

# Pathways to Funding Community Grant Schemes

## Information Sessions 2024

Longford Library - Monday, 22 January  
Ballymahon Library – Wednesday, 24 January  
Granard Library – Thursday, 25 January

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# Longford Local Community Development Committee



- Committee of the local authority tasked with coordinating funding and community development in the county
- Representatives from statutory agencies, community reps through the PPN and civic interests.
- Oversee the implementation of the Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) and a number of funding schemes

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# Agenda

- Longford LCDC
- Community based projects - how to select a project
- Identifying the right scheme
- Standard requirements for applying for grants
- Drawing down a grant
- Overview of available funding schemes
- Membership of Longford Public Participation Network
- Summary of important points

# Selecting Community Projects

- What purpose or need is it fulfilling for the community?
- Capacity and manpower - can you manage and complete it?
- Does it align with any national or local plan/strategy?
- You need to highlight the benefits this project will bring in your application - evidence the need.



# Standard requirements for groups applying

- Governance structures
- Membership of the PPN
- Registration as a charity
- Bank account in groups name
- Procurement - evidence of quotes/full tender process
- Insurance - public liability and adequate cover
- Child protection
- Event management plan
- Compliance – tax, planning, building regulations, health and safety and fire codes
- Acknowledgement of the funding source



# Identify the right funding scheme

- Capital funding or small scale/equipment or contribution to something else?
- Read the scheme outline – some departmental schemes have particular target areas or types of projects they will fund, or conditions to funding
- Note eligible and ineligible expenditure
- Funding thresholds – how much do you need from the scheme? Can you provide match funding?



# Importance of completing the application

- Most schemes are competitive - need to submit application with detail about project
- Complete all questions on the application
- The quality of your application is compared to others
- Poor applications with little detail may result in no funding being awarded, or less funding than you are seeking
- **What is your WOW?**



## Drawing down your grant

- Know the deadline for your claim
- Grants paid retrospectively and based on actual expenditure incurred - keep your invoices and receipts
- For capital works - you may need evidence of tax compliance, engineers sign off at each stage - be aware of this before the project starts





# Overview of available funding schemes



**AN LONFORT**  
Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt  
Longford County Council

**CONNECTED**  
People • Place • Opportunity

## Sports Bursary

Open for applications  
until 5pm 1 November

Developing Sport Together  
Longford Sports Partnership

SPORTS IRELAND

The poster features three images: a swimmer in a pool, a runner on a track, and a soccer player with a ball.



**Arts Bursary Scheme**

**AN LONFORT**  
Longford County Council

The poster shows a paint palette with various colors and brushes.



## CLAR Funding 2023

**AN LONFORT**  
Longford County Council

An tAisle Forbartha  
Tuathir agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

Samhraidh Easpaire  
Prizeir Éireann  
**2040**

Ar dTírdhacha  
Tuathir  
Our Rural  
Future

The poster shows a colorful playground with slides and climbing equipment.



## Creative Ireland (CI), Cruinniú na nÓg (CnÓ) and Arts Office Funding



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# Creative Ireland (CI) and Cruinniú na nÓg (CnÓ)

Longford County Council is inviting applications to fund innovative, creative, and cultural initiatives as part of an open call grant for the following:

- **CI:** Events and projects involving arts, creative industries, heritage, film, animation and others. Projects ‘as Gaeilge’ are also welcome.
- **CnÓ:** Events and projects focused on creating a day of free creative activity for children and young people up to 18 years of age.
- **Open to:** Individuals, organisations, community groups, cultural/creative artists.
- **Grant Amounts:** Creative Ireland: Up to a max of **€5,000** per application.  
Cruinniú na nÓg: Up to a max of **€2,500** per application.
- **Applications Closing Date:** 19 February 2024 at 12noon.
- **Funding letters:** March 2024 with terms and conditions of funding.
- **Project Completion Timeline:** Creative Ireland: March - 1 November 2024. Cruinniú na nÓg: Must start or end on Saturday, 15 June - completed by 6 July.

