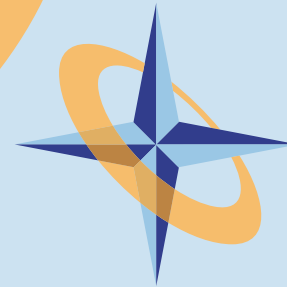


CLARE COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARD NEWSLETTER



Volume 3, Issue 1.

Clare County Development Board
Bord Forbartha Contae an Chláir

Autumn/Winter 2004

Welcome to the Autumn/Winter edition of our CDB Newsletter
keeping you informed of our activities.



Cllr Pat Hayes new Cathaoirleach of
the Clare County Development Board

At the first meeting of the reconstituted Clare County Development Board (CDB), following the local elections, the incoming Cathaoirleach, Cllr Pat Hayes, welcomed 12 new members to the Board. The role of the County Development Board is to enhance public service provision at county level. In February 2002, Clare County Development Board launched the Integrated Strategy for the social, economic and cultural development of County Clare 2002 - 2012, entitled 'Shaping the Future'. The Strategy represents an agreed approach by all stakeholders within the county on a range of significant challenges and opportunities, and provides a comprehensive framework of how Clare should develop over the next number of years. A key role of the new Board is to monitor and oversee the implementation of the Strategy. Cllr. Hayes highlighted some of the key achievements of the Board during 2004:

- RAPID projects received €0.8 million investment of NDP funds in Ennis 2004
- CLÁR has benefited by €1.62 million funding for the county
- Audit of Tourism Infrastructure completed
- Set up of Farmers' Markets funded by LEADER Programme
- Community Employment Study launched by Minister de Valera
- Publication and circulation of Clare Local Authorities Directory of Community Grants
- Western Rail Corridor Group formed
- Ennis-Limerick rail link upgraded and frequency of journeys increased

Shannon Rail Partnership continues to make progress

The efforts of the Shannon Rail Partnership to secure funding for a full feasibility study on a possible Shannon Rail Link to join the main Ennis-Limerick rail line, appears to be bearing fruit. The final submission for funding has been lodged with the Department of Transport. Indications from the Department are that Iarnród Eireann will be asked to undertake a full study. Confirmation is awaited regarding the direction of the project and what involvement is envisaged for the Partnership, by the department, in conducting the Full Feasibility Study. This is the culmination of four years work by the Shannon Rail Partnership during which numerous reports and studies have been lodged with the Department of Transport.

Shannon Rail Partnership consists of :

- Clare County Council
- Clare County Development Board
- Mid-West Regional Authority
- Shannon Development
- Limerick City Council
- Limerick County Council
- North Tipperary County Council
- Aer Rianta, and
- The District Chamber of Commerce

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The Clare Comhairle na nÓg 2004 (Children's Council) was held in the West County Hotel, Ennis on Wednesday 17th November. It was organised by the Clare County Development Board, Clare County Childcare Committee and Clare Sports Partnership.

The main objective of the Comhairle na nÓg is to consult with young people on issues of local and national importance and to commence the establishment of permanent structures in County Clare to ensure that young people are given a voice in issues that affect them.

During the day there were two workshops for young people: 'Recreation / Sport: Competition vs Fun' and 'Migration and Change in County Clare'.

Approximately 80 young people attended the day and they represented all parts of the county. The age category of the young people present ranged from 7 to 17.

A report of the day's events will be compiled and this will include details of the issues raised by the young people on the day as recorded by observers. A copy of the report will be forwarded to all who attended and the National Children's Office.

Eight representatives from County Clare were selected to attend the 2005 Dáil na nÓg and Dáil na bPáistí, along with children from all over the country. The next Dáil na nÓg will be held in March 2005.



Four Clare delegates from Dáil na nÓg 2003; Eilish Murrhly, Spanish Point; Rebecca Ferry, Ennis; Gerald McNamara, Shannon; Cathal Nagle, Ballynacally.

