

## PPN Elections Update

Elections to fill vacancies on the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC), South Central Area Joint Policing Committee (JPC) and the Secretariat were held on Monday 27th November in the Woodquay Venue.

On the night Chair of the LCDC, Councillor Paul McAuliffe, gave a brief talk on the work of the LCDC and Garda Patrick Culhane gave a presentation on the work of the South Central Area JPC.

The following Representatives were elected on the night:

**Secretariat - Community and Voluntary Seat:**

Gerry Kerr, Care Leavers Ireland

**South Central Area JPC:**

Eddie Darcey, Community Organisations and Residents Network

Lisa Reilly, Drimnagh Residents Community Group

**LCDC - Community and Voluntary Seat:**

Máirín Ó' Cuireáin, Community Organisations and Residents Network

## Public Library Strategy 2018-2022

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Mr. Michael Ring T.D., is seeking submissions in respect of the Government's new Public Library Strategy 2018-2022.

The new Strategy will underpin the continued development of the public library system over the next five years and position the public library at the centre of the community, meeting the information, learning and cultural needs of individuals and communities.

The new Strategy is being developed by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the Local Government Management Agency and Local Authorities.

An overview of the Strategy and relevant consultation documents can be accessed at [www.drcd.gov.ie/librarystrategy](http://www.drcd.gov.ie/librarystrategy)

Copies of these documents may also be obtained by contacting the Libraries Development & Community Policy Unit, Department of Rural and Community Development at (096) 24258 or by email to [libstrategyreview@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:libstrategyreview@drcd.gov.ie) or at your local library.

Submissions can be made to the Department online at [www.drcd.gov.ie/librarystrategy](http://www.drcd.gov.ie/librarystrategy) by email to [libstrategyreview@drcd.gov.ie](mailto:libstrategyreview@drcd.gov.ie) or in writing to Libraries Development and Community Policy, Department of Rural and Community Development, Government Offices, Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 E8N6.

The closing date for submissions or observations is **1st February 2018**.

## Two Dublin City Volunteers win National Awards

From 27 exceptional volunteers, 9 winners have been selected for this year's Volunteer Ireland Awards including Michael Cardiff and Treasa Martin from Dublin City. These national awards to celebrate Ireland's unsung heroes were held at a special ceremony in Sligo, the 2017 European Volunteering Capital, on 1st December.

The awards aim to celebrate the extraordinary dedication that nominees have shown to help others, often taking time away from family and friends to give back. They give us a chance to say thank you and celebrate their achievements.

Michael has been a member of the St. John's Ambulance Ballyfermot Division for twenty years. As part of his volunteer role as the divisional manager, he is responsible for the administrative and day to day running of the volunteer local service. Not only is he responsible for recruiting new volunteers, his role also involves ensuring local volunteers are supported and mentored sharing his vast experience with them. He recently organised a citizen CPR initiative in the community and noticed a public defibrillator's battery was dead and pads out of date. On discovering this he, with the support of his fellow volunteers, decided to organise for a new defibrillator to be placed on the main street which would be accessible to anyone who needed it and was trained to use it.

Treasa has been volunteering in various capacities all her life and at 90

years old shows no signs of slowing down. She is a born entertainer and brings the joy of music through singing, guitar and piano or keyboard to many around her, notably her monthly appearances at the local Nursing Home with her friends and her weekly singing both solo and with the Ballygall church choir. The impact she has had on her local community is tremendous. Currently she helps many friends around her by driving them regularly to do their weekly shopping, to church, to exercise classes, to ladies club etc. as none of her friends of a similar age still drive. She is currently organising to get a Garda Permit so that 3 generations of her family, along with some friends and members of Ballygall ladies' club and choir, can go carol singing on Grafton Street in December to raise money for St. Vincent de Paul.

Commenting on the shortlist for the Volunteer Ireland Awards, Dublin City Volunteer Centre Manager Edwina Dewart said "Volunteers are the backbone of communities across Ireland. Michael and Treasa are fantastic examples of the strong culture of volunteering we have in Dublin City. Volunteers are often unseen but the contribution they make to Irish society is immense. These awards give us a chance to say thank you and celebrate the difference volunteers make every day."

For more information on the Volunteer Ireland Awards 2017 visit [www.volunteer.ie](http://www.volunteer.ie)

## Developing the Potential of Social Enterprise in Ireland Online Consultation

In September 2017, Michael Ring TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development announced the development of a National Policy on Social Enterprise.

This online consultation now seeks views that will inform this, Ireland's first major policy on social enterprise. The consultation is being undertaken by the Department of Rural and Community Development, in co-operation with the Social Finance Foundation.

The online consultation can be accessed at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/IrelandSEP>

This consultation is open until **Friday December 15th at 5pm.**

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