**Contact Ciarán Lennon: [creativelongford@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:creativelongford@longfordcoco.ie)**

# 2023 Creative project examples in Longford



For further information visit: <https://www.longfordlibrary.ie/creative-ireland-longford/>  
Email [creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:creativeireland@longfordcoco.ie) or call (043) 334 11 24

# Arts Project Grant, Arts and Cultural Promotion Grants - Longford Arts Service

## Arts Project Grant

- To support the development of ambitious art projects that significantly benefit the cultural well-being of citizens
- Amount Min €1,000 / Max €5,000
- Timeline: Opens 29 January, closes 1 March. Awards issued 14 March 2024
- Examples: Arts based events, festivals, ambitious art works in development

## Arts and Cultural Promotion Grant

- To support artists / arts organisations promoting the artistic and cultural output of County Longford nationally and internationally
- Amount: Min €200 / Max €500 available - Fund limit €5,000
- Timeline: rolling application – calendar year
- Examples: Invitation to participate in a prominent international exhibition



Contact Shane Crossan  
[scrossan@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:scrossan@longfordcoco.ie)

# Artist Bursary and Culture Night Grant

## Longford Arts Service

### Artist Bursary

- Purpose: The professional development of artists. For example, training, mentoring, travel, equipment.
- Amount: Min €500 / Max €3,000.
- Timeline: Opens 29 January, closes 1 March. Awards issued 14 March.

### Culture Night Grant

- To support citizens/organisations with costs associated with Culture Night events for example, venue rental, marketing, materials
- Amount: Min €200 / Max €500. Fund limit €4,000
- Timeline: Opens 27 May, closes 12 July.
- Culture Night is on Friday, 20 September 2024



**Contact Arts Officer**  
**Shane Crossan**  
[scrossan@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:scrossan@longfordcoco.ie)

# Heritage Funding Opportunities



**Leabharlanna, Cartlanna, Ealaíona  
agus Oidhreacht**  
Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage  
**Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt**  
Longford County Council

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# Heritage Funding Opportunities

Funding is provided by the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage (DHLGH). Administered by Longford County Council to help protect historical monuments, heritage structures and historic properties.

**Built Heritage Investment Scheme** – Closing Date: 24 January

- €2,500 to €15,000 - To support owners and custodians in caring for historic properties. (50% of project cost up to a max of €15,000)

**Historic Structures Fund** – Closing Date: 24 January

**For large conservation on heritage structures needing urgent support.**

- **Stream 1:** €15,000 to €50,000 – essential repairs. Works to refurbish and conserve heritage structures. (Historic shopfronts sub-stream also available)
- **Stream 2:** €50,000 to €200,000 – larger enhancement, refurbishment or reuse projects involving heritage structures.
- **Vernacular Structures Stream:** €5,000 to €10,000 – conservation to structures not listed in Records of Protected Structures or otherwise legally protected.



# Heritage Funding Opportunities

## Community Monuments Fund – Closing Date: 1 February

- **Stream 1:** Up to €100,000 - Essential repairs and capital works to conserve monuments.
- **Stream 2:** Up to €30,000 - Help develop conservation plans to identify conservation measures for monuments and improve public access.
- **Stream 3:** Up to €30,000 - Help enhance public access and interpretation of monuments.



**Leabharlanna, Cartlanna, Ealaíona  
agus Oidhreach**

Libraries, Archives, Arts and Heritage

**Comhairle Chontae An Longfoirt**  
Longford County Council

For further information email: [heritage@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:heritage@longfordcoco.ie)

# Community Safety Small Grants Longford Community Safety Partnership

The logo for the Longford Local Community Safety Partnership features a stylized graphic of three interlocking loops in blue and gold, positioned to the left of the text 'Longford LOCAL COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP'.

