

CHANGING IRELAND

AUTUMN '06

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Another day in the best little rich country in the world



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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

EDITORIAL



A child's vision

MOYROSS can be an inspiring place to work in – though you wouldn't know it from all the media reports of recent times. The violence visited on children who were burned while sitting in their car shocked the nation. And there have been five murders here in five years.

Crime figures tell one tale, but there is also the tale of a community that wishes to grow and prosper. That story is the story of the Community Development Programme and its 2000 volunteers and 400 or so paid staff working in disadvantaged communities around the country.

You can have all the seminars and conferences in the world. But, one insightful way to approach the decades of disadvantage effecting many communities, and the recent shocking violence effecting this one, is to come at the problem with a child's eye for life.

If I was a child now, say a six-year-old . . . no matter where in Ireland I lived, I'd like to be able to look back in a year's time from now and know that:

- all the baddies have been put away,
 - it's safe for me to play in the streets,
 - my neighbours are good,
 - there are no drugged or drunk people in my life,
 - I know Santa is for real and there is magic in the world.
- I'd like to be able to look back as an 18-year-old (which brings us up to the year 2018) and say:
- my family are safe, happy and financially secure,
 - my schooling was a success,
 - there were a lot of good clubs and activities for every one of my teenage years,
 - I am not labelled negatively by where I come from
 - and now have as equal a chance of a job and an education as anyone else.

When that day comes, Ireland will truly be a beautiful country.

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DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this newsletter are those of the author concerned. They do not, by any means, necessarily reflect the views of the Editor, the editorial team, the management committee of the Community Development Network, Moyross, Ltd., or the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.



Cover Cartoon

The cover cartoon was drawn by Austin Creaven. It was drafted and commissioned prior to the recent violent events to happen in Moyross, Limerick, events that our cartoonist was largely unaware of because he was out of the country. The scene depicted is not anywhere specific. SuperVolunteer is needed throughout the country, as much in rural areas where people suffer isolation and in urban areas (as depicted) where anti-social behaviour is rife.

The causes of the problems depicted are largely agreed on among community development people who are 'on the ground'. And there are workable answers too. One other thing, SuperVolunteer won't manage it on his or her own.

Readers are invited to give Austin and the Editorial Team feedback on the cartoon or to suggest ideas for future editions. Email: editor@changingireland.ie or phone 061-458011.

- Congratulations to Austin and his partner Layla who become proud parents in September! Welcome Esma Una into the world!

We still want Rights not Charity!

- Kerry Network of People with Disabilities

A KERRY disability project has lambasted the continuing 'charity' view of people with disabilities, singling out for particular criticism a new Government plan for the Dormant Accounts Fund. The Government's idea is that wealthy business people would contribute to its coffers which would then go to 'help' projects such as the disability CDP in Tralee.

The Kerry Network of People with Disabilities, which has a large, countywide membership, deplored any plan that may "leave the most marginalised dependant on the whims of the rich and powerful."

In their latest news bulletin, the CDP also lamented Ireland's continuing culture of charity and patronizing of 'good causes'. Rights came first for their members.

Here is the full text:

"With a general election looming the Government has taken an innovative response to stretching the Dormant Accounts Fund to meet the needs of disadvantaged communities. Such communities include people with disabilities. The government is set to advertise for donations from wealthy individuals to co-finance community projects.

Now forgive us for being naïve at the Network but have they been listening to us at all? We are looking for rights not charity!

Projects such as our own that seek to empower our members to participate as equals in society should be supported by a

government that purports to encourage active citizenship.

Our government has statutory obligations in relation to the education, health and welfare of its people. Seeking charitable donations from wealthy benefactors will leave the most marginalized dependant on the whims of the rich and powerful.

Pick up a copy of the Irish glossy magazines to see that Ireland still has a culture of charity and patronizing what are deemed as good causes. People with disabilities, their families, carers and advocates at this stage of development in Irish society should expect more. We are entitled to more.

We still want a statutory underpinning of our rights by our government to services and a quality of life that is just and fair in 2006. People with disabilities are much more than recipients of charity, we are equal citizens and want to be recognised as such.

Funding needs to be streamed under the government commitment in the Disability Act 2005 (through) sectoral plans for the Department of Communications, Marine and Natural Resources; Enterprise, Trade and Employment; Environment, Heritage and Local Government: Health and Children; and Social and Family Affairs and Transport.

The Kerry Network of People with Disabilities is focused on empowering our members, and we will continue to advocate

on the expressed needs of our members and lobby for change.

The Network will continue to apply for funds to continue to develop our capacity as a Network of people with disabilities to respond to our members needs and to become stronger advocates for change. People with disabilities must be central to the design and delivery of services for them. This should include the distribution of our country's new found wealth and prosperity."



Volunteer enters publishing aged 92

JOSEPH Neylon, a highly valued member of Ennis CDP, has entered the publishing world at the age of 92.

His book, 'Many Changes in My Lifetime' was launched in Ennis on October 2nd by Minister for Labour Affairs, Tony Killeen.

During nearly a century of dramatic social and political change, Joseph recalls his experiences as a farmer, as an aircrew member with the RAF and tells of his time living in Clare, England, East Africa, India and Arabia. He wrote the book in memory of his wife Kathleen and for all who bear the name of Neylon.

Ennis CDP staff and fellow-volunteers are very proud of Joseph. The CDP helped organise the book-launch. Call into Ennis Bookshop on Abbey Street to purchase a copy.



Wall art in Cork city.

Volunteers quench blaze on Clare Island

YOU are on holidays, enjoying the peace of a place far from noisy parts of Ireland. Your hotel goes on fire, but you hear no siren, or see no fire engine. Instead you see a diverse crew of islanders, armed with fire extinguishers and fire blankets running about the place.

Welcome to Clare Island's unofficial fire service!

This was the scene last August 16th when a fire broke out on the Bay View Hotel on Clare Island, the Mayo island south of Achill and west of Westport town.

Three rooms were completely gutted and it took hours to quell the fire completely. Yet without the help of the local islanders, and the availability of a fire hydrant on site, Clare Island's only hotel, which employs 12 people during the tourist season, would have burnt down.

Now CDP co-ordinator Donal O'Shea has again made a call for a proper fire service on the island.

In response, Mayo County Council say it is not practical to station firefighting units on the three largest inhabited islands off Co Mayo - Clare Island, Inishturk and Inishbiggle (combined population: 300).



"It's not about looking for something that's not practical," says Kathy Gallagher, of Clare Island Development Company, the name the local CDP goes by. "Islanders are practical people, but relying on people's goodwill isn't good enough. People had to deal with a hotel fire without protective clothing or the proper equipment."

"Obviously we're not looking for a large town type of fire service, but a practical system, like the health service on the island. There are plenty of volunteers on the island, but proper training, equipment and clothing are needed. Also, some system to transport water would be required."

A number of years ago, after a lot of lobbying, smoke alarms and fire extinguishers were fitted in islanders' homes. Now the Bay View fire has brought home the island's vulnerability to bigger fires.

Comhdhail Náisiúnta na nÉireann (The Irish Islands Federation) is currently developing a policy on this issue for all of the islands, and a spokesperson said that she supported a fire service for all of the islands once proper safety was adhered to.



Did you ever hear Ringsend women talk?

- Project seeks 50 groups to screen Vagina Monologues

THIRTEEN women from Ringsend performed 'The Vagina Monologues' in front of a packed Mansion House in Dublin last year. The performance went down a storm and has now been made into a DVD that Ringsend Action Project CDP hope will be seen by thousands of women around the country. They are looking for 50 community projects to help them screen it, writes Ringsend development worker, Claire Casey:

"During last year's UN 16 Days of Action Against Violence Against Women, Ringsend Action Project staged a performance of 'The Vagina Monologues' at the Mansion House in Dublin. We put the play on as part of our ongoing work to raise awareness of domestic violence.

"The play explores attitudes to women's bodies and highlights issues relating to violence against women. The production was the first in Ireland by a local community group and it was performed by 13 local women, ranging in age from 32 to 72, including two sets of sisters and a mother and daughter who performed a piece together.

"The original intention had been to perform at a local community centre, but the group only had rights to put the play on for one night and the demand for tickets from family and friends of the cast alone meant that a big

venue was required.

"In the end, the play was performed to a sell-out audience of 600 people at the Mansion House and was an experience never to be forgotten by performers and audience alike. The group had altered the American script a little in order to 'Dublinise' it and allow the women to speak in their own voices and this made the show a very special one indeed for everyone.

And it was all filmed for a DVD which includes a short film about the making of the play.

So, as part of the UN's anti-violence campaign this year, RAP are looking for 50 women's groups around Ireland to show the DVD during the 16 Days of Action on a particular day.

The 16 Days run from November 25th to December 10th. The plan is that at the same time on a given day we could have 2,000+ women all over the country watching the women from Ringsend perform The Vagina Monologues."

If your group and/or other groups you might know of are interested in taking part in this nationwide showing of the performance, contact Aileen Foran at RAP on 01-6607558 or email: raponforan@eircom.net.

What is 'The Vagina Monologues'?

'THE Vagina Monologues' is a play made up of a varying number of monologues read by a varying number of women. It was started in 1996 by playwright Eve Ensler who performed all the monologues herself. It has been performed around the world since then, from Ringsend to Russia, by many thousands of people.

Every monologue somehow relates to the vagina, be it through sex, love, rape, menstruation, mutilation, masturbation, birth, orgasm, the variety of names for the vagina, or simply as a physical aspect of the female body. A recurring theme throughout the piece is the vagina as a tool of female empowerment, and the ultimate embodiment

of individuality. Some monologues include:

- I Was Twelve, My Mother Slapped Me: a chorus describing many young women's and girls' first menstrual period.
- My Angry Vagina, in which a woman humorously rants about injustices wrought against the vagina, such as tampons, douches, and the tools used by OB/GYNs
- My Vagina Was My Village, a monologue compiled from the testimonies of Bosnian women subjected to rape camps.

There has been feminist as well as conservative criticism of the 'Vagina Monologues'.

(Source: www.wikipedia.org)

New centre for Southill

- 10 years wait but it's finally being built

By GEARÓID Mac GIOBÚIN

Perhaps lessons can be learned from Southill's ten-year wait for a community centre. Their experience is replicated all over the country where chaotic planning and funding processes keep towns and estates waiting years to obtain badly needed social facilities.



SOUTHILL in Limerick city is at last to get a purpose-built community centre. Construction began in March and over 20 community groups operating in Southill took part in an Open Day to mark the turning of the first sod.

So how is it that a project for which planning first started in 1998, had to wait until 2006 to finally see work begin?

Originally funding was to be obtained from the Department of Sport and Tourism and a prominent local philanthropist. When Limerick City council came up with their regeneration plan for Southill, the project stalled: as time passed, several of the people involved left, others came & went.

The plans for the community centre got a kickstart in May, 2005, when a new steering committee – which includes Southill CDP – came together.

Four months later, two steering committee members (PAUL Partnership and Limerick Youth Service) hired a full time development

worker to drive the project to the build stage. During all this time, some of the groups, which had signed up for the original community centre, had located different premises. New groups had to be found, and the centre design had to be altered with their needs in mind.

By November, the development worker, Karen O'Donnell-O'Connor had funding in place from seven different government sources. Wait for it - the Sport Capital Fund, the Young Persons Services and Facilities Fund, the Dormant Accounts Fund, the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme, the HSE and the Dormants Accounts Fund (**PHEW!**). And that's not to mention the the J.P. McManus Fund.

In December, the project finally went to tender.

According to Nuala Rennison of Southill CDP the space will be "an area centre that will give the community a new focus."

Karen O'Donnell-O'Connor has since

moved to a new job with Limerick Paul Partnership but feels strongly that the centre will provide a much better facility for existing groups, while the new community café will give local people a safe place to socialise.

Due for completion in Autumn 2007, Southill's new service-based community centre will house Limerick Youth Service, Southill Intervention Project, Southill Afterschool Group, O'Malley Park Remedial Works Project, Southill Family Resource Centre Crèche, as well as a purpose built sports hall and handball court.

See you at the grand opening, where we can discuss how there must surely be more efficient ways for Ireland to plan the basic fabric of our social infrastructure!

- For information about Southill's new community centre, contact: **Jennifer O'Brien, Southill Community Centre Development Worker at 085-7243282.**

Joy-riding at the Hilton

DUBLIN Airport's Hilton Hotel is the venue for the 'National Conference on Joy-riding.' The conference, organised by the Priorswood Joy-riding Taskforce, will see the launch of the report 'The Nature and Impact of Joy-riding in Priorswood' by Michael Rush and Aogán Mulcahy of UCD.

It is hoped that the conference will launch a fresh debate on the issue. According to Noel Kelly of the Joy-riding Taskforce Committee, the Taskforce has not been an effective response to the issue, its area of focus being too narrow.

Policing forums need to be looked at as providing a more effective solution, Noel feels, allowing concerned groups and individuals to actively pursue answers, not just respond to community pressures.

"Because of the animosity towards the police in certain areas, there are reports of a 'slow-to-no response rate' by Gardai to calls about criminal activity. They only seem to deal with serious incidents, and then are seen to

come in with a heavy hand. Even within the Gardai, community policing is still seen as a softie-softie approach."