Open Days for Clubs and Societies

Project Shannon recently conducted a survey of 400 children in the secondary schools of Shannon regarding what they liked and disliked about the town, what knowledge they had of outlets available to them, what were their participation rates in clubs & organisations, what they would like to see in the town.

There was a perceived lack of awareness amongst the youth of available clubs/organisation. Both secondary schools kindly offered to allow all clubs & organisations in the Shannon area attend open days to promote activities and encourage higher participation levels.

All Community and Voluntary groups in the area, who are registered with Clare Community Forum, were invited to attend these open days. There was a large turnout of groups and students at the functions in both St Caimin's Community School and St Patrick's Comprehensive School

Reconstitution of Clare County Council's Strategic Policy Committees

Clare County Council are currently establishing new Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs) following the recent Local Elections. The five new SPCs will assist the council in the formulation, development and review of policy in regard to the core functions and will cover the following areas of activity:

- Economic Development and Planning Policy
- Environmental, Emergency Services and Consumer Protection Policy
- Transportation and Infrastructural Policy

- Housing and Social Policy
- Community and Cultural Development Policy

Members of the SPCs will comprise of local elected members and representatives of sectoral interests as follows:

- Agriculture / Farming
- Environment / Conservation / Culture
- Development / Construction
- Business / Commercial
- Trade Union
- Community / Voluntary / Disadvantaged

Dáil na bPáistí 2004

Dáil na bPáistí 2004 took place in the Corrib Great Southern Hotel, Dublin Road, Galway City on 25th September, 2004. Two representatives from Clare attended on the day: Lisa Mullins, Kilnaboy and William Neylon, Corofin. Lisa and William were elected at the Clare Comhairle na nÓg in 2003.

The National Children's Office decided, in consultation with the CDBs, to hold four regional Dáil na bPáistí in 2004 for Comhairle na nÓg delegates between 8-12 yrs. The ISPCC Children's Consultation Unit organised the event on behalf of the National Children's Office.

The themes for discussion at Dáil na bPáistí 2004 were:

1. Education
2. Alcohol and Drugs

Dáil na nÓg was held in November 2003, for young people aged 12 – 18. Six young people were selected to follow up the recommendations that came from Dáil na nÓg and they are working with the Department of the Taoiseach on this. The National Children's Office and the ISPCC will make sure that the proposals which come from the four Dáil na bPáistí meetings are included in the Dáil na nÓg recommendations.

Play Policy for Clare Launched in Glór

The Play Policy and Action Plan for Clare 2004-2008 was launched in Glór Irish Music Centre on 18th September 2004. The policy was developed by the Community and Cultural Development Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) and it is a partnership between the county and town councils – Clare Local Authorities.

The Play Policy and Action Plan for Clare acknowledges the value of play and sets out a framework for the development of existing and new play facilities in the county. The policy adheres to national guidelines and best practice. It will deliver on key objectives of the National Play Policy 'Ready, Steady, Play,' which was launched in March 2004.

In developing the policy an extensive consultation process, as agreed by the SPC, was undertaken. This included written submissions; consultative workshops in each electoral area; facilitated workshops for schools; presentations to area networks, local representatives, organisations and community groups; and a workshop on the preliminary draft of the policy.

A key action in the plan is for Clare Local Authorities to establish a play area in each electoral area of County Clare. Children were given a voice in the design of the play policy and Clare Local Authorities will continue to involve young people in its implementation. The inputs from young people are valued in this process.

A working group comprising representatives from Clare Local Authorities, agencies, young people and the community and voluntary sector will oversee the implementation of the Clare Play Policy and Action Plan.

Cllr Pat Daly, Deputy Mayor, thanked "the Chairman and members of the outgoing SPC for Cultural and Community Development for their hard work" in the preparation of the play policy. He also stated that the policy would "make a significant contribution to the work of the town and county councils in the development of playgrounds in Clare."

