



Creative Surveys Report

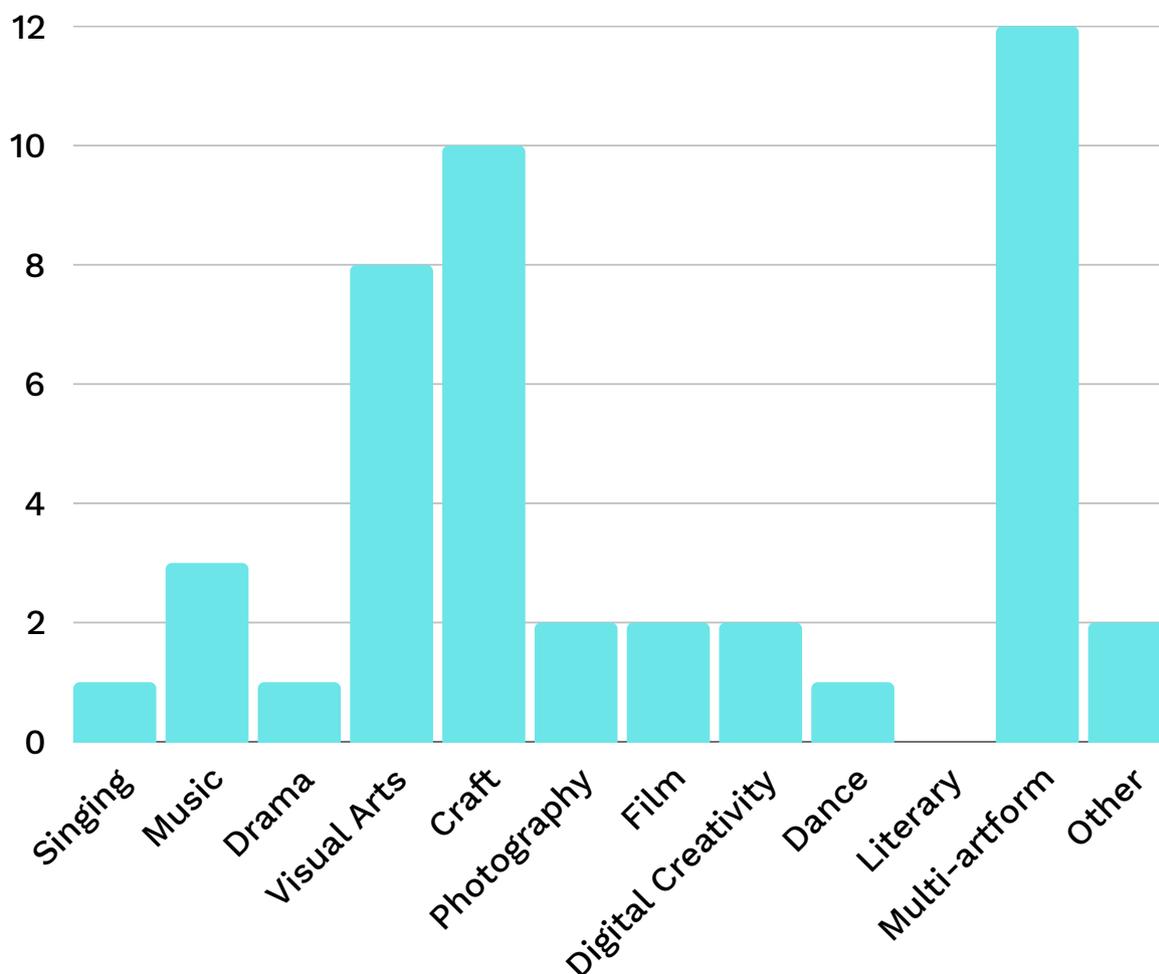
Creative Places, Edenderry
January 2026



Responses and text analysis

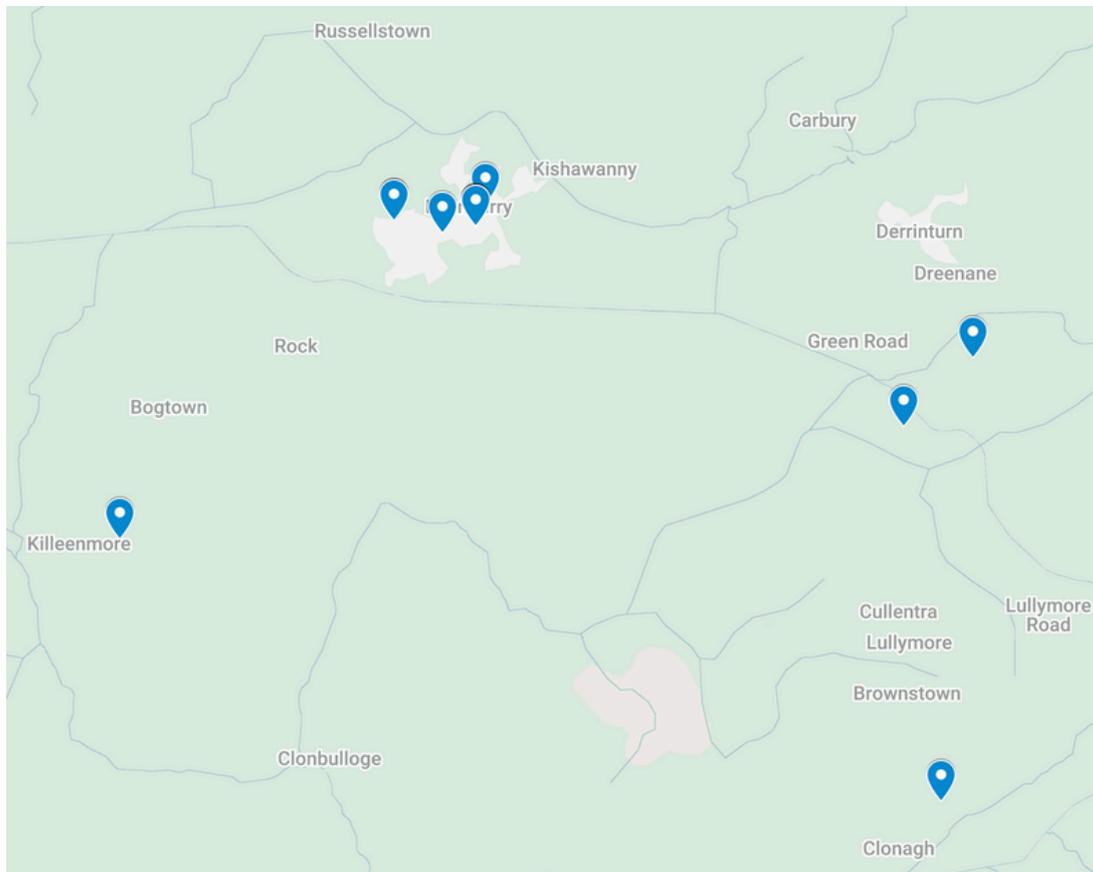
We would like to hear about your involvement in creative/cultural activities in Edenderry or any groups you are currently part of. We would like to gather ideas for future creative/cultural activities which you and or your group would like to see happening across the town in the future.

What sort of creative/cultural activities are you/your group involved in?
(Please select all that apply)



It is interesting to note that the most popular art form was 'Multi-Art Form' followed closely by 'Craft' and in third place was 'Visual art.' The two 'Other' artforms were Songwriting and Radio.