With this in mind, Garda Inspector Philip King will address the conference on 'Local Policing For As A Response to Crime', followed by panel discussion and a Q&A session. The conference will end at lunch-time on an interactive input session presented by Blue Drum development arts specialists.

The event is open to the public and costs €50 for statutory & funded groups and €25 for community groups (including full lunch and CD copy of report). To book, send payment and your full contact details to Priorswood Task Force on Joyriding, Priorswood CDP, The Outreach Centre, Clonsaugh Drive, Priorswood, Dublin 17, before November 1st 2006.

- For further information please contact the Priorswood Task Force on Joy-riding on tel: 01-8486458 or email: maryl.outreach@oceanfree.net

Profiling typical joyriders

ACCORDING to established research, males are six times more likely than females to have ever stolen a car. Most car thieves embark on their criminal career at a relatively young age. Starting ages of as young as 10 years are not unusual.

Many of those engaging in different categories of car theft share a common demographic profile, says the report titled: 'The Nature and Impact of Joy-riding in Priorswood – A Report to the Priorswood Task Force on Joy-riding'.

Moyross DOES have a voice

By ALLEN MEAGHER

AFTER two children were severely burned in a petrol attack in Moyross and riots took place on the same weekend between local youths and Gardai, Radio 2's Gerry Ryan wanted to know had anyone in Moyross a voice.

There was a good reason the 40-plus community groups were silent on the first day. Shock! The petrol attack that nearly killed the children (two local teenagers helped pull them heroically from the blaze) shocked the nation.

EMERGENCY RESPONSES

An oft-talked of Moyross communications committee had not yet got off the ground, but it was just about to start up in record speed. Over the coming week, at least eight community representatives spoke out. And many residents condemned the violence on radio where they could speak without fear of being identified and targeted.

Moyross is home to 'Changing Ireland' and has been for five years. Where previously there were murders (five now in five years), the attitude by community representatives to the media was to keep the head down, say nothing and it will pass.

This time, everyone downed tools ('Changing Ireland' for six days) and worked with the media.

STATEMENT

Identifiable community representatives needed to speak and elaborate on the problems (and preferred solutions) in the area. If not, there was a queue of commentators and politicians ready to denounce, pronounce and announce.

By Monday afternoon, the first working day after the burning and riots, community

representatives agreed on a public statement (of sympathy, condemnation and an appeal for calm). It was sent out to over 30 media organisations.

PROBLEMS IDENTIFIED

Our first visitor was an 'Irish Times' journalist who focused in her main report on the fact that houses in Moyross (and other city housing estates in Limerick) sell for €30,000 and lower.

Meanwhile, the sensationalist 'Evening Herald' ran a story headlined 'The Living Hell That Is Moyross' without quoting anyone whatsoever to back up the label. Two complaints were lodged.

Fortunately, at least a dozen people in the community had learned how to work with the media when issuing press releases to announce new initiatives and community successes. They were to the fore in what became a campaign to ensure the community's voice was heard.

And heard it was.

The following are *only some* of the media outlets that gave space or airtime to the community perspective, often giving it prominence in their reports: 'The Irish Times', 'Irish Independent', 'Cork Examiner', 'The Star', the three Limerick city newspapers, Radio 1's Morning Ireland, as well as Drivetime, Limerick's Live 95FM's Ed Myers Show, the Gerry Ryan Show, and Clare FM.

Paddy Flannery, manager of Moyross Community Enterprise Centre and a local resident, did press, radio and television interviews. He commented afterwards: "It was worthwhile. The fact is that we had the capacity in house to take stock and give informed comment rather than issuing fire-brigade-type remarks."

'CALL IN THE ARMY!'

In case you're wondering about 'fire-brigade' responses, Gerry Ryan had wondered aloud

should they send in the army. A couple of days later, I heard the echo of his words on the street as a rumour swept through the children's world that the army was indeed moving in. The children were frightened at the thought.

Limerick Live 95's Ed Myers – a normally sensitive and sympathetic presenter – mentioned Beirut. Hello! The UN were called in to sort out Beirut.

But you couldn't stop such comparisons being made.

One week on – and after another terrible shock, the weekend murder of Frankie Ryan – Moyross was featured on RTE 1's 'Questions and Answers' with four community leaders (three of whom are Moyross residents) spoke on national television for seven minutes. Again, the community condemned violence and criminality.

COMMUNITY VOICE

Next thing, the word was that Moyross needed 'the Ballymun treatment'. Ballymun has been rebuilt and redeveloped and won a Tidy Towns Award this year. But the houses in Moyross are generally very well built – knocking them is not the answer, and this was a message the community got out loud and clear.

"The media work gave people a slight empowerment. If we had said nothing, people would think it's all bad here, that there is no community spirit. People recognise now that there are community groups here. When the Residents Forum met last week, a lot more people turned up than before," said Deirdre O'Driscoll, chairperson of the Community Development Network Moyross (the local CDP).

MILLIE AND GAVIN

- How are Millie and Gavin now? Gavin remains seriously ill, Millie is coming on a bit. They still face a lot of pain and skin grafts ahead and will have a long battle to regain a medium good health. They remain gravely ill.

Dublin campaigner to address Kofi Annan



Photo: Marek Branny, ATD 4th World

EXACTLY two years to the day since she spoke at a public gathering for the first time, development worker Nan O'Brien is to give the most important speech of her life. At the UN's headquarters in New York.

An employee of STAG CDP in Dublin, Nan will address UN leader Kofi Annan, his senior officials and ambassadors from around the world at a ceremony in New York to mark October 17th.

She has three minutes to make her key points.

Nan is a Traveller, and therefore has personal experience of poverty/exclusion. Her speech is not focused particularly on issues facing Travellers, but

on the issues facing every one of the hundreds of thousands of people throughout Ireland who face poverty and exclusion in their day-to-day lives.

Nan will argue the point that the UN needs to examine poverty in every country, not just in so-called developing country. Any anti-poverty strategy which is to have a chance of working must, she will say, include the voices and ideas of those who experience poverty and exclusion.

Nan's trip is being co-ordinated by the ATD 4th World group and she travels with the full support of her STAG CDP colleagues.



Subversive work: CDPs go undercover

CAMOUFLAGE is sometimes the best approach when pushing the Community Development approach. After all, it works well in nature.

In Dublin - Traveller CDPs have previously run 'Recycling' or 'Job-seeking' projects to lure men into development work.

In north Mayo - the Women of the North West CDP opened an 'Art Gallery' which was, in effect, a covert operation, because it

allowed women to join up without being suspected of joining a feminist or rights-orientated organisation. You can be sure the women attending 'art' classes learnt a lot more than the brushstrokes of Jack B. Yeats and Van Gogh.

In Donegal, they are masters of this craft. Instead of opening a CDP office, they opened a second-hand bookshop.

If it seems a bit off the mark, read on.

These people know what they are at. The bookshop approach may be one of the most subversive and inspired of decisions the management committee of Pobail le Chéile will ever make.

On these pages, CDP co-ordinator Paul Kernan and chairperson Caren Ní Bhléine write and explain how they put community development principles into action around Falcarragh.

Take a leaf out of Pobail le Chéile's approach

Paul Kernan, project co-ordinator, writes:

POBAIL le Chéile, the CDP for the district of Cloughaneely in north west Donegal, has been 'on the go' since 1999 and with staff in place since 2002. We started out renting a room in a local centre in Ballina housing estate, Falcarragh, but recognised we needed a more flexible and larger venue.

In the summer of 2003 we found just the place, an old unit that had housed a knitting factory with a small showroom to the front and a soulless cement block to the rear.

Our greatest dilemma was how best to utilise the 25 square metres that was the former knitting business 'showroom'.

VOLUNTEERISM

After a meitheal-style work-in drawing on the skills of local volunteers and sponsorship from businesses we renovated the place and opened our doors to the public at the new venue on October, 15th, 2003.

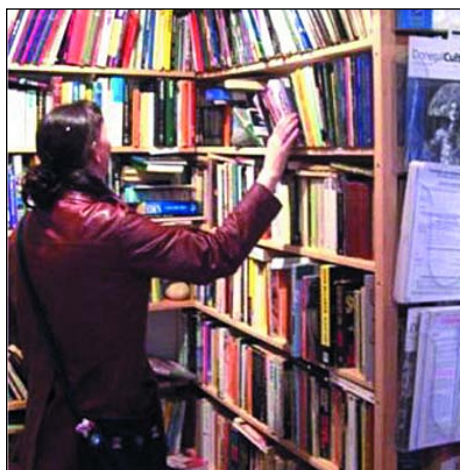
The think-in about what to do with the 'showroom' continued. The committee considered everything from office spaces, internet cafes, second-hand clothes shop, but finally came up with a winner - a community book exchange.

NEEDS-BASED

The district lost its mobile library service the previous year, making it a 65 mile round trip to leave back your library book (a good excuse for late returns!) and there was no local bookshop so the call went out for donations - anything was accepted, school books, magazines, novels, children's books, English and Gaeilge - and anything and everything is what arrived!

Within three weeks we had 2500 titles and a friendly carpenter re-modelled some donated timber, transforming it into 120 metres of shelving and we were open for business.

The local townland is known as 'Bedlam' which accurately reflected the frenetic state of things in the new centre, so we called the 'shop' Bedlam Books - Siopa Leabhair.



The CDP office in Falcarragh, Co. Donegal, is also a second-hand bookshop.

OUTREACH

We sell donated books for a euro or two, or people can donate books and exchange them for fresh titles and most people put a few coins in the donations box as well. Such has been the local response that:

1. We have supplied 13 cases of books to the community centre on Tory Island.
2. We maintain book trolleys in the day centre and community residential unit for older people.
3. We supply books to the local after school club run by Pobal Eascarrach.
4. Books also go to the local visitor's centre in Falcarragh and the Dyslexia Association Branch regularly collects books, annuals, jigsaws and children's games free of charge.

From a community development viewpoint, the shopfront makes that first visit to the local CDP a less threatening experience.

As Caren Ní Bhléine, the PLC cathaoirleach says, if we put a desk and a computer in the window then passers-by might be put off calling in - we might seem too busy or too 'official'.

INCLUSION

The shop has proved very popular as a drop-in venue and tea and coffee has become compulsory for visitors.

"It brings in people that otherwise wouldn't come into a CDP office," says Caren. "Most people are pleasantly surprised to find our project here in the bookshop."

The CDP is conscious of people with literacy needs, referring people to their Irish language literacy project. The shop sells CDs and tapes as well as books.

The 'shop' setting has also allowed students and others to make work experience placements and given people in recovery a gentle re-introduction to the world of work.

Another bonus - the steady trickle of donations ALL go towards the costs of activities of the Over 55s group Cumann Cairdeas and the Community Youth Project.

SUSTAINABILITY

A successful and very profitable model of project sustainability, it has maybe contributed towards the opening of two new bookshops in the area! (which means more second-hand titles for Bedlam Books). Pobail le Chéile can also probably boast the best set of 'books' of any CDP in the country.

'A stint here beats any conference'

"THREE or four members of the committee come in and do stints in the office/bookshop. You'll find out far more about what is happening in society working in a CDP office than reading any number of reports or attending conferences."

- Paul Kernan, project co-ordinator, Pobail le Chéile CDP, Gort a Choirce, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal.

Community journalism project

- a skills taster aimed at young people

POBAIL Le Chéile CDP and its monthly newsletter 'Glór don Phobal' (Community Voice) have developed a skills taster project for people under 25 who are interested in any aspect of the print and journalism industry.

The CDP won the support and involvement of the main local newspaper group who publish 'The Derry People' and 'Donegal News'. Support is also coming from local print and design firm Celtic Cards who will help deliver some of the information and training elements of the initiative.

The project aims to give young people a taste of the steps and functions involved in producing a newspaper, newsletter, magazine or other print media product.

The cub reporters will learn basic copy writing skills, photographic skills, and they will then produce stories, reports and pictures of local events. These pieces will be carried in 'Glór don Phobal' as well as in the sponsoring regional papers.

The CDP co-ordinator, Paul Kernan, himself a former sub-editor with the News Letter in Belfast, says participants will gain an insight into an important area of potential employment and an appreciation of the skills required. Furthermore, the CDP and its newsletter stands to benefit from their input to the CDP's own paper.

Set to run from the end of September through to the start of December, the course will end with an exhibition of the participants' work and the presentation of Certificates of Achievement.

For more information, contact: Pobail Le Chéile CDP, Gort a Choirce, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal. Tel. Paul Kernan, project co-ordinator or Caren Ní Bhleine, chairperson, on 074-918-0111. E-mail: pobailc@eircom.net Website: www.pobaillecheile.com

Magazine's 6 magic ingredients

- It is tri-lingual (English, Irish and Polish).
- The competition prizes are always sponsored.
- There are adverts.
- Printing costs €150 per edition.
- 12 A4 pages monthly.
- The CDP co-ordinator used to work in the mainstream print media.

All well, except for the rule-changes

- Volunteer in the chair: Caren Ní Bhleine

CAREN Ní Bhleine's motivation for volunteering is simple: "I just thought it would be worthwhile thing to do. If you have children yourself, you see the need for improvements in your area."