Alec Fleming, Clare County Manager, thanked the Director of Community and Enterprise, Bernadette Kinsella and her staff in their support to the SPC in the development of this policy and action plan.

Mr Fleming also stated that he looked forward "to working in partnership with local communities to improve the quality of life of children in County Clare."



Pictured at the Play Policy launch were Alec Fleming, County Manager; Cllr Pat Daly Deputy Mayor; Nora Daly, CEO; Cllr Pat Hayes, Chairman of Clare County Development Board and Colm O'Loughlen.

Promoting Clare for Foreign Direct Investment

New Economic Role for Clare County Council

Following on from the publication by the County Council, of a Promotional Folder and Video "Clare Means Business" another important development in attracting foreign direct investment to the County has been achieved. IDA Ireland and SFADCo are the Statutory agencies responsible for attracting Foreign Direct Investment to County Clare and the Shannon Free Zone. In an effort to enhance the Council's role in this very important area, Martin O'Loughlen and Liam Conneally from the Directorates of Community & Enterprise and Planning, had a meeting in London in July, 2004 with senior officials from IDA Ireland and Irish Embassy economic advisors. Before embarking on this groundbreaking initiative the Council held a number of briefing sessions with personnel from IDA Ireland and Shannon Development in order to prepare for the visit.



The UK meetings were very productive and all sides agree that the Council itself can become a more active player in attracting Foreign Direct Investment to the County. This role has been identified because of the wide range of information (road infrastructure, waste management, land zoning, water & sewerage capacity, identified centres of population growth, quality of life, including arts, heritage and tourism) that is readily available to Clare County Council and would be invaluable to promotion agencies and potential overseas investors.

The industrial base in County Clare has traditionally been supported by a significant number of foreign owned manufacturing plants – currently estimated to be employing almost 10,000 people. Recent vulnerabilities to low-cost emerging markets for Foreign Direct Investment in South-East Asia and Eastern Europe continues to be a threat for companies in County Clare and the Mid-West Region.

Already this new Council initiative is producing results. To date, a number of enquiries have been received. It is planned to broaden this initiative by embarking on further opportunities in 2005.

Back to Work Programme

Project Shannon in conjunction with Back To Education Initiative (Clare VEC) launched a new programme to help people who may be interested in getting back into the local workforce.

This programme could apply to people who have been finding it difficult to secure employment, or who may have been out of workforce for a while by their own choice.

There is an expectation that the availability of work in Shannon will increase over the coming months with new developments in the town. This is seen as a chance for people to be better prepared to avail of these opportunities.

The Programme will enable participants to:

- Distinguish different types of work and ways of working
- Identify ideal qualities of employers and employees
- Identify possible sources of work in the locality
- Identify possible careers that would suit individuals
- Help in preparing application forms/CVs and interviews

The Response to the course to date has been very positive, with a number of local support agencies assisting, and encouraging participation by their clients.

Following success of this programme Project Shannon will be looking at future joint ventures in the area of training.

Assessment of Tourism Promotional Methods in County Clare

The Community and Enterprise section (C&E) had an action in the 10 Year Integrated Strategy of the County Development Board to conduct an assessment of Tourism Promotional Methods used in County Clare. A Report has just been completed and results and details launched at the November meeting of Clare County Development Board. Highlighted among the recommendations was the need for more concerted co-ordination between service providers in the County; requirements for better use of IT for advertising and doing business; and a recommendation that the Tourist Industry in Clare should give consideration to recruitment of a Tourism Development Officer for the county, to help address earlier issues, among others. Soft copies of the report are available from C&E Dept in Quin Road, and will also be available on CDB website: www.clarecdb.ie

