

STREET FEAST

Sat 25th & Sun 26th May 2024

www.streetfeast.ie

Ireland's Nationwide Weekend of Community Celebrations

Street Feast 2024 will see **over 1,250 communities** across Ireland sharing food and enjoying some conversation and camaraderie this summer. It's a wonderful excuse to eat great food, celebrate local communities and connect with people in your neighbourhood.

Registrations will open up in February 2024. It doesn't matter if you live in an apartment or house, all you need is a space to bring people together. Once someone registers they'll receive a FREE Street Feast party pack, complete with bunting, posters, invites and a brilliant DIY guide.



What is Street Feast?

Street Feast is the national day of street parties & community celebrations. Street Feast isn't any old shindig. It's a not-for-profit, all-for-fun, do-it-yourself celebration.

It all started in 2010, when neighbourhoods across Ireland came together to organise their very own feasts and street parties to celebrate community.

Since then, over 400,000 people have joined the fun. You can get in on it too by hosting a feast in your neighbourhood. It can be anywhere really - out on the street, in a local park or in your front garden.

There are lots of good reasons to have a Street Feast. Most of all it's a great excuse to eat good food, meet new people who live near you and have a bit of craic.

Neighbourhood Network

Neighbourhood Network's origins grew out of Street Feast.

In 2020, we expanded our mission, developed a range of new projects and activities programmes, and adopted a new name for the organisation - Neighbourhood Network.

As an Irish not-for-profit we aim to promote social inclusion, tackle loneliness and build supportive and resilient neighbourhoods around Ireland.

We believe that building connections between neighbours increases the strength of the community overall and leads to more inclusive, healthier and happier communities.

Learn more about our work at www.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie.



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Why is Street Feast important?

"All of our public events gain from the widest community participation. We must all by now realise the importance of community, inclusion, creativity and togetherness - all values that require support and a conscious effort of care, protection and solidarity. Initiatives such as Street Feast provide exactly that type of opportunity."



President Michael D. Higgins
Patron of Street Feast

"Just sitting down, chatting, having something to eat - it sounds very simple but the power of it is extraordinary for the individual; for that sense of community... to stave off all the things that have been challenging people, like isolation and mental health.

When you feel part of a community those challenges are easier to manage - you can keep them at bay."



Minister Joe O'Brien
Department of Rural &
Community Development

**Tackles social
isolation**

**Brings the tools for
community building; inspiring
neighbourhoods celebrations
and providing the support to
make it happen;**

**Encourages
participatory culture,
collaborations
and mutual aid;**

**Promotes social inclusion,
multiculturalism and
diversity in an age-friendly
environment;**

**Empowers residents to do
things for themselves,
fostering more decision
makers;**

Put simply, Street Feast is a chance to;

- Be part of a national annual feast day of community celebration.
- Social interactions and a sense of belonging have positive effects on mental health.
- Help support community initiatives around the country.
- Celebrate Ireland's multi-cultural and diverse neighbourhoods.

Street Feast will also help us to;

- Meet and (re)connect with neighbours.
- Share a simple, creative, self-organised lunch.
- Proclaim our love for locally sourced food.
- Feel safer around our communities in the future.
- Foster a commitment to maintaining and improving the neighbourhood.
- Encourage eco-friendly behaviours within the community.



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What's in your Street Feast party pack?

All registered Street Feasters will receive free promotional and party supplies from Street Feast HQ.

Digital

Once you register online, you can download the following from the ChangeX platform straight away!

- This handy guide
- Conversation cards
- Posters
- Invites

Print

Our free, printed party packs will be sent out from late March onwards. You will need to register online at streetfeast.ie to receive yours.

In your pack you'll find:

- Invites
- Posters
- Paper bunting
- A support letter from President Michael D.Higgins
- Name tags
- Food labels



10 Steps to Organise a Feast

Your Street Feast checklist:

- Start early; try not to leave it to the very last minute to arrange your Street Feast.
- Register your Feast at www.streetfeast.ie to get your free pack. You can get great tips and advice on the website, Facebook, Instagram & Twitter.
- Photocopy some fliers from our free DIY pack, print them from the downloadable guide on our website or make your own.
- Knock on your neighbours doors and tell them about Street Feast. Bring a flyer.
- Get your small group of neighbours together (3 is a good start) and make a list of things you've got. Try to borrow to fill the gaps.
- Ask people what they're good at and what they're happy to contribute.
- Find a location: your street, carpark, garden, community hall. Anywhere will do!
- Make sure it's easy to access and will be welcoming to all.
- Need some free food for your event? Put some seeds in the ground as soon as you can. Ask local supermarkets, shops and farmers for free places to move your cars to for the day. Perhaps they'll have a few supplies they can help you out with too.
- Get the word out! Contact your local radio and newspaper and tell them what you are up to.
- And don't forget to tell us your story! Call us, write to us, tag us on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram (@StreetFeast) and tell us where and why you are doing your Feast.