"Now we have a drop-in service for young people on a Friday night where they can chat, play music, make tea and hang out. Many have nowhere else to go and we offer a safe, insured, supervised and welcoming space."

Some people are dismissive of voluntary work.

"They say, 'You can get unpaid work anywhere,'" admits Caren, though it doesn't bother her.

"Four members of the original management committee that set up the CDP are still involved, which is great," commented Caren. "We spend so much time building up people that it is good to keep them."

However, Caren is unhappy that the new board-membership rules are being imposed from the top-down rather than through consultation:

"Right now we have a 17-year-old on our committee who is actively involved with us for

2 hours can make a world of difference...

Join the Community Volunteer Programme -

Contact Pobail Le Chéile become a registered volunteer
Training, support and supervision given to all volunteers

Giving a little means a lot...
Pobail Le Chéile, Cloughamee Community Development Project,
Gort a Choirce, Leitir Ceanainn, Co. Donegal. Tel. 074-918-0111. E-mail: pobailc@eircom.net Website: www.pobaillecheile.com

two years. She's on our board of management since January, but we will lose her and her skills while she's still in her early 20s. We understand the spirit of the new rules. But they will cause as many problems as they aim to address.

"It is crazy! We are going to lose two of our most experienced people soon from the board through the new board-membership rules. Though I understand they can stay involved with the CDP in other ways," said the chairperson.

At present, there are 13 members on the management committee. A Volunteer Training Programme was launched in September to attract newcomers and give them training.

They then volunteer in different projects and schemes and serve on our various sub-groups. Some of them are people volunteering for the first time, said Caren.

She encourages people to check out the CDP's website, to see what they are up to. Or you can ring 074-918-0111. It's quite likely one of the volunteers will answer the CDP phone-line, as Caren did when 'Changing Ireland' rang.

Clár Oibrithe Deonacha Pobail – 'ón bheagán go dtí'n morán'!

TA Pobail Le Chéile ag eagrú clár earcaíochta agus traenála daofa seo sa phobal, a bheadh toilteanach am a chaitheamh go deonach ag obair ar scéimeanna pobail áitiúla agus le tionscnaimh óige, clubanna óige nó ag obair le aostaigh.

Tá foirmeacha iarratais le fáil ó Phobail Le Chéile agus cuirfear traenáil ar fáil do gach iarrathóir i gcúrsaí sábháltacht leanaí, comhionannas agus prionsabail obair forbartha agus clubanna óige.

Is feidir daoine a chuir ag obair leis na hábhair is mó ina bhfuil a suim agus fiú iad sin nach bhfuil ach uair nó dhó le sparáil acu anois agus arís, moltar daofa clárú.

Beidh earcaíocht do oibrithe deonacha ar siúl go dtí lár mí Deireadh Fómhair agus cuirfear traenáil ar fáil tráthnónta agus deireadh seachtainí i mí Deireadh Fómhair agus mí na Samhna, ag amanna a bhéas foirstineach.

Tuillleadh eolais ó Phól ag Pobail Le Chéile ar 074-9180111.

Recruiting members for youth project

THE Community Youth Project started enrolment for new members on September 8th. The project operates a drop-in night every Friday between 7 and 9pm (with darts, table tennis, table football, internet access, tea & coffee).

It also organises trips and outings – the latest outings planned are Halloween at the Ulster American folk park and Ice Skating in Belfast, as well as cross-community and cross-border youth projects and exchanges. Membership is open to young people 13 and over who are at secondary school.

Irish promoted among Parent and Toddler group

THE Parent & Toddler Group meets every Thursday morning at Pobail Le Chéile CDP for two hours. It costs €2 per family and welcomes parents, grandparents, childminders and children from birth to 3 years.

The CDP organises occasional trips and outings for the children and hosts visits by play leaders, singers and health professionals. Irish is encouraged, making the Parent & Toddler Group a good place for non-native speakers and their children to get a gentle start.

The Thursday morning meetings began again in September.

A YARD please

POBAIL le Chéile have plans for a Centre for Youth Arts, Recreation and Drama (YARD) in association with a local business consortium.

The YARD project got some seed funding under the Department's Once-Off Grants Scheme and the Saint Stephen's Green Trust and should be ready to open for local young people by Christmas.

Community Volunteering Programme

- targets even those with an hour to spare

By PAUL KERNAN

POBAIL Le Chéile CDP are organising a programme of recruitment and training for local people who want to volunteer their time for local community work and youth work projects, youth clubs or working with older people.

The focus of our Local Volunteer Development Programme is that we are offering a short programme of training, can provide support and supervision for volunteers and can place people in local projects like childcare, youth work, intergenerational work, and general helping out like in Bedlam Books Siopa Leabhair (aka the local CDP).

We believe there are still lots of people out there interested in volunteering, but we all have less time, there are concerns about insurance issues, child protection issues and people don't want to be sucked into never-ending volunteering. So, we are offering placements for people who can offer just an hour or two in areas where it can really make a difference.

Application forms were drawn up and

everyone who fills one out will be offered some training in the fields of child protection, equality, and principles of youth and community development work.

People can be matched up to the kind of area that interests them most and people with even an odd hour to spare every now and again are encouraged to sign up.

Recruitment of volunteers will run up to the middle of October and training is being held at suitable times on evenings and weekends through October and November.

Pobail Le Chéile has found places for over a dozen volunteers and can also match volunteers to other community projects in the area and will support people in their work. Volunteers can get a small allowance as a contribution toward their travel and out of pocket expenses.

Anyone interested in volunteering can text 'volunteer' with their name and number to a designated mobile phone number. They can also contact us by more conventional means.

Prospective volunteers will start off with a few hours familiarisation and then sign up as a volunteer.

Tionscnamh iriseoireachta/cló pobail

CHUIR Pobail le Chéile, CDP agus an nuachtlitr míosúil 'Glór don Phobal', tionscnamh le chéile atá ag díriú orthu sin faoi 25 a mbeadh suim acu i ngné ar bith den tionscail iriseoireachta nó priontála agus a thabharfadh blas daofa ar na scileanna a bheadh riachtannach. Tá an nuachtán réigiúnach an 'Derry People' agus an chomhlucht deartha 'Celtic Cards' sásta tacaíocht a thabhairt don tionscnamh agus a bheith páirteach sa ghné eolais agus traenála de.

Tá sé mar aidhm ag an tionscnamh ná go bhfaigheadh daoine óga blas de na céimeanna agus de na feidhmeanna atá mar pháirt de fhoilsiú nuachtáin, iriseáin, nuachtliitreacha nó a leitheidí. Gheobhadh na rannpháirtithe treoir

i scileanna cóipscribhneoireacht, i scileanna fótagrafach agus i bhfoilsiú scéalta, tairiscí agus griangraif de imeachtaí áitiúla. Bheadh a saothar foilsithe i nGlór don Phobal agus ins an pháipéar Áitiúil comh maith.

Mhínigh Pól Kernan, co-ordnóir CDP, agus fo-eagarthoir ar an Nuacht Litir i mBeal Feirsde tráth, go dtabharfadh an tionscnamh léargas do na rannpháirtithe ar ghné tabhachtach de acmhainn fostaíochta agus tuigbheáil ar na scileanna a bheadh riachtannach chuige sin. Comh maith le sin bhainfeadh an CDP agus a nuachtlitr tairbhe as a n-inchuir ina tionscnamh agus a nuachtlitr áitiúil.

Tá sé ar siúl go tús mhí na Nollag agus críochnóidh an cúrsa le taispeantas de shaothar na rannpháirtithe agus bronnadh teastais.

Tionscnamh Óige an Phobail ag clárú baill úa do 2006-2007

CUIRFEAR tús le clárú do bhaill úra, ar an Aoine an 8ú lá ar a 7.00 i.n. ag Pobail le chéile, Gort a Choirce. Tugann an tionscnamh deis don óige chun 'bualadh isteach', gach oíche Aoine idir a 7.00 agus a 9.00 i.n. [bíonn leadóg agus peil boird, dairteanna, deis dul ar an idirlíon, agus tae agus caifé ar fáil ann daofa.] agus

eagraíonn siad turais agus imeachtaí [Samhain ins an Ulster American Folk Park agus Scátail ar Oighear - sin iad na chead turais eile ata eagraithe] comh maith le tionscnaimh óige agus malairtí trasphobail agus trasteorann. Tá ballraíocht oscailte do dhaltai meánscoile ós cionn 13 bliain d'aois.

Clárú don Ghrúpa Tuismitheoirí agus Leanaí, Páistí le Chéile

Cuireann an grúpa fáilte roimh thuismitheoir, sean-tuismitheoirí, feighlithe agus leanaí faoi thrí bliana d'aois. Casann siad ar a chéile gach Diardaoin idir a 10.30 r.n. agus 12.30, ar chostas de €2 an teaghlach. Déanann muid corr thuras a eagrú comh maith le cuairteanna ó cheannairí súgartha, ó cheoltóirí, agus ó shaineolaithe sláinte. Moltar an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus faigheann siad seo nach ón cheantar iad, seans an teanga a chlos.

HELP ME HORACE

Write to:
Help Me Horace, 'Changing Ireland', c/o CDN Moyross,
Community Enterprise Centre, Moyross, Limerick.



Will I bring a JCB?

Help Me Horace!

I SEE there is a Joyriding Conference being held in the Hilton Hotel in Dublin soon. This is great. It's about time we all came together. I find those new BMWs a right bugger to get into. Is there anything special I need to do to gain admission, or are my hospital reports and Garda score-sheet good enough?

By the way, my best mate makes out it's actually a conference to stop joyriding. He hasn't a clue, huh! I'm thinking of arriving in a JCB just for kicks. I'd normally burn it out but I guess there will be serious competition afterwards for transport home, yeah?

An bhfuil dhaoine eile bheith caint as Gaeilge?

Eamon 'Go Tapaídh' Carr,
Le Cheile Joyriding Club,
All over the Capitol,
Ireland

Hi Eamon,

Joyriding Conference. You sure it aint one of those partner-swapping events? Don't bother with the JCB. Hop on Dublin Bus – for €1.10 they guarantee you'll be high if you go up on the top deck. Sin é!

Who really won the Ryder Cup?

My Dear Horace,
WHAT role did the Community Development Programme play in supporting and empowering Europe to beat the USA in the Ryder Cup? I suspect we played a major role. Herbert,

The Y(outh) Club,
'Holding It Together' CDP,
Co. Kildare

Hello Herbert,

How right you are! Not many people know this (until now I guess) but Europe's golf team was secretly coached in the community development approach. We impressed on them the utmost importance of consulting people before you make any plans. So, they consulted with Met Eireann and found September brings mad rain, wild winds and hard hail every year. September it was.

I streaked across the 18th fairway just to be

on the safe side.

Why have we no network?

Help Me Horace!

ONE-IN-TEN or 400,000 people in Ireland have a disability. Also, the recent census found that one in ten people resident in Ireland, or 400,000, are immigrants. According to another survey, one in ten people is gay. And all these groups have organisations at local and national level.

I'm straight, born and raised on this wet, traffic-clogged island and do not have a disability and I was feeling very left out until I learned that only one-in-ten people read surveys. (Yahoo! Only me and 399,999 more people actually know what's going on in this country).

The thing is - I never meet up with the other survey-readers and I haven't noticed a networking group in my local area. Am I missing a trick here? Where's the government funding? Will the CDP set one up please?

Christian O'Hare,
Navan,
Co. Meath

Dear Christian O'Hare,

The Central Statistics Office is the place for you. If you can't get a job there, just hand around outside and you'll meet fellow survey nuts on their smoking breaks.

Send your staff over the edge! - for educational purposes

EVER fancied abseiling down a 150 foot cliff face? Four staff members of the South West Wexford CDP (SWWCDP) were gearing up for it as 'Changing Ireland' went to print.

Lorraine Dunne, Sharon Kennedy, Marie Murphy and Nicola Norris agreed to the Concern Abseil Challenge to raise funds for primary education projects in Africa. They have raised over €1000.

"I'm not a bit nervous," said Lorraine. "I've been practising since I was a child jumping off the porch in front of our house."

The Wexford women (there are no male staff in the project) are to do a practise jump the day before at Dalkey Quarry, Co. Dublin. The next day, on October 8th, they are scheduled to meet in Co. Wicklow for 'The Big One' to abseil down a 150 foot cliff face.



Clondalkin CDPs still in dark on proposed merger

CDPs in Clondalkin in Dublin have endured months of anxious waiting following meetings with the Department to consider reducing the number of projects in the area.

Clondalkin has eight CDPs altogether, with four of them in North Clondalkin alone.

According to Andy Lane of North Clondalkin CDP, "There was an opinion that there were too many CDPs. The Minister asked civil servants to look into it. The CDPs met with two or three civil servants over a number of months after which the Minister asked to reduce the number of CDPs by two (from eight to six)."

"Suggestions made by a number of the CDPs were not accepted. The Department and the Clondalkin CDPs couldn't come to an agreement, so in May, the Clondalkin CDPs came together and publicly announced their opposition to the plan," explained Andy.

