



C&E NEWS

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The Office of Community and Enterprise (C&E) is located within **Clare County Council**. It's role includes facilitating the County Development Board in implementing the 10 year Integrated Strategy for County Clare.

Launch of New Transport Forum



(L-R) Cllr Patricia McCarthy; Ed O'Callaghan, Dept of Transport; Miriam Flynn, Bus Éireann; Tom Carey, Director of Service & County Engineer.

Further progress with the County Development Board's Integrated Strategy was evidenced recently with the launch of a new Transport Forum on Friday 28th March @ the County Museum, Ennis. This initiative is being driven by the Community and Enterprise and Transport and Infrastructural Sections of Clare County Council. The following are some of the organisations represented on the Forum:

- Clare County Council Transport and Infrastructure SPC
- Bus Éireann
- Iamród Éireann
- Disabled People of Clare
- Mid-Western Health Board
- Gardaí
- Clare Community Forum
- Community Transport Operators
- Clare County Childcare Committee

The role of the Forum will be to make specific recommendations to the Transport and Infrastructure Strategic Policy Committee of Council and other transport providers. Speaking at the launch, Cllr Patricia McCarthy, Cathaoirleach, Clare County Development Board said that this initiative is one of the 207 actions

contained within the CDB's Integrated Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development launched in February of last year. The CDB's were established to ensure better co-ordination in the delivery of public services and to avoid overlap and duplication. This Forum is an excellent example of this process being implemented on the ground. The CDB last year completed a comprehensive Audit of Rural Transport services in the county. Many of the key findings from this study will be a key part of the Transport Forum's discussions. To set the national perspective on transport, the Forum was addressed by Ed O'Callaghan, Assistant Principal Officer from the Department of Transport.

In addition, the Forum will also examine how people, including those with reduced mobility, can avail of transport adequate to facilitate their participation in work-related, cultural and social activities. It will review and prioritise on an ongoing basis the transport needs of all sectors of society in the county (including rural dwellers, businesses, commuters etc), including the facilitation of research into predicting usage. It will examine how successful models of local transport services from other countries could be implemented in County Clare. It will examine initiatives such as East Clare Accessible Transport and the EIRÍ Corca Baiscinn service in West Clare, for lessons that can be learnt and transferred to other parts of the County.

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C&E Section and FÁS Collaborate in Employment Research in the Shannon Electoral Area

At the County Development Board meeting of April 28th in Mounshannon the Chairperson of the Board, Cllr. Patricia McCarthy launched the Shannon Employment Study, which was produced jointly by the Community and Enterprise section and FÁS. The research arises from an action in the County Development Board's Integrated Strategy for the Economic, Social and Cultural Development of Clare 2002-2012, and follows the launch of a parallel pilot study in the West Clare Electoral Area in February. During Autumn 2002 a postal survey of 174 employers in the area was undertaken, as well as a series of 2 focus groups with training providers, the unemployed, employers and people wishing to start their own business. The findings of the research will be presented to FÁS managers with responsibility for services in Clare, who will take on board the findings in planning their services in the region. In addition the new Development Officer for Shannon will work with the relevant agencies locally to address many of the issues raised in the research. The West Clare Employment Study and the Shannon Employment Study are available on Clare County Development Board's website at: www.clarecdb.ie

Comhairle na nÓg 2003



(L-R) Sean Cormican, Lisdoonvarna; Lisa Killeen, Mullagh; James Peters, Inagh; Kelly Power, Ballyea – Clare reps at the Dáil na nÓg 2002

The Clare Comhairle na nÓg 2003 will be held in the West County Hotel, Ennis on Thursday 22nd May 2003. It is being organised by the Clare County Development Board in association with the Clare County Childcare Committee and the Clare Sports Partnership.

The agenda for the day is as follows:

9am	Registration
9.30am	Introduction
10am	Workshop 1 – Sense of belonging / Pride in the area
11am	Break
11.15am	Workshop 2 – Sport and Recreation
12.15pm	Feedback and response
1 – 2pm	Lunch & disco

The purpose of holding a Comhairle na nÓg is to select representatives from each county / city to attend the 2003 Dáil na nÓg and Dáil na bPáistí, consult with children on issues of local and national importance and to commence the establishment of permanent structures in each county / city and to ensure that children are given a voice in issues that affect them.

