms out to these groups.

All eligible groups have now been contacted with details of how to apply for the extra funding. If you have any query with regards to the grant or have not received communication from Pobal at this stage, please contact them at



tidytowns@pobal.ie

or by telephone on

01 511 7099



We would encourage all groups who are eligible for this funding to submit an application form by the closing date of February 28th, 2021.

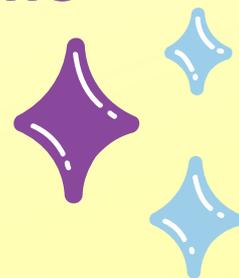
This announcement brings the total amount of funding issued to TidyTowns groups by the Government of Ireland, through the Department in recent years to €5.2 million

Social Enterprise Development Fund

2021

Funding Opportunity

**RETHINK
IRELAND**



€400,000 in funding is being made available to social enterprises to help lead the post-Covid economic and social recovery through Rethink Ireland's Social Enterprise Development Fund 2021 which was officially launched. The objective of the fund is to find and back the best social enterprises in Ireland by making cash grants and strategic business support available to Awardees.

The fund will support up to 16 social enterprises with cash grants:

- Two social enterprises will receive a cash grant of €50,000 each**
- Two social enterprises will receive a cash grant of €30,000 each**
- Two social enterprises will receive a cash grant of €20,000 each**
- Up to ten social enterprises will receive a cash grant of €10,000 each**

What is a Social Enterprise



Social enterprises are businesses that work primarily to improve the lives of people. Their core objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact. Like other businesses, Social Enterprises pursue their objectives by trading in goods and services on an ongoing basis.

However, surpluses generated by social enterprises are re-invested into achieving their core social objectives.

The Social Enterprise Development Fund was created by Rethink Ireland in 2018 in partnership with Local Authorities Ireland and funded by IPB Insurance and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.



The deadline for application is 5th March, 2021.

For details:

https://rethinkireland.ie/current_fund/social-enterprise-development-fund-2021

Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021 - 2027

Laois County Council's Planning Department have been holding a series of live webinars to engage with members of the public in relation to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.



LIVE WEBINAR

Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021-2027

Laois County Council's Planning Department will be running a series of live webinar events to engage with members of the public in relation to the Draft Laois County Development Plan 2021 - 2027.



If you wish to attend the free public consultation events you can do so by registering on:
<https://consult.laois.ie/en/consultation/draft-laois-county-development-plan-2021-2027>

• • •

The following events shall be hosted online:

18TH FEB THURSDAY, 7pm - 9pm
"Population and Where We Live"

22ND FEB MONDAY, 7pm - 9pm
"Job Creation in the County - The Economic Priorities"

24TH FEB WEDNESDAY, 7pm - 9pm:
"Enabling and Servicing Development - Infrastructural Requirements and Priorities"

01ST MAR MONDAY, 7pm - 9pm:
"Cultural, Built and Natural Heritage in County Laois"

For more information and to view the Draft Plan, visit:
<https://consult.laois.ie/en/consultation/draft-laois-county-development-plan-2021-2027>

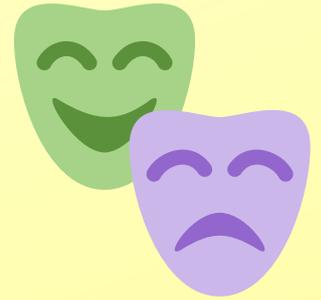
For more information visit:

<https://consult.laois.ie/en/consultation/draft-laois-county-development-plan-2021-2027>

Arts Council Ireland



Grants



Arts Council Ireland announces more than 30 funding opportunities for 2021.



These programmes are designed to give a wide range of artists and art organisations the chance to apply for supports.



Please see the next page for a list of funding opportunities.



For full details, see:

<http://bit.ly/3a6Hz70>



Arts Council — → Funding Opportunities * 2021

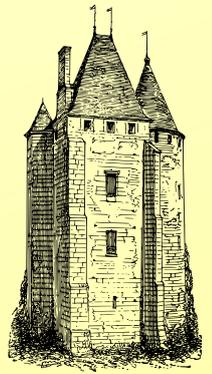
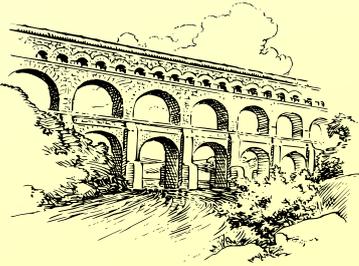
Schemes and awards are open to arts organisations, artists or practitioners meeting the published criteria. Please note that you must register for online services BEFORE you submit an application.