Since then the CDPs have felt in limbo. They have all been asked to submit their 3-year workplans for December, yet are still in the dark on whether the merger idea is still going ahead or not.

The CDPs want to find out if a decision has been made, yet are unwilling to press the Department for an answer for fear the news might be negative.

"Nobody knows where this is coming from," continued Andy. "There was a suggestion that the needs of men in the area weren't being catered for, but no one is saying that the CDPs weren't being run properly or that there was a problem with costs. Most of the Clondalkin CDPs are well-established, with some even owning their own premises, running them at minimal cost."

"The uncertainty is just awful, I'm not looking forward to drawing up these workplans," said Bernadette Beatley of Rowlagh Women's Group which deals with eight estates in the area. "I think these CDPs are more in need now than they ever were. The population in North Clondalkin has grown hugely in the last few years."

On the whole, the Clondalkin CDPs feel that the case for merging hasn't been made. For them, the number of CDPs in an area can have as much to do with the level of involvement and the needs of a community as anything else. They also point to the Department's own Needs Analysis Study

Gearóid Mac Giobúin reports



Gearóid would like projects involved in innovative peer education work to please call him on 087 6267563.

which found that there was no evidence of duplication between the CDPs. It is not clear that one large centralised project is more effective in reaching people than a number of smaller ones.

This again raises questions over the vulnerability of CDPs, and over their independence, especially when they might be working in a radical way that challenges Government policies.

One local CDP worker feared that the upcoming General Election might cause clarification to be delayed even further.

"We need an answer on this, in order to move on," says Bernadette Beatley, "It affects your ability to plan. It's been a very hard and stressful year: meetings with the Department every month, debriefing meetings, meetings with our staff. Three meetings a week is a lot for a voluntary management group."

The Clondalkin Projects are: North Clondalkin CDP, Clondalkin Traveller's Development Group, Rowlagh Women's Group, Clondalkin Women's Network, Bawneogue Women's Development Group, Ronanstown CDP, Quarryvale Community House, Dolcain Project SW Clondalkin.

Department seeks 'a way forward'

The Department currently provides funding of €818,200 annually to eight Community Development Projects (CDPs) based in the Clondalkin area. These projects are engaged in a range of initiatives geared towards alleviating disadvantage, combating social inclusion and promoting active citizenship.

The Department considers that there is overlap alongside significant gaps in the provision of CDP services in the Clondalkin area. To ensure improved services and to better deploy resources, the Department proposed a reduction in the number of CDPs and a realignment of the remaining Projects to meet the service needs of the Clondalkin area. The CDPs

have resisted these proposals.

In order to find a way forward, the Department set up a working group drawn from the CDPs to consider how the initiative might be implemented. The group reported to the Department in May 2006 with a recommendation that the status quo be maintained. This conclusion is at odds with the objectives of the Department.

The Department has considered its position over the summer and intends to meet with each CDP in the coming month in advance of opening discussions on new contracts for the delivery of the CDP from 2007.

- Press Office, the Department of

Ireland's biggest Children's Art Festival

- run by Louisburg CDP, Co. Mayo

TWO O'Clock, Thursday afternoon, September 21st. Breda Ruane is busy doing her bit in the final preparations for the launch that evening of the programme for Sonas 2006, also known as Louisburg Children's Arts Festival. It runs from October 12th-22nd.

Now into its 8th year, the Festival - the biggest of its kind in Ireland - is packed with drama, readings, raffles, sport, multi-media spectacles, puppetry and storytelling. The Festival features workshops on a wide range of subjects from arts & crafts, cookery, dancing, and science to video production, kickboxing and fly-fishing, catering for children between one and 14 years of age.

"Nothing we have done is so rooted in the community," says Breda. "If Louisburg CDP were gone in the morning, Sonas would live on".

For Breda, the festival was always about inclusion. When she came to the CDP eight years ago, she felt something needed to be done to bridge the gap between it and the local community. The festival was started with this in mind.

Now with 20-30 volunteers on the organising committee, funding from local businesses and development bodies, support and involvement from schools all over the surrounding area, including 40 transition year students, Sonas is truly a community event.

"We have over 40 different workshops delivered mostly by local people. We try to match the workshops to the skills of the local community. We also have 15 different shows. This year's theme is puppetry and stories. Every year we also try to tackle different issues. This year features a project titled



'S.O.S. Rainforest Alert', in which pupils from local primary schools explore the increasing threat to the rainforests and communities of Brazil. They bring the issue to life through samba music and shadow puppetry," added Breda. "The festival is a very easy way to deal with contentious subjects in a creative way."

"Schools book in from all over the locality," according to Festival administrator Peg McGreal, "with families and kids traveling in from all around. We have a booking system to ensure everyone gets a seat. We also want to make the event accessible to all. Entry to all performances and workshops is just €3 per child."

• **For further details contact Louisburgh Community Project, Louisburgh Pastoral Centre Long Street Louisburgh Co. Mayo. Tel: 098-66218. E-mail: louisburghproject@eircom.net**

In the next issue: out in December

- **Ann O'Brien speaks on Irish poverty at the UN**
- **Chris O'Leary on victimisation and the importance of speaking out**
- **Moyross in the media – lessons learnt**
- **Interview: Anna Lee, author of 'Community Development: Current Issues and Challenges'**
- **Full contact info for every CDP in Dublin Southside**
- **The Traveller Training Grant Scheme – why such a low take-up by projects?**
- **Report from Louth: The volunteer who knocked on 2000 doors**
- **Code of Practice on Domestic Violence: Does it exclude male victims?**
- **CDPs in Mayo, Limerick and Dublin tackle alcohol abuse, suicide and anti-social behaviour.**

Readers are welcome to suggest story-ideas or to submit articles or notices for consideration. Please email: editor@changingireland.ie or contact Allen on 061-458011. The deadline for the next issue is Friday, November 17th.

'Changing Ireland' is the national magazine of the Community Development Programme and therefore its content must be relevant and of interest to CDPs and those working in community development as staff or volunteers.

'Changing Ireland' evaluated

A FULL-PAGE report on our readers' evaluation results was omitted from this edition due to pressures on space.

The report found – in a nutshell – that readers generally regard the magazine highly or very highly. A criticism: reporting on project work and issues in the North-West and South-West needs to be improved. Thanks to everyone who filled out and returned questionnaires. Full findings in our Winter edition, due out in early December.

Arson attack on worker's family home

THE family home in Mahon, Cork, of Chris O'Leary, an outspoken critic of those engaged in anti-social and criminal behaviour, was attacked by arsonists in July. He and his family had to move out for nine weeks.

Chris is project co-ordinator of Faranree CDP in Cork city since 1998. For the past five years, he has also served as a public representative (he is a Green Party city councillor).

"This was the third attack and the house has been 'bricked' too since we moved back in," said Chris.

"I have been urging residents to take back ownership of their communities. I am very outspoken, because – for me – there are a lot of people who are victims and anti-social and criminal behaviour is perpetuated by people staying silent."

Chris intends to continue his work with the CDP and the city council undeterred. A court case is pending over the attack on his home.

The Winter edition of 'Changing Ireland' will feature a full interview with Chris.

The Community Development Programme: 1990 to now

- There are approximately 2000 volunteers and around 400 staff working in the Community Development Programme today.
- It was established in 1990 in recognition of the role of community development in tackling the causes and effects of poverty and disadvantage. It is administered by the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs.
- The programme is designed to reduce social exclusion by targeting support at

disadvantaged and socially excluded communities.

- There are currently 180 Community Development Projects (CDPs) and 10 support agencies funded under the programme. This is up from 15 CDPs in 1990 and 90 in 1999. The projects are located in recognised disadvantaged areas nationwide, in both urban and rural areas.
- All projects have an anti-poverty, anti-exclusion focus and are managed by local

voluntary management committees.

- Funding of nearly €24m has been allocated to the Programme for 2006.
- Projects are expected to operate as a resource to the communities in which they are located with their main purpose being to work with the community in identifying and tackling poverty and exclusion.
- Many CDPs attract funding from various other sources for work in their communities.

Unique in Europe

THE growth of CDPs in Ireland from 15 projects in 1990 to 180 projects in 2006 is a great achievement, *WRITES MAURICE McCONVILLE*. The Programme is unique in Europe and is a credit to the work of the many volunteers who have developed projects and to the government who have continued to fund them over the years.

Across the length and breadth of the country, CDPs are making a real difference by empowering local people to address the needs in their communities.

As the Programme develops and matures, there is an increased awareness of the barriers to social exclusion. Many of these are deep-seated and even institutionalised in attitudes and behaviour within private and public organisations.

Attitudes towards Travellers and how this translates into policy and practice within local authorities one simple example. Many other barriers are less obvious – for example - the difficulties facing lone parents in accessing education because of high costs and poor attitudes towards childcare.

* *Ed's note: In the Winter edition, Maurice outlines five good reasons for CDPs to establish a national office and outlines why he thinks it is the next step for communities to take.*

The aim of CDP work

THE aim of the Programme is to develop a network of Community Development Projects in communities affected by high unemployment, poverty and disadvantage.

The projects:

- promote the participation of people experiencing poverty and exclusion at all levels of the project.
- must fulfil the terms of their contract with the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, including submitting quarterly accounts, conducting an annual audit and preparing an annual report.

The Programme is focused on addressing poverty and disadvantage, with a particular emphasis on the needs of women and children, those with disabilities, the homeless, lone-parent families, the elderly, the unemployed, young people at risk, Travellers and other disadvantaged groups.

What is a CDP?

- Allen Meagher explains

CORE CHARACTERISTICS

The projects in the Community Development Programme all have a number of common core characteristics: They

- o Have an anti-poverty, anti-exclusion focus and promote the participation of people experiencing poverty and exclusion at all levels of the project.

- Work from community development principles and methods
- Provide support and act as a catalyst for community development activity
- Act as a resource in the communities of which they are a part
- Provide co-ordination and co-operation between community, voluntary and statutory groups in their areas
- Involve representatives of groups which experience poverty and social exclusion within their management structures.

FOCUS:

Most projects are geographically-based. Eg Priorswood CDP or Dungarvan CDP. The Programme also includes projects that have a sectoral focus: there are around ten Traveller projects, ten Women's projects, and other sectorally-focused projects such as Partners (Training for Transformation), Coiste na nIarchimí and the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament.

RESPONSIBILITY:

Some CDPs manage community centres and are responsible for (or, indeed, the catalyst for) bringing in multi-million-euro funding annually from a range of sources.

Other CDPs may belong to an umbrella group running a community centre. In both cases, the CDPs are expected to focus on members of the community who experience the most disadvantage and are the most vulnerable.

RADICAL OR OTHERWISE:

Community development work seeks radical social change and a debate is taking place right now within the sector as to how radical CDPs and other organisations funded through government really are.

According to a recent report published by the Combat Poverty Agency - if CDPs are not radical and challenging to the status quo, the likelihood is they are not achieving their potential. To get a copy of 'Community Development: Current Issues and Challenges' go to the website: www.cpa.ie

WHERE ARE THE PROJECTS?

The projects of the Programme are based in disadvantaged communities within:

- inner-city areas;
- rural area;
- small towns;
- housing estates in suburban areas.

SUPPORT FOR CDPs

Support for the projects and their volunteer management committees is delivered through regional community development agencies and specialist support agencies with expertise in specific issues, e.g. violence against women.

NATIONAL REPRESENTATION

The Programme has a National Advisory Committee (NAC) consisting of CDP staff and volunteers, Department officials and representatives of other agencies. (The NAC is discussed on another page). 'Changing Ireland' is the Programme's national magazine.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

Recent changes in local government structures require CDPs now to submit their plans to city/county development boards for informational purposes, a move designed to improve local integration and avoid duplication of services/initiatives.

The Community Development Programme

1 Programme; 180 Projects - funded through the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

Guide to CDP map 2006

THE Community Development Programme was established in 1990 in recognition of the role of community development in tackling the causes and effects of poverty and disadvantage. In 1990, there were only 15 Community Development Projects (CDPs); now there are 180.

All the projects have an anti-poverty, anti-exclusion focus and work from community development principles and methods. The projects are run by local voluntary management committees and the Programme provides core-funding for project staff and activities.

The Programme funds a Regional Support Agency in each of the six regions (as identified by the map's colour-coding). The agency offices are based in Limerick, Galway, Waterford, Monaghan and Dublin where there are two. The Programme also funds a number of Specialist Support Agencies, for example DESSA which advises projects on disability issues.