CDB Members

Local Government Sector



Cllr Tommy Brennan
Mayor of Clare



Cllr Patricia McCarthy
Clare County Council



Cllr Joe Arkins
Clare County Council



Cllr Pat Hayes
Cathaoirleach
Clare County Development Board



Cllr Richard Nagle
Clare County Council



Alec Fleming
Clare County Council



Cllr. Deirdre Culligan
Town Councils



Cllr P.J. Kelly
Clare County Council

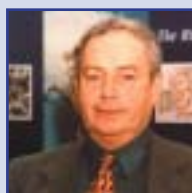


Cllr. Greg Duff
Town Councils

Local Development Sector



Eamonn Kelly
Clare County
Enterprise Board



Donal Griffin
Clare County
Enterprise Board



Sue Targett
ADM Groups



Seamus Bane
ADM Groups



Helen Brooks
Rural Resource
Development LEADER

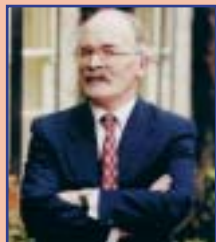


Dóirín Graham
Rural Resource
Development LEADER



Karen McCarthy
Clare County Childcare
Committee

State Agencies



Chris Delaney
FÁS



Seamus McNulty
Mid-Western Health Board



John Quinlivan
Shannon Development



Tom Shanahan
Teagasc



Shay Power
IDA Ireland



Chief Supt. Liam Quinn
An Garda Síochána



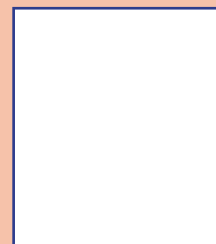
Paddy Ryan
Dept. Education & Science



Cariosa Lynch
Western Development
Commission



Gerry Kennedy
Dept. Social & Family Affairs



Chief Executive Officer
Clare County VEC

Social Partners



Johnny Flynn
Employers & Business
Organisations Pillar



Seamus Kelly
Agricultural &
Farming Pillar



Tony Kenny
Trade Union Pillar



Kate Browne
Community & Voluntary



Michael Nagle
Community & Voluntary

RAPID Investment in Ennis

The 'i' for investment in RAPID is now a tangible reality! This year RAPID will facilitate the investment of more than €0.8 million. For the community of six RAPID designated areas in Ennis the tide is now turning. The acronym RAPID stands for Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development.



A wide array of projects are being developed including sports fields & facilities, playgrounds, health and civic centre, estate enhancement, lighting projects, community development. The following represents the highlights of project investment to date this year.

RAPID Investment – Approved

Amount	Project	Fund
€278,764	Sports Fields at Cloughleigh (all weather pitch)	Dormant Accounts Fund
€90,000	& Stonecourt Cootepark Pitch	Sports Capital Grant 2004
€27,000	(plus facilities)	RAPID Local Leverage Fund
€50,000	Children's Playground at Cloughleigh	Local Authority Playgrounds Grant
€60,000	Stonecourt Children's Playground	RAPID Playground Grant Scheme
€9,500	Community Development	RAPID Community Support Budget:
€44,000	White Lighting project	RAPID Estate Enhancement Scheme
€38,000	Elderly Alarm Project	CSOP Grant Community Support for Older People
€4,000	IT Training for voluntary sector	Local Development Grants, Dept. Community Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs
€5,000	Health Needs Assessment	Mid Western Health Board
€2,000	Sports Activities	Clare Sports Partnership
€1,500	Elderly Panic Button Alarms	Ennis West Partners
€80,000	Health Centre with civic services at Cloughleigh	RAPID Local Leverage Fund
€200,000	Plus an additional agency project investment & match funding	Local Authority & Statutory Partners

RAPID relies on a partnership between government departments, statutory & local development agencies, the community & voluntary sector and local government.

The investment programme in 2004 has resulted in fast tracking NDP (National Development Plan) resources to prioritised projects. These projects were researched, prioritised and endorsed by Ennis RAPID Community Assembly and the RAPID AIT (Area Implementation Team).

RAPID is a sub-structure of Clare County Development Board. The programme is an integral element of the CDB Integrated Strategy's commitment to delivering projects designed to support communities experiencing disadvantage. As a leading social inclusion initiative, RAPID is evidence that the Clare County Development Board's Integrated Strategy is impacting on people's lives for the better in Clare.

