

Issue 60 - June - July 2018

# CHANGING IRELAND

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Issue 60 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - COLLECTIVE ACTION - EMPOWERMENT - SOCIAL INCLUSION - [www.changingireland.ie](http://www.changingireland.ie)

## MONAGHAN MAN

### INSIDE:

Repeal a social  
revolution

€190m SICAP  
launch

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world first

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communities

Deadline for  
'enhanced'  
funding

**Who am I?**

**Who do you see here?**

This publication is produced by Changing Ireland Community Media Ltd, an independent, not-for-profit NGO funded through the Department of Rural and Community Development.



9 771642 598005



My name is Jimmy, I am 19. I have Down syndrome, which means it takes me a little bit longer to learn new things but it's no big deal. **I will sit my leaving cert this year. I am the first person with Down syndrome to sit the leaving cert in my school.** I hope to go to college and get a part time job next year. People with intellectual disabilities can and do progress through education and employment with the right supports and opportunities. **People are often shocked to hear I'm doing my leaving cert, they still think people with an intellectual disability don't have the skills or ability to complete school and live an independent life.** Discrimination means people decide what I can and can't do without ever meeting me or having a conversation with me. Don't make assumptions about me based on outdated stereotypes. Get to know me and I will tell you all you need to know!

**“SURE YOU’RE  
A GREAT WEE  
FELLA GOING  
TO SCHOOL”**

**“PEOPLE WITH  
DOWN SYNDROME  
WOULDN’T BE  
FIT TO HAVE  
A JOB”**

# Challenging Stereotypes

## WHY YOU MIGHT BE RELIEVED TO SEE MONAGHAN MAN

BY ALLEN MEAGHER

Monaghan County Council has produced an eye-catching booklet and exhibition that has a lot of people talking.

The 'Know Me' booklet was published in March followed by an exhibition in April, to challenge discrimination and stereotyping.

The booklet features a series of fictional characters based on real-life experiences of discrimination in Monaghan. The characters are mainly linked to the grounds of the Equal status Act.

**Liam Bradley from Monaghan County Museum** said the stories are all from local people (with one exception - see right).

"It had to be local stories, it had to have that local aspect to engage people.

"It wasn't something from another country. It's very much to do with people in Monaghan."

"The booklet presents statements that people in our community have heard said about them and it challenges those statements with the reality of the life of the characters," said **Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Development Officer, Monaghan County Council**.

The 'Know Me' booklet has become a huge success.



The people in the photographs are models, but the stories accompanying the images are from the life experiences of real people in Co. Monaghan.

"Our first print run of 5,000 copies have been distributed and requested across the county and internationally. We have since had to reprint due to demand," she said.

And, it didn't stop there.

"The booklet's success made us want to spread the message beyond print. So, we worked with Monaghan County Museum to develop the booklet into a public exhibition."

"Our work is based on the findings of a public consultation

where racism, discrimination and exclusion were highlighted consistently," she said.

It is the second major equality campaign in the county organised County Council and the 'Equality Sub Group' of the Local Community Development Committee.

It follows the success of an earlier publication called 'A Tale of Two Counties', comparing life in Monaghan in 1955 to 2015 (which we covered extensively at the time).

The 'Know Me' project also received support from the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission (IHREC) as a pilot project relating to the public sector duty.

For the exhibition, the pages in the booklet were transformed into eight-foot high, pull-up banners.

**Emily Logan** is the first Chief Commissioner of the IHREC and she



*"My name is Paul and I'm a paramedic. I saved three people's lives today. I could save your life tomorrow."*

*"My message is you don't make a decision about someone without knowing them."*

- From 'Paul' in the 'Know Me' booklet and exhibition in Co. Monaghan.

'Changing Ireland' wanted to be sure the man who features on our cover was real. He is. He does modelling work and is based in Dundalk. People in Monaghan even recognised him.

However, he is not an ambulance driver.

So, is it 'fake news' produced in order to enhance our appreciation of human rights and respect for others?

"No," says Bernie (see left) firmly. "We used his face as a 'hook' to get people to take notice of what we're doing."

She said that undoubtedly there are people in the ambulance service in Co. Monaghan who are saving lives. And, next week, a man who looks just like 'Paul' could save your life.

"We are targeting the entire community and stereotyping's impact on everybody," she said.

officially opened the exhibition for in April.

She said the following day, "Monaghan is (now) officially the first place of sanctuary in Ireland - and that's how it felt last night - a diverse group of great people showcasing equality in action."

"The exhibition was hugely powerful and received an incredible public reaction," said Bernie.

**Monaghan Women's Network** applauded the work, saying, "These images challenge our own thinking- how we stereotype, how we discriminate".

The organisers have already fielded a number of enquires from further afield. Since the pull-up banners roll back neatly into boxlike containers, the exhibition doesn't take up much space and is very mobile.

"We also have digital and print copies of the 'Know Me' booklet available for anyone who would like a copy," said Bernie.

**For more information, contact:** Bernie Bradley, Social Inclusion Development Officer, Monaghan County Council, Glen Road, Monaghan, Co Monaghan. T: 047-73727. M: 087-6443332.

**For more information about the role of Local Community Development Committees - see page 27.**

# FREE GLOSSY PULL-OUT POSTER!

See also page 31.  
(Read before ripping! - Ed)





## BA in Youth and Community Studies with New Media – Level 7

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### HOW TO APPLY:

Applications may be made via the Central Applications Office (CAO) change of mind facility on [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie). The closing date to make changes to your CAO application is 5.15pm on 1st July, 2018.

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\*This innovative new programme is fully developed and awaiting final approval from the Institute's Academic Council for a September intake.



## INDEPENDENT

'Changing Ireland' is an independent not-for-profit publication.

## ABOUT US

'Changing Ireland' engages in original journalism to highlight the impact of local and community development and social inclusion work across Ireland. We report on action on the ground and provide a space for reflection on what serves people and communities best.

The magazine was established in 2001, is based in Moyross, Limerick, and is core-funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

We produce journalism to reflect social inclusion work funded or supported by Government departments and agencies. We provide a platform for those on the ground in communities.

We are dedicated to promoting social justice, equality and fair play and to giving people who are rarely heard a voice.

While covering serious issues, we hope our style of journalism provides encouragement to workers, activists and volunteers nationwide, including civil and public servants and all involved in social inclusion in Ireland today.

See page 6 for information about the team behind 'Changing Ireland'.

## SUPPORT

'Changing Ireland' generates a small amount of social enterprise revenue. It is core-funded by Government since 2001, receiving support from the:



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

### 7 COMMUNITIES FUND:

Deadline approaching.

**8 AWARDS:** Councils working with communities.

**9 IN TRIBUTE:** To the late Trutz Haase.

### 10-12 FIRST FOR IRELAND:

World Community Development Conference.

**13 LEARNING:** Pre-schoolers to retirees, from Kerry to Fingal.

**14-17 €190m:** Launch of the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (2018-2022).

**18-21 GET YOUR MOJO BACK:** Reaching men in communities.

**22-24 TANZANIA:** The complexities of Community Development in 'Lion Country'.

**26-27 CO-OPS TO INSPIRE US!**

**27 SOCIAL INCLUSION FORUM.**

**28-29 GREEN SCHOOLS:** 20 years a growing.

**27 REFERENDUM:** Women's Empowerment.



*Tanzania - where the main threat to livestock is not from lions, although they are a problem. See pages 22-24.*

contents

## WANTED Freelance Journalists & Contributors



**HELP US**  
with our nationwide coverage!\*

**We focus on people in communities who are positively changing Ireland through community development.**

### Send us your CV!

We welcome enquiries from freelance professional journalists, recent media studies' grads and people who have experience working or volunteering in the Community and Voluntary Sector.

### 'Changing Ireland' focuses on:

- News from Ireland and abroad of interest to workers and activists in Irish civil society.
- Issues from a Community Development perspective.
- Inspiring people and groups in Community Development.
- Government-sponsored social inclusion initiatives.
- Communities demonstrating best practice.
- Civil society initiatives.

We also welcome enquiries from 3rd level institutions and students and from people working professionally or volunteering in the Community & Voluntary Sector.

Perhaps you have what it takes to write a column. Occasionally, we publish informed opinion pieces. Pitch us your idea!

\*We pay for quality journalism. Rates negotiable depending on experience.

Equality - Empowerment - Participation - Inclusion - Collective Action - Best Practice!

E: [editor@changingireland.ie](mailto:editor@changingireland.ie)

## Do you know any Monaghan Men?



We're all Monaghan Men when it comes to it, like the lad on the front cover (who's actually from Dundalk, but that's another story - see page 3). We're all different.

Some of us stand out from the crowd more than others: Some of us choose to; more of us can't help it.

As ever, we differ from each other by age, ability, sexual orientation, educational levels and other factors.

The challenge is not to judge each other negatively based solely on the groups we are perceived to belong to.

Get to know the person first, say campaigners in Monaghan. Then you can make your mind up. Easier said than done of course.

Many people in Ireland have media-warped views on Muslims, but not everyone has the opportunity to get to know a Muslim personally.

The challenge is to guard against inclinations to discriminate.

More diversity means there are even more opportunities for narrow-minded people (yes, we have some, even a few working in public services). The discrimination by people who have power or influence can have a real, negative impact on other

people's lives.

It helps that it is law that you cannot discriminate against people on nine separate named grounds. But, as we've often heard, changing attitudes and mindsets is always harder than changing the law.

For years, people in Ireland were told we lived in a globalised world, but we couldn't see it here. We were used to emigrating and being discriminated against ourselves. Meanwhile, poverty and conflict up north probably put people off from coming here.

Since the mid-1990s, however, we have become a far more diverse society thanks largely to immigration. One man comes to my mind - every day he praises the EU to the high heavens for allowing Slovenia join the EU - he married one of their citizens.

Diversity is good. Embrace it. Embrace the other.

And hats off to the folk in Monaghan and their Local Community Development Committee for showing us new ways to challenge stereotypes.

*Allen Meagher*

### FILE A REPORT FOR US!

**Look atw the stir they are creating in Monaghan!** If you are involved in an innovative project supported, for example, by your local **Public Participation Network** or your **Local Community Development Committee**, let us know! Is it an example of best practice nationally? Of interest, we are also planning a special edition women's issue for November.

**To file a report, send us 300-400 words and a photo if possible.**



#### Published By:

Established in 2001, 'Changing Ireland' is a national magazine focused on community development and social inclusion. It is managed and published by Changing Ireland Community Media CLG., through funding from the Department of Rural & Community Development.

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**Y:** [youtube.com/changingireland](http://youtube.com/changingireland)

**L:** [linkedin.com/company/changing-ireland](http://linkedin.com/company/changing-ireland)

**Also:** [Issuu.com](http://Issuu.com)

#### Production:

**Editor:** Allen Meagher

**Editorial Team:** Viv Sadd, Juan Carlos Azzopardi, Joe Saunders, Kirsty Tobin, Allen Meagher and Paul Geraghty/Bernie Reape.

**Packing and Distribution:** Speedpak, Dublin, an award-winning social enterprise.

**Printed by:** Davis Printers, Limerick.

**Voluntary Board of Directors:** Cathy Jones (chair), George Clancy (vice), Seamus McGiff (sec), Jude Meaney, Andrew O'Byrne and Ellen Duffy.

#### Thanks To . . .

'Changing Ireland' thanks everyone involved in the production of Issue 60.