The table below lists the funding opportunities being planned by the Arts Council for 2021. It is as accurate as of January 2021, but subject to change. Please be sure to check the funding section of our website, and subscribe to our Newsletter for up-to-date information throughout the year.

AWARD/PROGRAMME	OPENS	CLOSES
Markievicz Award 2021	5 January	4 February
Touring 2021	12 January	11 February
Dels Recording & Publication 2021	2 March	1 April
Dance Artist Residency and Theatre Schemes (Residency, Resource & Development)	9 March	8 April
Agility Award — Round 1	9 March	8 April
Young Ensembles Scheme 2021	16 March	15 April
Project Award 2021 — Round 2	16 March	15 April
Invitation to Collaboration — Round 1	23 March	22 April
Creative Places	23 March	22 April
Commissions 2021	30 March	29 April
Opera Projects & Production 2022	30 March	29 April
Open Call — Phase One 2022	30 March	29 April
Touring 2022 — Round 1	6 April	6 May
Creative Schools 2021 — Year 1	6 April	6 May
Capacity Building Support Scheme — Round 1	13 April	13 May
Next Generation 2021	20 April	20 May
Arts Grant Funding 2022	13 April	27 May
Reel Art	27 April	27 May
Creative Production Supports	4 May	3 June
Bursary 2021 — Round 2	25 May	24 June
Visual Arts Workspace Scheme 2022	8 June	8 July
Agility Award — Round 2	8 June	8 July
FIS 2022 — Round 1	22 June	22 July
Projects 2022 — Round 1	Mid July	Mid August
Engaging with Architecture	Mid July	Mid August
Strategic & Arts Centre Funding 2022	Early July	Early September
Partnership Funding 2022	Mid July	Mid September
Open Call — Phase 2	Late June	Mid September
Authored Works	Late August	Late September
Agility Award — Round 3	Late August	Late September
Invitation to Collaboration (LA)	Mid October	Early November
Festivals Investment Scheme 2022 — Round 2	Mid October	Mid November
Travel & Training		on hold



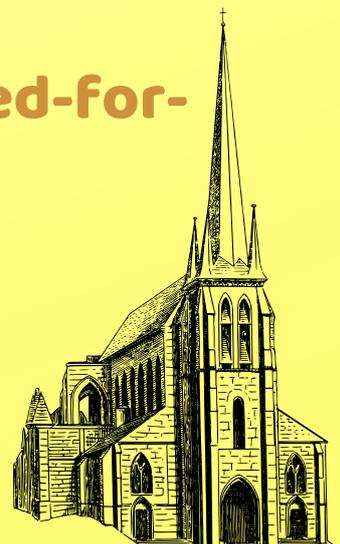
Conservation Grants



The deadline for applications to the Built Heritage Investment Scheme and the Historic Structures fund in Laois has been extended to 1st March 2021, to allow more time for owners to obtain quotes and prepare method statements, given the current restrictions.

Full details and applications forms at the link below. If you need any help with forms or any other aspect of the grants, please get in touch with the Heritage Office.

<https://laois.ie/deadline-extended-for-conservation-grants/>



Threshold Housing



With Level 5 restrictions remaining in place, the national housing charity, Threshold would like to remind all renters, that if you are experiencing difficulties in renting your home, Threshold continues to provide free, independent, and confidential advice and support to individuals and families via our new webchat service available on our website

threshold.ie

or our freephone helpline which is

1800 454 454

If you have a query about rent increases, arrears, standards and repairs or ending your tenancy, contact Threshold for advice and support.



Threshold's webchat operates Monday to Friday, 9.30am - 5pm via threshold.ie

Threshold's freephone helpline remains available Monday to Friday, 9am - 9pm at

1800 454 454



Links to our social medial channels are as follows:



Facebook: [facebook.com/Thresholdire/](https://www.facebook.com/Thresholdire/)



Instagram: [@threshold_housing](https://www.instagram.com/threshold_housing)



Twitter: <https://twitter.com/ThresholdIRE>

A photograph of three call center staff members wearing headsets and working at computers. The woman in the foreground is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is slightly blurred, showing the other two staff members.