In May 2004 the RAPID AIT (Area Implementation Team) was disbanded in advance of the Local Government Election. At the first meeting of the reconvened RAPID AIT, Cllr. Johnny Flynn was elected as Chairperson. The members of the new RAPID AIT, which serves as the board of RAPID, include:



Cllr. Johnny Flynn,
Chairperson
Ennis RAPID AIT



Surveying the site for new all weather sports field at Cloughleigh were Garda Gerry Barry, Dolores Nevin (Chairperson RAPID Community Assembly) and Noel Fawl (Community activist Cloughleigh).

Membership of Ennis RAPID AIT

Organisation	Name
Ennis Town Council - Elected Member	Cllr. Johnny Flynn (Chair)
Ennis Town Council - Town Clerk	Edmund Power
Ennis Town Council - Housing	Sheila Sanders
Mid-Western Health Board	Áine Mellet
Department of Social & Family Affairs	Michael Corry
VEC	Dr. Sean Conlon
FÁS	Alan Cronin
Gardaí Supt.	John Kerin
Scoil Chríost Rí	Pat Hanrahan
Community Representative	Flan Brennan
Community Representative	Dolores Nevin
Director Community & Enterprise – Co. Co.	Bernadette Kinsella
Ennis West Partners	Mary O'Sullivan
<u>Executive:</u>	
CEDO /RAPID Co-ordinator	Leonard Cleary
Regional RAPID Liaison Officer	Maria Farry



Pictured at the Launch of the CE Study were Cllr Pat O'Gorman, Cathaoirleach CDB, Sile deValera, TD, Mary Farren, West Clare Area Network; Bernadette Kinsella Director of Services, Niamh Farren, West Clare Area Network, Rionach Power Development Officer, Marian O'Callaghan, CCF Member & Chair of CE Working Group.

Social Inclusion Measures Group (SIM)

The role of SIM is to:

- Be responsible for monitoring the implementation of the Equality, Poverty Reduction & Community Development actions in the CDB Strategy
- Co-ordinate the delivery of social inclusion measures at local level
- Report to the CDB on programmes
- Feed into the social inclusion aspects of the current CDB strategy and assist the CDB to reflect social inclusion principles in the current strategy.

SIM members proposed a new action in the Strategy to the CDB - a Traveller Integrated Strategy, to address a gap they saw in the current Strategy. By proposing a new action in the Strategy, groups felt that this would give the impetus to address this issue. Also SIM members have organised themselves into 3 working groups in relation to people with a disability, longterm unemployed and single parents.

The Department of Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs asked Local Development Agencies to bring forward measures to enhance their working arrangements with each other and regarding the delivery of services in the county. The Director of C&E tabled a report based on information provided by Clare local development agencies. The Directors report was sent to the Department in June and following further guidelines a second report has been furnished to the Department for their end of September deadline.

Community Employment Study

Members of SIM and the Clare Community Forum (CCF) attended a meeting with Minister Fahey following the launch of the Community Employment (CE) Study 'The Future of Community Employment in Clare - A Strategic Perspective'. This study was planned and developed by members of the CCF and the West Clare Area Network. The key issues in the study, launched by Minister Sile deValera, included

- The need to increase numbers on CE
- the need to eliminate capping for those over 55 years and for those on Disability Allowance and
- the need to encourage more social inclusion type activities for the benefit of community members and to encourage more eligible women on to the scheme

Members of SIM also met with Minister O'Cuiv in relation to aspects of the study which related to the roll out of the Rural Social Scheme (RSS).

Social Inclusion Forum/ Platform

The Social Inclusion Forum has officially become the Social Inclusion Platform (SIP). The change in name is to avoid any confusion with the Clare Community Forum (CCF). The SIP will operate within the structure of the CCF and will support the CCF in addressing social inclusion for which they have a remit.