Clare Tourism Industry Unites

Clare County Council held a very successful tourism industry networking evening on 6th May 2003 in conjunction with Clare Tourist Council and GLÓR. 200 members of the tourism industry from all areas of Clare attended, which was hosted at GLÓR Irish Music Centre. The event was organised in advance of the tourism season to offer an opportunity for tourism businesses to network, build business relationships and exchange tourism literature/ brochures. The Council's C&E and Planning & Economic Development sections sought to further build upon and integrate the energies of all facets of the industry and public sector. The ethos of the event was in accordance with that underpinning the CDB's Integrated Strategy 2002 – 2012. A spokesperson for the Council stated "the significant contribution of tourism to the local economy in Clare makes tourism the business of everyone in the county. If we are to harness the maximum potential of this industry, everyone has a part to play in promoting and selling Clare".

Cllr. Peter Considine, Mayor of Ennis, opened the event. Also addressing the gathering was Dr. Freda Carmody, Vice Chairperson of Clare Tourist Council. She emphasised the importance of local marketing. "We need to see each other's tourism businesses as neighbouring tourism products rather than as competitors. East Clare needs to be promoting other areas of Clare and vice versa. In a similar reciprocal fashion, accommodation providers need to be promoting visitor attractions and pubs/restaurants at an increased level this season. John King, Shannon Development, emphasised the enhanced value of an evening tourism product, such as GLÓR, to the county. Musicians and artists were on hand for the conclusion of the evening, which heralded the launch of GLÓR's exciting new Summer Music Festival programme.

CCF Development Officer

Rionach Power joined the Community & Enterprise Section of Clare County Council on the 5th March 2003 as Clare Community Forum (CCF)



Development Officer. She will support the community & voluntary sector in addressing issues of concern to them. One of her roles will be to support information flow, consultation and communication between the CDB, the CCF and the Area Networks.

Clare Community Forum

The Clare Community Forum (CCF) was established in 2000. It is made up of 25 people representing the 5 Area Networks - West, North and East Clare, Ennis and Shannon (5 representatives from each Area Network). The CCF works to ensure its representatives have a say in policy decisions that reflect positively on the concerns of the community and voluntary sector in County Clare. The CCF is designed to provide a platform for community and voluntary groups to network, build linkages, consult and be consulted on a wide variety of topics relating to the social, economic and cultural development of County Clare.

Planning Weekend

The Clare Community Forum gathered together in Ballyvaughan on 25th & 26th April for their annual Planning Weekend. The purpose was to bring the 25 members of the Forum together to review and reflect upon 2002 and to review and consolidate the work programme for 2003. The weekend was facilitated by Juan Carlos Azzopardi (Moyross CDP). Time was given to reviewing and reflecting on the achievements of 2002 and following-up on the recommendations of the previous years Planning Weekend.

The Development Officer gave a presentation on what other Fora in the region were doing and gave an option of a way forward for the CCF. The development of a Social Inclusion Forum as a sub-structure of the CCF was discussed further in terms of involving the Area Networks, and it's potential impact and benefit. The issue of effective communication and reporting was discussed. Reporting structures between CCF members, between the CCF and those they represent and between the CCF/ C&V sector and the County Council were proposed. Regular written reports from representatives will be circulated to the CCF in advance of meetings and the potential for representatives to visit Area Networks to report on their issue area was promoted. The current Action Plan was reviewed and working groups were reformed.

Resourcing is an issue in achieving the goals, however many of the actions had been progressed and will be progressed further during the year. Proposals were advanced on holding a

'Volunteering Seminar' and developing a policy statement on volunteering

CCF Mission Statement

*Clare Community Forum is a **representative body** expressing the views and concerns of voluntary and community groups active in the county.*

*It seeks to enhance democracy at local level through **empowerment, participation** and the **promotion of social inclusion**.*

*The Forum embraces the values of **participation, consultation** and **shared decision-making**.*

*While preserving autonomy and independence the Forum operates in a spirit of **partnership** with relevant bodies for the development of County Clare.*

Committees on which the Community & Voluntary Sector are represented through the CCF:

- ◆ County Development Board - 2 reps
- ◆ 6 Implementation Groups of 1 rep each
- ◆ 5 Strategic Planning Committees of Clare County Council.
- ◆ The County Childcare Committee
- ◆ The Heritage Forum
- ◆ The Local Sports Partnership

The Regional Drugs Task Force has requested that the CCF nominate a Community & Voluntary Sector representative to sit on this newly established committee.