**Threshold**
Solving housing problems,
preventing homelessness

Live Chat

9.30am - 5pm
Monday- Friday
www.threshold.ie

SPRINGTIME ORIENTEERING

Emo & Portlaoise Residents Are Invited To Explore Their Navigation Skills This Spring Through Orienteering Facilities In The Following Areas:

- Emo Court
- Portlaoise
Pairc Na Phobail

EXPLORE THE
OUTDOORS IN A
DIFFERENT
LIGHT.
GET FIT & HAVE
FUN DOING IT!



Download The Virtual Maps Anytime Through The MapRun6 App Then Challenge Family Members On Their Problem-Solving, Decision-Making, Teamwork & Self-Awareness Skills.



SPORT IRELAND
LOCAL SPORTS PARTNERSHIPS



OPW



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland



Talks on Climate Change

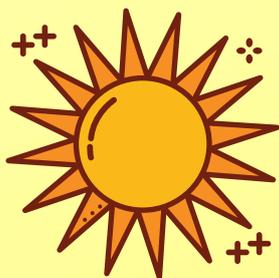


An Chomhairle Oidhreachta
The Heritage Council



As part of the Abbeyleix Climate Action Project we have been working with Dr. Niamh Shaw to put together a series of talks from international experts in various aspects of Climate Change. These are a partner to the "Local Heroes" Panel series we did earlier this year, which highlighted local action on climate change - this is the national and international perspective.

The talks will be streamed live on online on the Laois Heritage Forum Facebook Page. The full details are at



<https://laois.ie/climatespeakers/>

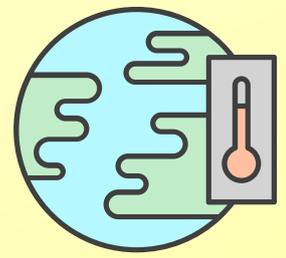


The dates and details are:

Wednesday February 24th at 7pm

- **Madeleine Murray, Change by Degrees 'Sustainability - individual and systemic action to future-proof our world'.**
- **Dr Niamh Shaw, 'How Space teaches us to be better Earth citizens'.**

Talks on Climate Change

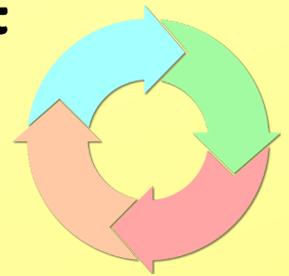


Wednesday March 3rd at 7pm

Sally Weintrobe, "Working through our feelings about the climate emergency".

Wednesday March 10th at 7pm

John Adams & Kai Staats - "Seeking Earth from Space: Biosphere 2, simulated Mars analogue facilities and what we can learn about sustainability and climate change".



Thursday March 18th at 7pm

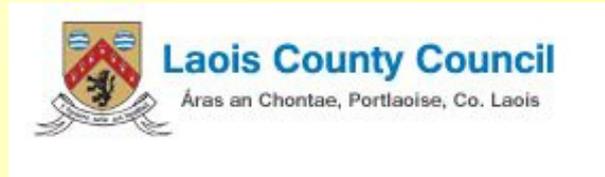
Dr. Anna Maria Trofaier, European Space Agency (ESA) Climate Office, "Using Space for Climate Change: Satellites that monitor our planet is health".

There is no charge and no registration needed - just visit

<https://www.facebook.com/laois.heritage.forum>

The talks will all stay online for about a week, so you will be able to watch back if the scheduled time doesn't suit you.

Upcoming Events at Laois Libraries



Mindfulness for adults: As part of the Keep Well Campaign, join us on **Friday 5th March at 7pm** to explore hope and compassion through mindfulness. To register your interest,

email

mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie



Mindfulness for Teens aged 12-14 years: As part of the Keep Well Campaign, join Patricia Kavanagh for this short introduction to mindfulness over ZOOM on **Saturday 6th March, 11am to 12:30pm**. To register your interest, email **mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie**