NORTHERN PROJECTS (22)

- DONEGAL**
- 1) Action Inishowen CDP
 - 2) Pobail Le Cheile CDP
 - 3) The Rosses CDP
 - 4) Letterkenny CDP
 - 5) Donegal Women's Network
 - 6) Lifford/Clonleigh CDP
 - 7) S.W. Donegal Comm. P'tship,
 - 8) Donegal Travellers CDP
 - 9) Atlantic View CDP

- LEITRIM**
- 10) North Leitrim Women's Centre
 - 11) Lough Allen CDP

- SLIGO**
- 12) Sligo Northside Community Partnership
 - 13) Community Lough Arrow Social Project

- CAVAN**
- 14) Community Connections CDP;
 - 15) South West Cavan CDP

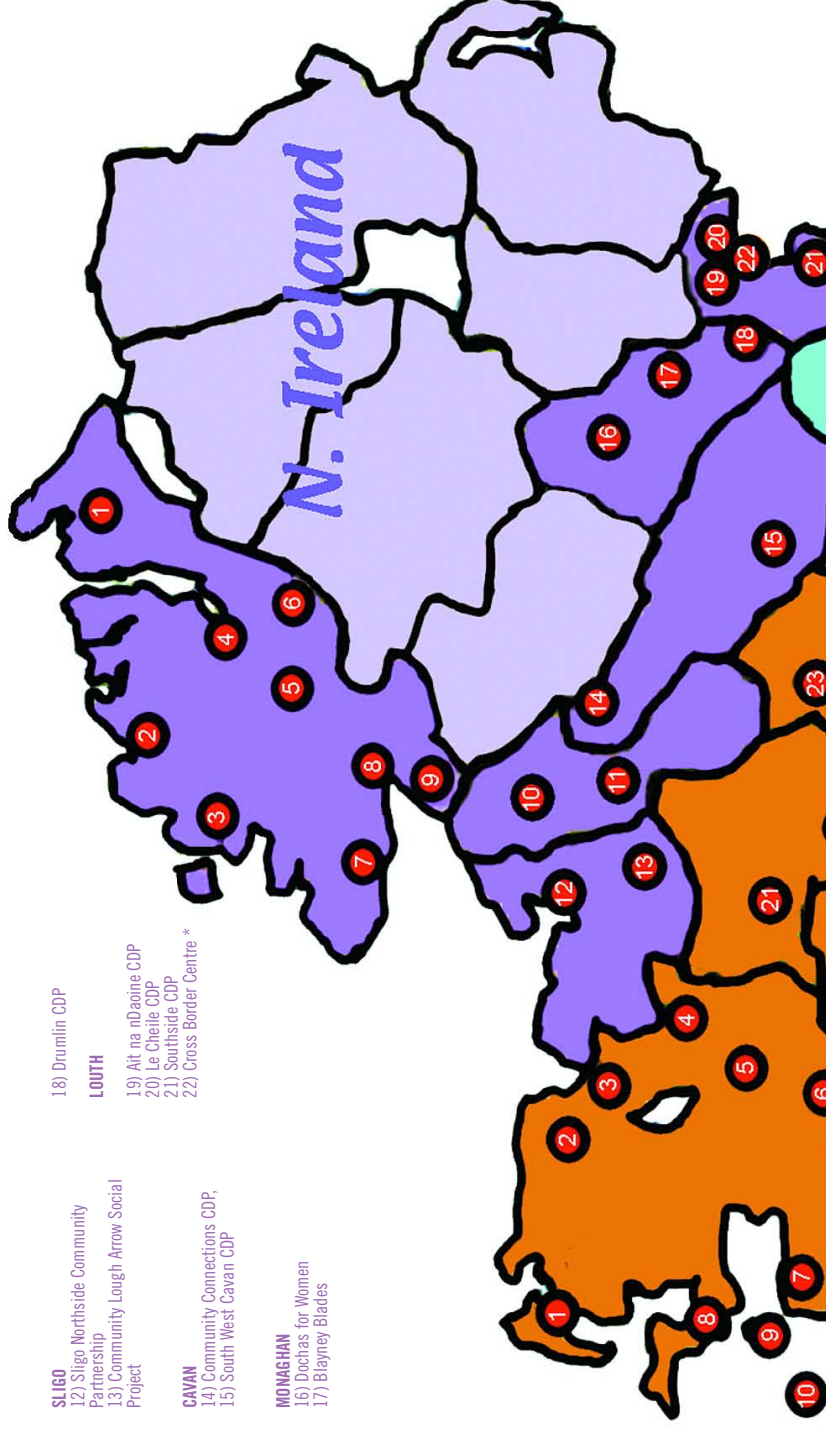
- MONAGHAN**
- 16) Dochas for Women
 - 17) Blayney Blades

- LOUTH**
- 18) Drumlin CDP

- 19) Ait na nDaoiné CDP
- 20) Le Cheile CDP
- 21) Southside CDP
- 22) Cross Border Centre *

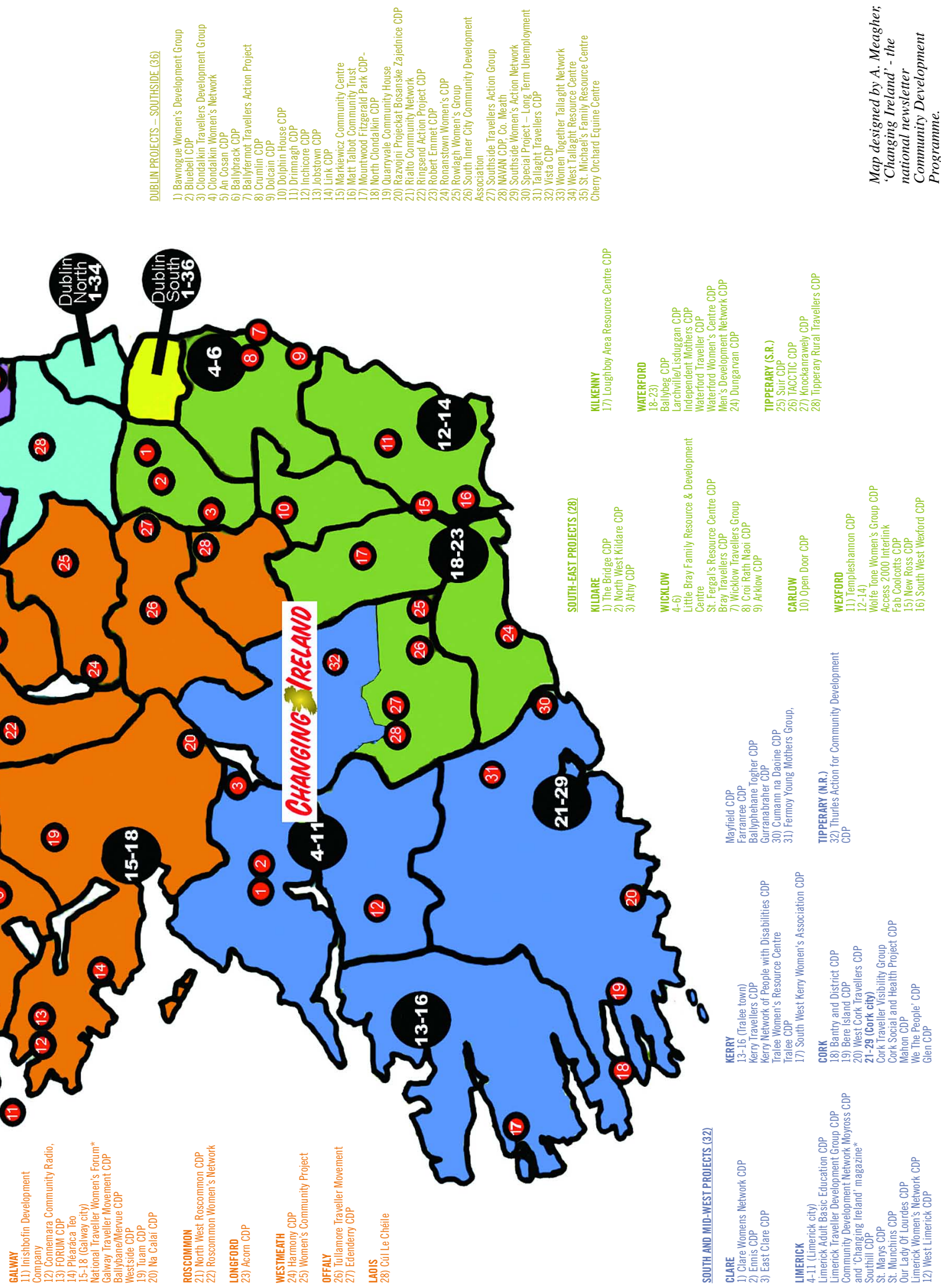
WEST & MIDLANDS PROJECTS (28)

- MAYO**
- 1) Iorras Le Cheile
 - 2) Women of the North West
 - 3) Parkside CDP
 - 4) Cosgallen, East Mayo CDP
 - 5) Kiltimagh & District CDP
 - 6) Claremorris Women's Project
 - 7) Louisburgh Community Project
 - 8) Corráclá CDP
 - 9) Clare Island Development Company
 - 10) Inisurk Development Office



DUBLIN PROJECTS – NORTHSIDE (& CO. MEATH) (34)

- 1) An Siol CDP
- 2) Ballymun Men's Centre
- 3) Blakestown CDP
- 4) Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group
- 5) Cabra CDP
- 6) Community & Family Training Agency
- 7) Community Action Programme
- 8) Corduff CDP
- 9) Darndale/Belcamp Resource Centre
- 10) Doras Bui (Parents Alone Resource Centre)
- 11) Edenmore Raheny CDP
- 12) Finglas South CDP
- 13) Greater Blanchardstown Development
- 14) Holly House CDP
- 15) ICRG
- 16) Kilbarrack CDP
- 17) Kilmore West CDP
- 18) Lourdes Youth & Community Services
- 19) MACRO
- 20) Nascadh CDP
- 21) North Wall Women's Centre
- 22) North West Inner City Women's Network
- 23) PASS CDP
- 24) PIECE CDP
- 25) Priorswood Outreach Centre
- 26) Project West CDP
- 27) St Margaret's Traveller CDP
- 28) Trav Act
- 29) Community After Schools Project
- 30) Community Technical Aid
- 31) Interaction
- 32) Partners Training for Transformation
- 33) Irish Senior City Parliament
- 34) Coiste na N-archibhí



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CDP contact details

NORTHERN PROJECTS

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Sligo

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Community Centre Drumnacool (via Boyle), Co. Sligo

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Co. Cavan

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MONAGHAN

Dochas for Women, Teach na nDaoine, Family

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Le Cheile CDP, Redeemer Family Resource Centre,

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Women of the North West, Moygownagh, Ballina, Co.

Mayo

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Co-Ord'r: Marian Flannery

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Parkside CDP, 30-32 St. Patrick's Estate, Ballina, Co.

Mayo

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Cosgallen, East Mayo CDP, The Enterprise Centre,

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Chair: Frances Ryan (until November)

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Kiltimagh & District CDP, Main Street, Kiltimagh, Co.

Mayo

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Claremorris Women's Project, c/o Cúram D'Alton

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Mayo

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Roscommon Women's Network, Dun Maeve, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon
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Community Development Network Moyross, Community Enterprise, Centre, Moyross Limerick
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St. Munchins CDP, St. Munchins Community Centre, Kileely Court, Limerick
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Tralee Women's Resource Centre, 35 Ashe Street, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Tralee CDP, The Rock Business Centre, Upper Rock St, Tralee, Co. Kerry
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Co-Ord'r: Sharon Browne
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Co-Ord'r: Mairead Lynch
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Gurranabraher CDP, Parochial Hall, Churchfield, Cork
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SOUTH-EAST PROJECTS

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WICKLOW

Little Bray Family Resource & Development Centre, Ard Chualann, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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St. Fergal's Resource Centre CDP, 107 Old Court Avenue, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Bray Travellers CDP, The Rear of 97 Main Street, Bray, Co. Wicklow
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Wicklow Travellers Group, CEART, Crinion Park, Wicklow Town, Co. Wicklow
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Croi Rath Naoi CDP, Merry Meeting, Rathnew, Co. Wicklow
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Arklow CDP, 8 Brookview Court, South Quay, Arklow, Co. Wicklow
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CARLOW

Open Door CDP, 165, The Laurels, Tullow Road, Carlow
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WATERFORD

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MEATH

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Co-Ord'r: Anne Maria Kennedy
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Programme: Unique in Europe

Ballymun Men's Centre, Lift Shaft 4, Shangan Road,
Ballymun, Dublin 9
Chair: Christy Moran
Co-Ord'r: John Murphy
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Blakestown CDP, Blakestown Community Resource
Centre, Blakestown Way, Dublin 15
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Blanchardstown Traveller Development Group,
Parickstown House, Mulhudard, Dublin 15
Chair: Nova Serris
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Community & Family Training Agency, AXIS
Community Centre, Ballymun, Main Street, Dublin 9
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Co-Ord'r: Felix Gallagher
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Co-Ord'r: Catherine McAuliffe
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Doras Buí (Parents Alone Resource Centre), Bunratty
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Chair: Fiona Nolan, **Co-Ord'r:** Noreen Byrne
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E: director@dorasbui.org

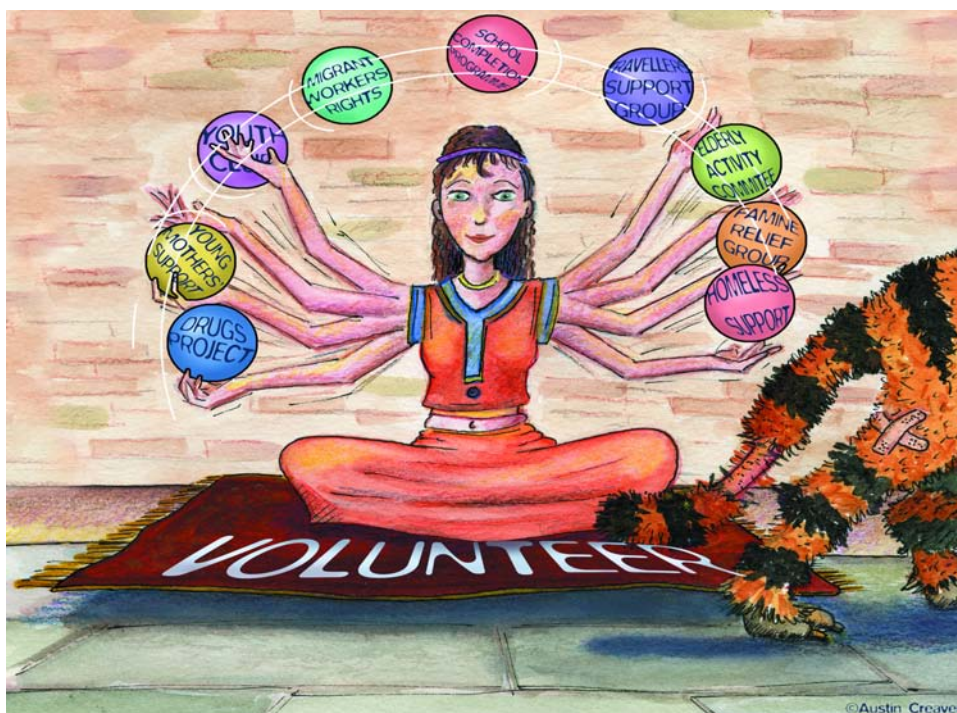
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Human rights v other approaches



By JOAN COURTNEY

"ALL human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

This well-known quotation comes from Article 1, Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While human rights and Community Development use some of the same language, sometimes the approaches are different.

