



2ounty Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)
E-mail: ppn@longfordcoco.ie; Web: www.longfordppn.ie
fb: @longfordppn
Twitter: @LongfordPPN

Edel Kelly, PPN Support Worker, County Longford Public Participation Network, Longford County Council, Great Water Street, Longford

PPN Newsletter September 2023 (Part 2)

LOCAL NEWS

EDI Centre ECCO Project

This programme is an opportunity for participants / colleagues in your network to engage in sustainable training,

The benefits and supports of this project are multidimensional at individual, community, or organizational level, to develop solutions to address climate action and face the many challenges in the transition to Circular Enterprise.

This can be achieved through education & training and learning by doing.

See attached information poster

If this interests your network, please complete the application form below

<https://shout.com/s/JUJKQdRK>.

This is a survey regarding community needs

<https://shout.com/s/ZmmftNNEI>

Please see [here](#) for information

A purple-themed poster for a 'Multiplier Event'. The background features a repeating pattern of interlocking circles. In the center, a white rectangular box contains the text 'DE W Digital Entrepreneurship for Women', where 'DE' is in a large serif font, 'W' is inside a purple circle, and the rest is in a sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'Multiplier Event' is written in a bold, purple, sans-serif font. Further down, 'Longford Women's Link' and 'October 3rd 2023' are written in a purple, sans-serif font, followed by '10-12pm' in a smaller purple font. In the bottom right corner, there is a small European Union flag logo and the text 'Co-funded by the European Union' in a white font.

I am inviting you to our Erasmus+ Event for the DEW (Digital Entrepreneurship for Women) Project which is nearing completion. We would be delighted to see you on October 3rd at LWL from 10-12 where we will provide an overview of the project results and demonstrate the online learning modules. Tea and coffee will be provided, and it will be a great opportunity to find out more about this digital project.

Memory Walk

It's *World Alzheimer's Month* and we are looking forward to coming together on *Sunday, September 24th* to help raise vital funds and awareness for people affected by Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia in Ireland. *Alzheimer's Memory Walk*, proudly supported by Payzone, is a family-friendly event suitable for everyone. It doesn't matter how many steps or how much distance is covered - walking together to support people living with dementia and their family carers.

We would be delighted if you would join our local walk

Location: The Mall Complex, Longford.

Time: 3pm

Distance: 3km

Register now for the 2023 Alzheimer's Memory Walk at www.memorywalk.ie or call 01-2073833. Registrations cost €5 for kids and €18 for adults and include a participation pack with a Memory Walk t-shirt.

Please see poster attached, I would be grateful if you could share on social media!

World Mental Health Day

- DATE: 10 October 2022 10:00am
 - LOCATION: Bridgeways Family Resource Centre, Dean Egan Library Main Street, Ballymahon, N39TD54
 - CONTACT: Emer on 0852551555 or Tanya 0832025899
- DESCRIPTION: We would love you to come along and join us for a morning of all things mental health! Starting with yoga at 10am with Emma, 11am DIY Pulse Points with Sonas Aromas, 11.30am Meet Jason from Shine, 12pm Mindful Art with Anna and 1.30pm Mindful Dance and Movement with Jacqueline. You can participate in one, all or none of the activities but try pop in for a cuppa and a chat.
- NAME OF ORGANISATION: Bridgeways Family Resource Centre
 - SOCIAL LINK: <https://bridgewaysfrc.com/>
 - OPEN TO WHO: Public
-

Invitation to participation in World Mental Health Month

We are currently running online Connect Café information sessions throughout September. Registration is still open for the last few sessions, so if you didn't have the possibility to do so yet, could you please share this attached poster on your social media?

I would like to encourage you to give your local community opportunity to register and promote their WMHM events on our dedicated website <https://worldmentalhealthmonth-mhi.ie/get-involved/register-your-event/>

Every registered event will feature on the 'Find Out What's Happening in Your Area' page of the website. If you could also share this information on your social media and with your groups that would be great.

Viola Di Bucchianico, Thrive Action Research Officer, Tel. 083 478 2166



'See Change' is an Irish organisation dedicated to ending mental health stigma. Their work is informed by people with lived experiences of mental health difficulties, who are best placed to give insight into mental health stigma and discrimination.

Their annual **Green Ribbon** campaign aims to spread awareness about all mental health difficulties to help end mental health stigma and discrimination. This year it takes place throughout the month of September.

If you would like to learn about stigma and the negative impacts it can have on people with mental health difficulties you can visit the 'See Change' Website at <https://seechange.ie/>

National Disability Authority Annual Conference 2023: Public and Political Participation of Disabled People

Guaranteeing the equal participation of disabled people in political and public life in Ireland – United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) Article 29

Date: Thursday, 26 October 2023

Time: 9:30am – 4.15pm

Location: Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road and Online

Cost: Free of charge. [Registration required.](#)

We would like to invite you to our **Annual Conference 2023: Public and Political Participation of Disabled People.**

This year's event will take an in-depth view of all the implications of Article 29 of the UNCRPD in Ireland, which focuses on the participation of disabled people in political and public life.