Hey Pesto! : As part of the Keep Well Campaign, Yvonne Cart of Hey Pesto will hold a four-week cookery class over ZOOM **every Thursday evening in March at 6.30pm**. To register

your interest, email

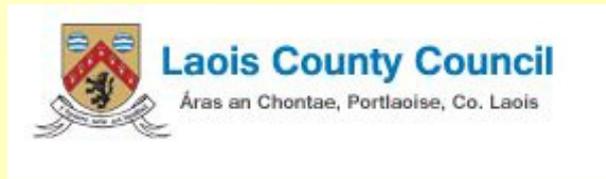
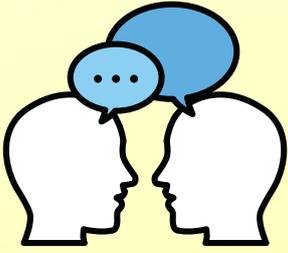
mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie



Laughter Yoga: As part of the Keep Well Campaign, join Mary Ananda Shakti and laugh your stress away on **Thursday 11th March at 11:30am** over ZOOM. To register your interest, email

mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Upcoming Events at Laois Libraries



Poetry Speaks: Join us over ZOOM to celebrate, share and listen to poetry. What is your favourite poem? What poem resonates with you at the moment? Pick any poem that you want to read and share with us! If you don't want to read, then join us to listen! Poetry speaks on **Wednesday 10th March at 11am**. To register your interest email portarlingtonlibrary@laoiscoco.ie

Baby Sign Language: Laois Libraries and Clever Little Handies are running a 4 week ZOOM course on Baby Sign Language for parents with babies from newborn up. By teaching sign language from an early age they will have a vocabulary to use, even if they're not formulating words. The classes will be on the following **Tuesdays at 12.30pm - March 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd**. To register your interest, please email



mountmellicklibrary@laoiscoco.ie

These Keep Well Campaign Events are brought to you with thanks to Healthy Ireland, an initiative of the Government of Ireland with funding from the Healthy Ireland Fund and the Slaintecare Fund delivered by Pobal, administered by Laois County Council.



FREE Mental Health & Well-being Online Workshops March 2021

	Date	Topic	Time
	4th March 2021	Exploring Self Care	2pm - 4pm
	11th March 2021	Getting the Best from My Mental Health Appointment	2pm - 4pm
	18th March 2021	Supporting Someone in Hospital	2pm - 4pm
	25th March 2021	Unwrapping Resilience	2pm - 4pm

**OPEN TO EVERYONE
AGED 18+ WITH AN
INTEREST IN
RECOVERY EDUCATION,
MENTAL HEALTH AND
WELL-BEING**

Online via Zoom



Book at:
<http://mimrecovered.eventbrite.com>
or Contact Tara Gibbons
 tara.gibbons1@hse.ie or 087 052 8058



Seirbhíse Sláinte
Níosa Fíoraí
& Fíorhoilte

Building a
Safer Health
Service



Mental Health
Ireland



KEEP WELL

Check in Cards for older/vulnerable persons in the community.

Laois County Council as part of the Community Resilience “Keep Well” Campaign have commenced a Check in Card for older/vulnerable persons in the community.

The concept of the card is that it is not intrusive to the vulnerable or isolated person, and gives them an invitation to connect, should they wish to do so – either with the local person who dropped the card, or with Laois County Council Community Call Helpline.

As a security element, and reassurance to the recipient, the cards provide a space for the person leaving the card to identify how the recipient may know them – e.g. Mary from No. 4, John from the local shop etc. The card is dropped in the letterbox of the person – ensuring a non-contact check in. A sample of the card is attached.

Laois PPN would like to ask its members to support this initiative. Laois PPN will post out 20 cards to groups that wish to take part and it’s important that these cards are given to **registered volunteers only** to protect all involved.

PPN Members are asked to only conduct ‘check ins’ within their own 5km radius.

Please email ppn@laoiscoco.ie to register your groups interest in getting involved. Also remember to send the address with the Eircode of the person in your group that has volunteered to look after this.



This KEEP WELL campaign is brought to you with thank to Healthy Ireland and initiative of the Government of Ireland with funding from Healthy Ireland from the Healthy Ireland Fund and Sláintecare fund delivered by Pobal.





Contact Us



In line with the current Level 5 restrictions, the Public Participation Network (PPN) Office is closed. The team are continuing to work remotely and are still contactable during office hours.

Email: ppn@laoiscoco.ie



Phone: 086 035 2107 (Dan)

Post: Public Participation Network

JFL Avenue

Lyster Square

Portlaoise

Co. Laois



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