Remember: Street Feasts can be big or small - don't stress about the numbers!



How to Win your Neighbours Over

Start by asking yourself; who in your neighbourhood would love the idea of a Street Feast?

Whether it's tasty treats, rhythmic beats, or even an auld hand-me-down table cloth, everyone can contribute something. And once you've got one other person on board, you've got the makings of a Feast.

It's only a matter of time before the momentum begins to grow!

Ways to get your neighbours onboard:

- Use the posters and flyers in your Street Feast party pack or decorate your own invitations - much more creative and fun!
- Get sharing on your social media - Instagram, Facebook, TikTok and Twitter.
- Partner with local clubs and community groups. It might help to mention to them that hundreds of communities will be hosting a Street Feast at the same time.
- Write out some chalk invites on doorsteps.
- Walk your dog! Dog walking is a great way to meet your neighbour, a potential Street Feast musician or budding chef.
- Drop round with some scones. Bring this DIY guide and your ideas for a Feast.
- Identify that neighbour who knows everyone and make a beeline for them!
- Turn those posters and flyers into paper planes - they'll reach the furthest of doorways.
- Catch every passer-by for a chat while washing your car out on the road.
- Tell the postman. He knocks on everyone's door!



Don't forget to make use of the Street Feast posters and invitations in your party pack!

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Road closures

Closing my street (does it have to be a street?)

You don't have to close your street at all. You don't even have to hold it on a street. Street Feasts can be held anywhere. But if you do like the sound of moving the cars out of the way for the day and setting up bang in the middle of your street then there are ways to make it happen. Visit your local Garda station - they may be willing to help you out with a temporary street closure' for a few hours.

Alternatively you'll need permission from your council to officially close a public road for the day. Your local council's website will usually have a form to fill in and they may ask you to pay fees for closing the street. We are trying to persuade councils not to charge. It's best to apply well in advance but don't worry, it's easier than it sounds!

Insurance

Do I need insurance?

Some councils may require you to take out Public Liability Insurance, usually as part of your road closure application. If you are planning an event in public space it is worth considering taking out cover.

The good news is that most community organisations and residents' associations already have insurance. It's usually just a matter of seeing if they can get involved, and asking them to help with the insurance cover.

Annual Public Liability Insurance for neighbourhoods can cost as little as €190, and you can get a discount for your Street Feast insurance so check our website for details.

Councils sometimes request that you indemnify them - you can ask your insurance company about this. If you need any help with insurance, do get in touch: support@streetfeast.ie

Raaaain

Rain never stopped us before! But we've got a mighty memory for forgetting the sunny days and remembering the washouts. Odds are on for a cracking summer this year, but there is no harm in being prepared for possible rain. And we can be. After all, we've been dealing with the stuff for long enough now!

Borrow a light tarpaulin and string it over the street as a practice run for possible downpours. Have a few marquees or gazebos lined up, just in case. Agree on somewhere beforehand that everyone will relocate to if the heavens open. Ask the local scouts group whether you can use their den; Scouting Ireland are very supportive of Street Feast.

If you're the kind that'll be up worrying about it on the night before you could consider planning the whole thing at the community centre or another indoor location. There are no rules about where Street Feasts should happen, once they are happy feasts.

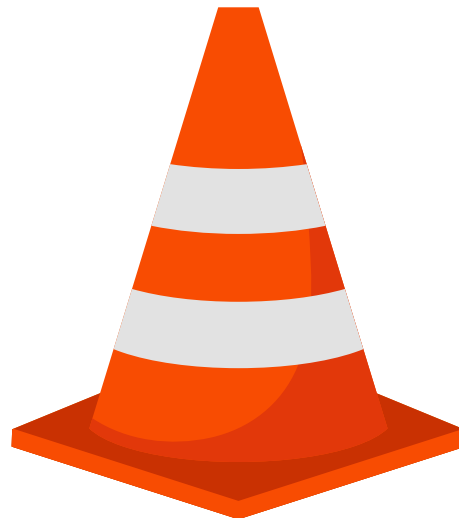
Health & Safety

When preparing food, common sense applies! The biggest barbecue pitfall is uncooked meat. A handy hint - cook the meat in the oven and then finish it off on the barbecue to ensure you still capture those yummy flavours.