Please tell us where you/your group is based (Eircode)



Map of Edenderry

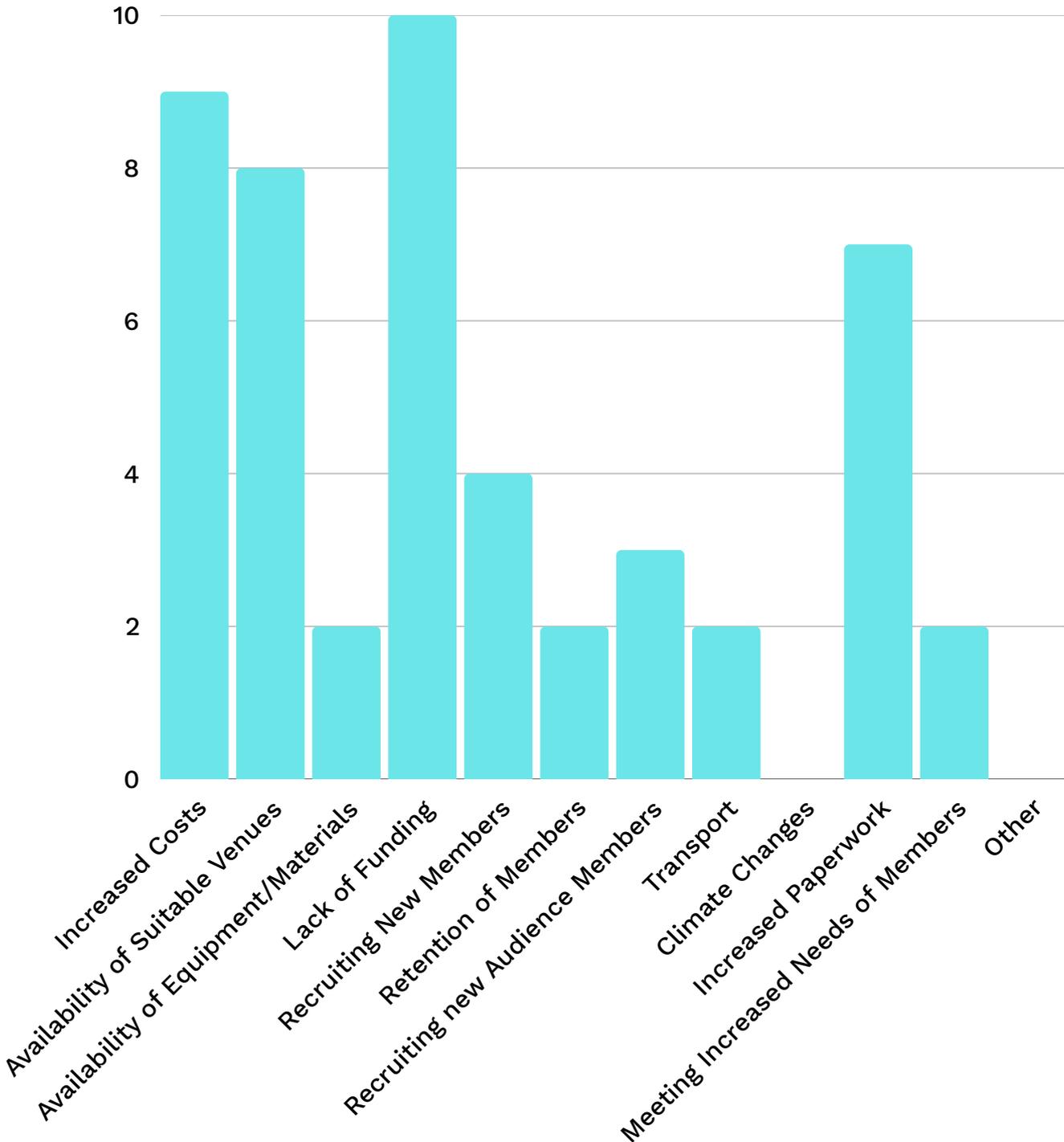
(Where Eircode was provided)

How optimistic do you feel about the future of your group or activity? (From 1 'Pessimistic' to 5 'Optimistic')

Average score: 3.95

It is good to see that the majority of Creatives were Optimistic or Slightly Optimistic about the future of their group or activity. They are obviously heavily enough invested in the group or activity to a level in which they are confident it will continue to be supported and engage with the community.