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### DISCLAIMER

The views expressed in this magazine are those of the author concerned. They do not, by any means, necessarily reflect the views of the editor, the editorial team, the voluntary management board of Changing Ireland Community Media CLG, or the Department of Rural & Community Development.





# 2 national funds combined into 1

## APPLY NOW FOR NEW €4.5M COMMUNITY ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, on May 31st, announced the launch of a new programme, combining two older programmes, to provide €4.5m funding to communities over the next 12 months.

Community groups have until late July to apply for funds.

Minister Ring made the announcement at the local authority HQ in Longford and later at nearby Ardnacassa Estate.

The Community Enhancement Programme (CEP), which is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development, will provide €4.5 million of grant funding in 2018 towards enhancing the facilities available to communities.

The CEP programme replaces two existing schemes, the RAPID programme, originally designed to fast track millions of euro into disadvantaged communities. While it proved helpful for small improvements and in getting people to plan ahead, it could be argued that the achievements did not meet with the expectations raised by the programme's ambitious acronym. RAPID stood for Revitalising Areas by Planning, Investment and Development.

The programme it has been merged with, the Community Facilities Scheme, was only launched last year and - truer to its title - lived up to expectations. It's easy-to-access community grants with a minimum of bureaucracy proved very popular.

Minister Ring said that, "Combining these schemes will make for a more flexible, streamlined and targeted approach to providing funding to those communities most in need, while reducing the level of administration involved."

"This new Programme will provide funding to communities across Ireland to enhance



Martin McClean, chairperson of Disabled People of Longford, talks with Minister Ring. W: [dpol.ie](http://dpol.ie)

facilities in disadvantaged areas. Some funding, up to €1,000, is ring-fenced for smaller projects, from lawnmowers and IT equipment to minor renovations to buildings. The CEP also provides funding towards larger projects in disadvantaged areas. The programme helps support important work by communities and I am delighted that my Department can help in this way."

Typical enhancements under the programme could include the renovation of community centres, community amenities, improvements to town parks, common areas and spaces, CCTV equipment and energy efficiency-type projects.

The Ardnacassa estate in Longford Town, where Minister Ring launched the Programme, received €64,500 under

last year's RAPID Scheme. The money was spent on public lighting which had been identified as a key priority by the local community. The investment proved popular as it has helped to counter anti-social behavior in the area, in particular indiscriminate dumping. Other challenges remain and the housing estate was an apt location to launch the new national programme.

**This Programme is administered on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development by the LCDCs (see also page 27). For application form, local deadline and more details, contact your local LCDC.**

BY ALLEN MEAGHER



Residents with community workers, local politicians, Gardai and officials at the launch in Ardnacassa, a housing estate in Longford town.

**CHECK OUT JOB VACANCIES IN IRELAND'S 49 LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES** [www.ildn.ie](http://www.ildn.ie)



## Here's what communities and councils excel at together

On February 3, 2018, Croke Park saw something it had never seen before. Not an incredible sporting achievement, but an event created to honour councils and local communities working together: the LAMA Awards.

Presented by the Local Authority Members Association (LAMA), and supported by IPB Insurance, the All Ireland Community and Council Awards – more commonly known as the LAMA Awards – are an opportunity to recognise the best community initiatives across the country, and their tremendous contributions to our lives.

The Croke Park ceremony, emceed by Marty Morrissey, brought together finalists from some of the country's most ambitious initiatives for an evening of celebration.

### 2018 winners



**Community Volunteer of the Year:** Bob Gilbert - pictured - (Cavan County Council)

**Council of the Year:** Mayo County Council

**Best Education/**

**Training Initiative:** I WISH (Cork City Council)

**Best Educational Building:** Gaelscoil Iarfhatha (Galway County Council)

**Best Arts/Culture Initiative:** Westport 250 (Mayo County Council).

**Best Business Working with the Community:** Lilly Kinsale Manufacturing (Cork County Council)

**Best Community-Based Initiative:** Centenary Commemorations (Cork Co. Co.)

**Best Community Health Initiative:** It's For Girls (Mayo County Council)

**Best Community Sports Team/Club:** Shankill Tennis Club – Community Tennis for All (Dun Laoghaire/Rathdown Co Co)

**Best Connected Council:** Limerick.ie (Limerick County Council)

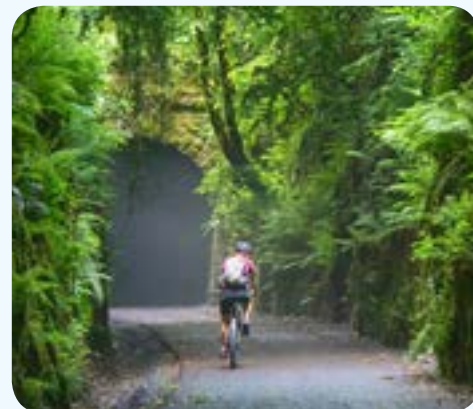
**Best Disability Access & Inclusion Initiative:** A Minute Matters Disabled Parking Awareness Campaign (Monaghan Co. Co.)

**Best Heritage Project:** Malahide Castle & Gardens (Fingal County Council)

**Best Irish Language Initiative:** Pop-up Gaeltacht Comhairle na nÓg an Chabháin (Cavan County Council)

**Best Innovation for Attracting Inward Investment:** Limerick 2030 Economic & Spatial Plan (Limerick Co. Co.)

**Best Public Building:** National Gallery of Ireland Refurbishment of Historic Wings



Waterford's stunning Greenway won gold in the Community and Council Awards and was crowned Ireland's 'Best Tourism Initiative'.

(Dublin City Council)

**Special Recognition Award:** Louth County Council for Innovation in Social Housing and Community

**Best Tourism Initiative:** Waterford Greenway (Waterford County Council)

**Best Energy Smart Initiative:** Housing Fabric Upgrade Programme (Cork City Council)

**Grand Prix Award:** Waterford Greenway (Waterford County Council)

- BY KIRSTY TOBIN

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Further information on this programme is available on our online prospectus at [www.ucc.ie/en/CKE75](http://www.ucc.ie/en/CKE75), or by contacting, **Dr. Féilim Ó hAdhmaill**, at the School of Applied Social Studies, U.C.C.  
Email: [f.ohadhmaill@ucc.ie](mailto:f.ohadhmaill@ucc.ie)



## TRUTZ HAASE

*A life of public service and a powerful legacy*

BY KIRSTY TOBIN

It was with no small degree of sadness that we learned of the passing of Trutz Haase, following an illness, early in April. Kirsty Tobin reflects on the legacy he has left behind.

Socio-economic consultant Trutz Haase was born in Hamburg, Germany, and began his career in Ireland in the early 1990s.

As a consultant, Trutz was responsible for designing and implementing frameworks that monitored and evaluated government programmes aimed at alleviating poverty. He also worked on developing resource allocation models to target social spending where it was most needed. He wrote with concern about this subject in this magazine in 2016.\*

His work ranged widely, covering family wellbeing, relationships, mental health, quality of hospital care at the end of life and child outcomes of pre-school services.

Trutz is perhaps best known for his work on the Pobal HP Deprivation Index, a resource he co-authored with long-time collaborator Dr Jonathan Pratschke.

The HP Deprivation Index provides a detailed method of measuring the relative affluence or disadvantage of a particular area, based on data compiled from censuses.

"His passion for social research was rooted in a commitment to achieving a more equal society and pursuing social justice. ...By basing policies on a deeper understanding of inequalities, Trutz believed that social disadvantage and exclusion could be alleviated," wrote Dr Pratschke in a tribute to his colleague, with whom he had worked for 23 years.

Many people involved for years in community work felt his passing deeply. As Wexford Local Development put it, he was "a great advocate for equality and social justice in Ireland". He was always available to them on the other end of a phone with a "generosity of wisdom, knowledge and advice". He will be "sorely missed", they said.

Minister for Rural and Community



Development, Michael Ring, paid tribute, noting that Trutz was "very much involved with Pobal, very much involved in my Department, very much involved in social inclusion in this country."

"We are sorry to hear of his passing... I know that our thoughts are with his

**"I honour Trutz as one of life's great lovers."**  
- Dr Kieran McKeown.

family. And, he'll be a big loss to society, because his heart was in the right place and he knew what it was about," said the Minister.

In a statement released at the time of Trutz's death, Pobal too paid tribute to the researcher: "Trutz was a great advocate for equality and social justice. His passion and commitment to improving the quality of life for citizens in Ireland was demonstrated through his work. Although he will be missed, his legacy will live on

through Pobal for many years."

Above all else, Trutz was a true believer in the potential impact of his research.

In a tribute to Trutz delivered at the time of his passing, social and economic research consultant Dr Kieran McKeown – a colleague of Trutz's since 1990 – said: "I honour Trutz as one of life's great lovers. He loved what he did, he was passionate about doing it well, and he was truly devoted to giving service," said Dr McKeown.

And yet, perhaps, the true legacy of Trutz's life is not that left behind in the form of work, or research, but that left behind among friends. Friends who knew him separate from his work, and who truly loved him.

"His ideas and models are of enormous practical relevance today and will retain their importance for many years. ... [But] he has had such an immense influence on me that I will be thoroughly lost without him, as will many others," wrote Dr Pratschke.

In his tribute to Trutz, Dr McKeown closed with some poignant lines.

"You will continue to live in my memory for as long as I live. As we say goodbye, I thank you for your life and for your life's work, and for all the service you have given to so many people.

"As you rest here in peace, I too rest in peace and live on with gratitude in my heart for the gift of being able to say these words in honour and celebration of you."

Trutz is survived by his wife Karena, his mother Ruth, his brother Falk and sister Petra, and is missed by his family and friends around the world.

\* Trutz wrote in 2016 calling for "fairer and more rational forms of resource allocation" and expressed concerns over how the government at the time measured poverty and allocated resources in rural areas.

W: [https://issuu.com/changingireland/docs/changing\\_ireland-spring\\_2016\\_issue/12](https://issuu.com/changingireland/docs/changing_ireland-spring_2016_issue/12)

# World Community Development Conference gets Maynooth debut

**BY KIRSTY TOBIN**

We went to print just as the World Community Development Conference (WCDC) was about to roll into Maynooth.

Running from 24–27 June, attendees descended on the Co Kildare university town, for the 65th annual world conference.

This was the first time WCDC came to Ireland.

The three-day event was designed to enable practitioners, participants, academics, policy makers, funders and other stakeholders to discuss and share perspectives on the contexts and challenges relating to community work.

The conference's full title was 'Participation, Power and Progress: Community Development towards 2030 – Our Analysis, Our Actions'.

Ann Irwin, joint national co-ordinator at Community Work Ireland (CWI), speaking before the event, said: "It's a really amazing opportunity to bring people who are engaged in and practicing community work and community development from all over the world together - to learn from each other, to network and, ultimately, to say that community work and community development is a vibrant profession that is practiced all over the world."

Focusing on cutting-edge initiatives relating to local, national and international rights-based community development, WCDC2018 aimed to look at key issues with a view to understanding the challenges facing communities around the globe and seeking ways to address them.

Naturally, it had a focus on empowerment and participation.

"But," said Ann, "we're also going to look at the difference that community work makes in areas such as climate change and environmental justice, gender, integration and the rights of minorities."

Organised by CWI, the International Association for Community Development and Maynooth University's Department of Applied Social Studies, and co-sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development, the conference had lined up experienced and respected community activists – including former president Mary Robinson and human rights campaigner Bernadette McAliskey – as keynote speakers.

The conference received some 300 submissions in areas relating to community work before the event. It was intended to give attendees a platform from which to



Above: Maynooth University, Co. Kildare.