Other Approaches	Human Rights Based Approaches
Action is voluntary or optional.	Action is mandatory.
People have needs which should be met. Survival of the fittest.	People have rights and entitlements which must be met. All people have the same rights to fulfil their potential and should be assisted to do so.
The marginalised, disadvantaged and those living in poverty deserve our help.	Right not to be in this situation; Right to a fair distribution of resources.
Rights are discretionary, often subordinate to the of the state.	Rights are universal (apply to all) and inalienable (automatically needs assumed): They cannot be diluted or taken away.
People are passive beneficiaries of aid and assistance.	People have the right to a certain standard of living.
There is a hierarchy of needs and some needs are more important than others.	All rights are inherent (automatically assumed).

Empowerment!

The Human Rights based approach to Empowerment means we must:

- Ensure policies and programmes are based on empowerment – not "charity". This means ensuring people have the power, capacities (including education and information), as well as access needed to improve their communities and influence their own lives.
- Ensure that rights-holders and duty-bearers share a common understanding of human

rights goals and the duties to respect, protect and fulfil them. This means systematically educating and raising awareness of government, public representatives, civil servants, service and other duty-bearers.

(Source: Amnesty International Irish Section – 'Our Rights, Our Future; Human Rights-Based Approaches in Ireland')

Participation!

The Human Rights based approach to

Participation means we must:

- Ensure that participation is active, free and meaningful – including communities, civil society, minorities, women, children and men. Mere formal consultation is not enough.
- Ensure that national and local development processes and institutions are accessible and that information is transparent and timely.

(Source: as above)



UN Days coming up

The UN calls on member states and other organizations to mark these days and weeks (as listed below) in appropriate ways:

October

- 10 World Mental Health Day
- 16 World Food Day
- 17 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty
- 24 United Nations Day and World Development Information Day
- 24-30 Disarmament Week

November

- 6 International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
- 16 International Day of Tolerance
- 20 Universal Children's Day, and Africa Industrialization Day
- 21 World Television Day (turn them off!)

- 25 International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- 29 International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

December

- 1 World AIDS Day
- 2 International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- 3 International Day of Disabled Persons
- 5 International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
- 7 International Civil Aviation Day
- 10 Human Rights Day
- 11 International Mountain Day
- 18 International Migrants Day

For further information, visit the Conferences and Observances section on the United Nations website.

Motivating volunteers

West Cork Community Partnership has produced a series of 10 information booklets compiled to support the members of voluntary organisations.

The booklets are aimed at organisations and groups run purely by volunteers. The series includes the Roles of Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer, Avoiding & Resolving Problems and My Role as a Member of a Voluntary Management Committee among others.

The booklets are designed to be simple and user friendly. They are available free to download on www.wccp.ie (follow the downloads link) and will shortly be available in hard copy.

"Please feel free to distribute them to the community / voluntary groups in your area," said Kathryn of WCCP.

For further information contact Kathryn, Tel 027-52266. E-mail kathryn@wccp.ie

Community Development and Human Rights

- a couple at odds?

By SARAH-BETH WATKINS*

THERE is a facilitators' warm-up exercise that gets everybody standing in a line. This is the line that signifies that point at which we are born. We are all equal on that line, born equally.

Oh no, we're not, I already hear you shout. Babies are born into poverty, with disability or illness, into neglectful or abusive families. Or born rich. Or healthy. - An unequal start right from the beginning.

That's the community development perspective.

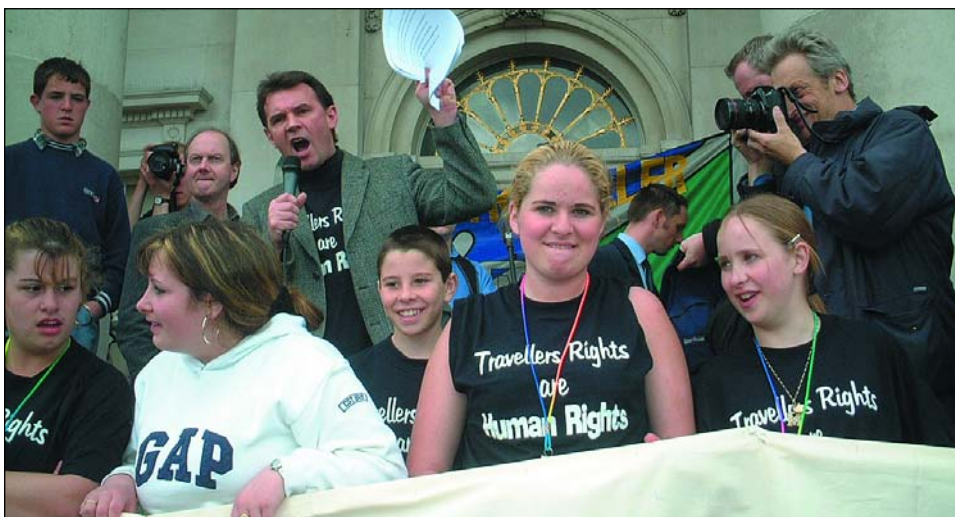
If you look at it from a human rights perspective, babies are born equally, with equal rights. An equal right to life, to a quality of life that includes health, housing, access to education and other fundamentals. It is circumstance and situation that impinge on human ability to live that life equally.

Community development and human rights approaches do not sit comfortably together. Community development is about people; its about approaches and processes, its about ownership and leadership, about disadvantaged people being empowered. Human Rights argues forcefully for the rights of people but it's not just the marginalised, disadvantaged and disempowered, it's the rights of all.

Development workers have always struggled with having to prioritise which group has the greatest need and wrestled with the notion of positive discrimination. **The above exercise continues with each participant selecting a 'target' group; Travellers, people with disabilities, drug users, ethnic minorities, women experiencing domestic violence, etc.** The idea is to place the target group you work with steps forward or back from the equal birth line, in relation to progression or regression of their issues. Nobody really steps forward. Everybody takes steps back but suddenly your issue and the group you are working with are more important than anyone else. Your group should be right at the back. They are the most marginalised, disadvantaged section of the population. They have more of a right to a better life.

Not if you're looking at it from a human rights approach, everyone should be standing on that line together. Equal. Nobody has more right to a better life than the next person. Everybody has the same right to life. And that is where community development and human rights clash.

We agree with rights and equality but would you say that a middle-classed, single, white male had as much right to housing as a working class, single mother with four children? **Community development takes sides, human**



Supporters of Travellers' rights protesting in Dublin show that taking the Human Rights approach is sometimes the only option.

rights stay neutral.

Take recent developments in women's issues. Organisations like Womens' Aid have counterparts like AMEN. Women's issues are also men's issues. The male perspective on family, domestic violence and other 'private' issues are coming to the fore.

We know that domestic violence is a huge issue across the globe. Women have a right to a life free from violence as do their children but hey folks, so do men.

We could argue for hours about the levels of violence, the difference between male and female physical abuse, the incident rates, how it affects the family. It is all relevant and in community development, we are close to the effects and can see the reality.

But a human rights perspective sees that men have the right to a quality of life too. This can be especially difficult for development workers who could find it hard to balance who had what rights in such a volatile, precarious environment.

So community development sits uncomfortably next to human rights, but like an old couple married for 50 years, they'd be lost without each other.

Community development is grass roots. We work locally, regionally, sometimes nationally. We work on the ground at people level.

Human rights works at all levels but is also international. It gives people equal rights across the globe. It works at a legal level, has conventions and legislation to back it and issues are dealt with by lawyers, in courts.

For this reason, human rights are hugely important. They are a powerful tool. **A human rights approach brings issues to a level where something can actually be done about them.** How many times have we moaned that we're still fighting for the same thing we were fighting for 20 years ago?

To use domestic violence again as an example, the UN's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, seen as the International Bill of Women's Rights, has been ratified by 64 countries. That means 64 countries have agreed to eliminate domestic violence against women. They have to report to the UN and the UN gives its general recommendations. Governments are named and shamed in a global arena.

We need lawyers and politicians to bring our issues to that level to effect change. And guess what, they need us too, to give solid, hard evidence! The evidence that comes with 20 years of working with women who are affected by domestic violence, by working year after year with groups who are marginalised and disadvantaged, whose issues are worth highlighting, whose rights need addressing.

Community development may not always share a bed with human rights but they definitely hold hands every once in a while. Our challenge is keep their alliance working for us by realising their differences and embracing their similarities.

* Sarah-Beth Watkins is Co-ordinator of Templeshannon CDP, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.

Rights workshop

COMBAT Poverty Agency as part of Having Your Say Programme are hosting a National Conference on 'Community Development and Public Policy' on October 17th in Dublin. One of the workshops will focus on: Communities using a 'rights based approach' for policy change.

For more information, check out: www.cpa.ie

Community Development defined

"COMMUNITY Development is about promoting positive change in society in favour of those who usually benefit least. However, it is not just about making concrete changes in the quality of people's lives. It is also about how this is done, ie both the task and the process are important.

"Community Development seeks to challenge the causes of disadvantage/poverty and to offer new opportunities for those lacking choice, power and resources. Community Development involves people, most especially the disadvantaged in making changes they identify to be important and which put to use and develop their skills, knowledge and experience."

(Source: *The National Handbook of the Community Development Programme, 1999*)

What has the NAC ever done for us? What is it?

- asks Maurice McConville*

THE National Advisory Committee or NAC was set up in 1994 by the then Minister in charge of Social Welfare "in recognition of the growing complexity of the Community Development Programme and the accompanying need for a nationally-focused structure bringing together all the key players in the Programme, in order to give advice to the Minister and the Department on the development of policy issues within the Programme and from the work of the Programme." (Source: *Combat Poverty Agency*)

Twelve years on, the reasons for a NAC existence are probably more relevant now than ever. The NAC has had some input into development of policy and has been directly involved in discussions around the Code of Conduct, Salary Scales and Endorsement.

However, on major issues, the Committee is often only consulted after decisions have been taken. The Terms of reference of the NAC – as in use currently – would suggest that it should have more clout. These include:

- 1) To provide a forum for exchange of views and information on what is happening in

the Programme on the ground and issues emerging from the work of the projects.

- 2) To advise the Minister for Community, Rural & Gaeltacht Affairs and his Department on policy matters relevant to the development of the Programme. Also – to make recommendations which translates policy lessons from the Programme into practice.
- 3) To advise the Minister and the Department on support structures for the Programme.
- 4) To make recommendations to and to advise the Minister and the Department on how policy and practice lessons emerging from the work of the Programme can be applied and translated to other Government Departments and programmes. Also – advise on how the Programme can develop more effective links with other national programmes.
- 5) To make recommendations to the Minister and the Department on issues of national policy that affect or arise from the work of the Programme.

There is a growing frustration and amongst representatives within the NAC (myself included) as to its effectiveness in addressing the issues

faced by the CDPs. In recent years the Department took several major decisions without reference to NAC and because of this the Terms of Reference are currently being reviewed.

Joe Grennell from Ringsend CDP has been a NAC representative in Dublin for several years.

He said, "I don't know what NAC reps do. I know what they'd like to do – that is participate in a full partnership with the Department around developing the CDP into being something that is meaningful and strategic."

The need for a clear strategic approach within the Programme that could be developed through the NAC is crucial to our work.