What are the current threats and challenges to the future of your group or activity? (Please tick all that apply)



The highest threat was 'Lack of Funding' followed by 'Availability of Suitable venues' followed by 'Meeting Increased Needs of Members (e.g. Loneliness, Money Worries)' which is not surprising as the funding landscape in Edenderry and Co. Offaly more generally continues to be sparse.

What one change would make your group/activity really thrive?

- Funding for Equipment/Uniforms etc
- To get sponsored/to get funds, partnership - I am getting the place for workshops for free + materials
- Funding support from creative places/Offaly
- More visibility, more funding
- Rental financing
- Secured continued funding of the project
- With funding or grants we could offer a second session per week to the group which would be Good for our ladies of activitea and our new group circle of friends. (Formerly the witches circle.) this would aid us in offering a second option for those people unavailable on a Monday allowing more people to enjoy our social and artistic groups.

From reading the responses the most popular change is: funding - again not surprising! This reminds us that we should continue to run funding clinics, training sessions and invite funding specialists to Edenderry to break down any barriers to applicants.



Connections and Confidence

How much do you feel connected to, and supported by, other **local creative groups** in your area? (From 1 'Not connected at all' to 5 'Very well connected'.)

Average score: 3.95

Very mixed response. The answers may depend on whether the respondents are part of an existing group or an individual artist.

How much do you feel connected to, and supported by, the **wider arts and cultural sector** in your area? (From 1 'Not connected at all' to 5 'Very well connected'.)

Average score: 2.61

'Not Connected at All' scored highest, closely followed by 'Some what Connected'. There is more work to be done here.

How much do you feel connected to, and supported by, the **Local Authority and other public agencies** in your area? (From 1 'Not connected at all' to 5 'Very well connected'.)

Average score: 2.89

39% of respondents said they felt very well connected and 22% said they felt not connected at all - this reminds us to advocate to open up public spaces such as the Town Hall and break down barriers with the Local Authorities.

How confident would you feel raising concerns with your Local Authority (e.g. funding issues with your venue) (From 1 'Not at all confident' to 5 'Very confident'.)

Average score: 2.84

The confidence in raising concerns was very mixed. Again, this might depend whether respondents are part of an existing group or an individual artist.

Creative opportunities

How would you rate the range of opportunities for people to take part in creative activity in your area? (From 1 'Very few opportunities' to 5 'A great range'.)

Average score: 2.90

This answer seems to reflect that there are still not a wide range of opportunities for people to take part in creative activity despite Creative Places, Edenderry's presence. This is a good example of where Creative Places, Edenderry is only one outlet - and that we need to collaborate with other groups and community initiatives in the area to strengthen the offer.

Please specify which art forms/opportunities you think are missing?

Again quite a mixture of responses here, the most popular answer being: 'art classes' followed by 'performing arts' but with a wider offer being asked for.

Do you feel sufficiently connected with other creative groups to identify problems and make change happen in your local area? (From 1 'No' to 3 'Yes'.)