# WCDC 2018 in Ireland

lobby for an increased focus on communities nationally.

There was strong interest in the conference and tickets had all but sold out before the event.

A three-day ticket cost €400, though it could be shared among colleagues/activists, with different representatives attending on different days.

A limited number of bursaries were available for participants from low- and middle-income countries, with representatives from 26 countries – including Bangladesh, Colombia, the Philippines, Ghana and Russia – benefiting from the programme.

'Changing Ireland' planned to attend WCDC with a view to providing readers with fresh insights into community development practices around the world in later editions.



## Attendees from around the world:

- Bangladesh
- Australia
- Canada
- Colombia
- England
- Ethiopia
- France
- Germany
- Ghana
- Hong Kong
- India
- Ireland
- Jamaica
- Japan
- Kenya
- Liberia
- Mauritius
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- New Zealand
- Nigeria
- Philippines
- Portugal
- Russia
- Scotland
- Sierra Leone
- Somalia
- South Africa
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- Tanzania
- Uganda
- UK
- USA
- Vietnam
- Wales
- Zimbabwe

## What attendees expected to learn:

The subject areas covered at WCDC 2018 are impossible to define in any single, simple word or description, just as community work itself would be impossible to define succinctly. The profession, and the work involved within it, touches on many disparate issues, and the WCDC programme is highly reflective of that.

Speaking in the run-up to the conference, Ann Irwin, joint national co-ordinator at Community Work Ireland (CWI), said:

"There's quite a wide range of themes. Community work is such a wide-ranging activity and profession – it can touch on so many issues. We're trying to capture some of that."

The conference aimed to focus on some of the key values surrounding community work.

Some of the areas up for discussion included environmental justice, sustainable development, gender, civil rights, migration, racism, rural and urban challenges, and health.

The full list of topics and the programme is available at: [www.wcdc2018.ie/about](http://www.wcdc2018.ie/about).



## GLOBAL SPEAKERS

*Maynooth headliners*



**Anita Paul** has a degree in sociology and a masters in social work. In 1992, she co-founded the Pan Himalayan Grassroots Development Foundation. She has spent her career working directly with community development programmes, particularly with communities in mountainous regions. For instance, she has been involved in creating gender-inclusive, community-led programmes in the water, sanitation and domestic energy sectors, with the aim of reducing the drudgery imposed on mountain women (and in support of the Sustainable Development Goals).



**Dr Peter Westoby** has nearly 30 years of experience in youth, community and organisational development work. He is associate professor in Social Science and Community Development at Queensland University of Technology, visiting professor at the South African University of Free State, and director of Community Praxis, a non-profit co-operative in Australia. He has focused his research on the conceptual frameworks guiding community development practices.

Ireland's **Mary Robinson** and **Bernadette McAliskey** were also among the keynote speakers scheduled to address the conference.



The International Association for Community Development - the board is pictured here - is one of the organisers.

## THE TEAM BEHIND WCDC 2018

WCDC 2018 was organised and hosted by the International Association for Community Development, Community Work Ireland and the Maynooth university's Department of Applied Social Studies.

Each of these stakeholders has a strong history of community work and activism.

The International Association for Community Development (IACD) is a UN-accredited network for those working in community development. In addition to a wealth of community-focused initiatives, the IACD works to advocate for community development in international arenas. It publishes an international community development magazine called 'Practice Insights' and provides professional training opportunities.

Having evolved from the 1981-established Community Workers' Co-operative, Community Work Ireland (CWI) is a national organisation that promotes and supports community work. CWI views this work as a means of addressing poverty and social exclusion, among other challenges faced by rural and urban communities nationwide.

Maynooth University, 27 years ago, became the first university in the Republic of Ireland to offer professional programmes in community work and youth work. Since then, the Department of Applied Social Studies has continued to expand its teaching, research and development in these areas. The university offers a range of undergraduate and postgraduate programmes focused on community and youth work.

Ireland's Department of Rural and Community Development co-sponsored the event.

For more on any of these bodies, visit these websites:

[www.iacdglobel.org](http://www.iacdglobel.org)

[www.communityworkireland.ie](http://www.communityworkireland.ie)

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie)

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/applied-social-studies](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/applied-social-studies)

[www.drcd.gov.ie](http://www.drcd.gov.ie)



An Roinn Forbartha  
Tuaithe agus Pobail  
Department of Rural and  
Community Development

# 2018 Aontas Star Awards WHO WERE THE BIG WINNERS?



Women's group Blayne Blades received an Aontas Star Award for their initiative 'Moving On Sport and Recreation Programme'. They are pictured here with Marty Morrissey. Pic by Marc O'Sullivan.

On March 5, 2018, finalists from around the country descended on Dublin for the AONTAS STAR Awards.

As part of the Adult Learners' Festival, the STAR (Showcasing Teamwork, Awarding Recognition) Awards are an annual effort from AONTAS to acknowledge the work being done by adult learning initiatives around Ireland. The event celebrates their positive contributions to society, the economy and local communities.

The Awards' shortlist was announced in February, naming finalists under the categories of promoting wellbeing, promoting digital inclusion, promoting social inclusion and promoting the learner voice.

Winners benefit from the recognition the awards generate, as well as from getting an opportunity to participate in professional development through the ERASMUS+ mobility programme and to promote their work with a professional photography session.

This year's ceremony was emceed by sports commentator and presenter Marty Morrissey.

## This year's winners

**Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote the Learner Voice:** Making Connections Learning and Training Initiative Carlow.

**Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Digital Inclusion:** Digital Pathways Programme, An Cosán.

**Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Social Inclusion:**

- Large Winner - RADE (Recovery through Art, Drama and Education).
- Small and Medium Winner - Cara Outreach Support Service.

**Adult Learning Initiatives that Promote Wellbeing:**

- Large Winner - Soilse.
- Small and Medium Winner - Moving on Programme – Blayne Blades.



Making Connections Carlow representatives with Marty Morrissey. Pic by Marc O'Sullivan.

## RUTLAND IS FIGHTING THE STIGMA OF ADDICTION

The Rutland Centre in Dublin helped around 400 people last year to overcome addiction; it also seeks to tackle the stigma associated with addiction.

"We need to challenge the perception that addiction only happens to someone else, because that will actually prevent a person or their family asking for help," said Maebh Mullany, CEO.

"We need to help more families who are living in situations from which they see no escape. People need to know that there is no judgement. Together, recovery is possible," she said.

The Centre's programmes for behavioural and substance addictions cover: alcohol, drugs, gambling, sex and food. Alcohol is the leading addiction - 91% who attended (in 2016) received treatment for alcohol addiction.

For some years, the Rutland Centre has been paving the way in breaking the stigma associated with addiction, through its annual campaign called 'Recovery Month', held every September.

Last year, the Centre's 'Recovery Month' programme concentrated on groups identified as at risk by the national Drugs and Alcohol Strategy. It hosted a number of free events for women, the LGBTI community, families and sportspeople. It also hosted a GP continuing professional development seminar on screening for addiction.

This year, the Knocklyon-based organisation will mark 'Recovery Month' by incorporating the campaign into their 40th anniversary celebrations.

The aim is "to give recovery a voice - in the hope that this will resonate with families currently struggling to deal with a loved one's addiction," said Ms. Mullany.

She encouraged people to look out for their friends and family members and to recognise the signs and symptoms of addiction.

W: [rutlandcentre.ie](http://rutlandcentre.ie)



**COMMUNITY WORK, RURAL DEVELOPMENT,  
MANAGEMENT, ADMIN JOBS AND MORE** [www.ildn.ie](http://www.ildn.ie)







# Learning in Fingal, Kerry & Limerick

## PRE-SCHOOLING CHANNEL 4 STYLE

BY BEN PANTER



Children learning in an inter-generational environment at Bright Sparks Community Pre-School.

"With the present as their only shared realm, what can the old and young offer each other if given the chance?"

So asks Jacinta Lowndes, a pre-school teacher in north county Dublin.

Jacinta's workplace - Bright Sparks Community Pre-School and Montessori, in Donabate - has been finding out.

It launched a pilot project last year - which is continuing - based on studies from Seattle and a Channel 4 programme called 'Old Peoples Home for 4-Year- Olds'. The British television series was so popular that a new series is now screening.

As the British television presenters put it, "What happens when a nursery group share their classroom with 11 pensioners for six weeks?"

Mayhem? Fun? Creativity? Friendship?

Jacinta said studies show that 43% of older people feel a sense of isolation and this is "closely related to depression and mental and physical decline."

In response, her Fingal pre-school\* designed a programme of activities to stimulate mental and physical health and to improve interaction between children and older people.

The older people involved join in using the school library and sports hall. They take part in the school concert and egg hunts - whatever's happening.

"We call it the 'Kaleidoscope Programme'," said Jacinta. It is ideally suited to older people at risk from isolation, for instance those whose children have emigrated.

The school began by piloting their programme one morning a week and involving four seniors. The project is supported by Fingal County Council Community Development Office and Donabate Portrane Seniors.

"Four was the perfect number" said Jacinta. "It allowed us to judge how they would interact and how the children would

respond to strangers and there were no problems."

Time spent with little ones forces older people to see the world afresh. So, what do the young gain in return?

"The subject of death came up which is good. It's natural," said Jacinta. The seniors have also, for example, told the children about the rare occasions when they received toys or gifts when they were young. The youngsters were taken aback.

"The seniors come from a generation that is calmer, they are much more relaxed and they relax the children. It reminds us how fast society has become nowadays," she said.

The children also learn respect.

This Spring, the pre-school won a National Age Friendly Award for which it thanked the children and the older people, teachers, parents, the Community Department of Fingal County Council and Donabate Library.

"Thank you for believing this would work," the pre-school said. The children were very impressed - a big box of toys arrived along with the award.

FB: facebook.com/  
BrightSparksPreschoolMontessori/  
W: donabatecommunitycentre.com/  
montessori  
E: jacinta.lowndes@dpcc.ie  
T: 01-843-4546.

Channel 4's show is also online: <http://www.channel4.com/programmes/old-peoples-home-for-4-year-olds/on-demand/64374-001>

For more about Fingal Co Co's community work: <http://www.fingal.ie/community-and-leisure/>



## KERRY MOVES YOUTH AND COMMUNITY INTO THE DIGITAL AGE



According to the National Youth Council of Ireland, young people born into the digital age view the online world as an extension of the offline world. They inhabit both simultaneously. As such, digital media can offer an excellent means of engaging with young people in a meaningful way.

The Institute of Technology Tralee is, this year, launching a new degree programme designed to instill future community and youth workers with a grounding in digital media.

The BA in Youth and Community Studies with New Media mixes digital media and academic content, allowing students to get a grounding in traditional and more digitally minded approaches.

The skills acquired on this course will also be applicable outside of youth work, with significant relevance to community groups, voluntary organisations and fundraising.

The new three-year course (four years for BA Hons) will welcome its inaugural class this September. Enrollment is now open via the CAO Change of Mind facility at [www.cao.ie](http://www.cao.ie).

## MCGRATH GREETS ADVOCACY GRADS



Minister of State for Disability Issues, Finian McGrath, visited LIT in May to greet students with intellectual disabilities who graduated in the college's Advocacy, Leadership and Independent Living Programme.





# €190m INCLUSION & COMMUNITY PROG: MINISTER RING LAUNCHES 5-YEAR

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, officially launched the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) on April 20th.