The role of the SIP is:

The Social Inclusion Platform will support Local Area Networks to identify and address social inclusion issues in their areas and bring prioritised issues forward to the

SIP. It will also advise the CDB and other agencies/ departments on the implementation of objectives in the Clare Integrated Strategy 'Shaping the Future' Information will be provided at Local Area Network meetings to help groups understand the structures that the SIP could influence and the structures on which the CCF currently sit.

Clare Community Forum (CCF)

Clare Community Forum (CCF) is the recognised body for the community & voluntary sector in Co. Clare. The Forum receives support from C&E and the Department of Environment, Heritage & Local Government.

The CCF held their annual weekend workshop on the 7th/8th May in Mountshannon. The group were facilitated by Neil Haran in working towards developing position / policy papers. The members also had presentations on the County Development Board (CDB) and its substructures as well as the five Strategic Policy Committees (SPC) of Council. The CCF will continue to hold seats on all these structures once they are reconstituted.

Following on from the workshop, the CCF are concentrating on issues affecting the community & voluntary sector in Housing & Social Policy; Transport & Infrastructure and Economic Development & Planning:

Community Radio

Clare Community Forum & RRD LEADER have allocated €1,250 each for the production of five pilot slots on Clare FM. The slots will develop into a weekly programme on Clare FM's Morning Focus programme documenting community & voluntary activity all over Clare. The show will rotate between East Clare, Ennis Area, West Clare, Shannon Area and North Clare and will be aired the week beginning the 22nd of November.

Volunteering & NUIG

During the summer, NUI Galway approached the CCF Development Officer regarding a new programme in the University - ALIVE (A Learning Initiative and the Volunteering Experience). ALIVE is part of the Community Knowledge Initiative which encourages students to volunteer 40 hours over the course of the year. Community & Voluntary groups have been notified of the potential of having a volunteer and have been asked to fill in an application form detailing the task to be carried out by the volunteer.

Clare Sports Partnership Grant Recipients 2004

The Clare Sports Partnership has just announced its annual grant-aid allocation to Clubs and Societies in County Clare. The Clare Sports Partnership was launched in May 2001 by John Treacy, Chief Executive of the Irish Sports Council. The CSP is established as an independent body and is incorporated as a Company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors, which includes Council officials is representative of a wide range of Organisations in the County. Its key aim is to increase participation in sport by all age groups and to ensure that local resources are used to best effect. The total sum allocated for 2004 was in excess of €46,000. The Sports Partnership in Clare was one of the first to be established in Ireland and was originally co-ordinated from the Community & Enterprise Directorate of Clare County Council. Anybody looking for further information on the Clare Sports Partnership should contact Tom Crowe, (065) 6865434 or visit the website www.claresportpartnership.ie

Tulla Soccer Club
Ennis Golf Club
Clare Haven Services
Banner Ladies Football
Michael Cusack Restoration Research Committee
Knockalishene Reception Centre
Kilmurry Ibrickane/North Clare
Carron Community Council
Ennis RAPID
Irish Wheelchair Association

Ennis West Partners
Crusheen GAA Minor Club
Banner GAA Club
Corofin Gym & Leisure
Turnpike Rovers F.C.
Killanena Camogie Club
Miltown Malbay Community Games
Ruan GAA
St Cronan's A.C.
Clare Community Games
Brothers of Charity Ennis

Ennistymon Minor Football Club
Moher Celtic Football Club
Corofin GAA Club
St John's Athletic Club
Ballyea Community Playschool
Ennis Lawn Tennis & Badminton
Kilrush Rangers AFC
Clare Youth Services
Mid/East Clare Ways
Fern Celtic F.C.
Crusheen Ladies Football Club

Clare Badminton Association
Kilmurry Mc Mahon ICA
Corofin Community Development
Brothers of Charity Ennistymon
Clare Athletics Association
Ennis Rugby
Tulla GAA
Shannon Jiu Jitsu
Cloughleigh Residents & Development Group

Corporate Plan 2004-2009 Clare Local Authorities



Clare Local Authorities are currently preparing a Corporate Plan for the lifespan of the newly elected councils.