The conference will look at issues around accessible voting, and the public and political representation of disabled people in Ireland. Disabled people, public officials and elected representatives will discuss barriers faced by disabled people and propose solutions. We will look at international practices and present learning from other countries which could inform potential solutions to address the challenges and barriers faced in Ireland.

Speakers confirmed so far include:

- Art O'Leary, Chief Executive, An Coimisiún Toghcháin (The Electoral Commission),
- Cahir Hughes, Head of Electoral Commission Northern Ireland,
- Robbie Sinnott, Voice of Vision Impairment,
- John Dolan, CEO, Disability Federation Ireland (DFI),
- Ivana Bacik, TD, Labour Party.

The [conference programme is available on our website](#) and will be updated as more speakers are confirmed.

We encourage all relevant stakeholders to attend, including professionals who are preparing to implement the Electoral Reform Act 2022 and individuals whose lives will be impacted by it, including:

- Disabled Persons Organisations and other disability organisations
- Policy makers
- Public sector officials
- Local authority officials
- Individuals with disabilities and their families

The conference will be a hybrid event, in-person at the Aviva Stadium, Lansdowne Road or online via Zoom.

You need to [register to attend](#), but the event is **free of charge**.

Irish Sign Language interpretation and real-time captioning will be available.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us [by email](#) or by phone on 01 608 0400.

We look forward to welcoming you to our Annual Conference 2023!

CHIME The National Charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss

Our free and confidential clinics provide a one-on-one space where you can receive information and advice about deafness and hearing loss. Join us to learn more about topics such as tinnitus, assistive technologies, minor hearing aid repairs, and low-cost hearing aid batteries. We are here to help and support you in any way we can.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH CLINIC For the Deaf and Hard of Hearing.

DROP IN & VISIT US:

When: 10am - 1pm First Tuesday of every Month, starting from 4th July

Where: Longford CIC, Level 1, Longford Shopping Centre (Just above TESCO), Longford, N39 X

Contact: Email fiona.hope@chime.ie

Tel. 086 8252538

Promoting Wellness for Women - MenoWell Longford

MenoWell Longford is a free 6-week online evidence-based exercise, nutrition, and health education programme promoting wellness for women in all stages of adult life, with a special focus on perimenopause and post-menopause.

Designed and delivered by EduFIT and funded by Longford Sports Partnership and Longford County Council the programme is aimed at women aged 30+ years living in Longford.

The programme will begin on **Wednesday September 13th at 8pm** and run for **6 weeks** as follows:

- 2 x 40-minute live online women- and menopause-specific multimodal **exercise classes** per week – **Mondays and Thursdays at 8pm** hosted via Zoom, instructed in real time and include a suitable warm up and cool down.
- 1 x 30-minute live online women- and menopause-specific health **education masterclass** per week – **Wednesdays at 8pm** also be delivered via Zoom with a focus on different topics relating to women's health and the menopause journey including muscle, bone, and cardiovascular health, healthy nutrition, sleep hygiene and self-care.

An on-demand library of women- and menopause-specific exercise videos and nutrition recipes, as well as recorded health education workshops will also be available to all participants.

You can sign up for the programme by clicking on the following link

<https://edufit.ie/menowell-longford/> you will be asked to complete a short-answer online questionnaire, but all information will be kept strictly private and confidential,

(There is a button to confirm you live in Longford, however as an LCC staff member you can click 'Yes')

Don't worry if you can't commit to all classes, once registered you can attend as many as you are available for.

SAVE THE DATE

WISE & WELL, AGE FRIENDLY INFORMATION DAY - Monday 9th October, Longford Arms Hotel, 11.00am - 4.00pm, Registration from 10.30am. Talks, Demos, Entertainment & more!

LIVE PERFORMANCE BY MICK FLAVIN.

Pre-Booking is essential through your local library or online at www.longfordlibrary.ie/events

Longford (043) 33 41124	Granard (043) 66 86164
Ballymahon (09064) 32546	Lanesboro (043) 33 21291
Edgeworthstown (043) 33 43335	Drumlish (043) 33 24760

Living with Loss and Living with Hope – Podcasts

Since taking up post as ROSP for Longford Westmeath, I have had the privilege of working alongside Josephine Rigney, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention – HSE Laois Offaly, and Bernie Carroll, Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer – Pieta Midlands.

I could listen to Bernie and Josephine talk all day. Anthony O’ Prey, Senior Health Promotion Officer (Longford)/Sláintecare Healthy Communities Coordinator (Longford/Westmeath) felt the same way and he produced a podcast with Bernie and Josephine, see link below.

I would encourage you to set some time aside to listen to the podcasts and hear the unique insights that Bernie, Josephine, and Anthony bring to the complex subjects of bereavement, loss, and the power of hope.

