

# CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD NEWSLETTER



Spring/Summer 2005

Clare County Development Board  
Bord Forbartha Contae an Chláir

## Fáilte

### Welcome to the New Director of Clare County Development Board



Tom Coughlan has replaced Bernadette Kinsella as the new Director of the Clare County Development Board. Bernadette has recently been appointed as Director of Services for Planning and Economic Development, and has been Director of the CDB since February 2003. At the April CDB meeting, the Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Hayes, thanked Bernadette for her enthusiasm and assistance over the past two years and wished her well in her endeavours. The Cathaoirleach, on behalf of the Board made a presentation to Bernadette to mark the occasion.

We welcome Tom as the new Director of the CDB and wish him well in his new role. Tom has been Director of Services for Housing and Social Services prior to this.

### RAPID Ennis Delivering for Clare CDB



It is now almost three years since the launch of the RAPID II Programme in Ennis. During this period RAPID has yielded a high level of success. There are now a significant number of tangible projects, which have impacted on people's lives to date in the RAPID area.



*New Cloughleigh Playground*

The following examples of RAPID projects demonstrate that the CDB model of integrated service delivery is being implemented through the RAPID Programme. The projects also reflect the ethos underlying the forthcoming CDB Review. This encourages a focus on a limited number of annual prioritised actions.

**RAPID Investment of €1.2 million in the six Ennis RAPID designated areas.** These include; Dalcassian /Turnpike, Cloughleigh, Old Military Barracks, Drumbiggle, Clancy Park and Hermitage.

RAPID Projects rely on an inter-agency partnership with the community and voluntary sector. Many RAPID project investments build upon the existing investment of resources by agencies from within their own internal budgets. Successful RAPID projects to date include;

- ✓ **Sports & Recreational Facilities** (€640,000);  
.... All weather /synthetic pitches at Cloughleigh & Drumbiggle
- ✓ **Playground at Cloughleigh** (€100,000)
- ✓ **Playground at Drumbiggle** (€60,000)
- ✓ **Panic Buttons** (€38,000).
- ✓ **Resident Association Devt. & Community Participation** (€30,000)
- ✓ **White Lighting /Crime Prevention** (€40,000)

RAPID is one of two sub-structures of Clare County Development Board and is best described as a 'mini-CDB'. The Director of Clare CDB (Tom Coughlan) and his staff team, which includes the RAPID Co-ordinator (Leonard Cleary), manage the Ennis RAPID II Programme.

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## 2005 RAPID Funding

There are further exciting times ahead for the Ennis RAPID area in 2005. Minister for Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, recently announced that the Ennis RAPID area will benefit from funding of over €200,000 under the RAPID Leverage Fund 2005. Projects include:

- ◆ €100,000 CCTV
- ◆ €66,000 Playground Project
- ◆ €45,000 Traffic Calming Measures
- ◆ €100,000 Estate Enhancement

The RAPID (Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development) Programme is a focussed Government initiative targeting 45 urban centres in the country. The Programme aims to ensure that priority attention is given to tackling the spatial concentration of poverty and social exclusion within the 45 designated areas through targeting state resources, available under the National Development Plan. The Programme also calls on Government Departments and State Agencies to bring about better co-ordination and closer integration in the delivery of services. There are two Strands of the Programme - Strand I targets 25 urban areas, while Strand II targets 20 provincial towns around the country including Ennis.



## RAPID AIT

The RAPID Board, known as the RAPID AIT (Area Implementation Team), directs the Ennis RAPID Programme. The AIT includes representatives of the following nationally prescribed statutory agencies who work in partnership with the community sector: VEC, Health Services Executive, Dept of Social & Family Affairs, FÁS, Gardaí, Ennis West Partners Ltd., Scoil Chríost Rí (Cloughleigh), Clare County Council, Clare Youth Services Ltd., Ennis Town Council and the Community Assembly.

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R A P I D A I T M e m b e r s 2 0 0 5

## Co-ordinating the delivery of public services to the Travelling Community 2005 – 2008

In conjunction with the Traveller Community in County Clare the County Development Board (CDB) has been working on:

### **A Strategy for the Co-ordination of Public Services to the Travelling Community Strengthening the Integration of the Travelling and Settled Communities –**

This Strategy aims to improve the quality of life of the Traveller Community. The obstacles, which prevent them from enjoying a good quality of life (for example racism and discrimination, poor educational and health results, lack of recognition for and poor tolerance of their culture etc.) will be addressed in the strategy. The obstacles facing the Traveller Community have been identified in conjunction with the Traveller Community by means of four Joint Working Groups in the areas of Health, Accommodation, Education/Training as well as Income and Employment.

Over the past months Traveller groups have been meeting to discuss issues of culture, social services and social life as well as the economy of the Traveller Community. Numerous agencies have facilitated these discussions on their own premises and on different sites around the County.

