

Local/county activities

There is no right or wrong way to create deliberative opportunities; they can be big or small, fun or serious. Start with people you know but reach out to other sectors. Whatever works locally is best. Events can be public meetings, arts, creative or fun events. Participation is the key and discussion across different sectors invaluable. Post what you did on www.claimingourfuture.ie. Three different types of activities are outlined here.

- A. Activities aimed at making sure there is a strong local presence at the Oct 30th event
- B. Activities aimed at creating local space to bring people together to claim their future
- C. Activities aimed at creating opportunities to develop activities together after the event

A. Getting people there - These activities all aim to get a strong local presence from your county to the event on 30th October

- Create a steering group from different sectors – community groups, trade unions, environmental groups and so on – to promote the event and to organize activities before the event.
- Disseminate the flier on the event as widely as possible at work and in your home area.
- Get local media interested in what you are doing and in the event.
- Get community media involved in publicizing the event and supporting the debates.
- Organise shared transport to bring a group to the event or organise a local fundraiser to fund a local bus to get to and from the event__

B. Getting people talking locally before the event - these activities all aim to create local space to bring people together to talk about what kind of Ireland they want to live in.

Creating spaces for people to talk about what they want their future to look like

- Organise ‘House’ meetings like coffee mornings.
- Use Book Clubs meetings to focus on discussing key books like ‘The Spirit Level’.
- Using existing trade union branch, young people’s, women’s or other groups’ community meetings to discuss working for a more equal, inclusive, sustainable Ireland.

- Organise meetings in your workplace canteen/public libraries/council offices/local schools to bring different groups together for discussion.
- Hold public screenings of videos/DVD's/You Tube videos exploring the recession.

Participative art events (maybe you can even bring the results to the event)

- You Tube – get a group to make a video on your ideas, post it on You Tube and the ‘Claiming our Future’ website.
- Portable Graffiti walls - encourage people to express their opinion on what the future should look like and bring the wall with you to the event.
- Art evenings – get people to draw/paint/sculpt the future they would like.
- Poetry, song writing, rap and creative writing evenings – get people to write creatively about the future they would like.

Fun events to bring people together and talk politics

- ‘Songs of struggle’ sessions – get people singing about change and the struggle for change.
- Pub quizzes – theme your questions on the recession and responses to the recession.
- Dance sessions, set dancing – get people dancing for the future.
- Sales of work/fundraising – raise money to hire a group bus for the OCT 30th trip to Dublin.
- Movie nights – get people together to view movies like Michael Moore’s ‘Capitalism: A Love Story’.

C. Getting people together to prepare activities after the event - These activities all aim to create opportunities for developing activities together after the event.

- Reconvene the steering group to provide a focus for the follow up from the event.
- Organise a local deliberative event to consider what was discussed at the national event and to see what local people want to do on foot of these ideas.
- Prepare a report on the national event to distribute locally and to use with local media and with community media.
- Use the online streaming and footage of the event for a local follow up meeting.

If some local activity works well remember to share the idea on www.claimingourfuture.ie