The current CCF Chairperson is Michael Nagle, North Clare Area Network and the Secretary is Dan O'Brien, East Clare Area Network

Contact names for each Area Network

North Clare	Joe Killeen	065 6837944
Ennis	John Costelloe	065 6820542
Shannon	Pat Gaughran	061 361674
East Clare	Dan O'Brien	061 337322
West Clare	Ruairi O Conchúir	065 9052352

For further information on Clare Community Forum, please contact Ríonach Power, CCF Development Officer, ph. 065 6846 222 or rpower@clarecoco.ie

Training & Information for the Voluntary & Community Sector

Local Development Training Institute of Irl – Summer school. 16th –20th June, UCD.

This year's LDTI Summer School is offering 36 workshops in seven different categories including; Skills Development; Community

Development Approaches; Organisational Development and Equality.

For the Prospectus 2003, please contact:
Local Development Training Institute of Ireland.
81 Upr George's St., Dunlaoghaire, Co. Dublin
Tel: 01-230 0640. Fax:01-230 4868
e-mail: <mailto:info@ldti.ie>

Celebrating Volunteers

A regional seminar on "Celebrating Volunteers" will be held on May 28th 2003 in the Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road, Limerick from 10am to 4pm. It is organised by the Mid West Community Development Support Agency Ltd. If you are interested in attending please contact Veronica McNamara ph 061 228711 or info@mwcdsa.ie

Volunteering Ireland

Volunteering Ireland is an independent organisation, which acts as a national resource centre for all matters relating to volunteering.

Its services include:

- ✓ Training
- ✓ Library
- ✓ Fact Sheets
- ✓ Consultancy and support
- ✓ Placement services
- ✓ VOLT – Volunteer Organisers Linking Together – a support and learning network of volunteer co-ordinators/ managers

Volunteering Ireland will provide any callers with a FREE INFORMATION PACK on all issues relating to volunteering. We can be contacted at the following address, and will be happy to add the contact details of any interested groups or organisations on to our mailing list:

Volunteering Ireland, Coleraine House,
Coleraine Street, Dublin 7. Tel: 01 - 872 2622,
Fax: 01 - 872 2623 Email:
info@volunteeringireland.com
Website: www.volunteeringireland.com.

Environmental Campaign 2003 – Clare County Council

Notice to Tidy Towns Groups, Community Groups, Environmental Groups. Clare County Council has application forms and details available for the following environmental initiatives for Community Groups:

- ✓ Clare in Bloom Competition
- ✓ Best Public Seat Award
- ✓ Best Traditional Shopfront Award
- ✓ Priming Grant for Amenity Works 2003
- ✓ Priming Grant for Clean-Up of Illegal Dumps 2003
- ✓ Priming Grant for Village Paint Scheme.

For application forms and details, contact the Environment Section, Clare County Council, New Road, Ennis, Co Clare. Phone 065 684 6386 or 684 6331. Alternatively all application forms are available on the Council's website <http://clarecoco.clare.ie>. Closing date for receipt of application forms for above awards: Friday 30th May 2003.

RAPID Programme



Fiacre Hensey took up his role as RAPID Co-ordinator with the Community & Enterprise section of Clare County Council in July 2002. His role is the co-ordination of

the RAPID Programme, which involves facilitating, inter agency co-operation and community projects. Feedback had been received on 13 projects to date with external funding received on one, local (funding) commitment on two and visible progress on an additional two. The Programme aims to prioritise agency spend on RAPID areas, facilitate inter-agency co-operation and encourage the avoidance of wasteful duplication. Agency participation has been good with a diversity of projects involving agency integration of community participation. Challenges to progress centre around sustaining motivation and commitment of the community and the agency representatives; and delivering on commitments given the budgetary constraints, the apparent lack of Departments' focus on RAPID areas and the difficulty of planning ahead with fund uncertainty. The RAPID Programme can be considered as a localised implementation of the Integrated Strategy of the CDB.

C&E Staffing Structure

Bernadette Kinsella	Director of Services
Martin O'Loughlen	Development Officer
Nora Daly	Development Officer
Leonard Cleary	Development Officer
Fiacre Hensey	RAPID Co-ordinator
Kieran Dempsey	Research Coordinator
Rionach Power	CCF Development Officer
Mary Moroney	Assistant Staff Officer
Maeve Reddan	Clerical Officer
Sharon Connellan	Research Assistant

For further information please contact:

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Fax 065 6829558 Email: dceoff@clarecoco.ie