Series 1 - Episode 2: Living with Loss

In this podcast we explore the journey of Loss and Grief and the emotions we experience as we travel along it. We also discuss the steps we can take to ensure we move through this journey with self-compassion, supported by our resilience skills. With special guests,

Josephine Rigney, HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention (Laois & Offaly) & Bernie Carroll, Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer with Pieta Midlands & Counsellor Psychotherapist in Private Practice.

Series 2 - Episode 3: Living with Hope

In this podcast we explore the power of hope, how to build and protect it and how to repair it if lost because of a set-back, disappointment or personal challenge. With special guests Josephine Rigney, HSE Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention (Laois & Offaly) & Bernie Carroll, Suicide Bereavement Liaison Officer with Pieta Midlands & Counsellor Psychotherapist in Private Practice.

<https://laoispartnership.ie/laois-connects-podcasts/>

Your Emotional Safety:

This podcast contains sensitive content or discussion relating to suicide and/or self-harm, which can have an emotional impact and sometimes this can be unexpected. For example.

- You could find it upsetting
- You could overly identify with it - personally or professionally
- It might have a negative impact on you in other ways.

With this in mind, it is advised that you.

- Are mindful and aware of your own needs and self-care in this space
- Take a break, opt out or mute the conversation, at any point you feel you need to
- Be mindful of your own self-care afterwards.

To access information on national and local suicide prevention resources/services; free online and face to face self-harm, suicide prevention and bereavement support training, see link : [here](#)

You may wish to explore other podcasts, please see links below:

- Meath Talks: <https://www.meathpartnership.ie/pages/meath-talks/>
- Kildare Talks: <https://www.countykildarelp.ie/kildare-talks-podcasts/>
- Westmeath Talks: <https://www.westcd.ie/index.php/joomla-overview/westmeath-talks>
- Longford Talks: <https://lclrl.ie/longford-talks/>
- Laois Connects: <https://laoispartnership.ie/laois-connects-podcast/>
- Offaly Talks: <https://www.offalyldc.ie/individual-supports/offaly-talks-podcasts>

Patrick Jones, Resource Officer for Suicide Prevention - Longford/Westmeath

THE WHEEL'S FUNDING ROADSHOW – LEITRIM

Are you looking to diversify your sources of funding but just don't have time to do the research? Join us on Tuesday, 3 October in Leitrim for our Funding Roadshow where we will answer all your funding questions.

Attend this roadshow to:

- Learn about different types of funding opportunities available to your organisation – at a local, national and EU level
- Find out where future funding will come from, as well as tips for addressing challenges that will arise
- Talk directly to funders about your project
- Network with other community and voluntary organisations.

This is a free event, but registration is essential. Places are limited so don't miss out.

Full agenda coming soon.

How to register

This event is free. Registration is required.

Who should attend

Members of The Wheel; staff or volunteers of community and voluntary organisations involved in fundraising, grant writing and development.

[LOGIN OR SIGN UP TO REGISTER](#)

Information for Voters with disabilities in a range of different languages

From [Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage](#)

Published on 13 September 2023 Last updated on 13 September 2023

[Information for voters with disabilities - English](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Arabic](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Chinese](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Czech](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - French](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - German](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Hungarian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Italian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Lithuanian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Latvian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Polish](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Portuguese](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Romanian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Russian](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Slovak](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Spanish](#)

[Information for voters with disabilities - Ukrainian](#)

Don't Miss



COURSES

Certificate in supervisory management

Commencing 3rd October 2023

Closing date 25th September 2023

Fully funded fees

Please see [here](#) for details

KICKSTART YOUR NEW BUSINESS

Training & Mentoring Support Programme

Kickstart is a complete online 14-week incubator programme for starting a new business. On completion successful learners will gain a QQI Level 5 in Business Planning

Thrive is a business growth programme (2-year programme) and often a natural progression from Kickstart once a business is set-up and trading

See [here](#) for details. (Right click and press open hyperlink to open link)

TRAINING SESSIONS FROM THE WHEEL

We wish to inform you that training sessions provided by The Wheel have been uploaded to the Gov.ie website. These training sessions include-

- **Basics of Employment and HR Practice**
- **Successful Communication for Community Groups and Voluntary Boards**
- **Leading Communities- The Role of the Board or Committee Member**
- **Social Media**
- **Procurement**
- **Strategic Planning**

The link to our website can be found [here](#).

National News

HUMAN TRAFFICKING IN IRELAND

Earlier this week, on Wednesday 13th September 2023, the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) as Ireland's National Rapporteur on Human Trafficking published their second **National Anti-Trafficking Report**.

The Report notes that data on victims of Human Trafficking between 2013 and 2022 from the National Referral Mechanism for identification of victims of trafficking shows that trafficking for sexual exploitation is the most common form of exploitation at 55 per cent followed by trafficking for labour exploitation at 38 per cent and trafficking for criminal activities at 6 per cent.