Average score: 2.11

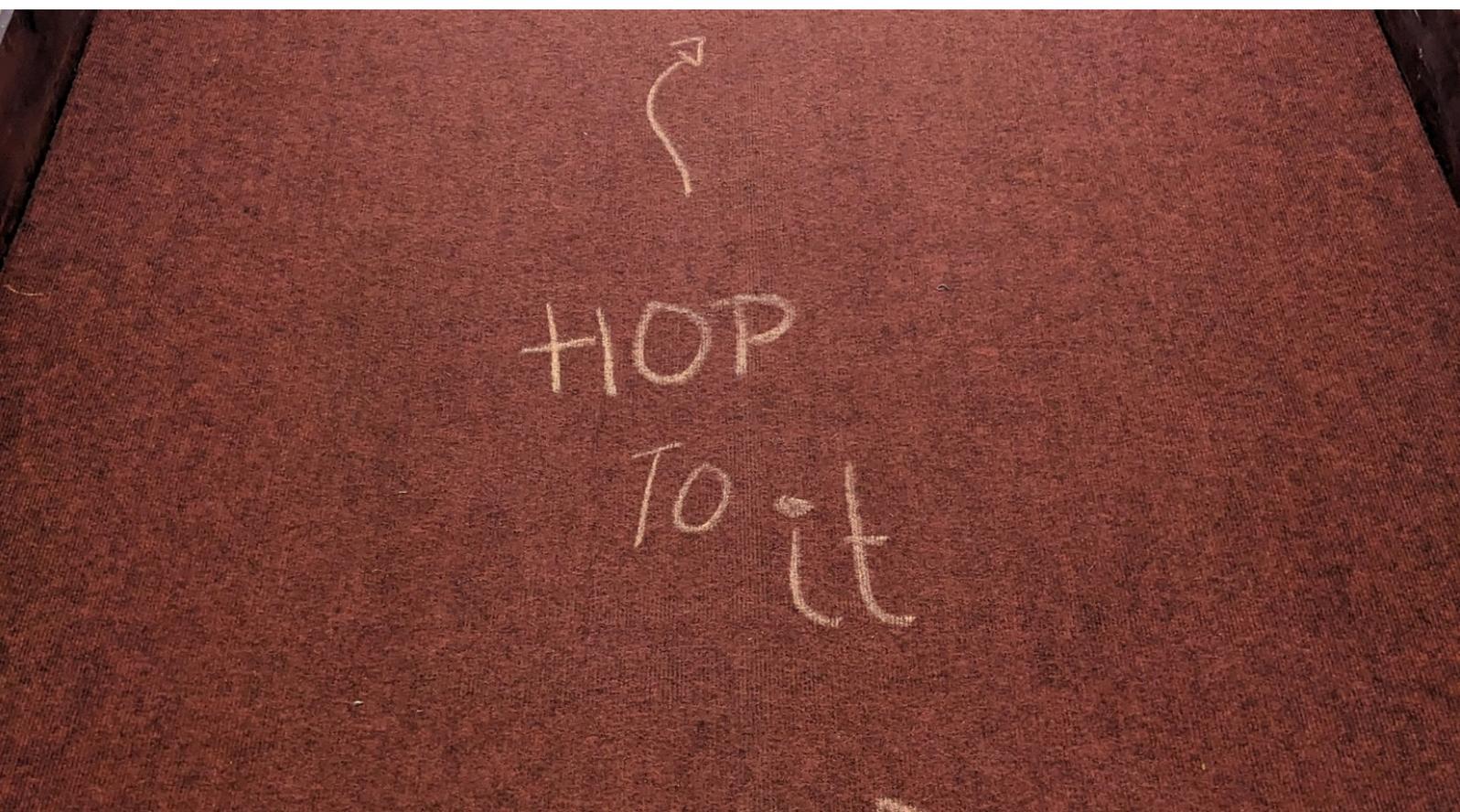
'Partly' is the most popular answer - and this is interesting as we have been trying to connect the network of groups we have been running in Edenderry. There is still a feeling of running 'your group' in silo - rather than collaboratively - perhaps in the New year we should set up a network for these groups to meet and learn from one another?

Please let us know any creative/cultural activity suggestions or ideas you may have?