Limerick hosted the national launch which took place in two communities representing urban and rural areas that benefit from the programme - in Southill in the city and in Ballybrown in the county.

Minister Ring described SICAP as "a major investment by the Government to tackle disadvantage in Ireland."

The €190 million spend will run from this year until 2022.

"This announcement demonstrates the Government's commitment to tackle poverty and social exclusion in the most disadvantaged areas for the next five years," said the Minister.

"Working at a local level with community groups and individuals, SICAP funding supports life-long learning, strengthens communities and helps people to become job ready.

"By providing practical guidance and supports the programme helps disadvantaged people throughout the country to make progress in their lives and to realise their potential," he said.

The programme supports unemployed people, people living in deprived areas, people with disabilities, single parent families, people on low income, members of the Traveller and Roma communities and other disadvantaged groups.

SICAP is co-funded through the European Social Fund and is overseen nationally by the Department of Rural and Community Development. Pobal provide administrative support nationally.

It is overseen at "local" level (often a county) by Local Community Development Committees, while at community level it is implemented by the staff of Local Development Companies (aka Partnerships or LEADER companies).

The programme follows in the train of earlier programmes stretching back to the early '90s, all aimed at tackling poverty in collaboration with communities. These include the Local and Community



Jennifer O'Brien, manager, Southill Area Centre and Minister Michael Ring. The urban half of the two-part launch was held in Southill, an area undergoing slow yet massive regeneration.

Development Programme, the Local Development and Social Inclusion Programme, the Community Development Programme and the Community Development Support Programme.

There was often resistance when programmes ended, but for community groups to continue to receiving funding they generally gave in to pressure to go along with what came from the top down.

On this occasion, it is different. The re-design of 'SICAP 2', as it is known by people working in the sector, took on board the majority of the observations and recommendations that came from the grassroots up.

The changes introduced for the current programme were welcomed far and wide.

While the funding for earlier programmes was at times higher than for SICAP, since

2015 the programme has established a record for itself in "helping disadvantaged people to make progress in their lives".

The Government see it as being more efficient.

Speakers at the dual launch included Minister Michael Ring, Patrick O'Donovan, T.D., Tom Neville, T.D., Cllr Stephen Kearney, Mayor of Limerick City & County Council, Cllr Jerome Scanlon, chairperson of Limerick's Local Community Development Committee, and Shay Riordan, CEO of West Limerick Resources.

REPORTS & PICS: BY ALLEN  
MEAGHER & BEN PANTER

## From 2015 - 2017 with assistance through the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Prog.:

- 110,000 people were supported on a 1:1 basis.
- 5,030 local community groups received assistance.
- 9,720 gained a higher qualification.
- 5,801 people got jobs.
- 15,923 people set up a new business.
- 38,352 people took part in life-long learning courses.

Over 29% of SICAP recipients lived in disadvantaged areas and 40% of them came from a jobless household.





# National launch held in Limerick



## R ANTI-POVERTY PROGRAMME

### MEATH

Michael Ludlow, CEO of Meath Partnership, said he and his team are "very happy this time around".

"We're very happy with this SICAP in comparison to the last SICAP programme.

"It allows us to engage more with the individuals who are meant to benefit from SICAP.

"It's more focused on doing quality work for individuals who need assistance, rather than achieving numbers and targets with minimal impact on the beneficiary," he said.

### MAYO

Gerry O'Neill, CEO of South West Mayo Development Company, was pleased with changes to the programme, but he criticised the decision to put the work out to public tender.

"The fact that we're through the second tendering process is a relief, obviously, for us all. Having done it once, it was easy to do the second time, but these programmes should not be in that space - they shouldn't be tendering.

"Having said that, we're where we are now. The new programme has been simplified in that there are two goals rather than three.

"And the fact that the targets are reduced a bit enables us to work more intensively with less people, rather than working under pressure with regard to meeting targets

"In our case, the main priority remains with individuals, with younger people and with what would be classically called 'NEETS' - people who are not in education or training.

"From the community side, there would be a lot of rural isolation. We're also looking to put more effort into supporting social economy projects," he said.

### DONEGAL

Jim Slevin and colleagues from Donegal Local Development Company travelled the furthest for the national launch.

He said SICAP had been "streamlined and is doing everything that it should be doing, so we're very happy with it at this point in time. It is working very well for us".

### NORTH TIPPERARY

Caroline Shanahan, from North Tipperary Leader Partnership, said: "I work as a project worker on SICAP. We do work sometimes that never gets seen, or heard of, and I enjoy working on it.

"Overall, I think it's a great programme. I'm glad that they made some changes from the last programme. I just feel it might be easier to work with," she said.



### LIMERICK - LCDC PERSPECTIVE

Newcastle West-based Fine Gael councillor, Jerome Scanlan, is the chair of the Local Community Development Committee in Limerick. He said SICAP was "fantastic" and had "delivered very well for Limerick through our three LEADER companies: West Limerick Resources, Ballyhoura Development and the PAUL Partnership".

He said it was "absolutely fitting" that Minister Ring conducted the launch in Southill.



### LIMERICK - A WORKER'S PERSPECTIVE

Maeve Gorden is with St. Mary's Aid based in King's Island, Limerick city.

She said, "It's lovely to see that the consultation that was done over the past few years was taken into account. There's a move towards the bottom-up approach in allowing communities to grow with the programme.

"And it's open now to more people; it's not as closed to target groups. It's open to older people and reaching out and recognising the needs of women as well. They're all good changes. It's going in the right direction," she added.

### NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE - THE ILDN

The Irish Local Development Network (ILDN), whose members implement the SICAP programme across the state, welcomed the new programme and its design. Chairperson Marie Price-Bolger said: "It will allow our members, whose approach is community-based and community-led, to advance the social inclusion needs of disadvantaged individuals and groups on a planned basis over the next five years. The ILDN looks forward to supporting our members in their delivery of the programme."

### NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE - POBAL

Pobal's CEO, Denis Leamy, welcomed the fact that SICAP 2018-2022 will have "an increased focus on targeting the most disadvantaged individuals and communities using community development approaches, more intense engagement, and greater collaboration with other agencies."=



# €190m INCLUSION & COMMUNITY PROG

## SICAP "really can enable" people & communities "to reach their potential" - Minister Ring

Throughout his speech, Minister Michael Ring held the audience's attention. At times, he went off script to handsomely thank everyone involved in delivering the Republic of Ireland's most substantial, most informed and polished programme for supporting people on the margins.

He was speaking of course about the *Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme*.

It is "a national programme delivered locally to help those in greatest need," he said, speaking to a full house in Southill Area Centre.

It truly works wonders. The statistics speak for themselves.

"The original programme ran from 2015 to 2017 and it helped over 110,000 individuals (and) over 5,000 local community groups," he said.

It was the Minister's job to highlight all this, which he did in spades.

"SICAP is vital in helping those in the most disadvantaged areas. It really can enable people to reach their potential and make a positive contribution to their communities," he said.

Earlier, he had met people who had received SICAP support.

Ad-libbing, he said, speaking from the heart, "What really was more exciting than anything was to see community people - people from the area that had taken up this programme and had moved on, whether it was through education, whether it was to help them to set up in employment or whether it was to help them to get back into the workplace again. And I was happier than anything to see that happening today."

Returning to his speech, he said, "The programme's vision is to improve the life chances of those who are marginalised in society, living in poverty, or unemployed. We achieve this using a community development approach."

### NEW DESIGN

An independent consultation was carried out last year.

"The new design reflects your feedback and

priorities, as well as government priorities as the country moves on into a changed and improved economic and social environment," he said.

"The feedback has worked very well," he said, thank all who contributed, including many present at the launch.

He said the redesign also took into account findings from an evaluation by the ESRI.

"You will find that this programme is actually going to be a better programme - a more refreshing programme."

"It will enable an increased focus on personal development and progression and will also allow the programme implementers to show the good work they are doing on the ground."

"We will be better able to evaluate the impact of the supports provided for individuals and local community groups."

"In this regard, I am delighted to say that my Department, along with Pobal, will shortly commence the development of a 'Distance Travelled Tool' to measure personal progression of individuals and the softer outcomes of the programme."

### GRATITUDE

He singled out volunteers for the greatest praise.

He welcomed representatives from the European Social Fund who were present at the launch. SICAP is co-funded by the European Social Fund under its Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

He thanked Pobal: "They get a lot of criticism sometimes, but they actually do a very professional job."

He thanked Department officials and workers in Local Development Companies who implement the programme on the ground.

"I look around here today and I see people who are committed to this programme, who are committed to this job and who are committed to making this SICAP programme work. And I say to you today thank you for the work that you do."

All in all, he thanked people 28 times.

Does that mean I get a pay rise, I heard one worker quip afterwards.

### TENDERING

The Minister alluded to difficulties\* in his speech.

"We are all aware that there were many challenges faced along the way in rolling out this programme, many challenges can I say."

"I cannot commend you all enough on the effect by each Local Development Company and each LCDC in working together to reach a successful conclusion in all 51 locations, because we did have some difficulties."

"I'm glad to say that they're now resolved and we have the 51 lots up and running."

"As and from the 13th of April the new programme has rolled out nationwide," he said.

### RURAL ELEMENT

Later, speaking in Ballybrown, Co. Limerick, for the rural element of the launch, Minister Ring said, "As the economy begins to lift, there's people out there that haven't seen that lift."

He pointed to migrants, among others: "There's people that find it very difficult. They have difficulty with their education needs. They have difficulty related to jobs. (SICAP will support) people with disabilities and lots of other people, particularly people coming in from other countries and (becoming) citizens in this country - we have to support them, help them, work with them and make sure that everybody gets an opportunity - an equal opportunity."

### TRIBUTE

In concluding, the Minister paid tribute to the late Trutz Haase (for more, see page 8).

\* For background, see p7, Issue 59, online at: <http://bit.ly/SICAPTender>

BY A. MEAGHER



Ready for launch - at Ballybrown, Co. Limerick.



Umair Sheikh, Philip Onyejekwe, Minister Michael Ring





# Surprised in Southill

BY ALLEN MEAGHER

I pass through Southill twice a day most days and even I didn't realise the scale of the building work happening there. All I could see from my vantage point passing by on the main road were gaps where homes used to be before Southill's dream turned nightmarish.

I should have turned in from Collins Avenue. The dream is becoming real again.

Dozens of new homes were nearing their completion date as the SICAP launch crew from the Department of Rural and Community Development rolled into town. Of course, any Minister launching anything wants to be associated with good news. Nobody wants a backdrop of burnt-out houses (they're gone).

The new build impressed not just me, but also RTE who were there on a dual mission: to cover the launch and to see could they get the Minister to say something out of the ordinary about the political drama of the day (he played it straight).

Southill Area Centre where the urban half of the launch took place is also an impressive building. We were all well catered for.

Pride in the area was palpable. At least one local Community Employment worker had started work at 6am to ensure all was ready. Not bad for someone paid €22.50 more per week than if he was on the dole.

The fact is that the statistics for poverty and disadvantage in Southill and across the city of Limerick - confined to five main areas - are the highest in the country. Evidence enough that the Mid-West's capital was indeed the most appropriate place to launch an ambitious new plan for tackling social exclusion nationwide.

Up to now - with recession - it was all about numbers. True community development came second. How many people got jobs? Or in government speak - "returned to the labour force" - a bit of a euphemism when some have

never worked before, usually through no fault of their own. How many had taken up education? How many individuals had "progressed"?

The figures - in the tens of thousands - were enough to impress the Department of Finance.