Also in 2022, trafficking for the purpose of "criminal activities ceased its declining trend and re-emerged with two new cases, both cases pertaining to exploitation in grow houses. In

2022, for the first time a suspected trafficking for organ removal was recorded, which mirrors the trends in the European Union where novel forms of exploitation are picking up. Human trafficking in Ireland is highly gendered, which is a lasting trend in Ireland as well as in the EU". More women fall victim to human trafficking than men (67 per cent versus 33 per cent).

Traffickers often use the threat of a criminal prosecution in order to maintain control meaning victims can be afraid to come forward. A key Commission recommendation is that a "statutory protection from prosecution for victims of human trafficking be included in the new Bill where a person has committed a crime as a direct consequence of them being trafficked".

Other Commission recommendations include:

On safe and appropriate accommodation:

- That the Department of Children, Education, Disability, Integration and Youth should treat the accommodation of victims of trafficking as an issue of utmost priority within the process to end Direct Provision, to ensure that victims of trafficking no longer reside under such arrangements.
- That the State strongly considers relieving the IPAS of the duty to provide accommodation services to all victims of trafficking (who are less than 1% of residents), and until then should review its capacity and devise a better strategy for appropriately accommodating victims of trafficking.

On technology:

- That a National Strategy/Forum on Technology and Human Trafficking is developed.
- That the State develops extensive public awareness and educational programmes targeting young people, in particular to prevent the risk of grooming of girls on social platforms and to discourage young men from becoming potential buyers.
- That pornography and escort websites as well as other legal entities in the online space, should be monitored and regulated in a way that eliminates risk of trafficking and human rights abuses.

On labour exploitation:

- That the State opts into the EU Employer Sanctions Directive and that any proposals for a seasonal work permit align with the EU standards or that the introduction of such permit is discontinued altogether.
- That a standalone offence is introduced in Irish law for holding a person in slavery, servitude or forced or compulsory labour.

On children:

- That the State works with An Garda Síochána and Tusla to develop a methodology for collecting uniform and reliable data on the scale and different forms of exploitation of children, in line with the recent recommendations of the UN Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children.
- That human trafficking is included in the Child First Guidelines to ensure that those responsible for the care of children have the necessary understanding of trafficking

The [third evaluation report](#) on Ireland's performance on implementing the Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, notes that the legislation governing human trafficking in Ireland has remained largely unchanged since GRETA's second evaluation in 2017 and that Ireland continues to be primarily a country of destination of victims of trafficking in human beings. The Report finds that "The number of presumed victims of trafficking identified by An Garda Síochána was 103 in 2017, 64 in 2018, 42 in 2019, 38 in 2020, and 44 in 2021. While trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation remains the prevalent form of exploitation, the number of persons trafficked for the purpose of labour exploitation has increased. In the period 2016-2020, 46% of the presumed victims came from Africa (primarily from Nigeria), 36% from the European Economic Area, and 11% from Asia".

Government must fully Implement the recommendations of the 2022 Trafficking in Persons Report

The Programme for Government makes a commitment to enact legislation that encompasses both UN and EU measures and protocols to combat the smuggling and trafficking of migrants. The Department of Justice and Equality committed in June of 2020 to study the recommendations contained in the Trafficking in Persons Report 2020 (US Department of State, 2022) and state that ending the crime of human trafficking is a priority for the country.¹ The Human Trafficking investigation and Coordination Unit has been established with an Garda Síochána.

To learn more about issues of child trafficking in Ireland, you can listen to a *Social Justice Ireland* podcast with [MECPATHS](#), who are the only non-profit organisation in Ireland which focuses specifically on the issue of Child Trafficking. It works to raise awareness on this hidden issue and educates frontline and emerging professionals to prevent Child Trafficking and enhance existing protective measures.

Education Manager, Ann Mara and Network & Communications Manager, J.P. O’Sullivan chat with Susanne Rogers about the issue of child trafficking in Ireland, how we currently understand it, how the language needs to shift and what supports must be put in place. Listen here: [HTTps https://www.oecd.org/wise/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm](https://www.oecd.org/wise/measuring-well-being-and-progress.htm)

GOVERNMENT RISKS ANOTHER REGRESSIVE BUDGET IF IT CONTINUES TO PRIORITISE ONE-OFF PAYMENTS

Government will repeat the mistakes of last year and deliver a regressive budget if does not prioritise income adequacy over one-off payments. Instead of again relying on one-off payments, Government must make income adequacy and the benchmarking of social welfare rates to average earnings a key focus of Budget 2024. If not, those in society who need the greatest assistance with making ends meet will be left behind again.