- Digital art (ie Canva or similar)
- The Scarecrow Festival I discussed with you last week!!
- Singing lessons for adults
- Acorn would love to continue in offering digital podcasting programmes as a way for young people to have their voice heard and express themselves.
- Last year there was a halloween in a van session with music and dancing. Some arts and crafts. Myself and my daughter came dressed up and got involved with the dancing and joined in the singing. It was a great day for all. I feel like events such as this should be celebrated. I think Christmas craft markets would be good for fundraising and to advertise what we do.
- I would love for meetings and events to be held outside of normal working hours.
- Most of the workshops & classes are in the morning or early afternoon - during the week - People who work have no chance to join - suggestion: evening classes & Saturday sessions - to get more members if struggling with attendance

Again a wide range of responses here - from sewing to art classes, film making, art groups, mural, singing, podcasting and an ask for more evening and weekend sessions and workshops.

Play Strategy workshop. Image credit: Seonaid Murray



Are there any areas of support which Creative Places Edenderry and / or Creative Lives could help with?

- Support groups that are already running
- Connection with the Arts Council
- I think the ongoing connectivity activities and meetings are helpful and could lead to something.
- Creative Places are already making connections at grass roots levels and providing advice and support. The continued ongoing support could really do wonders for the area.
- More funding help/advice.
- Financing the rental of premises, advertising in social media, transportation costs
- Funding is a big issue also introduction to people who may be able to help with this. As we are a new group and self funded it would be great to be able to expand and thrive going forward.

Again a wide range of responses here - some to highlight are: support for current groups - reinforcing our support? Connection to Arts Council Ireland and how we could make more of this connection for the community's benefit - difficulty in 'qualifying' for funding - how can we diversify the funding landscape / opportunities? Transport. Praise for current support from Creative Places, Edenderry. *Creative Places, Edenderry should not be seen as a 'replacement' or substitute to local authorities doing their jobs!

Painting workshop. Image credit: Jenny Bergin



Summary

We have heard from some voices in the community who we have not worked with to date and they were unaware of some of the work that Creative Places, Edenderry does and the range of support which we offer.

We would have liked to have some more responses to the survey and perhaps we should run the survey again throughout the year?

'Multi-art form', 'Craft' and 'Visual Art' seem to be the most popular art forms but this does not mean that we should not continue to offer a wide range of art forms. This is interesting to note - perhaps this cohort/demographic are more engaged in our work hence the results? The people that filled in the survey are from this background?

Most people who filled in the survey are from Edenderry, some were from Co. Kildare but travel into Edenderry to take part in Creative Places, Edenderry. Most creatives were optimistic or slightly optimistic about the future of their group or activity. The highest threat is lack of funding. In order to 'thrive' most people also listed funding.

The responses varied, depending on whether the person filling it in was an individual artist or affiliated with a group - underlining the importance of community and a strong network to depend on.

There is still not a wide enough range of opportunities for people to take part in Creative Activity, despite Creative Places, Edenderry now being well embedded into the community over the last 4 and a half years.

Creative Places, Edenderry should not be seen as a 'replacement' or substitute for local authorities doing their jobs and carrying out their roles effectively! People are still saying that 'art classes', 'performing arts' and a wider offer of arts based activities are missing in the town.

Suggestions included; sewing, art classes, film making, art groups, murals, singing, podcasting and an ask for more evening and weekend sessions and workshops (our issue here is resources - the coordinator is employed 4 days a week 9am - 5pm and is currently responsible for all activities - this would need to change in order for us to provide a more rounded timetable!).

There is still a feeling of running 'your group' in silo - rather than collaborating with other groups - in the New Year perhaps a network for local groups needs to be set up?

Areas of support highlighted were: more support for current groups - reinforcing our support of these activities, connection to Arts Council Ireland and how we could do this? 'Qualifying' for funding applications is an issue for some people. Transport is required for some.

There was also praise for Creative Places, Edenderry but again Creative Places, Edenderry needs support from other local authorities, agencies and community representatives in order to fully embed our ethos and for the project to be sustainable into the future and beyond the current funding schedule/timetable of July 2027.

Festival in a Van. Image credit: Mark Forde





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Comhairle Chontae Uíbh Fhailí
Offaly County Council



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