The new Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme is now worth more in cash to communities than LEADER (funding there was higher in years past).

It is also a better vehicle than before, more Ferrari than Ford, as the people who implement the programme on the ground discovered to their pleasant surprise (it hasn't always been like this) that their views were taken on board.

"Ninety-five percent of what they asked for is in the new plan," one civil servant said confidently. The claim appears justified, going by accounts given freely to 'Changing Ireland' by those who attended the launch.

Given the praise for the programme and the feedback we've received, the programme's bottom-up approach appears sound.

That's good news for people in communities who benefit from the programme's support to rise above poverty, discrimination and marginalisation.

Of course, if you were picky, there's no way that €190m is enough to pull from the water everyone left out of the economic recovery.

On the other hand, I'm in this line of work for some time now and I can't remember the last programme that had guaranteed funding and security for five years.

This is encouraging for the programme implementers, all 51 of which are community-based, not-for-profit organisations. The national launch took place as soon as contracts with all were signed. In his speech (see left) the Minister referred to some "difficulties" in that process that are now behind us. The road ahead is clear.



Denis Leamy, CEO of Pobal and Dóirín Graham, CEO of Clare Local Development.



Minister Ring is welcomed to Ballybrown.



David O'Grady and John Hassett from Ballyhoura Development, Minister Michael Ring and Pádraig Casey, Ballyhoura's CEO.



Personnel from West Limerick Resources with Minister Michael Ring, in Ballybrown, Co. Limerick.



Joe Saunders, CEO, the ILDN, Minister Michael Ring and Shay Riordan, CEO, West Limerick Resources.



Shakeel Ahmed.



Selfie time! Cllr. Stephen Keary, Mayor of Limerick City & County Council, Minister Michael Ring, and Patrick O'Donovan, T.D. — at Southill, Limerick.



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme



## GET YOUR **MOJO** BACK BY RAY LUCEY

While walking in Tullamore some time ago, an interesting looking poster with a striking logo and a catchy slogan – ‘Mojo: Creating Male Space’ – caught my attention. Taking two steps back to read it fully, I was quite intrigued with my new discovery.

Mojo, I learned, is a 12-week training programme developed by a collective of organisations and designed to reduce the high levels of male suicide in Ireland. The programme is aimed at men who are in distress and facing employment issues, stemming from a lack of availability of jobs, poor physical or mental health, or providing care to a family member. It is intended that those who attend the programme will be empowered to create a more positive future for themselves and their families.

The first Mojo Offaly project ran in 2011, part of a national movement spearheaded by Mojo Projects and supported by the National Office for Suicide Prevention.

“The downturn in the economy in 2008/2009 found a lot of men with time at home, unemployed,” said Caroline Brickland, Mojo Offaly programme co-ordinator, of the programme’s beginnings. “The South Dublin County Partnership (SDCP) wanted to respond and meet men’s needs, so they set up the Mojo Project.”

The project was the first of its kind in Ireland.

With the Mojo 4 programme currently underway, I met with six past Mojo graduates from Mojo 1, 2 and 3 – who spoke of their experiences with this programme – as well as Caroline.

Speaking to the men who were present, it was clear that there is no such thing as a stereotypical Mojo programme participant, with a wide range of ages and personalities in attendance. One thing was abundantly clear though: through the programme, they all experienced positive outcomes and life-affirming improvements in their personal lives.

“At the end of every Mojo, you see how straight the men are walking,” said Willy, a participant on Mojo 1. “I got great energy out of it. [There are] great tools to be got in it. I got my confidence back and am able to take on challenges easier.”

One aspect of the programme that can be of particular benefit to participants is the friendships that develop out of a shared situation. Joe from Mojo 3 found that his complaints and worries weren’t unique to him. He said that Mojo is “kind of like an extended family. You could talk to and build up a rapport with them... A little bit of hope is all you need”.

As Caroline put it, “with voluntary participation, it is a male space,

**MOJO** CREATING MALE SPACE

### STORY IN SUMMARY

- Reporter Ray Lucey saw a local poster about a new initiative that is spreading nationwide: Mojo courses.
- He made enquiries. There are four in operation, from south Dublin to the midlands, and another 13 community groups around the country have applied to join.
- Ray spoke to Mojo ‘graduates’ and the people behind the programme.
- How do they get men involved? Why is this a success? What do they do on the course?
- Ray later returned to Offaly, to where he saw his first Mojo poster, and attended a graduation ceremony for the latest batch of men to get their mojo back.
- National website, office and regional contact info are provided

talking about issues that are pertinent to men”.

Joe agreed that Mojo gives you the tools to deal with life’s challenges. Graduates of the Mojo programme are known as Mojo Brothers, and they maintain contact with the local organisation. Some return periodically to visit, or indeed to assist with programmes currently running.

These programmes combine mental health support, adult guidance, physical fitness training and an overview of social networking methodologies. This helps participants to be and stay well, to identify the barriers to achieving their goals, and to learn how to plan for the future.

Each participant also has access to two one-to-one sessions with a life planner.

The Mojo national office is supporting the development of Mojo projects across Ireland. Currently, there are four Mojo Projects in operation: Mojo Kildare, Mojo South Dublin, Mojo North Dublin and Mojo Offaly. Other projects are in the development phase, with interested parties across 13 counties. The aim is to have 20 Mojo projects throughout Ireland by 2020.





# able men in communities

## "BLACK OPS TO THE SHOPS"



Nick Foley (left) and Caroline Brickland (centre) from Offaly Mojo Project meet up with past participants.

**- Some men are so isolated, and maybe paranoid, that even a trip to the local shop is like a secret mission**

Willie, a Mojo 1 graduate, spoke about "black ops to the shops". He said some men are so isolated, and maybe paranoid, that even a trip to the local shop is like a secret mission.

"They just want to get what they need and make it back to base with as little human interaction as possible in case questions are asked regarding how they are," said Willie.

He says Mojo is so successful because it is transparent and built on pillars of truth and honesty. As a Mojo veteran, he meets newer participants halfway through their course and helps them by sharing his experience. He says this approach is key.

"A lot of them open up as they can see what I got from Mojo through being honest with myself. When Mojo Men realise that it is their space, and once they open up, they confide in each other and relate to each other, giving

time to express themselves and other men to listen." Willie claimed that in overcoming life's issues and challenges, "Mojo gives you the bricks and mortar to build that bridge and get over it."

He said that when commencing the Mojo course you take "small baby steps going into it, but now it's 'What else can I learn?'"

Confidence-building is a key element of the programme and participants are signposted to services available to them, Willie says.

"All they need is a kickstart.

"As long as I keep doing the right thing, I am OK, whether that's helping myself or others. That's the main thing: men finding their own space. You are not dictated to or not being put under pressure to get something done. Do it at your own pace and when you see the end result, that's when you get your Mojo back."



Black ops to the shops. Have you ever experienced this?



## 2 MOJO DAYS

### Wednesday

#### Wellbeing and Resilience

- Exploring what mental health is
- Exploring how physical activity impacts on one's mental wellbeing
- Mindfulness
- Anxiety/stress
- Coping mechanisms - decider skill
- Sleep
- Routine and structure
- Self-esteem
- Wellness Recovery Action Programme

There is input from various services working in the health and wellbeing sector in Offaly.

### Thursday

#### Life Planning

- Goal setting
- Change
- Communication
- Self-employment opportunities
- Volunteering
- Educational opportunities
- Employment based programmes- Jobs clubs/ EmployAbility
- Department of Social Protection
- Citizens Information service

There is input from various services working in the volunteering, employment and education services in the county.



Mojo men go bowling.



# COMMUNITY FOCUS: Reaching vulner

## MOJO MAGIC... GRADUATION IN TULLAMORE BY RAY LUCEY

Where do Mojo participants come from? Two-thirds are referred from mental health services, primary health care, the probation service and drug rehabilitation projects. The remainder are self-referrals, or come because the men hear about the programme through word of mouth.

"Self-referrals are best. Services are saying 'Give this a try', but men are also hearing about this through the grapevine," said Derek McDonnell, CEO and co-founder of Mojo.

"We are building up a trusting relationship in each area we go into. With the men, we look at their values about life and what stopped them in the past from achieving their passions.

"We address masculinity and what it means to be a man. That's really important, that whatever type of man we are is perfect - we don't have to be any certain type," he said.

In April, a ceremony took place in Tullamore and Mojo graduates spoke publicly about the change it makes getting your mojo back.

Daniel, a Mojo 4 graduate, said, "It helped me find my purpose. After Mojo everything came together."

Richard, another recent graduate, said, "I was stuck in a rut for 15 years. With Mojo I have a lot more options. Everyone was supportive and helpful. The best thing about this is there is no judgement from anybody."

Thomas, another Mojo 4 graduate, was referred to the Mojo Offaly programme. "I needed a change in my life and went open-minded into Mojo. I was told to take out of it what I could and I got what I needed from the course. The key thing for me now is to move forward and start a new beginning." His particular focus is on adult education, with his hopes set on Social Studies and a course commencing this September.



Offaly County Councillor, John Leahy spoke at the graduation about people with mental health issues and those affected by isolation.

"They just need someone to break that mould."

He said he had seen how Mojo helped people to transform themselves in 12 weeks.

"The biggest crisis is in mental health and we need more programmes like this for adult men and for youngsters," he added.

Caroline Brickland, Mojo Offaly's programme manager, said at the Mojo 4 graduation: "For every man, his goals are different, but one thing unites everyone: we are all striving to be the best we can in life.

"The members of the 'Interagency Advisory Group' guide the programme in County Offaly to ensure that all men who can benefit from the programme have the opportunity to engage with a quality service that is supportive and

responsive to their needs, signposting options for each Mojo man that will assist him to meet his life goals and ambitions.

"Each one of you committed yourself to sharing lessons from your life experiences for us all to learn from, reflect on and ultimately grow. As a group, you were open to suggestions and feedback and really harnessed the team ethos in that 'together, everyone achieves more'."



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*Picture (right): Nick Foley and  
Caroline Brickland (Offaly Mojo  
Project).*



**WANT TO WORK IN SICAP, LEADER, LES?**  
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## MOJO MAGIC: THE SUPPORT SYSTEM IRELAND NEEDS BY RAY LUCEY

According to Derek McDonnell, CEO and co-founder of Mojo, the programme was built with a community development approach – “from the bottom up, with support from the top” – in conjunction with national policies, including the Connecting for Life suicide strategy.

“It is important to keep that connection, from the local to the national,” says Derek.

All Mojo projects are run independently and with a degree of autonomy. A key component of the Mojo programme is that it is facilitated, rather than taught, by the programme managers. At its core is peer support.

Mojo was the culmination of a three-year plan involving an interagency response and research into the high incidences of men at risk of suicide in South Dublin. It has since expanded its scope, with projects operating in Kildare, North Dublin and Offaly.

Given the programme’s focus, ensuring its continuation is understandably a priority. Currently, Mojo is retaining between 86% and 90% of participants per course.

“We make sure the quality stays the same as the programme develops,” says Derek. “Mojo is so successful because of the quality assurance piece we have developed. It just shows how much value the men place on the programme. We realise the positive impact on the men and the transformative effects on their families.”

The results speak for themselves. After completing the programme, 83% of participants report a reduction in anxiety and depression. 70% of Mojo graduates progress to work, education or volunteering.

Derek has an explanation for the programme’s success: “We created a space that men would want to come to, but also in relation to mental health, education, work life and physical health. Up until Mojo, local organisations could not get men into programmes. We created a space for men that they own, where men are equal partners to [those running the programme]. It has to be really organic and, if not, it’s not Mojo.”