Joe continues, "The CDP is part of the local implementation structure for the National Anti-Poverty Strategy. So what mechanisms are there to enhance our role in this regard? None. So there is no strategy concerning the CDP's involvement in addressing social inclusion and poverty."

But why does Joe sit on the NAC?

"I get a lot from participating on the NAC. Truthfully, I have met some very committed and well-meaning civil servants and I have met some very uncommitted CDP reps and vice-versa. I get first hand information about how things operate in our little part of the sector. I believe that every one in the projects should be itching to get onto the NAC."

"Why? Well, the answer is that if you are involved in a business or trade or vocation or some other walk of life you should know your environment both internal and external. If you sell oranges you should know where they come from, how they taste, and if they are worth recommending or not. This can only enhance how you do your work; which is after all what it's all about."

As a member of the NAC myself, I have come to the realisation that NAC is "the only show in town" as far as national representation (unless we create something else) and therefore it should be used by all CDPs, for what it's worth. It is not as though CDPs are not used to operating in difficult situations.

While the influence that NAC reps have within the Programme is limited, it could be increased with greater solidarity among CDPs. The message is, use your NAC! Contact your representative and find out what is happening and give them support. Attend your regional meetings and raise issues of concern and feed this through to the NAC.

As they saw in America "Get with the Programme!"

* **Maurice McConville is a staff representative from the North Region on the NAC rep. He is also a reporter for 'Changing Ireland'.**

NAC membership & contact list

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Galway children issued with passports

- at Ballybane Intercultural Festival 2006



CHILDREN in a housing estate in Galway city were issued with passports at the third annual Ballybane Intercultural Festival and were able to collect stamps from around the world – without having to leave the confines of Ballybane Community Resource Centre.

This was the venue for the Festival which took place on September 29th and 30th.

It was co-ordinated by a team of volunteers working with Felicia Barrins of Ballybane/Mervue CDP. Ballybane is located in the east of Galway city and comprises predominately local authority housing and is part of the RAPID area plan.

Friday the 29th was 'Children's Morning' where kids were sent to visit stalls representing countries such as Guatemala,

Poland, Cameroon, Nigeria, the Ukraine and many others. Each child had a passport and had to pass a simple task at each stall in order to get a stamp from that country on their passport.

The Lord Mayor of Galway, Niall O'Brolchain, officially opening the festival on Saturday which was a family day with an International Food Fair and Entertainment from around the world. People from the local community cooked dishes from their native country for the public to taste. There was also an emphasis on Healthy Eating, with the HSE giving people a taste of fresh smoothies.

The entertainment incorporated Irish and African Dancing performances, as well as music and singing from local groups. This

was aimed at giving festival-goers a sense of the different cultures evident in Ballybane in an entertaining and engaging setting.

The emphasis was on celebrating the cultural diversity, which is evident in the Ballybane community and to promote interaction between these cultures.

The entry fee was €1 for an adult and 50 cent for a child, not bad value for a family outing.

For more information on the ideas adopted by the festival committee, contact Felicia Barrins, Ballybane/Mervue CDP, Ballybane, Co. Galway: Tel. 091-768305. E-mail: cdp4@eircom.net

Attention please! Reporter seeks a scoop!

- Diary of a 'Changing Ireland' newshound*

Thursday 17th August 2006: I better send an email to local CDPs to ask them to send in information about anything interesting they've been up to for the next edition of Changing Ireland.

Monday 21st August 2006: Wondered if anybody actually got my email, concerned that the only email I've received since last Thursday was inviting me to buy viagra online.

Wednesday 23rd August 2006: Received an email about investment opportunities in North Korea.

Friday 25th August 2006: Interesting . . . just received another email, this time offering an even better deal on the viagra. Still nothing from the projects, they're obviously very busy

Monday 28th August: Got an email from a CDP in the west. Thank God! At least, I've one story.

Friday 1st September: Still haven't heard anything about the deadline . . . sent off reminder email to local CDPs.

Tuesday 5th September: Reports coming through that a minister opened an envelope at an unnamed CDP in the midlands...great



Declan Weir is waiting for your call.

that's another lead to follow up, less chance of the editor shouting at me for having no stories...all I need to do now is to come up with a way to make an opened envelope sound interesting.

Thursday, 7th September: Still no word on the deadline. Maybe I'll have time to try and think up other stories.

Friday 8th September: Email from Changing Ireland editor to inform me and my colleagues that the deadline for the next issue is Thursday 7th September!

Tuesday 12th September: Still waiting to

hear back from the CDP worker in the midlands...

Wednesday 13th: Finally, the midlands got back to me. Spent five hours staring at the screen while waiting for the 23mb jpeg picture of the minister officially opening the envelope or whatever it was he opened.

Thursday 14th September . . . I asked them to post the photo.

Friday 16th September: Sent off my two stories to 'Changing Ireland' . . .

. . . **One month later when 'Changing Ireland' is published . . .** That bloody Allen Meagher, he probably won't even use my stories. Not to mention this diary. I wonder if the 'Irish Times' would be interested?

* *Reporters with 'Changing Ireland' are staff/volunteers engaged in community development work who have an interest in journalism.*

Note: If your project is in the West or Midlands, contact Declan with story suggestions (he can do the research and writing for you!) on: 094-9030712 or email: decweir@eircom.net Don't worry if you have to leave a message – he will get back to you.

The Wexford Equality for Women Measure

THE Wexford Equality for Women Measure (EWM) is a multi-agency initiative that aims to respond to the inequalities facing women today through community education. Access 2000, the women's community education CDP in Wexford, is the lead agency.

The steering group includes members from Access 2000 CDPNav, the Co. Wexford Community Women's Collective, Wolfe Tone Women's CDP, Ferns Diocesan Youth Service and the HSE.

The EWM is rolled out by Patricia McCann, Co-ordinator, Joan McQuire, Development Worker and Roisin Kelly, Administrator.

Who funded the Festival?

- Local CDPs;
- Wexford Health Service Executive;
- The Equality for Women Measure.

Origins of a Women's Collective

THE County Wexford Community Womens' Collective (CWCWC) was formed in 2004 when four CDP workers teamed up to look at empowering the women of Wexford on a countywide basis.

The Collective covers a wide geographical spread – Wexford Town, Enniscorthy, New Ross, Gorey, and members include organisations such as the Traveller Women's Network, CDP'S – FAB, Access 2000, Wolfe Tone Women's Group, Templeshannon CDP and the Women with Disabilities group.

Earlier this year, the CWCWC focused on human rights. It hosted an information night on the UN Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at which local

women spoke about what it means to be discriminated against in Co. Wexford.

The Collective is committed to seeking change in the areas of women in decision making, representation, education, women's poverty and women's health issues.

To date, the CWCWC has held a facilitated workshop on Lobbying, a Women's Health Awareness day in conjunction with Wolfe Tone Women's Group, a role play workshop on women's health issues and several discussion meetings.

If you would like to attend meetings of CWCWC or require more information, contact Sarah on 054-37511, Pauline on 053-21200 or Sue at 053-71790.



Large crowds gathered for the first women's festival in Wexford.

Wexford holds first Women's Community Festival

JULY saw the first ever Women's Community Festival get off the ground in Wexford. The two-day event was organised by the 'Wexford Equality for Women Measure' and a host of hard working, more than willing volunteers!

The festival was spread over two days to include a conference and a fun day out. Over 160 people from across the county attended the Women's Community Conference held on the first day.

The conference, held in Wexford town, was opened by Noirin Clancy of the Women's Human Rights Alliance who gave an update on the UN's Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Four workshops followed: Domestic Violence, Women in Leadership and Community Education; Women's Health; and Minority Women.

Women often face multiple layers of discrimination and there are many categories of **Minority Women**. Ailbhe Smith, Director of Women's Studies in UCD and chairperson of the National Gay and Lesbian Federation spoke on gay and lesbian issues alongside Barbara

Murphy, representing women with disabilities and Mary Connors from the Travelling community.

The **Women's Health Workshop** concentrated on breast cancer awareness and the issues women have accessing their health service. Key speakers included Thelma Blehein, Senior Community Development Worker with the HSE.

The **Domestic Violence Workshop** was led by Jessica Pryce of Wexford Rape and Sexual Abuse Support Service, Betty Doyle, Manager of Wexford Women's Refuge, and Ann Logan and Fran O'Grady of the HSE.

In the **Women and Leadership and Community Education Workshop**, Catherine Drea, director of Framework Support Agency, spoke about her personal experience of working in the voluntary sector for many years.

Pauline Ennis, Co-ordinator of Access 2000 discussed community education as a tool for women's empowerment based on her own experience of delivery of women's programmes.

Rev. Maria Jasen, a Minister for the Church of Ireland, told of the struggles of being a female member of one of the biggest patriarchal

organisations in Ireland.

Wexford's quayfront burst to life on day two with a planned programme of arts, crafts, drama and dance. CDPs and other community groups and voluntary organisations from all over Wexford **showcased their work and highlighting the size of the sector**. Mayor Philomena Roche opened the proceedings and welcomed the many community, youth groups and people of Wexford to the festival, which featured everything from belly-dancers to the Amnesty International stall.

The Wexford Community Women's Festival day was the outcome of 3 - 4 months of hard work and planning by the EWM steering group and the Festival's planning group. The Festival could never have happened without the input of local volunteers who planned and organised the two days, taking on job after job to make sure it was a success.

Expect to hear the Wexford women's voice more often and more loudly in the future!

*** Sarah-Beth Watkins is Co-ordinator of Templeshannon CDP, Enniscorthy, Co. Wexford.**

Nothing better than a good employer? Bunkum!

"Trade Unions - you only realise you should be in one when you need to be in one."

So says Joe Grennell, co-ordinator of Ringsend Action Project CDP.

Joe carried out a survey in the Eastern Region two years ago and found only 3% of workers in the Community Development Programme were Trade Union members. By contrast, membership is understood to be quite high in the west and mid-west of Ireland. Joe backs the Dublin Employment

Pact's work to boost membership.

"I don't subscribe to the American ideal that you can't do better than having a good employer. To use the American expression, that's bunkum! It's about good practise.

"Particularly in the Community Development Programme, where you have a turnover of voluntary management, you could find three years down the road that your employers are completely different people.

"Unionising also promotes good

governance, because the management committee members realise they are actually employers.

"In some cases, in a community development setting, you've got neighbours employing neighbours. It can be difficult - the voluntary members might expect him or her to work 70 hours a week.

"There are good and bad employers out there, and for that simple reason, employees should have some protection," added Joe.

Unions make breakthrough for Community sector

- finance now talking to unions on community workers' salaries

IN a major breakthrough for community development workers, the Department of Finance - which holds the purse strings for much of the community sector - has agreed to discuss workers' pay and conditions with Trade Unions.

The breakthrough was made by IMPACT and SIPTU during the recent Social Partnership talks. Up to now, the Department of Finance has refused to discuss pay and conditions stating that it is not the employer for the community sector.

In response, the Trade Unions have always argued that the funder must be part of negotiations on pay and conditions.

"We see no point in putting pressure on community based management committees to provide better conditions, in the absence of proper funding, when we know they are already running their projects on tight budgets," explained Gerry Flanagan of SIPTU.

Workers in the community sector are badly paid and have poor conditions compared to workers in other areas. The lack of pensions, sick pay or training are made worse by the lack of job security.

"The government depends on the commitment and energy of people working in the community sector to provide vital services and support, but they want this on the cheap. Like any other workers, people in the



Dessie Robinson, IMPACT - "Like any other workers, people in the community sector have a right to be paid properly for what they do."

community sector have a right to be paid properly for what they do," said Dessie Robinson of IMPACT.

SIPTU and IMPACT are the main unions organising within the community sector and, where union membership is high, real gains have been made by the unions. 90% of Community Training Centre employees are members of a trade union and they have received pay rises and benchmarking. Pensions and pay increases, including benchmarking, have also been achieved for Local Training Initiatives and Homeless Agencies.

The low trade union membership generally,

however, means that unions have not been able to use their full strength on behalf of the community sector.

"In order to get the best deal from the talks with Finance, it is vital that we up TU membership. Our voice around the table is only as strong as our membership," said Gerry Flanagan.

"The two unions are working closely together - we are not competing for members. We can agree on the appropriate union for each employment. Employees in the community sector should now join the appropriate union to achieve real gains. Remember - strength in numbers" said Dessie Robinson.

The unions made their announcement through the Dublin Employment Pact which is working to improve employment conditions and practices in the community and voluntary sector following research carried out which highlighted a range of problems.

For example almost three quarters of organisations rely on receipt of annual funding to renew contracts of employment. Meanwhile, almost half have no written policy on any good employment practices.

• **For more information, contact: Gerry Flanagan, SIPTU, Tel. 01-8586395. E-mail: gflanagan@siptu.ie; Dessie Robinson, IMPACT, Tel. 01-8171585. E-mail: bruddle@impact.ie**

An ally for everyone in the C & V sector

THE Dublin Employment Pact (DEP) has three aspects to its work in the community and voluntary sector:

It works with IMPACT and SIPTU to increase union membership.

It is an Employment Resource Bureau to provide advice and information to employers.

It is an Employers' Forum which has begun enabling employers to tackle common employment problems.