What is the Corporate Plan?

- ✓ It is a Plan to attain high-level organisation goals. It presents the local authorities' vision.
- ✗ It is not an operational plan of practical goals & tasks.
The Corporate Plan serves as the Clare Local Authorities' strategic framework for action in the future.

Why prepare a Plan?

The local authorities are committed to delivering better customer service. Experience in both the private and public sectors has shown that strategic planning leads to improved corporate management & development. In legislative terms, Section 134 of the Local Government Act 2001 requires Corporate Plans for the lifespan of the new councils (2004-2009). Corporate Plans must to be in place within six months of the AGM of the new councils i.e. by December 2004.

Who will be consulted?

The Community & Enterprise Directorate facilitated an inclusive consultation process in the preparation of the Corporate Plan. This included consultation workshops with internal local authority stakeholders such as elected members of Clare County Council & Town Councils, Management Team (County Manager & Directors), Partnership Committee, Staff, SPCs and the Clare Local Authorities Staff Social Inclusion Group. External stakeholders were also consulted including County Development Board & Implementation Groups /RAPID, social partners, community & voluntary and environmental interests and other public bodies. If you wish to make a written submission please forward it to Corporate Services Section, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, County Clare before the end of November.

What will be included in the Corporate Plan?

The Corporate Plan will identify objectives for the Plan timeframe. These will be achievable objectives framed within the context of their operating environment. The strategic planning process will have regard to the resources and constraints impacting on the delivery of the Corporate Plan objectives. The local authorities will establish reporting arrangements to monitor progress annually.

Will the CDB Strategy & cross-cutting issues be considered?

The Corporate Plan will take account of cross-cutting issues such as:

- local authorities' commitments to actions in the County Development Board's Integrated Strategy
- social inclusion
- sustainable development
- other statutory plans and strategies of the local authority

The Corporate Plan, which will be prepared by Corporate Services Section, will engage and reflect cross-departmental issues. Following the adoption of the Corporate Plan by elected members in December 2004, each Directorate will prepare annual Operational Plans early in 2005. The Operational Plans will detail how each directorate /service area will deliver on the Corporate Plan's objectives.

Research into the Feasibility for a Third- Level Outreach Education Facility for Co. Clare.



A new research report commissioned by Clare County Council/Clare County Development Board, Co Clare VEC and Shannon Development to determine the potential demand for a new third-level facility in County Clare, commenced in July, 2004. This report follows on from an earlier study entitled 'Linking NUI Galway with County Clare' commissioned by NUI Galway and published in September 2003. This document pointed to the demand for a Higher Education Facility that specifically targets students who come through Second-Chance/Further Education programmes. It also highlighted the need for a comprehensive local strategy that maps out a future for Further and Higher Education provision in County Clare. This new report, now underway, aims to carry out an assessment of the genuine need for such a facility.

To date, discussions have been held with members of the advisory committee including representatives of NUIG, GMIT, LIT, UL, Shannon College of Hotel Management and the Burren College of Art. Detailed discussions have been held with Noel Mulcahy, author of the HEA report on outreach education in Ireland (1999) and Gary Sloan, Director of the Open University in Ireland. Further contacts were made with outreach centres throughout the country including St. Peter's College, Wexford (Carlow IT), Kilkenny College (NUI Maynooth) and the Tipperary Institute.

In addition, the Post-Leaving Certificate population in Co. Clare and adults on the Back-to-Education Initiative at the VEC, as well as the Business/Industry Sector in the County have been consulted. This includes identifying key personnel in the business community who may have a strong influence on what could be provided and how best any new facility would suit the needs of industry. It is hoped to have the report completed by December 2004.