The three founding fundamental principles that underpin Mojo are community development, adult education and mental health recovery. According to Derek, everything in the programme must be in line with them.

“It is important to us that when men leave the programme that they have had a really good experience and an opportunity to connect with other men who will support them post-programme,” says Derek.

This can have a real-life impact on the programme’s bottoms-up approach. Two past participants are now on the national board of Mojo.

“It is important to us that we always listen to men who have been on the programme, and that they can build their capacity to advocate for themselves and for other men as well,” says Derek.

While the programme is yielding results in Dublin, Kildare and Offaly, it is clear to Derek that there is an urgent need for Mojo around the country. “That’s the part we don’t realise – how close we are to a mental health issue or life-interrupting issue.”

The intention to expand is very much part of Mojo’s plan, but the communities that are in need will have to be a big part of its development. “We build each project from the ground up and leverage resources that are in the community,” says Derek.

Derek elaborates, “Our job when we are working with the men is to be a facilitator – not a teacher – and to facilitate the men to know about themselves what they didn’t know. Unearthing tacit knowledge and supporting the men to connect to each other.”

“We need to be really careful that we are invited to do something, as opposed to going in thinking we should be doing something.”

“The big thing for me is to bring about change.”



*Offaly Mojo participants on a visit to Tullamore Men's Shed.*

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# INTERNATIONAL: Tanzania Community development in

BY CIAN MATTHEW KEARNS

## INTRODUCTION

We're all aware (surely) of the stresses on people and the environment in Africa. The human population is expanding and wild animal numbers are declining.

Reporter Cian Kearns heard about an impressive project in Tanzania that aims to protect both people and nature, including carnivorous wild animals.

He was curious to see for himself. Could the livelihood of farmers and their families be secured, while protecting wild predators, particularly lions?

Changing mindsets, traditional cultural practices and funding more effective fencing for livestock are seen as critical to the project's success.

However, surprisingly, as Cian discovered, locally lions are more seen as a nuisance. While lions are of course intent on devouring cattle and goats, the main culprit for the loss of domestic farming stock is an invisible and more deadly foe - disease, much of it treatable.

**CREDIT:** Cian and photographer Ray Foley travelled to rural Tanzania with support from the Simon Cumbers Media Fund.

Musse stands, shoulders slumped, beside a tussled gap in a wall of branches. "Simba dragged the goat through here," he says, pointing at the boma, a thorny cattle enclosure. We're surrounded by low, scraggly trees, their branches bare and thirsty for the coming rains. The goat was pregnant, he adds. It's a double loss. Musse believes it's the same lion who has been preying on other small homesteads in the area. I peer uneasily into the undergrowth around us.

I am in central Tanzania with my friend and colleague Ray Foley. We're here to see how conservation and development are linked in this part of the world. This takes us to the Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP). It's not easy to sum up their work in a single sentence. The project is a lot of things: a community development initiative; a conservation effort and even a scientific research station. The challenge for RCP is balancing these essentially different goals.

Traditionally, when a lion killed livestock belonging to the Barabaig, a nomadic pastoral tribe in central Africa, the answer was simple: a hunt was called. Young tribesmen from nearby villages assembled; thin, metal-tipped spears in hand. Skilled trackers would note minute details – bent blades of grass, darts of hair hooked on branches – and the lion would be found. Then, with courage bordering on recklessness, it would be attacked and killed.

Yet times are changing for the pastoralists. Their old ways have fallen out of favour. Modern society begins to encroach on their traditional way of life. The old, migratory paths followed for generations through Kenya and Tanzania have narrowed and are closing off. Settled communities press inwards from the coast, bringing agriculture and land control measures.

Ruaha Carnivore Project aims to help the

Barabaig adapt by balancing their societal needs with the realities of a country-wide population boom, alongside conservation efforts. As Benji Casio, camp manager, puts it, "while the main goal of Ruaha Carnivore Project is to address the problem of human-wildlife conflict – we have several other goals."

One of these goals is to gather information on big cat depredations. And it's this that has brought us to Musse's boma (cattle enclosure). In spite of the lion attack, there will be no hunt today. Musse is a Lion Defender (LD), part of the flagship programme run by RCP.

In each village where the organisation works, they identify the most experienced and respected hunter and ask him to become an LD. It is a coveted position. The former hunters are paid a salary to prevent hunts and help carry out research. Benji estimates that LDs stop as many as five to ten hunts a month, although this often puts them in direct conflict with their tribal elders.

The problem is that, although strictly illegal, hunting lions carries strong cultural significance for the tribe. A warrior's prowess on a hunt confers status and even marriage rights.

It is hard to kill a lion. The first spear only angers it. The first hunter to strike is rewarded for his bravery with the deceased lion's claw. He straps it to his arm and wears it as a badge of courage at the ritual dance that follows every successful hunt.

I asked Benji how the programme balances the community's traditional perspective with conservation efforts. He explains "You can't force that change. I can educate you on why it's important for the ecosystem. But until you've gotten your basic needs taken care of, until your livestock are safe, until your children have supplies in the school to be educated, I



## Building local capacity

Michael Kamara (above) was born under Kilimanjaro and he is one of a new highly educated group of Tanzanian conservationists. He is completing a PhD with Oxford whilst managing the lion collaring work at the Ruaha Carnivore Project.

In the past, Western conservation agencies relied on expat staff.

think it's very unrealistic for you to make that leap. And so that's why we have these programmes, interacting with the community to try to square their basic needs as best we can."

RCP offer community support programmes such as educational national park visits, veterinary supplies and an informal ambulance service. They also organise monthly dances in lieu of those missed through aborted hunts. Traditionally, only those who partook in a hunt could dance. At RCP dances, everyone can. In the Barabaig's ritualised society, this allows courting without killing.

Despite the midday heat, we travel on to a second boma, where another lion attack occurred. This time, the animals were kept safe thanks to another RCP initiative: subsidised metal cattle enclosures. Here, chainlink fences are used to reinforce or even replace the traditional enclosures. And

Lion

It is a  
Ruaha  
Below  
livestock  
medicines  
are reduced



# lion country



## Lions are not the main killer of cattle

A common myth that lions are responsible for most cattle killed. About 80% of losses in the area come from disease and illness.

Sean - A cow is tackled to the ground to administer medicine. Eighty percent of cattle mortality in the area is due to illness. Ruaha Carnivore Project gives basic medicines and veterinary supplies to the pastoralists in the hope that - if overall losses are reduced - occasional lion attacks will be tolerated.



## Lion proof enclosures

Lion defender Musse (above) stands in front of his predator proof cattle enclosure. Traditional enclosures are made from thorny vegetation. Lions can jump over these with a goat in their mouth. Failing that the lions will circle the enclosure and spook the livestock who panic and break out.

Ruaha Carnivore Project offers these upgraded enclosures to local families for a heavily discounted price. So far no livestock have been lost from these enclosures.



they can be rolled up and taken with the tribe when they move on. On this particular fence, stretched, misshapen chain links clearly mark where the lion's entry was denied. Tellingly, while this defence held, the traditional, thorny enclosure around it was breached.

Sean McEnry is a Tanzanian-Irish conservationist who has split his life between the two countries. It gives him a unique perspective on the issues faced by the country. He believes tying conservation efforts to local communities is critical to their success. "A lot of the conservation is driven by outside countries, nationals from other places that come and spend a few years. If there is going to be a turnaround then it has to be done by the Tanzanian people."

One such person is Michael Kamara, a senior research assistant at RCP. He's from Arusha, in northern Tanzania, and he's keenly aware of the damage wild animals can present to livelihoods. Growing up,

elephants regularly destroyed his family's crops. They were considered pests. However, studying conservation in both Tanzania and the UK has changed his mind. Now he wants to influence others.

He says, "People are changing. And that is something which I can say that I am proud of myself to be part of the Ruaha Carnivore Project, because lion killings are decreasing."

However, the conservation does not work unless everyone is in on board. As Michael points out, "If you have 100 people, and one is against you, once he puts his poison in the carcass of a cow, for example, it will kill all the pride."

"They understand why hunting lions isn't good for them," Benji says, as we begin our long, bumpy ride back to camp. "They understand the pressure that it puts on the community, the negativity that comes with it. It's still very difficult because there are lions taking their livelihood by killing their

livestock. But I think they're seeing that bigger picture, whether it's from tourism, or from organizations like RCP and the benefits that we bring."



**Different countries around the globe have different approaches to community development, and different concerns that drive it. This is just one example from outside Ireland.**

**Representatives from Tanzania were among those who booked to attend the World Community Development Conference in Maynooth this year. In our next issue, we will give further coverage to development news and community initiatives worldwide.**

# INTERNATIONAL (CONT'D)



## IN LOVE AND WAR

The Tanzanian government alongside conservation NGO's are trying to eradicate the practise of tribal lion hunting. However, the traditions run deep. In Barabaig culture a warrior must spear a lion before he can take part in a courtship dance.

## TOMORROW'S WORLD

Ultimately, if the Barabaig are to tolerate their old enemy living in their midst they must see real benefits. Currently, tourism provides no dividends to this tribe. Unless something changes, lions will remain in the eyes of the Barabaig a nuisance which shows up late at night to steal their wealth.

## LION KILLS

Six lions were deliberately poisoned on village land outside Ruaha National Park the week before Cian and Ray visited. They also came across the body of a lion killed by unknown assailants. As with protecting eagles in Ireland, if one farmer wishes to, s/he can spoil it for everyone else.

## HEARTS AND MINDS

The Ruaha Carnivore Project (RCP) builds goodwill and harnesses local knowledge of animal movements by running a monthly, camera-trap competition (\$2,000 prize). The results also provide valuable data for the NGO. Camera trap research has indicated higher predator densities on village land than exist inside the park. The project runs an unofficial ambulance and taxi service. It is a way of showing a sometimes sceptical community that they are there to help.

*Photos by Ray Foley and Cian Matthew Kearns.*

## Who funds the project?

Ruaha, in Tanzania, is a 20,000 square kilometer area that is home to various nomadic nations and an estimated 10% of all the lions in Africa.

The 'Carnivore Project' in Ruaha is funded by Oxford University. Since its establishment in 2009, the project's funding has expanded tenfold.

Beginning with a team of three people working in one village, the project now employs over 60 people working in 21 different villages and in park and wildlife areas.

Of overall spending of US\$350,000 in 2015:

17% went to on community initiatives, including a camera-trapping competition for villagers.

15% was spent on Lion Defenders (local hunters-turned-protectors).

15% went on chainlink fence enclosures (9%) and guard dogs (6%).

The remainder was spent on research, outreach, overheads and travel.

W: <http://www.ruahacarnivoreproject.com/home/financials/>





# COMMUNITY DEV'T MUST BE "AN INTEGRAL PART" OF NEW PLAN

- *Social Inclusion Forum 2018 points to delay & gaps*



**P**lenty good advice was issued recently by community workers on the ground as the Government moves closer to producing a new National Action Plan for Social Inclusion.

The annual Social Inclusion Forum, held in the Aviva Stadium on May 10th, gave people experiencing poverty and those working in communities a formal opportunity to highlight issues. The event is supported by the government.

One issue of "major concern" was the delay in actually producing a new plan. This was highlighted at all six regional workshops organised by Community Work Ireland (CWI) and the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) Ireland in the run-up to the national forum.

However, there is movement. During February and March, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection held public consultations over four weeks, work that feeds directly into the new plan.