One off measures led to regressive outcomes for vulnerable groups in Budget 2023

The reliance on one-off measures to support low-income households in last year’s budget increased the Rich-Poor gap by €199 in the year, a gap which now stands at almost €1,000 per week and contributed to the regressive outcomes. The inadequate increase in core social welfare rates and a reliance on temporary one-off payments left Ireland’s poorest worse off in 2023 compared to their situation in 2022. In contrast, Government allocated €1.26bn to tax initiatives in last year’s budget, two-thirds of which were allocated to permanent income tax changes which benefitted only those paying tax at the higher rate. Workers paying tax at the standard rate did not benefit from these changes. Budgetary policy should aim to alleviate the pressures on households who can least absorb cost of living increases, rather than increase the disposable income of wealthier households. Income adequacy cannot be addressed by one-off measures. Budget 2024 must prioritise adequate increases in core social welfare rates, and the benchmarking of social welfare rates to average earnings over one-off payments. Temporary measures, such as electricity credits and one-off additional welfare and fuel allowance payments provide welcome short-term assistance to households on the lowest incomes, but they fail to address the core issue of income adequacy.

Priorities for Budget 2024

In Budget 2024 Government should adopt recurring taxation and expenditure measures which prioritise the protection of the most vulnerable groups in our society and further protect them, if needed, from ongoing aspects of the cost-of-living crisis. The Budget should also outline a clear plan for the management of one-off windfall revenues in the context of the long-term interests of Irish society.

Vulnerable groups

IF Government is serious about meeting its own poverty targets and supporting households on the lowest incomes who, through good and bad economic times, struggle to make ends meet, then core welfare rates must increase by a minimum of €25 in Budget 2024. A €50 increase in the monthly Child Benefit payment is also required to address Ireland's levels of child poverty. Children are one of the most vulnerable groups in any society and child poverty in Ireland remains persistently high. Child benefit is a key route to tackling child poverty and is of particular value to those families on the lowest incomes.

One-off windfall revenues

The Budget arises in the context of large windfall corporation tax revenues flowing to the exchequer from a very small number of multi-national companies. In the medium-term these revenues will shift from Ireland to other states where the activity and profits arise. The challenge of strategically managing these windfall tax receipts is one that is relevant for Budget 2024 and a number of future Budgets. Budget 2024 needs to articulate a clear strategy for the management of these funds framed in the context of the long-term interests of Irish society.

Meeting current and future challenges

Looking at the many multi-faceted and integrated challenges that Ireland faces, there is a strong case for a new social dialogue and a new social contract. The cost-of-living crisis, the housing crisis and the energy crisis are just three of the challenges facing Government, albeit the ones having the most immediate and dramatic impact on people's everyday lives. There are other huge challenges that Ireland faces in areas such as low pay, access to healthcare, childcare, public transport, how to deliver vital services to everyone including those fleeing war and how to meet our very challenging climate targets whilst protecting those most impacted. A robust social dialogue process is urgently required.

As a country we face some significant challenges, but we are also in the unprecedented position where we are in receipt of windfall gains from corporate tax revenue. With careful management, prioritising the long-term interests of Irish society, and strategic investment in one-off infrastructure projects, Government, through a social dialogue process could use this as the foundation of a new social contract which would commit the state and social partners to improving economic management with a view to enhancing the standard of living, quality of life and wellbeing of all the republic's residents.

[Budget Choices 2024 is available to download here](#)

Organisations that offer free mental health support

Aware

Aware provides free support, education, and information for people with mental health issues as well as their family and friends.

[Information on support groups for people from Ukraine - on aware.ie](#)

Childline

Childline offers a confidential 24-hour listening service for children and young people up to the age of 18.

Phone [1800 66 66 66](tel:1800666666) or [116 111](tel:116111)

Text 50101 from 10am to 4pm every day

Chat online at www.childline.ie

MyMind

MyMind provides free counselling and psychotherapy for people affected by the war in Ukraine. The service is available in English and 17 other languages. You can access the service in person, online or by phone.

Phone [0818 500 800](tel:0818500800)

Visit mymind.org

Text About It

Text About It is a free 24/7 text service. It provides everything from a calming chat to immediate support for people going through a mental health or emotional crisis – big or small.

Text HELLO to 50808, anytime day or night.

Visit www.textaboutit.ie

spunout

Articles and information for young people about accessing the healthcare and social welfare systems in Ireland.

[spunout resources for Ukrainians in Ireland](#)

167. SJI Interviews Ep.106: Project Real with Dr. Yvonne Skipper

In today's episode, Colette Bennett chats to Dr. Yvonne Skipper of Glasgow University on a brilliant project - Project Real - which provides a full, fun, and interactive lesson plan for educators of 11–13-year-olds on how to spot fake news, fake photos, fake people, and fake videos. Check it out at www.projectreal.co.uk

This is a really timely interview in light of a recent report which indicated that internet use by Irish children is well above the European average (87% v 62%) with more than half of Irish children using the internet daily or nearly daily - [Risks and Safety for Children on the Internet: the Ireland Report \(webwise.ie\)](#)

Listen on iTunes, Spotify, Podcast Republic or wherever you get your podcasts. You can also

We are delighted that Social Justice Matters has been recognised by FeedSpot as one of the 40 social justice podcasts you should be following in 2023. Check out the list here: https://blog.feedspot.com/social_justice_podcasts/

VOICE

66% of Waste Items in Irish Recycling Bins Trace Back to Supermarkets, Sick of Plastic Survey Finds

Thank you to everyone who took part in our recycling bin survey. The results are now in!!!