Community & Enterprise Staff Photo



Mary Moroney	<i>Assistant Staff Officer</i>
Roisin Ni Cheallaigh	<i>Clerical Officer</i>
Rionach Power	<i>Development Officer - Community & Enterprise</i>
Emer O'Flaherty	<i>Irish Officer</i>
Mary Darcy	<i>Clerical Officer</i>
Martin O'Loughlen	<i>CEDO</i>
Michael Neylon	<i>Research Officer</i>
Nora Daly	<i>CEDO</i>
Padraig MacCormaic	<i>Development Officer, Project Shannon</i>



Missing from main photo:

Bernadette Kinsella	<i>Director of Services</i>
Leonard Cleary	<i>CEDO-RAPID Co-ordinator</i>

CLÁR PROGRAMME

The CLÁR Programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme in rural areas. CLÁR complements both the RAPID programme for disadvantaged urban areas and RAPID 11, the programme for provincial towns. They were introduced on foot of commitments in the Programme for Prosperity and Fairness for a targeted investment programme in both urban and rural disadvantaged areas.

CLÁR provides funding and co-funding to Government Departments, State Agencies and Local Authorities in accelerating investment in selected priority developments. These investments support physical, economic and social infrastructure across a variety of measures.

The following are details of the projects and funding received under CLÁR for 2004 in County Clare:

PROGRAMMES

ROADS

- Non-National (County) Roads Co-Funded
€584,653 + €75,000 Coillte
- Local Improvement Scheme Roads (L.I.S.) €165,451

WATER & SEWERAGE

- Small Public Water & Sewerage Schemes €365,625
- Group Water Schemes €948,267

ENHANCEMENT

- Village Enhancement Scheme
(Total Budget: €180,000 - CLÁR contribution: €60,000)
- Bilingual Signage Scheme
Community / Private / Townland
- Local Authority Housing Estate Enhancement Scheme
(Projects approved to date/first six months)
Total Budget: €69,300 CLÁR contribution: €30,400
- Garda Stations & Courthouses Enhancement Scheme
(Miltown Malbay Garda Station)
Total Budget: €20,000.50 CLÁR contribution: €6,666.83
- School Outdoors Play Facilities Enhancement Scheme
(1st Round)
Total Budget: €148,650 CLÁR contribution: €111,487.50

SPORTS & COMMUNITY

- Top Up Scheme Sports Capital Grants
- Gaeltacht Sports & Community Grants
- Community Initiatives

CLÁR / LEADER Community Initiatives

- Maximum amount each of CLÁR and LEADER is €65,000
(Total: €130,000)
- Exceptional Circumstances with prior approval of Department, LEADER aid up to €100,000 may be granted

HEALTH

- Capital Strategic Health Developments
- Small-Scale Minor Capital Projects

ELECTRICITY

- Three-Phase Electricity for Small Businesses / Enterprises in CLÁR areas

CLÁR FUNDING OF SINGLE TO THREE PHASE ELECTRICITY CONVERSIONS

(to date 2004) €4,624

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

- Broadband Technology

CLÁR BROADBAND LOCATIONS

Tulla



Pictured at the launch of the Directory of Community Grants and Information are former Mayor of Clare/CDB Chairman Cllr Pat O'Gorman and Bernadette Kinsella Director of Services.

Community Grants & Information

Clare Local Authorities have produced a comprehensive 'Directory of Community Grants & Information'. The Directory can

be used as a handbook for community and voluntary groups as well as for individuals to assist them to access Local Authority grants and other information such as recycling which might be of interest to them. This Directory is on the www.clarecoco.clare.ie website. It has also been produced in accessible formats of Braille and on audio tape. Copies of these are available in the libraries.

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

Clare County Development Board
Community & Enterprise Office,
Quin Road Business Park,
Ennis, Co. Clare.

Phone: 065 6846 222

Fax: 065 6829 558

Email: dceoff@clareco.ie

We're on the Web!
www.clarecdb.ie