Minister Regina Doherty attended part of the national forum meeting. She said, "It is important that we reflect on where we are and where we want to go as a country as we set out to improve the quality of life for all people in Ireland."

She drew attention to social welfare increases in the last budget and pointed out that the unemployment rate is below 6% for the first time in ten years.

She congratulated the forum on its work whose findings are presented to government.

At the meeting, attendees emphasised that community development must be "an integral part" of the new plan "if meaningful progress is to be made in addressing poverty and social exclusion".

"If the Action Plan on Social

Inclusion is to achieve anything real, it needs robust implementation structures and processes nationally that are reflected locally," they said.

On other issues, main points emerging included the following.

## **Understanding poverty and inequality**

Children, lone parents and unemployed people - among others - are at the highest risk of poverty. The poverty experienced by groups such as low-income farmers and people in direct provision is often "invisible". A greater emphasis placed on those who are "invisible" ensuring their voices and experiences are heard in policy and programme design and implementation.

Many groups and individuals, including those who are working in low paid sectors, do not have enough income to live with dignity.

It was noted the county with the lowest average income is Donegal.

## **The bureaucratic burden**

The increasing burden of regulation and compliance was much discussed.

## **Greatest issue**

Housing and homelessness is the greatest issue currently facing the country.

## **Rural development**

Isolation in rural areas where people feel excluded socially and economically is "ignored by Government". Transport shortcomings are a challenge. Brexit may have a detrimental impact. There needs to be more investment and 'rural proofing' of all plans.

## **Discrimination**

People from minorities sometimes experience discrimination from frontline staff providing services. Class discrimination remains as a form of hidden discrimination.

## **Early Childhood**

There needs to be an enhanced capital grant to community-based childcare.

The new affordable childcare system was seen by some as flawed. There is a need for more places including drop-in childcare and places for those under 2 years of age, to create opportunities for families, especially single parents.

## **Work & Income**

Quality jobs are hard to find for example in counties Clare, Tipperary and Donegal (there is very little industry there). As well as more investment, imagination is required in ensuring there are quality jobs available in more rural areas. Countering "the Government's view that we are 'near full employment' - this is not the case for many... areas where greater supports are needed."

## **Education**

There is a lack of resources to support Traveller and Roma children.

## **Health**

Many communities, including Travellers, experience health inequalities. Traveller life expectancy is well below average.

## **Migrants and integration**

The needs of migrants are not being adequately met. Many recommendations were made.

## **People living longer**

To prevent more older people entering poverty, there needs to be more planning for sustainable publicly funded pensions since people are living longer.

## **Other themes**

- CE, Tus and Jobpath were also discussed at length, with strong recommendations emerging about each scheme or programme.

- There was consensus that the Government's policy focus on 'labour market activation' needs to change to understand social inclusion in broader terms.

*\* This year's Social Inclusion Forum meetings were held in Castleblayney, Ennis, Letterkenny, Tipperary, Kilcoole and Cork city.*

*\*\* Social Inclusion Forum meetings are supported by the Government as part of structures put in place to support the development and implementation of its plans to address poverty and social exclusion.*

**Download the report summary here:**  
<http://bit.ly/SIF2018points>

**BY ALLEN MEAGHER**



*Minister Regina Doherty speaking at the Social Inclusion Forum.*

# Co-operatives abroad to inspire

*Rising stars in the community sector of the future have penned three articles for readers on excellent examples of co-operatives in the 'Third Sector' abroad. Under the tutelage of UCC's Centre for Co-operative Studies, the three - Adrian Sheehy, Joseph Marken and Niamh Dunne - have given us examples from Lancashire, Japan and the USA. The students had been asked to convert assignments into 300 word journalism articles.*

## *Koreikyo: The co-operatives that are reshaping ageing in Japan*

*By Niamh Dunne*

Koreikyo, or senior co-operatives, are a consumer and worker co-operative hybrid operated by and for Japan's seniors. The co-op's guiding mission is to help senior citizens remain active, independent and engaged.

All services are provided for and by seniors. Through the Koreikyo, frail seniors are cared for by more active seniors. The frail seniors receive the assistance they need to remain in their own homes for as long as possible, while employment is provided for active seniors that pays, keeps them active and adds meaning to their lives. Members can both provide and benefit from the co-op's services.

Ms Yoshida (78), a member and service provider of Koreikyo explains, "Without a family of my own, this chance to work here and rely on Koreikyo means a very great deal to me. I'm sure I'll need it even more in the future, so I'm really grateful that it's here."

The co-op's core services include nursing home assistance and a home helper service. However, the social aspect is just as important for Koreikyo members. Different activities and events are organised by its members, providing opportunities to socialise and remain active.

Member and service user Uchida Hiroshi (89) says, "My wife and I became members because we like the personal touch. It's so important for people to help each other and do things together. This is really the principle behind it all."

Members buy a book of tickets and exchange these tickets as payment for services. The service providers are also members and redeem these tickets as payment through the co-op or use the tickets for services themselves.

With low fertility rates and high life expectancy, Japan is facing the world's worst aging crisis. It is predicted that 40% of the population will be over 65 by 2040. Mounting social and economic pressures are changing the way the elderly are cared for in Japan. Koreikyo are emerging as an innovative solution to many of the problems ageing presents.

For more information: <http://apijf.org/-Bob-Marshall/1704/article.pdf>  
W: <http://koreikyo.jp/> (in Japanese)



## 30 YEARS



## *Community pub an answer to social isolation in West Cork*

*By Joseph Marken*

*An Irish town without a pub? Who'd believe it...*

And yet that's the situation facing residents of the West Cork parish of Barryroe. Their local, the Grange Tavern, closed in 2017 due to lack of business, and the Barryroe GAA club – unlike most GAA clubs – does not have a bar attached.

The closing of a local bar may not sound like a serious issue, but it will most likely worsen the impact of social isolation that can be felt in Barryroe and many other rural communities.

But there may be a solution: co-operatives.

According to Kathryn Sharpe, secretary of the co-operative behind the Dog Inn pub in Belthorn, Lancashire, the re-opening of the Dog Inn has helped to regenerate the village of Belthorn, which has a similar population to Barryroe.

Kathryn is also the local community nurse and she sees how having a community pub is of benefit in "helping ensure the health and welfare of the local population". The Dog Inn has become an integral part of village life, and has grown to incorporate a restaurant, shop, and community rooms and gardens, among other facilities.

Replicating the success of the Dog Inn could be an easy task in Barryroe. First, however, the community will need to decide if they need or want a pub, and then whether or not they want to go down the co-operative route. The community is well-placed to do so, as it already has a successful farmer-owned co-op.

Belthorn has shown how this can be done – how a community can be saved. All that is now required is for interested people in Barryroe to get the ball rolling.

The Grange Tavern is currently for sale through Paddy Murray auctioneers. The pub overlooks the beach, is in good condition, and needs only a small amount of work to meet modern standards.

**Editor's note:** Inishturk island 14km off the Mayo coast hosts yet another excellent example of a bar (legally a club) in community hands. Boasting - probably correctly - to be the pub with the best view in Europe, Inishturk Community Club has been in operation for over 20 years.





# ire us at home!



## *Organic Valley not mucking around when it comes to renewable energy*

*By Adrian Sheehy*

In November of last year, figures released by the Environmental Protection Agency showed that Ireland had increased its greenhouse gas emissions by 3.5% in 2016, keeping the country on track to miss EU climate targets by 2020.

With fines estimated to be in the region of €445m for missing these targets, isn't it high time that Ireland looked to new models for the way forward?

The majority of Ireland's increased emissions are generated by the use of fossil fuels in energy production. One US-based co-operative has found a different approach.

Organic Valley is a dairy co-operative founded in 1988 in the midwestern US state of Wisconsin, in reaction to the aggressive expansion of farming conglomerates. Its founding members were seven family farms hoping to remain viable as businesses while maintaining their philosophy of stewardship and sustainability. The co-operative recently announced a set of partnerships with local renewable energy companies. Through these partnerships, Organic Valley intends to become 100% powered by renewable energy by 2019, making it the largest green energy organisation of its kind anywhere in the world.

In the process, it intends to generate 30 megawatts of energy for local communities and potentially raise renewable capacity by as much as 72% in Wisconsin alone.

The commitment of Organic Valley to protecting the environment is enhanced by the fact that the sites identified for solar panel and wind turbine installation will be planted, rather than covered in gravel or concrete. The installation sites will be filled with native flowering plants and grasses, and create bee and butterfly habitats that will support local biodiversity.

According to Organic Valley founder and CEIEIO George Siemon, these efforts to move the company towards a renewable and environmentally sustainable ethos are in keeping with the founding principles and values of the co-op.

Organic Valley has annual average sales of more than \$1 billion and has 2,000 farm members internationally. Every member helps guide the co-operative, using a highly democratic governance structure supported by 22 individual committees.

## KNOW THE ROLE OF LCDCs IN YOUR COMMUNITY

- Of course, if you already know the difference between LCDCs, LDCs and the old LCDP, skip on!

**Communities are frequently at loggerheads with their local authority. Naturally so.... call it constructive tension. However, to know more about how communities and local authorities work well together – and increasingly they do – the following should shed some light on the process. Here we focus in particular on the role of the Local Community Development Committee (LCDC):**

Since it became law in 2014, 33 LCDCs have been established in all local authority areas. Monaghan's LCDC was involved in the campaign to challenge stereotypes that features on our front cover.

So what are LCDCs?

Born in 2014, their main role now – having developed them – is to implement 6-year Local, Economic and Community Plans (LECPs). The plans were adopted in all local authority areas in 2015. The community elements of all plans are similar and include actions on health and wellbeing; drug and alcohol abuse; age friendly; youth initiatives; environment; integration; disabilities; unemployment and many other issues.

The first programmes to come under the oversight of the LCDCs were LEADER and the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP). They also have a role in Healthy Cities and the Community Enhancement Programme.

Membership includes elected members, local authority staff and representatives of public bodies that provide services and communities. The majority of members is to favour local and community development participation, hence the term 'bottom-up approach'.

LCDCs were born at a time when quite a number of similar acronyms were floating about in the Community and Voluntary Sector. For example, at the time, we also had the LCDP (a national programme for communities, since replaced by SICAP). I know – stick with this – you might just get more clarity!

We also have over 50 LDCs (Local Development Companies) – still very much around. They are also known as Programme Implementers (PIs) for SICAP.

Not surprisingly, there are plenty connections between these three – because since Phil Hogan's time as minister there has been a new emphasis on collaboration between communities and councils. And what are they doing together? They term it local and community development.

"It must consider the economic elements of the plan in order to enhance co-ordination with the community elements and ultimately integrate the two elements, but it does not have a role in deciding on the economic elements. It has a general role in seeking to ensure effectiveness, consistency, co-ordination and avoidance of duplication between the various elements of local authority activities in the community," says the Government.

LCDCs rarely make the front pages in your local paper, though Monaghan's eye-watering work shows it can be done.

**If you've a community development story that readers would learn from, email: [editor@changingireland.ie](mailto:editor@changingireland.ie)**

# IN COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE

## GREEN SCHOOLS - AN OVERVIEW

- With Jane Hackett, manager, Green Schools Travel, An Taisce

BY BEN PANTER

Previous generations have been woefully inadequate in preparing or even taking seriously the threat of climate change. The next generation will inherit the plastic filled seas that currently fill adults' Facebook feeds with devastating images of our wasteful ways.

Fortunately, the Green Schools environmental awareness and action programme has been running in Ireland for the last twenty years.