Do as you normally do at home. Wash hands and dishes with hot water. Keep everything clean. Don't forget to keep your raw meat separate from your cooked meat. That includes using separate chopping boards, knives and plates. It's all common sense, but if you want reassurance, visit www.safefood.eu

Gardaí

It's always a good idea to communicate with your local community Garda about any public event in your local area. This is especially the case if your Feast will be out on the street. They'll help to make sure that everything goes to plan.



At the end of the day...

All good things come to an end. Here are some suggestions of what you could do to help the day have a soft landing. Designate somebody to organise an after-party that moves to a suitable place, perhaps off the street around 6pm. Maybe it's best to keep the alcohol until then?

Make sure to get as many willing people as possible to clean up, preferably before they all slink off! Try leaving the area cleaner and in a better condition than when you started.

Funding

From time to time, Street Feast HQ will make funding announcements thanks to partnerships we've built. If we have funds to allocate to Street Feasts in 2024, we will update let all registered participants via email.

Here are a couple of other ways you might be able to find funds for your feast!

Striking a sponsorship deal with local businesses

Community funding available through your Local Council & Public Participation Network

Shared project funding with existing local Community Groups

Raising funds as a team using a Community Crowdfunding platform



Remember!
At it's heart, Street Feast is a small neighbourly event where people share food and conversation. Try not to sweat the small stuff over funding.

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Themes

Your Street Feast doesn't have to have a theme, but some people find it useful to have a steer! Here are some of our suggestions

What might you make central to your feast?

Sporty

Plan lots of active group games

Mixed age groups for extra fun and engagement

Small prizes for all participants

Dress code: Sportswear

Thrifty

Host a clothes swap

Make bunting from scrap fabric

Source equipment second hand (e.g gazebo, bowls)

Dress code: Second hand

Dance-y

Invite neighbours to contribute to a shared Spotify playlist

Organise performances from local musicians

Host a dance class

Dress code: Salsa + Sparkles

Biodiverse

Host a seed and plant swap amongst neighbours

Ensure a large table is available to place swappable items on!

Dress code: Floral

Cultural Collab

Invite 'new to the area' neighbours to share their favourite dishes as part of your Street Feast, make sure you share yours too!

Dress code: Celebrate your culture



Food

Who can't boil an egg? Bake a potato? What about plating up some cheese? Just about everyone can get stuck into preparing the feast. Of course there'll be some celebrity chef wannabes in your area but everyone can add something tasty to the pot-luck.

Delegation is the trick

What was it that made you happy back in the old days? Childhood memories of delicious dishes? Nostalgic feasts? Family specialties? What about Grandma's old recipes? There's bound to be one that everyone remembers. Think about passing on those old secrets - "How do you roast your potatoes?"

Team pizza

Everyone brings a topping!
It's also the perfect time to find some locally grown salad leaves for the side

S'mores (give me some more!)

One great thing to come out of America.

What you'll need:

- 1 packet of biscuits
- 1 bag of marshmallows
- 1 big bar of chocolate

Pop a marshmallow on top of the biscuit and a square of choc on top. Complete the sandwich with another biscuit.

Wrap in tinfoil and pop on the bbq (or bake in the oven) for about 4 minutes. Unwrap and enjoy the gooey yumminess.

Barbecue Marinade

Time is of the essence with barbecuing - that's the trick! Try making delicious spiced marinated pork. Soak pork chops in a marinade of soy sauce, apple-vinegar, tomato puree, Tabasco, lemon juice, sesame oil, chili, ginger and coriander. Serve up with a juicy salad and potatoes.

Veggie Barbecue

Chuck all those veggies on the grill!
Create beautiful colour coded skewers of veggies - don't forget your aubergines...
Slice it all up and drop it on. There's nothing better than a dripping, charred pepper.



Sniff out that locally grown produce

Growing food is easy and it's amazing how quickly your salad greens will appear if you plant them now. If you need help getting started, there's lots of great information online. Does anyone near you grow their own food? Perhaps they'd like to bring some along. Lots of tips at www.giyireland.com

Buy local

Because Street Feast is a celebration of your local street, why not try and support your local farmers and suppliers as much as possible? Ask around - it might be a couple of extra coppers, but at least that money's staying around your area, supporting local families.

Buy seasonal

Best produce to cook up at this time of year? Pretty much everything except root veg. Seasonal food is great because it's better quality, it's fresher so it's healthier and has less distance to travel which means fewer carbon emissions and less impact on the environment. Happier food all round! Check out www.bestinseason.ie

Music

Musical mash-ups

Everyone's musical!

We're sure that there are more musicians per square km of turf in Ireland than any other country. Think about all the closet ones out there and fish 'em out! Then you can get a group together. After all, who wouldn't want to be part of the tincan-kitchenpot-dustbin-lid collective?