On the 25th. of May, agencies (statutory and community) and the Traveller Community came together to introduce each other and to form Joint Working Groups which would identify possible ways in which the quality of life of the Traveller Community could be improved in the years ahead. A number of actions were identified, which covered the economy, social and cultural aspects of Traveller life. The day began with an introduction to Traveller culture by a number of Travellers from Limerick, Clare and Galway. The discussion groups, which took place afterwards, were facilitated by Dr. Maurice Manning (President Irish Human Rights Commission), Dr. Bryan Fanning (Author of “Racism and Social Change in the Republic of Ireland”), Dr. Roland Tormey (author of the “Inter-cultural Handbook for Primary School Teachers”) and Veronica McNamara (Policy and Research Officer Southwest Community Development Support Agency).

Since then a number of meetings of the Working Groups have taken place. The actions, which they identified as necessary to improve the quality of life of the Traveller Community will be presented to a large meeting of Traveller representatives and Agencies on June the 22nd. for overall approval. A sharply defined strategy has been agreed and it focuses on strengthening the culture of the Traveller Community including its capacity to govern its own affairs. A number of Health, Education, Accommodation and Income /Employment objectives have been finalised. An Action Plan has been initiated which specifies a number of actions which different agencies and organisations are committed to undertake in order to achieve these strategic objectives. It has been agreed that a census of the Traveller Community will be carried out after actions have been identified, with a view to providing baseline information relevant to the action themselves, and against which performance will be measured.

# Broadband Developments in Co. Clare

The Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources launched the 2nd phase of the County and Group Broadband Scheme in January of this year. This scheme offers financial support for smaller communities and rural areas to establish broadband services locally. Up to €4 million is available nationally to support Group Broadband Scheme projects under this phase. Eligible communities with populations up to 1,500 (based on CSO 2002 census data) may apply.

The Community & Enterprise Directorate of Clare County Council organised a number of information seminars throughout the County in order to promote the Scheme to as wide an audience as possible. These were held in: Scarriff, Kilrush, Bunratty, Ennistymon, Feakle, Kilkee, Killaloe and Ennis. Over 300 people attended these information evenings during February, March and April, where presentations on the Group Broadband Scheme were delivered by officials from the Department, the County Council and the Mid West Regional Authority. The Minister appointed Directors of Regional Authorities around the country to assist with the co-ordination of applications. In turn, County Co-ordinators within Local Authorities were also appointed to promote the scheme so as to ensure a high response rate in terms of applications to the Department.

Following these workshops a total of 11 applications from various communities throughout the County have now been submitted for funding to the Department. These include the following areas: Quin, Lough Graney, Scarriff & District, Killaloe/Ballina, Lahinch/Liscannor, Kilfenora, Corofin/Ruan/Kilnaboy, Corofin/Crusheen, Loop Head, Miltown/Mullagh/Quilty/Spanish Point, and South East Clare.

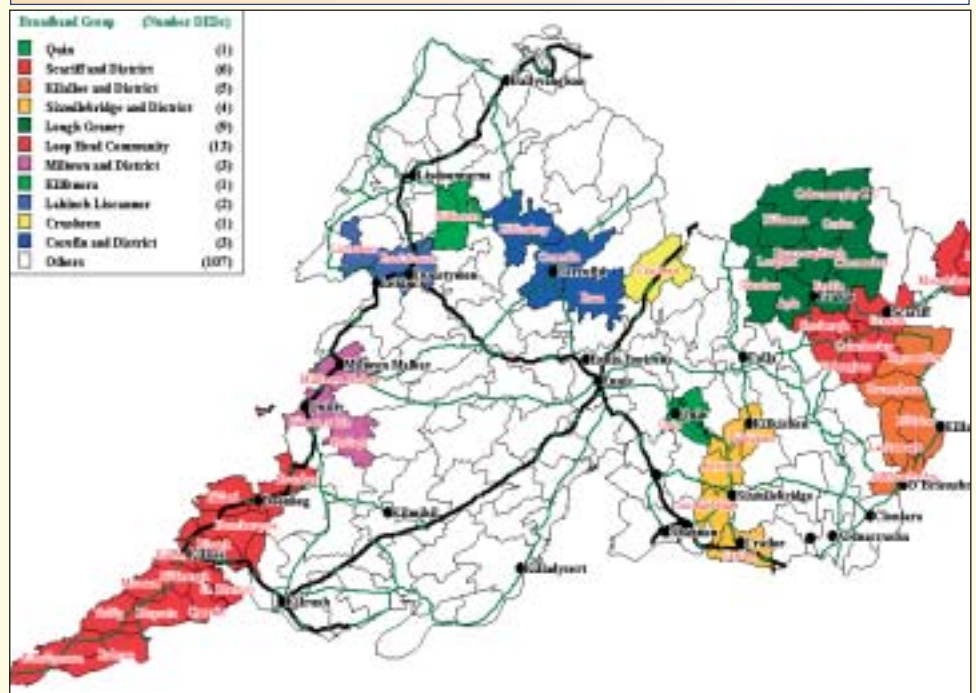
The County Co-Ordinator in Clare, Martin O'Loughlen welcomed the high level of interest and the large number of applications from groups around the County. He commented that the Group Broadband Scheme offers even the most remote communities the chance of competing on level terms with the major cities. Martin O'Loughlen added that Broadband is the future of communications, and anyone who wants to be part of that future will need Broadband. He wished success to all those who have applied to the Department and look forward to a number of communities in Clare having access to Broadband within the next few months.