You'll find the programme at work from Ireland to India and even further afield.

Jane Hackett, national manager for Green Schools' work carried out under the theme of 'Travel', explained: "The Green Schools



Programme started in Denmark and came to Ireland through An Taisce."

The environmental body already had responsibility for running the Blue Flag scheme to encourage us to maintain our beaches, so An Taisce was well placed to launch Green Schools in Ireland.

"Over time and through partnerships with local authorities, the programme has grown nationally," said Jane.

An impressive 94% of schools in the Republic have now signed up and the programme has almost 900,000 students and teachers from primary and secondary schools taking part. This is impressive - it can take a school up to two years to earn its first Green Flag and there are seven flags to earn.

There are seven themes corresponding to seven flags. There is a seven step programme to support schools as they progress. For instance, one of the steps is for them to inform and involve the wider community, such as parents, local tidy town committees, residents' associations, etc.

The themes deal with litter and waste,

energy, transport, biodiversity. There are additional global citizenship themes of litter and waste, the marine and energy which are explored on an international scale.

In partnership with host departments and organisations, the programme is part of the international eco-schools which currently operates in 62 countries (with a membership of 16 million students).

Support in implementing the programme is given through An Taisce's Environmental Education Unit Head Office, through its local education officers, in partnership with the environmental awareness officers in local authorities.

Across Ireland, schools have reduced waste, water and energy consumption, and communities are becoming more aware of schools being able to make a wider contribution than merely nurturing the academics of the future.

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## We have 300,000 kids on the move everyday

- *Róisín Ní Gháirbhith, Travel Education Officer, Co. Clare, talks to Allen Meagher*

With 94 percent of schools involved voluntarily in the Green Schools Programme, it shows that people want to do the right thing and do what's right for the environment.

The Programme has seven steps dealing with things like electricity waste and water and these seven steps really work.

The kids love challenges such as 'Lolo' ('Last out, lights off') and they bring what they learn into their homes and community life.

One school had a 'leave-the-jumper-on' campaign. It was because people sit around at home in t-shirts and wonder why they are cold. Stick on a jumper and you'll be grand!

Go to half the schools in Ireland now and you'll find something in the cistern, so less water is used for flushes.

Schools are doing great work and it's great to support them. However, An Taisce can only do so much. It does come down to the individual schools and the will to do things.

There is a Green Schools co-ordinator in every school in the country and they're the go-between to make it happen in the school. It can be a staff member, a secretary, sometimes a parent, sometimes a principal. The more support we give them, the better the programme can be implemented across Ireland. We have seminars for the Green Schools co-ordinators around each of the themes.

Myself and some of my colleagues focus

mainly on the fourth green flag which is the sustainable travel flag.

This has led to a modal shift away from cars nationally.

There is also strong support through the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland for promoting the energy flag - we work well together. We also have flags for tackling litter and waste and water.

We punch way above our weight for the number of staff we have. Every morning, we are getting 300,000 kids out of cars and physically moving - cycling and so on.

With childhood obesity becoming an increasingly serious issue, it's never been more important to get children physically using their bodies to get around - be that walking, 'skooting', cycling or parking the car away from school and strolling the rest of the way. That will save a fortune on health bills in the future.

It's phenomenal the amount of money that is being saved by recycling rubbish, by reducing the amount of waste in the first place, by turning off the lights, by turning off computers. Look at all the money saved on bills such as electricity and oil.

The Minister for the Environment should be aware that CO2 emissions are dropping both inside and outside schools, thanks to schools implementing the Green Schools Programme, supported by both the education and health departments.



*Róisín Ní Gháirbhith at a bicycle repair workshop.*

We have the stats and figures to back that up, nationally.

A twenty or thirty percent reduction on ESB bills for example is significant.

**Róisín (pictured above) is An Taisce's Green Schools Travel Education Co-ordinator in Co. Clare.**





## IN FOCUS

# Claremorris swiftly moving to flag 5

**T**eresa Nally, principal of Scoil Mhuire Gan Smál, in Claremorris, Co. Mayo, told **BEN PANTER** recently:

"We're on flag number five at the moment. We recently got one for biodiversity and the next one will be for Global Citizenship."

"The biodiversity one is very interesting. One of the highlights was putting up bird boxes for swifts to nest in. We put cameras in two of them, but they nested in a box with no camera."

"Last year, we put cameras in all the boxes. They came, they looked, they did their reconnaissance, but they never settled. We hope they return - we are all geared for them."

"Swifts are fascinating, they manage to come from as far away as from Mozambique."

"Linda has come to the school and given children talks in relation to the Swifts and what they go through in a year. The pupils were amazed. It's good for them to get an understanding of what birds and animals can do."

"The parents came for the launch - adults are so busy that they can be blind to the nature around us."

"I certainly think the Green Schools programme has a very beneficial effect on children. For instance, it tells people what can be composted and what needs to be recycled. On these and other subjects, the wider community needs to be made more aware," said Teresa.



*Nest boxes with six nest holes were erected at the school.*

## How Irish schoolkids help birds from abroad



*Lynda Huxley.*

**L**Lynda Huxley spoke at the Green Schools national conference and expo recently about the importance of saving the Swift, a bird that flies from southern Africa annually to Ireland to mate.

After the conference, **BEN PANTER** caught up with Lynda:

"The reason I gave a talk at the expo was to try and encourage more schools to join the nest box project. It helps raise awareness not just about swifts, but about other birds as well," she said.

It is a good project for schools hoping to earn a Green Schools biodiversity flag.

Lynda, who belongs to Swift Conservation Ireland, said there just are not enough nest sites around the country and schools can help by putting up new nest boxes. But, it's not quite as easy as it

may seem.

"We began with a few schools in Mayo, where I'm based, and started to expand once we realised there was a lack of awareness nationally and swift numbers were declining."

"Now, we've schools in Kerry and Cork and a couple in Dublin and Galway with nest boxes."

"Not all towns in Ireland have swifts anymore. In some towns, the swifts have gone altogether."

"Irish towns can be quite small and the swifts might only be nesting in one or two nest sites. If those sites are blocked off for renovation work or if a building with nests is demolished, then you can lose a whole colony - the birds are very, very faithful to their nest sites. They will keep trying to get back in there," she said.

They could die out if they cannot breed.

"The best thing to do is put up nest boxes, but you also have to play the attraction call - that's the key to helping swifts find the nestbox," she said.

Patience beyond what children are normally able for is called upon.

"It can still take two or three years for the Swifts to actually find the nest boxes," said Lynda.

In Claremorris, swifts have found two

boxes, but there are another four nest boxes waiting to be found by them.

For new schools joining in, Lynda said it is important to put up nest boxes at the same time as you do your survey, because otherwise "by the time you've done the survey, you could actually be monitoring the loss of your swifts."

"It may only be the third year that they actually go into the nest box. It's a very slow process, so I say to schools that this is a long-term project and they shouldn't actually be looking for a quick return like you can with Robins or bluetits," she said.

Slow, but very rewarding.



# VINDICATION FOR CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS SEEKING WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

BY KIRSTY TOBIN AND ALLEN MEAGHER

On 25 May, 2018, the voting public chose by almost two-to-one to strike the eighth amendment from the constitution. It granted equal rights to life to mother and unborn child and made abortion a criminal offence. Soon, it will be repealed.

Groups on both sides campaigned hard. The final tally stood at 723,632 (33.6%) against and 1,429,981 (66.4%) in favour of repeal.

Notably, support from community-based groups for a 'Yes' vote was strong as they became part of a mass civil society movement.

'No' volunteers canvassed in communities nationwide and the 'Save the 8th' and 'LoveBoth' campaign had backing from various groupings and many high profile personalities.

However, the campaign lacked support from long-standing, community-based, human rights organisations.

On the 'Yes' side, well over one hundred groups from around the country joined in the work of 'Together for Yes' and the 'Coalition to Repeal the Eighth Amendment'.

The alliance for a 'Yes' vote included human rights, feminist and pro-choice organisations, community organisations, trade unions, health organisations, NGOs and others. The list of member groups grew each month.

Midway through the campaign, this alliance grew to become what it claimed was "the largest ever civil society grouping in Ireland" representing "over 1.5 million people".

What inspired the support

from community-based and human rights groups? And what happens next?

Amnesty International campaigned for a 'Yes' vote because the 8th amendment "violated women's and girls' human rights – including the rights to health, life, privacy, equality and non-discrimination."

Inclusion Ireland is a national, rights-based, advocacy organisation that works to promote the rights of people with an intellectual disability.

It supported a 'Yes' vote because, "The 8th amendment harms women with disabilities by creating additional barriers to care, including inaccessible travel options for those who may need abortion services." It published a full-length position paper outlining its thinking.

Ann Irwin, joint national co-ordinator of Community Work Ireland, says: "We don't believe that you can have equality for women without full autonomy for



A mural in Dublin to Savita Halappanavar that attracted so much attention it is has been moved and will be preserved.

women."

"For women who are living in poverty, for women who are living in direct provision, and for lots of other women, it means that their decision to terminate a pregnancy will be better facilitated and better supported in the country in which they are living," says Irwin.

## TRANSFORMING WOMEN'S LIVES

"The overwhelming Yes vote will enable women who have been forced to travel to finally begin to heal, and to feel that they have been acknowledged and validated by the majority of Irish society," says Miriam Holt, coordinator of National Collective of Community-Based Women's Networks (NCCWN). It will also lead to broader changes in Irish society, believes Miriam: "This has politicised a whole cohort of young, working-class women to have their voices heard, engage in new politics and to take agency to effect social change."

The National Women's Council of Ireland (NWCi) hailed the vote as "an historic moment of change in Ireland for women and girls."

"Women and men in rural and urban areas collectively understood the reality of abortion in Ireland and the need to provide abortion for women at home in their own country.

The referendum is over, but the fight is not.

While LoveBoth did not return a request for comment for this article, the organisation's Dr Ruth Cullen released a statement once the outcome of the vote became clear: "Regardless of what happens today, the campaign to protect unborn babies will endure."

In a statement, the 'Save the 8th' pledged to continue to oppose legislation legalising abortion and to oppose the opening of abortion clinics in Ireland: "Abortion... remains wrong today. The constitution may have changed, but the facts have not," it stated.

It pointed out that, "Despite the might of the media, the whole establishment, official Ireland, the trade unions, government funded NGOs... 723,632 of us voted against the most unjust question we have ever been asked to vote on."

For the record, most community groups remained neutral during the campaign, for various reasons.

A few reminded members of their core values and mission - to confront discrimination and poverty and for people to vote with these in mind.

Many made a point of encouraging people to vote.

But, for those groups in civil society who took part, they are vindicated.

As the NWCi said, "We can now bring an end to the harm, stigma and secrecy caused by the 8th Amendment."

## WHAT NEEDS TO HAPPEN NOW?

**NCCWN:** "The legislation needs to be enacted swiftly. The recommendations in relation to supports must be adequately resourced."

**Community Work Ireland:** "What needs to follow is the provision of services that are accessible for women, particularly women who are disadvantaged either socio-economically or otherwise. Free access to services will be crucial."

**LoveBoth:** "We will hold the Taoiseach to his promise that repeal would only lead to abortion in very restrictive circumstances. He gave his word."

**Save the 8th:** "If and when abortion clinics are opened in Ireland, we will oppose that."





My name is

*Jimmy*

and I have an

**intellectual disability**

My message to YOU,

**'KNOW ME'** *not the Stereotype*

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