We are sure that it will come as no surprise to you, but our survey can now reveal that a staggering **66% of waste items in Irish recycling bins can be traced back to supermarkets** and that a staggering **59% of these supermarket waste items were made from plastic.**

Our survey is the first of its kind in Ireland and would not have been possible without your help.

Highlights from our report:

- Supermarkets: Are the Culprits in Our Recycling Bins
- Over two-thirds of waste items found in the average recycling bin in Ireland can be traced back to supermarkets.
- A staggering 40% of waste items in these bins are plastic, sourced directly from supermarkets.
- Plastic items constitute a whopping 50% of the total waste items in the average recycling bin in Ireland.
- An overwhelming 98% of participants expressed their frustration with the quantity of waste entering their homes.

Read our Report: We are lifting the lid on Ireland's packaging problem

Beyond the mere numbers, we delved into the hearts and minds of our fellow citizens. A resounding **98% of participants of our survey shared their overwhelming frustration at the ceaseless stream of waste infiltrating their homes.**

“I can't believe how much plastic I use - and I try to be good.” Jennifer, Dublin

“I am aware of the plastic coming into our home...however to see it all in one area was quite shocking.” Gretta, Kildare

“One thing that really frustrates me is the cost of the bins going up and up, when you can only do so much to cut down on the packaging coming into the house” Fiona, Dublin

The Environmental Protection Agency ([EPA](#)) recently exposed a grim reality: a mere 28% of plastics are being recycled in Ireland. It's abundantly clear that recycling alone will not save us. The time has come to strike at the very source of this plastic plague, and for the average Irish person, that source is none other than the supermarket aisle.

ODA, CLIMATE FINANCE, AND LOSS AND DAMAGE IN BUDGET 2024

Government must accept that ODA, Climate Finance, and Loss and Damage are three different commitments made under three different agreements. Reaching the UN goal of 0.7 per cent of income in ODA will require increased effort in the years ahead. *Social Justice Ireland* recognises and welcomes the increased contributions in recent Budgets to ODA. However, Ireland still lacks a strategy for reaching the UN-agreed 0.7 per cent target and we call on the Government to develop such a strategy with a view to reaching this target by 2028 (see *Social Justice Matters*, ch.13).

Notwithstanding our current economic difficulties, Ireland must continue to recover lost ground in relation to our ODA commitments. Irish climate finance is provided publicly on a grant-basis, as opposed to through loans. There is an important focus on adaptation and building capacity and resilience in poorer countries. However, while a climate finance plan has been devised, with the publishing of the Climate Finance Roadmap (Government of Ireland, 2022) in July 2022, the connection of Climate Finance with ODA distorts reality - we are further behind in fulfilling our commitments than we publicly depict. Notwithstanding our current economic difficulties, Ireland must continue to recover lost ground in relation to our ODA and climate finance commitments.

In both Irish Aid's Climate and Environmental Finance Report 2020 (Department of Foreign Affairs, 2022) and the Irish International Climate Finance Roadmap, reference is made to Climate Finance representing approximately 10 per cent of Ireland's ODA in the years 2017 to 2020. Both also refer to a commitment to reach a target of €225m by 2025. This would equate to roughly 73 per cent of Ireland's actual share of our Climate Finance target. Using these metrics, the real number would be closer to €308.2m. This is separate from our

commitments towards ODA and any provision for our fair share of the Loss and Damage fund agreed at COP27 in 2022.

Social Justice Ireland calls on Government to set allocate an additional €1bn combined to meet our ODA, Climate Finance, and Loss and Damage commitments.

In light of increasing food insecurity, particularly among countries in the Global South, we further call on Government to provide an additional **€1bn** towards **the eradication of world hunger**.

Budget Choices 2024 is available to download [here](#).

All About Hedgerows *October 15th*

Join us for Irish Environmental Network's upcoming Autumn event that is all about hedgerows in collaboration with Hedgerows Ireland!

Learn from experts, meet others in the field, take action for nature and biodiversity!

You will learn how to plan, plant and maintain a hedgerow, discover what makes up a hedgerow on the Hedge Walk, see a practical demonstration of hedge laying and more!

[Book your tickets here](#)

MINISTERS NAUGHTON AND BYRNE LAUNCH GET IRELAND WALKING STRATEGY AND ANNOUNCE €1.46 MILLION IN ADDITIONAL FUNDING FOR 2023

Ministers Naughton and Byrne launch Get Ireland Walking strategy and announce €1.46 million in additional funding for 2023

The Minister for Public Health, Wellbeing and the National Drugs Strategy, Hildegard Naughton TD, and the Minister for Sport and Physical Education, Thomas Byrne TD, have today launched the Get Ireland Walking strategy 2023-2027 and announced Healthy Ireland funding of €1.46 million to Sport Ireland for 2023.