Musicians

We know you're dying to test out the fresh air-waves for your newest musical creations. Please note, we do advise at least five minutes practice before inflicting your tunes on your neighbours. You do want to be invited to next year's feast, don't you?

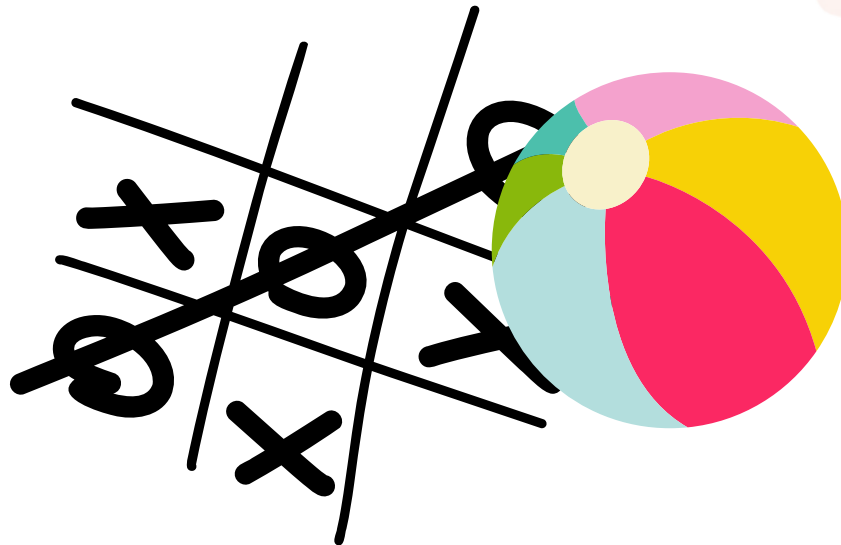
Instruments

From the handy spoons to the pickupable guitar, from the all-can-do triangle to the ever-so-welcome trumpet. If you're playing the bendy saw be careful!

Games

Only limited by your imagination!

Keep them simple: tug-of-war, hopscotch, noughts & crosses, snakes and ladders, draughts and kerbies. All you need is some chalk, a ball or some rope and some willing competitors! With any luck, the games will be improvised into spectacles that will be remembered for years - Twister-street-style, breakdance-off, crab-football, musical-car-parking-spaces, kerbs ... the possibilities are endless!



Decorations

This is the one day in the year when we have complete control over our streets!

The day when we can cover the carpark in colour. The moment we'll fill the cul-de-sac with tables and chairs. Lose that perfection and capture creativity. Everything and anything goes; the more colour the better! If you've registered your feast on www.streetfeast.ie we'll post you out a free party pack. This party pack contains this guide, posters, bunting and invites (basically all of the things you need to invite people to your Feast and get them in the Street Feast spirit!)



Recipe for bunting

Get lost in your nearest cupboard. Old tents, umbrellas, 70s tablecloths, kid's cartoon bedsheets, dad's hawaiian shirts, dodgy curtains - all are welcome! Find some garden twine or extra-long string. Cut the fabric into long, thin diamond shapes. Fold in half between the shortest points. Wrap around the string and glue sides together. Find a responsible daredevil who'll tie the string between neighbour's windows or willing trees. Transform that street!



Film your Feast

A video of your Street Feast will really capture the atmosphere and help encourage neighbours to get involved next time round. It's easy to instantly upload it to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat. You could even try livestreaming your feast online via Facebook or Instagram. Remember to tag us on your stories @streetfeast



Getting Arty

Some creative ideas for your feast:
Community murals & groovy urban stencils
Street chalk paintings
Long colourful paper chains
Potato Prints
Adventurous sculptures
Tablecloth-join-the-dots
Placemat decoration
Who's face have you always wanted to paint?
Now's your chance!



Capturing the Memories

Don't forget to take photos! They're great for the memories. Posting them to social media is the way to go. It's much easier to make your friends jealous! Our hashtag this year is #StreetFeast2024 Use your social accounts to share them and keep a digital footprint (making sure to tag Street Feast!) We Love seeing your feasts! Please email us a photo of your feast to hello@streetfeast.ie

STREET FEAST Be a Local Street Feast Promoter!

“A Feast on Every Street in Your Town”

Local Street Feast Promoters are individuals or groups who sign up to promote Street Feast in their town or area. They can be a community group, chamber of commerce, local authority, group of businesses, or passionate residents.

As a ‘Street Feast promoter’ you will:

- Promote Street Feast in your town
- Work with businesses and other organisations to generate sponsorship to spend locally on billboards & marketing materials.
- Support the roll out of potentially 30+ Street Feasts in neighbourhoods across your town!

All with the support of Street Feast HQ of course.

Contact community@streetfeast.ie for further info and support.