## Supported by the Department of Justice to help deliver the Community Safety Plan

- **Purpose:** For innovative activity-based projects or events that will support better community safety across the county
- **Amount:** From €500 to €5,000 with a fund of €50,000 available for this round
- **Timeline:** EOIs already closed, applications for eligible projects to be submitted by 2 Feb, grant decisions by mid-February. Projects complete and all funds drawn down by November 2024
- **Project examples:** setting up a Community First Responder group, pro-social community festivals, youth leadership project

**Contact:** The Community Safety Team at [communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:communitysafety@longfordcoco.ie)

# Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival and Participative Events Fund - Longford Tourism Office

**Aim:** to support festivals/events driving both domestic and international tourism

**Objective:** to support community/voluntary groups organising a diverse range of projects and events

**The festival or event must:**

- Take place in County Longford
- Aim to attract international visitors
- Run for two consecutive days in duration minimum
- Fit into one of the following categories:
  - General festivals (literary, historic, fairs, traditional culture or family focused)
  - Arts, music and theatre
  - Family sports and outdoors

**Contact: Dympna Reilly,  
Tourism Officer**

[tourism@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:tourism@longfordcoco.ie)

**Amount:** A maximum of €3,000 per organisation can be received in any one year with a maximum of three events funded

**Timeline:** This fund is advertised twice a year for festivals from January to June and from July to December



## The Battle of Ballinamuck 225th Commemoration supported by the Fáilte Ireland Regional Festival and Participative Events Fund

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# Community Grant Support Scheme 2024

## Community Development Section

### Small grants to Voluntary and Community Groups

- Application must meet the values and objectives in Longford Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) [Equality Human Rights Statement](#)
- No minimum or maximum grants, typically around €750-1,000. Match funding is not required.
- Online applications close at 4pm on Wednesday, 31 January. Must be completed by Chairperson, Secretary or Treasurer. Decisions by Councillors in late February.
- Invoices, receipts and photographs required if grant award is >€1,000
- Drawdown by the end of November 2024

See [longfordcoco.ie](https://longfordcoco.ie) for more or call 043 334 33 13 / 334 34 72 or email [commgrants@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:commgrants@longfordcoco.ie)

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# Community Grant Support Scheme

## 2023 grant awards examples

- Asian African Group
- Ballinamuck 1798 Commemoration
- Ballymahon Christmas Lights
- Cashel Angling Club
- Co Longford Social Services CLG
- Disabled People of Longford
- Edgeworthstown Traders Association
- Farneyhoogan Residents Association
- Granard East Rouen Town Twinning
- Longford Comhairle na nÓg
- Longford Town Mens Shed
- Newtownforbes Tidy Towns
- North Longford Guides

# CLÁR Programme

## Community Development Section

**Measure 1 - enhancement of existing, and/or the development of new, accessible Community Recreation Facilities.**

**Funded by Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD)**

- Community Groups, schools, sports clubs – areas, projects and eligibility set by DRCD. Insure, manage and operate for five years.
- 90% grant funding. Minimum grant €5,000, maximum grant €50,000. Match funding is required.
- 2023 approvals to be announced by DRCD. CLÁR 2024 will open later this year.
- Follow Public Procurement, engineer. Retrospective grant payment, bridging finance may be required. Ownership/15-year lease, planning permission, open to the public without appointment, disability friendly, evidence of need.

**Contact: [clar@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:clar@longfordcoco.ie)**



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



Tionscadal Éireann  
Project Ireland  
**2040**

Ár dTodhchaí  
Tuaithe  
Our Rural  
Future



## CLÁR Programme – example funded projects



**Sacred Heart Primary  
School, Granard:  
sensory garden**

**St Brigid's GAA, Killashee:  
railings at entrance**





# Local Enhancement Programme (LEP) 2024 Community Development Section



**Funded by Department for Rural and Community Development (DRCD),  
administered by Longford LCDC.**

- The LEP 2024 will support groups, particularly in disadvantaged areas to carry out necessary repairs and improvements to their facilities, and/or to purchase equipment, such as tables and chairs, tools and signage, laptops and printers, lawnmowers, canopies and training equipment, and so on. Not operating costs.
- No minimum / maximum grant. Oversubscribed, competitive process. Align with LECP. Seek three quotations. Invoices, receipts and photographs are required.
- LEP 2024 will open in the next two months. Online application process.