Get Ireland Walking was established in 2013 with the support of Healthy Ireland and Sport Ireland, with the objective of supporting and unifying the efforts of the range of actors involved in the promotion of walking in Ireland.

The new Get Ireland Walking strategy builds on the work completed over the last 10 years and guided by international best practice, sets out an ambitious set of objectives for the next four years centred around a collaborative partnership approach.

Speaking at the launch of the Strategy, Minister Naughton announced a special funding allocation for Sport Ireland of €1,460,246 from the Healthy Ireland Fund for a range of targeted initiatives promoting physical activity during 2023 including Get Ireland Walking. Minister Naughton said:

“The promotion of physical activity is one of my priorities as Minister for Public Health and Wellbeing. I am very pleased to announce this significant funding, which will support a wide range of projects and programmes designed to help people living in all communities to become more active, more often.

“Sport Ireland has been a strong partner of the health and wellbeing objectives of both Healthy Ireland and our national sports policies. There are clear synergies from working with the national governing bodies to support all physical activity including walking, running, swimming, and cycling.

“The collaborative approach set out in the Get Ireland Walking strategy will help deliver a wide range of initiatives to support physical activity from a health and wellbeing perspective, enabling people to live healthier lives. The promotion of physical activity is one of the cornerstones of the Healthy Ireland initiative, given its capacity to help people to live healthier lifestyles and to reduce the onset or manage the impacts of chronic conditions.”

Minister Byrne welcomed the dedicated additional funding from Healthy Ireland and especially the partnership ethos that it illustrates.

Minister Byrne said:

“Sport is not just about competition and winning, it’s about so much more. Sport has multiple benefits, not least its overwhelmingly positive impact on an individual’s personal physical health and mental wellbeing. I believe that it is important for all government departments and agencies, with an interest in promoting physically active lifestyles, to work together and collaborate more closely than ever before.

“The funding being announced today by my colleague, Minister Naughton, is an example of such collaboration in action, involving our two Departments, Sport Ireland, and the Health Service Executive (HHSE). This funding complements the continued investment that Sport Ireland makes in promoting grassroots or recreational sporting activities across over 60 different sports, including walking. Walking is one of the popular forms of exercise in Ireland and this additional funding is most welcome.”

Minister Naughton acknowledged the strong work carried out to date by Get Ireland Walking, adding:

“People walk for a wide range of reasons, including for exercise, for transport, as a social activity or to get closer to nature. Whether it is through lighting up sports grounds to provide a safe setting as our evenings get darker promoting walking to schools, or highlighting the health benefits of walking, it is in all our interests to work

together. Both of our Departments are also working on additional supports for the Strategy's objectives, including the successor to our National Physical Activity Plan and the forthcoming National Digital Database for Sport and Recreation Activities.

CEO of Sport Ireland Dr Una May said:

“According to Sport Ireland’s latest research, the Irish Sports Monitor 2022, recreational walking is the most popular form of physical activity in the country with 2.77 million people actively participating. Recreational Walking is now more widespread than it was before the pandemic and the new Get Ireland Walking strategy will allow us to capitalise on this increased interest.

“I look forward to seeing the strategy in action through innovative and community-based programmes delivered through Local Sports Partnerships and National Governing Bodies. I also welcome the new round of Healthy Ireland funding which further strengthens the collaborative relationships between Government Departments and Sport Ireland.”

ENDS

Notes to editor:

The Get Ireland Walking Strategy 2023-2027 is available [here](#).

Get Ireland Walking is an initiative of Sport Ireland, funded by Healthy Ireland and supported by a wide range of stakeholders including Mountaineering Ireland, Irish Heart, the Health Service Executive, Age and Opportunity, the Gaelic Athletic Association, Ireland Active and Arthritis Ireland. It was established in 2013 with the overall objective of maximising the number of people walking in Ireland, for health, wellbeing, and fitness.

The Get Ireland Walking Strategy will use systems-based approaches to strengthen policy, leadership, and governance, to build better integrated systems at local and national level, and to coordinate advocacy and the promotion of walking across Ireland.

The Department of Health works with Sport Ireland to support the delivery of a range of activities targeting physical activity and health. The funding of €1,460,246 in 2023 will support the national programmes of Get Ireland Walking, Running, Swimming and Cycling, Special Olympics, GAA Healthy Clubs, the development of a National Outdoor Amenities Database, the Irish Physical Activity Research Collaboration, the Children's Sport and Physical Activity Study, and events held during the European Week of Sport and Physical Activity.

Monitoring of this expenditure will be overseen jointly by Sport Ireland, Healthy Ireland and the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport, and Media.