The Forum is also a place where unions and employers can interact and put more concerted pressure on government on the funding issues which prevent employers from providing better conditions and

policies.

DEP is keen to contact organisations who wish to participate.

• **For further info contact Jean Somers, Dublin Employment Pact, Tel. 01-8787900. E-mail: jsomers@dublinpact.ie**

Great experience in new funding line!

by RUTH SMITH and SARA BOURKE

Knockanrawley Resource Centre (KRC) in Tipperary Town recently completed an EU Gruntvig Project. As you may remember, 2003 was a year characterised by the end of the enhanced funding and also insecure funding from other sources. We, like other CDPs, needed to review the situation and to investigate external funding options, not tied to the Irish economic situation and political flavour of the month.

We put our names and general interests up on the Leargas database where organisations seek partners for EU projects. We made email contact with some groups and had discussions, but with no immediate results.

In the autumn of 2003, we received a call out of the blue from George Isaias in Cyprus. He was co-ordinating a project on self-esteem, and two of his partners had dropped out. He invited us to take up a place in his project.

This meant we had to investigate the project and decide quickly on whether to get involved or not. This was hard because of our lack of experience in the field, and we did not want to make a bad judgement call. There were a number of highly participative management meetings, and eventually we decided to leap off the EU project cliff!

The SHE (Social skills and Healthier self-Esteem) project was developed with women over 40 who for a range of personal, social, or educational reasons were identified as having low self esteem:

The project aimed to strengthen the participants' self-esteem through their participation in facilitated social learning circles. The SHE programme was run in three countries (Cyprus, Spain and Ireland) over 80 hours during 2004-5, and a facilitators guide was developed through the practical work with these women's groups.

The guide was designed to assist group facilitators and teachers to set-up and run social learning circles on self-esteem for groups at risk of social exclusion. It can also be used to integrate self-esteem principles and methods into other courses working with such groups. Examples from the three SHE courses (Cyprus, Ireland & Spain) are woven through the guide to illustrate points as they arise. This took up huge chunks of time drafting and re-drafting.

In KRC the learning circle involved ten



The Irish Social Learning Circle (SHE) In Knockanrawley Resource Centre's Organic Garden. The women in the photo are, left to right: Marie Ryan, Kathleen Moroney, Liz Higgins, Tracy Taylor, Dolores O'Donovan, Alison O'Maloney, Pat Ryan, Ruth Smith and Bridget Peters.

women. Over the year they had a holistic experience through personal development, community art, outings and stress management. Final evaluation showed that the group had been a great success and so it was mainstreamed into the centre as a KRC women's group. It was wonderful to have the freedom and resources to allow the group to develop organically.

For KRC this was our first independent EU project and it was a learning circle in itself. Working with different cultures and countries was challenging and more time consuming than we initially planned for. However, it was good to learn that our practice was well up with that in other countries, and at times we led the consortium. It gave us an opportunity to explore a pure personal development group and underpinned our belief that without self-esteem and personal development work, real change cannot occur.

In terms of transnational experience there were three meetings during the project, two in Cyprus and one in Barcelona, which were attended by staff and volunteers.

Briefly, our experience of the EU project was positive. When doing one again, we will make sure that there are adequate resources at our end to complete the project with less stress.

It was new and challenging work. We found that with all the activities that go on in the centre, it was sometimes hard to prioritise SHE. We will also ensure good communication structures and that the project workplan evenly divides up the tasks and that each partner meets their obligations.

A final positive – SHE gave us an opportunity to learn about EU projects, to learn from other organisations and to develop and empower our own organisation around the work that we do well.

So if other CDPs are considering an EU project, we would say "go for it", but don't

underestimate the time involved. If anyone would like to chat to us, please don't hesitate.

The partners in the project were Synthesis Centre for Research and Education in Cyprus, Knockanrawley Resource Centre in Ireland (Ruth Smith and Sara Bourke), the University of Cyprus, and European Profiles S.A. in Greece and the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation. The co-ordinator of the project was George Isaias, Synthesis Centre for Research and Education.

Information about EU projects and resources is available on the Leargas website <http://www.leargas.ie>.

Information about this project and the guide are available on the Internet <http://www.eushe.org> or directly from Ruth Smith, Knockanrawley Resource Centre, Tipperary Town, 062 52688, Knockanrawley@eircom.net

Seeking funding - great website

COMHAIRLE, the national agency responsible for supporting the provision of information, advice and advocacy on social services, has a special section for voluntary organisations in its 'Support for Information Providers' part of its website. Log on to www.comhairle.ie and you'll find the Resource Database for Voluntary and Community Sectors provides a Directory of Community Organisations, information and documents on funding, managing volunteers, establishing an organisation, and other resources.

Comhairle also run the Citizen Information Phone Service and the Citizen Information Centres.

Thanks to Donegal Community Workers Co-op newsletter for tipping us off on this one . . .

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown groups want more co-operation

- 25 at meeting on difficulties with Pobal and local authority

By NICK MURPHY

If the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's experience is anything to go by, the relationships between community and voluntary groups and administrative and funding agencies in the State needs to be worked on.

Such was the level of concern about the issue that 25 representatives from community and voluntary groups met recently to outline their difficulties and to see what action could be taken. **NICK MURPHY REPORTS:**

On September 13th, representatives from community and voluntary groups active in the county council administrative area of Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown met under the banner of the Community Platform.

The meeting was called to discuss difficulties member groups have been experiencing in dealing with various statutory agencies and to formulate possible ways of resolving difficulties.

Feedback from the floor identified several distinct cases of problems experienced by member organisations. Several CDPs and Family Resource Centres identified difficulties with Pobal, (formally ADM) and with the local authority.

MATCHING NEEDS

The difficulties with Pobal mainly centred around reporting procedures, funding issues and problems with recruitment which have come to the fore since that organisation took over responsibility for the Community Service Programme (formally called 'Social Economy')



Queuing for ice cream in Dun Laoghaire on a sunny day.

last year.

Delegates felt that Pobal's method of delivering funding did not fit well with the needs of existing projects.

Particularly, projects objected to the requirement that 75% of previous budgetary draw-down be spent before the next can be processed. For groups whose capital and service expenditure are not evenly distributed throughout the year this can cause problems. In addition, several projects whose business plan calls for expansion of staff at this point have not been allowed to recruit thus hampering their development.

'C' IS FOR . . .

The difficulties with the local authorities centred mostly on the Councils' relationships with CDPs active on the ground in areas where new facilities were to be provided. The individual problems ranged from a perception of lack of consultation about provision of new facilities, to the Council's proposed arrangements for managing these facilities.

Some CDPs and FRCs felt that their local authority was imposing development on disadvantaged areas which did not take account of the needs of local people. Instead, the local authorities seemed to place greater emphasis on providing services and facilities for surrounding areas while providing facilities of only marginal benefit to existing tenants in disadvantaged areas.

Others representatives cited instances of their local authority proposing to use funding raised largely by local CDPs to build local facilities, and imposing management structures which the CDPs felt did not adequately represent their interest or recognise their contribution.

In all cases the CDPs felt it was difficult to get the local authorities to recognise their concerns and to deal with them. The meeting concluded that the local authorities clearly lacked confidence in some local organisations.

POSITIVE OUTLOOK

On a positive note, the Dun Laoghaire-Rathdown County Manager has demonstrated an interest in the work of local CDPs and visited one recently. The Community Platform decided to seek a meeting with the County Manager to make him aware of the work and level of professionalism of local community organisations including CDPs and FRCs and to explore blocks to closer co-operation between these organisations and Council officials.

One day yet, South Dublin may be a showcase of co-operation, understanding and good relationships.

Hollywood comes to Edenderry

By NICHOLAS FOLEY*

FIFTEEN young people from Edenderry, Co Offaly, became film and pop stars over the summer when they participated in a four-day Performing Arts Course organised by the PEAT CDP, the Edenderry Youth Initiative and the OAK Partnership.

The PEAT CDP was established in July 2005, and one of its priorities was to set up a new club/initiative for teenagers.

Since January this initiative has been attracting young people and adult volunteers who meet together on a weekly basis.

During the long hot days of summer, anyone walking around Edenderry could be forgiven for thinking Hollywood had taken over the town and was filming the latest blockbuster movie. Cameras, boom mikes and shouts of "Quiet on the set...action!" were all seen and heard around the town as the young people filmed and acted out their own mini-dramas.



Edenderry PEAT CDP Boys: Oisín Kelly, Sean Kenny and Shayne Steele of 'U3'.

The youngsters wrote the screenplays based on issues affecting young people in Edenderry. Bullying, under-age drinking, sports facilities and the lack of services for people with disabilities were all covered in their plays.

They later edited and worked in a well-equipped studio in Celbridge, Co. Kildare, recording music videos, presenting a TV chat

show and writing music tracks to accompany their plays. One participant recorded his own version of Robbie Williams' "Let me entertain you!"

The course, sponsored by KELT, was facilitated by the Centre for Performing Arts in Celbridge and Kildare Youth Television. The centre works with many youth groups during the year, and they encourage the young people to fully participate in making the films from writing the scripts to acting them out, while others work behind the scenes recording, filming and working the stage lights.

In October, the centre will showcase all the work of the young people in a special concert held in Goffs in Kildare, and the young people of the Edenderry Youth Initiative very much look forward to seeing the finished product. Who knows, perhaps Oscars could be next!

*** Nicholas Foley is Edenderry PEAT CDP's co-ordinator.**

Radical shake-up of community services

- Ministers achieving their aims

THE delivery of community services across the State will undergo a radical shake-up by the end of the year, according to Éamon Ó Cuív, Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs. The changes due to be implemented by January 2007 are the result of a cohesion process which involved two and a half years of consultation, planning and restructuring of Partnership Companies and LEADER groups.

Services for disadvantaged people in both urban and rural Ireland have developed over time in a haphazard, uncoordinated way. As a consequence, there are people who urgently need services from the State but who are not getting them.

Speaking at PLANET's (the network of 38 Partnership Companies) annual conference in Dublin on September 7th, Minister Ó Cuív said; "Currently, if you live in Blanchardstown for example and are unemployed, a lone parent, a person with



Minister of State Noel Ahern with Minister Éamonn Ó Cuív.

a disability, a traveller, or facing economic hardship, your local Partnership Company can offer you a range of services. However, if you live in a Council housing estate in Howth or Lucan and your community needs those services just as much, it's just bad luck, because there is no local Partnership for you. That is absolute madness and I cannot allow it to continue. We cannot let the 'pockets of disadvantage' go unnoticed and unaided, that is, whole communities or individuals

facing hardship outside of the main Partnership or LEADER catchment areas. This Government is determined to provide services to all of our citizens facing disadvantage, no matter where they live."

As a result of the cohesion process therefore, from the first of January 2007,

- All areas of the country will now be covered by Partnership companies, thus ensuring that every citizen and every community who needs services will be eligible for assistance.
- Programmes for the period 2007-2013 need to address new and emerging challenges facing our society such as immigration.
- In rural areas, to provide a more coordinated service to communities, the rural development programme LEADER, the Rural Social Scheme and the Partnership services (otherwise known as the Local Development Social Inclusion Programme) will be delivered by the one company in each area.



Sometimes it's hard to be a woman!

Diary of a woman for whom life began (again) at 49)

- by 'Aoife'

GOT married young had 3 children. Separated now and children grown up. Joined support group in local CDP and did some courses.

Began living and socialising again when youngest child reached 17 and was able to look after himself. *Freedom at last after 30 years. No one to answer to!*

So, life begins at 49.

My daughter's reaction to her mother's beginning of a new life:

- "You've changed since you joined that group. Who is this 'Maslow'? Did he move in down the road? If he really knew anything about needs he would know I need my dinner now"
- "What happened to normal conversations in this house like what the neighbours got up to last week? Now all we hear about is disadvantaged, marginalisation and discrimination"
- "Did you really talk to that politician at the door? That was so embarrassing

listening to you rabbiting on about the needs of people in your area. What was wrong with just smiling and telling all of them that you would vote for them like you used to?"

- "You are never at home any more. What are all these meetings about? Don't tell me it's more of that Community Development stuff. I really don't want to hear any more about it. You sound as if you joined a cult. I have heard enough about participation, empowerment, and the socially excluded"
- "You think you can have a social life now. What happened to my mother who used to be home every night?"
- "Where are you going dressed like that? Get up the stairs this minute and change out of that top. You are a grown woman not a teenager."
- "Where were you last night until all hours? What time of the morning is that to come home."
- "You don't think you are going out again tonight after the hour you came home

last night."

- "Look at the state of the house. You are never at home any more. Do you expect me to clean up after you all the time."
- "Going away for two nights. It's to do with work. Yea I'm sure it is."
- "You are back on the fags again. Don't think I don't know what you are doing when you are up in your room with the windows open. I can smell the smoke"
- "What is that? Oh my God! A tattoo. You did not. I don't believe it at your age you should have more sense."
- "You are not going to bring a man into this house. My mother with a boyfriend. That is just too much to take yugh I can't bear to think about it."

It's not always easy to be a woman, especially when you have a 23-year-old daughter who thinks her mother's place is at home and away from all things political. Though I forgive her. Wait til she's 49!

* The author of this article is remaining anonymous. - Ed