

Happy Easter



Laois Public Participation Network

March 2023 Newsletter

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MIDLANDS REGION PPN MEETING



Vincent Booth (Laois PPN Secretariat) presenting the Laois PPN Topic on the Climate Action Project

Laois PPN welcomed delegates from across the Midlands for the Midlands Region PPN Meeting on Thursday 23rd March 2023. The wonderful Castle Durrow was the location for the event which saw delegates from Kildare, Longford, Meath, Offaly, and Westmeath welcomed to Laois.

The MRPPN allows the PPNS of the Midlands to share information and work in collaboration on projects and policies. The MRPPN is an invaluable network for PPN's based in the Midlands.

Each PPN gave a presentation on their chosen topic. Laois PPN's topic was on our Climate Action Project for 2023.



Attendees from Laois PPN, Offaly PPN, & Westmeath PPN



Paddy Buggy & Michael J. Cobbe (Laois PPN)

Laois PPN Resource Worker, Dan Bergin, said "Laois PPN were delighted to host delegates from the other Midlands Counties. The MRPPN is a great way for PPNs to link up and share our ideas. Laois PPN were the first hosts of 2023 and look forward to visiting our other MRPPN colleagues throughout 2023. Laois PPN presented our Climate Action Project for 2023. This is a stacked calendar of events that will support Community Groups in Laois and raise awareness about positive Climate Actions Initiatives."



*Dan Bergin,
Laois PPN Resource Worker*



Dan Bergin (Laois PPN) centre with Grainne Kirwan and Grace Clarke (Both Kildare PPN)

The variety of topics presented on the night showed the broad range of work undertaken by PPNs to support Community Groups in their Counties.

Laois PPN Secretariat, Vincent Booth, said "It was a very successful evening. It was great that we could all share ideas and learn from each other from all the different PPN groups."



*Vincent Booth,
Laois PPN Secretariat*



Vincent Booth (Laois PPN Secretariat) presenting to delegates



LAOIS PPN COUNTY PLENARY



Laois PPN held our first County Plenary of 2023 for our Member Groups on Tuesday 21st March. There was a large attendance on the night representing the wide and varied membership of Laois PPN. The County Plenary was an online event and was chaired by Laois PPN Secretariat Member, Vincent Booth.

Laois PPN Secretariat, Vincent Booth, said "It was great to see such a large attendance for our first plenary of the year. We put this down to the fact that Laois PPN held it on Microsoft Teams and that people could attend the meeting online without leaving the comfort of their home while doing their bit for climate action by reducing their carbon footprint."



*Vincent Booth,
Laois PPN Secretariat*

On the night the annual Workplan and Budget were ratified, and Laois PPN gave an outline of their Climate Action Project for 2023.

Jenny Collier of Laois Partnership Company was the guest speaker at the County Plenary. She gave a presentation on LEADER Funding for Community Groups.

As a thank you to our Member Groups and to promote local businesses in a positive way, Laois PPN held a raffle for vouchers for Castle Durrow and Roundwood House.

Congratulations to the winners;

**Maureen Culleton -
Maureen Culleton
Dance Group**

**Fran Doyle -
2nd Laois Scout Group**

WINNER

Dan Bergin, Resource Worker with Laois PPN, said "Laois PPN would like to thank all our Member Groups who attended our County Plenary. Each year Laois PPN selects a theme. This year's theme will be the Laois PPN Climate Action Project. Laois PPN look forward to supporting our Member Groups throughout 2023."



*Dan Bergin,
Laois PPN Resource
Worker*

A TREE FOR PEACE



Paddy Buggy (Laois PPN Secretariat), Cathaoirleach Thomasina Connell, Tatiana Kybalchych & Sandra Trofimova (Midlands Ukrainian Association) Dan Bergin (Laois PPN Resource Worker)

Laois PPN hosted “A Tree for Peace”, on the Friday the 24th of March 2023 in the Peoples Park Portlaoise. This was a tree planting ceremony in support of the Ukrainian Community in Laois.

Dan Bergin Laois PPN Resource Worker said, “Taking place during National Tree Week in Ireland, this event supported our friends in the Ukrainian Community in Laois.

As a member of the Ukrainian Response Forum in Laois, Laois PPN were delighted to organise the planting of a beautiful Rowan Tree in The Peoples Park Portlaoise for our A Tree for Peace event.”



*Dan Bergin,
Laois PPN Resource
Worker*

The Rowan Tree is a tree of huge significance in Ireland; since ancient times people have been planting Rowan Trees beside their homes as in Celtic Mythology they were known as the Tree of Life, and symbolised courage, wisdom, and protection.



The Ukrainian Response Forum in Laois is coordinated by Laois County Council. Carmel McNicholl A/Director of Services for the Ukrainian Response Forum was in attendance at the event.

Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thomasina Connell during her address at A Tree for Peace Ceremony said "We are so fortunate in Ireland to live in peace, and this is something we must never take for granted. Our tree planted here today is also a mark of peace and very much in our minds always is the hope that peace will come once again in Ukraine. Thank you very much for your attendance and I look forward to watching our Peace Tree thrive over the coming months and years."



*Cathaoirleach Cllr
Thomasina Connell*

Laois PPN organised this event in collaboration with the Midlands Ukrainian Association and supported by Laois County Council.

Laois PPN wish to thank Laois County Council and a special thanks to Cathaoirleach Cllr. Thomasina Connell for supporting this event.



LIVING WELL EXPO



Anna Mai McHugh, the undisputed Queen of Ploughing visited the Council Chamber, Áras an Chontae Portlaoise on Tuesday, 21st March, to formally launch the LIVING WELL Expo event, which will take place in Portlaoise College R32 N795 on the 13th of April 2023, from 4pm to 8pm.

This event, which is a joint health and wellbeing initiative, co-ordinated by Healthy Laois and Age Friendly Laois, will include talks, demonstrations and over sixty exhibitors, who will showcase the range of supports and services available to people/communities of all ages in Laois, enabling them to Live Well. Anna Mai is our Laois Age Friendly Ambassador and will open the Living Well event in April.



An action-packed FREE event is promised. Information will be available on a wide range of services available to help improve the Physical and Mental Health and Wellbeing of the people of Laois. The Fun Live stage area will host live cooking shows, talks and demonstrations throughout the event and these will be of interest and benefit to both individuals and those involved with community groups and organisations.

Throughout the venue, there will there be music, singing and activities to keep everyone entertained and on their toes. Free Health Checks will also be available and complimentary tea and light refreshments can be enjoyed, while attending the event.

For further information please contact:

Tom: tcurran@laoiscoco.ie 086 0363426 or

Emma: eoconnor@laoiscoco.ie 086 0665215

Groups are encouraged to pre-register to ensure quick access for their members.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

National Lottery Good Causes Awards 2023



The National Lottery are seeking entries to this year's Good Causes Awards. The competition will culminate with a National Final awards ceremony which will take place in October 2023.

Every year, the Good Causes Awards celebrate the inspirational work carried out by many volunteers, coaches, care givers and extraordinary people across Ireland, along with the organisations they represent. Beneficiaries will be judged on how the funds were used to make an ever-lasting impact on their local community, project, club, or service users.

A total prize fund of €135,000 is available.

You can find more information on the Awards and apply online but feel free to contact goodcausesawards@lottery.ie or call Emmanouela on +353 1 9204 394

Closing date is Friday 7th April.

[Full Details Available
Here](#)

Who can enter this year's awards?

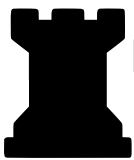
You can enter the National Lottery Good Causes Awards if you or your organisation, project or club has received funding through the following National Lottery part-funded schemes between 2018-2022:



Sport: Sports Capital Programme Grants or any funding issued through Sport Ireland.



Arts & Culture: Any funding provided through the Arts Council of Ireland.



Heritage: Any funding provided through the Heritage Council of Ireland.



Youth: Any funding issued by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (i.e. UBU Your Place, Your Space grants, Targeted Youth Funding Schemes or Youth Information Centre's).



Health: Any Grants issued through the HSE National Lottery Grant Scheme.



Community: Any National Lottery part-funded scheme administered by Department of Rural & Community Development (Senior Alert Schemes or Scheme to Support National Organisations (SSNO)).



Irish Language: Any Irish Language support provided through the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media.

Participation Grant & Women in Sport Grant



Clubs and Groups can apply for funding to Laois Sport Partnership under one or both of the following schemes:

1. Participation Grant - grants between €500 and €1000
PURPOSE: This fund is for activity/training programmes or non capital club development initiatives aimed at encouraging clubs to increase participation in sport and physical activity

2. Women In Sport Grant - grants between €500 and €1000
PURPOSE: This fund is for activity/training programmes or non capital club development initiatives to raise overall physical activity levels among women and to support women's roles with sports organisations.

Closing date for receipt of applications is **Friday 14th April 2023.**

For full information and to submit an application, click on the link below:

[Full Details Available Here](#)

BE SUMMER READY



This campaign is part of the Government of Ireland initiative to provide information to the general public on issues which may affect them during the summer months in Ireland. The campaign complements a long standing and very successful “Be Winter Ready” public information campaign.

During the summer months, Ireland’s waterways and beaches become very popular. More people visit the countryside, engage in outdoor pursuits, visit family farms or take holidays abroad. With these activities there are associated risks and this booklet provides information on these. In addition, people die in Ireland in drowning accidents, farm accidents, on our roads or succumb to summer related illnesses.

[Full Details Available Here](#)

Happy Easter



CONTACT US

The Laois Public Participation Network (PPN) Office is open Monday to Friday by appointment only.

You can also contact us by:

 **Email:** ppn@laoiscoco.ie

Phone: 057 86 65661 (Office)
086 035 2107 (Dan)



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