CURRENT GRANTS AVAILABLE: (PLEASE PRESS LINK FOR DETAILS)

[What Works Building Evidence Fund 2023](#)

[Investment Grant Aid Scheme for Private & Community SMEs](#)

[Colmcille Projects Scheme B](#)

[Patagonia Environmental Grants](#)

[Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme](#)

[Benefact Group – Movement for Good Awards](#)

[EU JFT 2nd call- Bioeconomy Demonstration Initiative Scheme](#)

[Apply Now for SSGT Family Matters Grant Programme 2022-2025](#)

[National Disability Authority's \(NDA\) Research Promotion Scheme](#)

A promotional graphic for the Heritage Keepers programme. The background is a lush green field of purple flowers. On the left, a white handprint is filled with various plants and flowers. To the right, the words 'HERITAGE KEEPERS' are written in large, white, block letters with a black outline. Below this, the text 'Explore and enhance your place' is written in a smaller, white font. A dark purple banner at the bottom contains white text: 'Heritage Keepers is open to community groups and primary schools. Go to heritagekeepers.ie and complete an expression of interest before 12th October'. Below the banner are two white boxes with black outlines containing the text '5 WORKSHOPS THAT EXPLORE YOUR LOCAL HERITAGE' and 'FUNDED SUPPORT FOR A HERITAGE PROJECT'. At the bottom, the logos for 'burrenbeo trust connecting people and place' and 'An Chomhairle Oidhreachta The Heritage Council' are displayed.

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The Heritage Council

National Heritage Keepers Programme Opens for New Round of Applications: Lift the lid on your local heritage!

Burrenbeo Trust, is thrilled to announce the latest round of the National Heritage Keepers Programme. The National Heritage Keepers Programme is a fantastic opportunity for schools

and communities across Ireland. It empowers them to delve into their local built, natural, and cultural heritage and then provides funding to allow them to take action. This programme offers various learning formats, including in-person, online, and blended options, making it accessible to a wide range of participants.

In the previous year, 40 schools and communities participated in the programme, with the majority successfully completing local projects and actions. These actions included constructing ponds, developing heritage trails, hosting networking days, tree planting, creating booklets on local built heritage, and even organising historic photography exhibitions. One programme participant from this year shared their experience, saying, "*I found it a wonderful programme for people like me who didn't think their voice could be heard, but now I feel that there are people who help and encourage everyone to protect nature, the environment, and the heritage of an area.*"

Mary Dillon, Heritage Keepers Co-ordinator, emphasised the programmes mission, stating, "*Heritage Keepers aims to empower people to explore and discover their own local heritage, fostering pride, ownership, and ultimately responsibility towards both their community and environment. Through Heritage Keepers, schools and communities can play a huge part in protecting and promoting their local heritage and Place.*"

The programme consists of five engaging two-hour workshops, followed by dedicated support while completing the funded action. It opens for expressions of interest on the 14th of September, with options to begin this autumn or in the New Year. The programme is open to senior classes in primary schools (conveniently scheduled during school hours) and offers evening workshops for adult groups, including Tidy Towns, Heritage Groups, Age Action, Men's Shed, Resident Associations, and Town Development groups. Not part of a local group yet? Last year, some newly formed groups specifically came together to participate in Heritage Keepers.

For those eager to learn more about this wonderful opportunity, an online information session is scheduled for Thursday, September 28th, at 7.30pm. Visit heritagekeepers.ie for additional details and to complete a brief Expression of Interest form (submission deadline: October 12th). Discover, preserve, and celebrate the richness of your local heritage, and become a steward of your local environment – become a Heritage Keeper!



We are delighted to announce that the [#OurEUStory Awards 2023](#) are now open for entries. If you're an Irish organisation active in EU funding, don't miss this valuable opportunity to share your EU story and win a cash prize!

The #OurEUStory Awards celebrate the transformational impact that EU-funded projects have on communities and organisations across Ireland. Last year was the inaugural launch of the Awards and we were blown away by the [fantastic contributions](#) our sector has made to the development of today's European Union through these projects.

Entering the #OurEUStory Awards is your chance to showcase the difference EU projects have made in your community and inspire your peers to start their own EU journey!

How to Enter

Entries consist of a 140-second (maximum) video shared on X (formerly Twitter) and/or Facebook and a brief application form. The application form is now live (see link below), so here's a handy 4-step guide for preparing your entry:

1. Visit <https://www.accesseurope.ie/our-eu-story>
2. After reading the Terms & Conditions and considering the judging criteria, brainstorm ideas with your team on how to best tell your EU story

3. Create your video and share on X and/or Facebook using the hashtag #OurEUStory and tagging Access Europe so we can share your story far and wide
4. Once you've shared your story, copy and paste the URL of your X and/or Facebook post into [this application form](#) before the deadline on 27 October.

All entries will be shared on the [Access Europe Facebook](#) and [X](#) accounts using the hashtag #OurEUStory. Entries close on 27 October at 5pm.

Prizes

The three best entries will win a prize: €1,000 for first place and €500 each for second and third places.

We'll announce the winners at the #OurEUStory Award Ceremony at our Access Europe Showcase in December, so watch this space for more details!

Please contact us at europe@wheel.ie if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing your entries!

Kind regards,

Emily

Emily Nelson, EU Programmes Officer, The Wheel