Contact [lcdc@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:lcdc@longfordcoco.ie)



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



# Healthy Ireland Fund (Longford) Expression of Interest 2024 Community Development Section



Healthy Ireland Fund (Longford) Expression of Interest 2024 is open to community projects that can deliver the following outcomes:

- a) Increase the percentage of adults and children meeting physical activity guidelines
  - b) Increase people's level of positive mental health as per Energy and Vitality Index
- Grants of up to €2,000 may be applied for
  - Expression of Interest is open since December 2023 and will close at 4pm on Friday, 26 January - this is an online process
  - Decisions on the successful community groups will be made by Friday, 2 February 2024

**For further info check out the Healthy Longford page on [Longfordcoco.ie](https://www.longfordcoco.ie)**

**Contact: Laura 087 277 7843 or 043 334 33 63 or email [Lmchugh@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:Lmchugh@longfordcoco.ie)**

# Club Development and Volunteer Supports Programme - Longford Sports Partnership

**Purpose is to increase participation in sport and physical activity in County Longford**

- **Open to sports and physical activity clubs with youth structure in place or planned**
- €500 max under each of the following headings
- Club development – equipment programmes etc
- Volunteer supports – coaching, training etc
- Expected timeline:
- Open and closing dates: October 2024. Decisions: November 2024.
- Deadline to claim: 31 March 2025
- Examples of good practice include projects that target groups with low levels of participation, for example, older persons, girls and women, people with disabilities

**Call: 043 33 434 93 or email: [sports@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:sports@longfordcoco.ie)**





Rialtas na hÉireann  
Government of Ireland



# Community Climate Action Programme

€328,000

Contact Linda Beirne  
Community Climate Action Officer

Application link available  
Closing Date: February 29, 2024

COMMUNITY  
CLIMATE ACTION  
FUND

## Main objectives of the programme:

- To help contribute to national climate and energy targets
- Support and empower communities to shape and build low carbon, sustainable communities in Longford
- Support small and large, rural and urban communities to take climate action
- Direct engagement with communities to promote and assist in the scale up of community climate action regardless of the starting point of the community

## Eligibility criteria:

- Located in County Longford.
- Not-for-Profit Organisation. (One application per organisation)
- Registered with PPN or with other collectives; Tidy Towns and/or a Community Group
- Proof of tax compliance (or otherwise), will be required

## Five themes:

- Community and Energy
- Travel
- Food and Waste
- Shopping and Recycling
- Local Climate and Environmental Action

## Project funding thresholds:

- Small Scale: Up to €20,000
- Medium Scale: €21,000 - €50,000
- Large Scale: €51,000 - €100,000

**100% funded and approved by Department of Environment, Climate and Communications**

The logo for the Community Climate Action Fund. The word 'COMMUNITY' is in blue, 'CLIMATE ACTION' is in green, and 'FUND' is in blue. A small circular icon with colorful segments is positioned between 'ACTION' and 'FUND'.