For further details please contact:

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## AREAS COVERED BY GROUP BROADBAND APPLICATIONS



Michael Neylon  
Research Officer

## Keeping the CDB Informed

The Community & Enterprise Directorate manage research on behalf of Clare County Development Board. Our Researcher, Michael Neylon, who was appointed in 2004, will be involved in a number of projects in the coming year which mainly focus on supplying information and analysis to assist the implementation of the County Strategy for

Economic, Social and Cultural Development.

## Clare Delegates Participate in Dáil na nÓg

*Clare Delegates are the movers  
and shakers of the next generation.*



In the Autumn/Winter Newsletter the CDB reported on the County Clare Comhairle na nÓg, this edition reports on the Clare nominees to the National Dáil na nÓg.

This year Clare was ably represented at

the National Dáil na nÓg. Four young people were selected from the county to attend the event, which was held on Saturday 19th March 2005: Eoin O'Sullivan, Ennis, Maria Culligan, Ennis; Patrice Conway, Cooraclare; Senan Killeen, Corofin. They were accompanied by Nuala Roche and Karen McCarthy from the Clare County Childcare Committee.

Dáil na nÓg is the National Youth Parliament of Ireland. The Dáil na nÓg delegates make the decision makers in the Government aware of their issues and concerns. Dáil na nÓg is the national event of the local Comhairle na nÓg.

## Dáil na nÓg

The purpose of Dáil na nÓg, co-ordinated by the National Children's Office, is to give young children from around the country an opportunity to come together and discuss some of the issues affecting their lives and to ensure that their concerns are heard by the decision makers in the Government.

The programme for the day on the 19th March, included an opening address by Minister Brian Lenihan T.D. There were two workshops for children to participate in: "Tackling Educational Disadvantage" and "Drug and Alcohol Misuse". These two themes were prioritised by delegates and are two of ten 'Special Initiatives' contained in the new Social Partnership agreement 'Sustaining Progress 2003-2005'. These are the areas, which the Government and the Social Partners - who include the youth sector - have agreed to prioritise over the next three years.

In total over two hundred young people from all over Ireland participated in this year's Dáil na nÓg and all present were very enthusiastic and participated wholeheartedly in the day's proceedings. A report of the day's proceedings will be presented to the Cabinet Committee for Children who will give serious consideration to all of the recommendations from the 2005 Dáil na nÓg.

For further information on the Dáil na nÓg and the Clare Comhairle na nÓg, contact Nora Daly, Clare County Development Board at 065-6846222 or Karen McCarthy / Nuala Roche, Clare County Childcare Committee at 065-6864862.



## Launch of Clare Local Development Agencies Brochure

Clare County Development Board (CDB) recently launched a brochure called 'Local Development Agencies in Clare' in Glór. The purpose of the brochure is to support people and groups in understanding the supports available to them by the Local Development Agencies (LDA) in the County.

Clare has 13 Local Development Agencies:

- 3 are funded under the 'Local Development Social Inclusion Programme' - EIRÍ Corca Baiscinn in West Clare, Ennis West Partners and Obair Newmarket on Fergus
- 3 are funded under the 'Community Development Support Programme' - East Clare Community Support (CDP) based in Scariff, Ennis CDP and the Clare Women's Network which is based in Ennis and has a county-wide remit.
- 4 projects are funded under the Family & Community Services Resource Centre Programme - Killaloe/ Ballina FRC; Kilrush FRC; Shannon FRC and Ennistymon FRC
- The RAPID programme supports 6 distinct areas of disadvantage in Ennis.
- Rural Resource Development manages the LEADER, CLÁR and Rural Social Scheme.
- Clare County Childcare Committee provides county-wide support for childcare under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme.



Present at the launch: Tom Coughlan (Director), Pat Hayes (CDB Chair) & Rionach Power (CCF Development Officer)

'Local Development Agency' is a term used by the Dept of Justice, Equality & Law Reform, Dept of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and the Dept of Social & Family Affairs for groups which they core-fund. The majority of these LDA's have a particular focus on 'social inclusion'.

Clare County Development Board funded the production of this brochure from the 'Improved Cohesion' fund which they applied for and received at the end of 2004 from the Dept. of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs.

The brochure is widely available, copies in standard size and large print are also available from the Community & Enterprise Section of Clare County Council (ph. 065 6846222) and will be available on the Clare CDB website: [www.clarecdb.ie](http://www.clarecdb.ie)

### Mission Statement of Clare County Development Board



*"To shape and support a strategy which will ensure  
that all the people and the places of the county  
are valued and respected."*

### Clare County Development Board

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