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# Town and Village Renewal Scheme (TVR) Regeneration Department

## 5 Applications per County

Regeneration projects that assist in revitalising our Towns and Villages

**Purpose:** Regeneration projects that assist in revitalising our Towns and Villages.

Funding is generally for capital works

**Amount:** 4 grants up to €250,000.

1 grant up to €500,000

Grant is for 90% - Match funding of 10% required

**Timeline:** Expressions of interest usually advertised in June. 12- 18 months to complete

**Examples:** 50 projects funded since 2016 – recent examples include Rose Cottage War of Independence Centre

**Contact Paul Newell** [regen@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:regen@longfordcoco.ie)

# Rose Cottage – officially opened November 2023



# Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme (ORIS) Regeneration Department

## 10 Applications per County

**Purpose:** Projects that provide passive enjoyment of the outdoors

Funding is available for land based, water based and air-based activities

**Amount:** 7 Grants up to €30,000 (Measure 1)

2 grants up to €200,00 (Measure 2)

1 grant up to €500,000 (Measure 3)

Grant is for 90% - Match funding of 10% required

**Timeline:** Expressions of interest usually advertised in June. 12- 18 months to complete

**Examples:** 53 projects funded since 2017 – recent examples include Derrycassin woods

**Contact:** Paul Newell [regen@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:regen@longfordcoco.ie)



# Examples of projects that can be funded:



## Land-Based

- Walking
- Hillwalking/Hiking
- Leisure cycling
- Mountain biking
- Horse riding
- Running
- Orienteering
- Bouldering, Scrambling, Rockclimbing, Mountaineering
- Caving
- Play in nature



## Water-Based

- Canoeing/Kayaking
- Rowing
- Wild swimming
- Surfing
- Coasteering
- Wind surfing/Kite surfing
- Sailing
- Diving
- Angling
- Stand Up Paddleboarding



## Air-Based

- Paragliding
- Hang-gliding

Passive enjoyment of the outdoors

# County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

## What is County Longford PPN?

- Main link through which Longford County Council and other decision-making bodies connect with the community, voluntary, social inclusion and environmental sectors.
- Allows diversity of voices and interests to be facilitated and involved in the decision-making process.

## How is this achieved?

- Facilitates the election of community representatives to all Longford County Council Committees and other policy making boards and agencies.
- Engage, encourage and support members to participate in public consultations.
- Act as an information hub



# County Longford Public Participation Network (PPN)

## Criteria for joining?

- Are active and have a postal address in County Longford
- Operate on a not-for-profit basis
- Are volunteer-led
- Have a constitution / set of rules / Memorandum of Understanding
- Meet regularly
- Are non-party political

## How to apply for membership?

Visit: [www.longfordppn.ie](http://www.longfordppn.ie)

**Contact details:** Siobhán Cronogue 087 261 5583 or email: [scronogue@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:scronogue@longfordcoco.ie)



# Environment

## Anti-Litter Awareness Grant Scheme

- Promote public awareness / education and community engagement relating to litter / waste management, graffiti removal, etc.
- Focus on schools and young people and other voluntary initiatives.
- 70% of verified expenditure. Max €1,000
- Projects completed by September

Contact: [litter@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:litter@longfordcoco.ie)

## Cemetery Support Scheme

- Maintenance and upkeep of cemeteries
- Max €400 - receipts for costs incurred in previous year
- 1 grant per group per year



Contact: [burials@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:burials@longfordcoco.ie)

# Rural Water Programmes

## Multi Annual Rural Water Programme

- Community Groups who amalgamate to upgrade their water systems to GWS or Uisce Éireann connection
- Financial aid for Group Water Schemes
- Closing days 30 April 2024
- Work carried out by end of 2026



## Other Programmes

- Well Grants – improvement works to an existing private water supply to domestic houses in rural areas
- Group Water Scheme Subsidies – contribution to operational costs of GWSs providing water for domestic use.

**Contact: [ruralwater@longfordcoco.ie](mailto:ruralwater@longfordcoco.ie)**

# Summary of important points

- Competitive process
- Collaboration
- Terms and Conditions of scheme
- Matched funding requirements?
- Eligibility
- Changes to the project
- Deadlines and timelines for delivery
- Online applications vs paper forms
- Apply for Tax Clearance status
- Costs and funding sources
- Capital versus operational costs
- Supporting documentation
- GPS coordinates / Eircode



**Expectations  
Help is Available**

# Pathways to Funding Community Grant Schemes

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