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CHANGING IRELAND



Issue 61 - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT - COLLECTIVE ACTION - EMPOWERMENT - SOCIAL INCLUSION - www.changingireland.ie

HANDS UP!

“Who’s lurking in Community Development?” - Bernadette McAliskey

ALSO INSIDE:

- **Libraries as Community Hubs**
- **How Credit Unions beat the banks**
- **Global views on Community Dev’t**
- **Moyross community on the mend**



**Pages 20-23:
Ploughing 2018**



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CALENDAR

UN DAYS

NOV-DEC 2018

Nov 2	Friday	International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
Nov 6	Tuesday	International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflict
Nov 10	Saturday	World Science Day for Peace and Development
Nov 14	Wednesday	World Diabetes Day
Nov 15	Thursday	World Philosophy Day
Nov 16	Friday	International Day for Tolerance
Nov 18	Sunday	World Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims
Nov 19	Monday	World Toilet Day
Nov 20	Tuesday	Universal Children's Day
Nov 20	Tuesday	Africa Industrialization Day
Nov 21	Wednesday	World Television Day
Nov 25	Sunday	International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
Nov 29	Thursday	International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People
Dec 1	Saturday	World AIDS Day
Dec 2	Sunday	International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
Dec 3	Monday	International Day of Persons with Disabilities
Dec 5	Wednesday	International Volunteer Day for Economic and Social Development
Dec 5	Wednesday	World Soil Day
Dec 7	Friday	International Civil Aviation Day
Dec 9	Sunday	International Anti-Corruption Day
Dec 9	Sunday	World Genocide Commemoration Day
Dec 10	Monday	Human Rights Day
Dec 11	Tuesday	International Mountain Day
Dec 18	Tuesday	International Migrants Day
Dec 18	Tuesday	Arabic Language Day
Dec 20	Thursday	International Human Solidarity Day



Milestone LEADER funding approved

The 1,000th LEADER project, under the current programme which runs from 2014 until 2020, was approved for funding over the summer.

After delays in the first year, over €30 million has now been released through the programme to support communities and businesses across rural Ireland.

Muckross Rowing Club, in Co. Kerry, was the 1,000th project approved.

Rowing is one of the oldest sporting traditions on the Lakes of Killarney, dating back for 350 years. The funding was to enable Muckross RC to buy a coastal rowing boat with a view to retaining young members who often leave the sport in their late teens.

While most of Ireland knows of Olympic champions, the O'Donovan brothers, Muckross RC has its own high-performing rowers: Paul Griffin, Sean Casey and Cathal Moynihan have all competed in world championships.

The club continues to look to the future and recently held an open day to attract new members.



1,000th proposal came from Kerry rowers



Muckross did well in this year's Irish Offshore Rowing Championships, especially for a rowing club not based on the coast. The club received funding approval from LEADER at the start of the summer.

On reaching the milestone 1,000th project, Minister Michael Ring pointed to a further 300 project applications going through the approval process for funding of €20 million more.

By the end of 2020, €250 million in grant aid is expected to have been provided through LEADER to rural communities and businesses.

The LEADER grants are awarded to projects under the three following themes:

- Economic development, enterprise development and job creation
- Social inclusion
- Rural environment

Since its launch in 1991, LEADER has provided rural communities across the EU with resources to enable local partners to actively engage and direct local development in their area, through community-led local development.

Details of all projects in Ireland approved for LEADER 2014-2020 funding can be found at: <https://drdc.gov.ie/about/rural/rural-development/leader/>

ALSO: <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/leader-programme-2014-2020/>

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:



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Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

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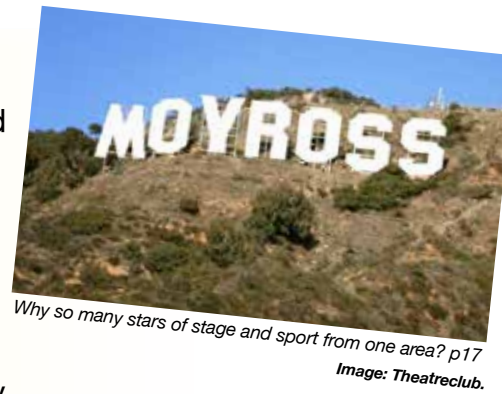
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Image: Theatreclub.

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FRONT COVER PHOTO

Our front cover shows Bernadette McAliskey speaking at the World Community Development Conference, held this year in Maynooth. Photo ©Derek Speirs. Ploughing Championship photo (bottom left) by Changing Ireland.



WANTED! WOMEN IN COMMUNITIES WHO ARE CHANGING IRELAND

COMPETITION

**DEADLINE:
Nov 4th**

WIN!

We will choose one overall winner, who will receive a **€100 One4all gift card** and an exclusive opportunity to discuss her work with 'Changing Ireland'. Three shortlisted nominees will each receive a **€50 One4all gift card** and a spotlight on their work.

Do you know a woman whose leadership skills, dynamism and resilience are helping to empower a community? A woman who is a driving force for change, community development and social inclusion? Do you want her to get the recognition and reward she deserves?

Make sure to nominate her for the 2018 'Changing Ireland Women in Community Work Awards'!

In honour of the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage, the next issue of 'Changing Ireland' will be the magazine's first Women's Issue. It will focus on the challenges facing women in today's society and how communities are responding at grassroots level. It will highlight positive changes brought about by people acting collectively and collaborating locally and nationally.

We are now calling for nominations from community groups, voluntary groups, Local Development Companies, local authorities and all other organisations involved in community development and/or volunteering/activism.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: 1 Your nominee must carry out **community-focused work** in a community work or voluntary capacity. • 2 You must include a **150- to 500-word bio and overview** of your nominee's work in the community, highlighting anything particularly notable she has done. • 3 You must **include contact details** for yourself and your nominee, including (where possible) a phone number, email address and social media account.

Please email your nominations, with the subject line 'Changing Ireland Women in Community Work Awards Nomination', to: kirsty@changingireland.ie **Deadline:** 10pm on Sunday, November 4th.

You are encouraged to include in your email a **photograph** of your nominee at work - a clear (1+mb size) head & shoulders image.

Bernadette is on target, but Jim hits the bullseye



I first met Bernadette McAliskey in the mid-1990s when it was hard work being a community activist in Co. Tyrone.

I was a reporter with the Mid-Ulster Mail, and happened to be present for a small piece of history. President Mary Robinson dropped in on a community project in Coalisland, Co. Tyrone, and was greeted on arrival by McAliskey.

The President was not on an official visit to the North/NI. She came unofficially to the annoyance of many and the joy of many others. She was paving the way for peace in a pushy way. An activist at heart.

Both women were on stage at the World Community Development Conference, held in Maynooth, in June.

McAliskey pointed to people involved in community work and asked what are we doing, if anything, about the rise of the super-rich, about inequality.

Jim Ife, later, went further. We're so focused in community development on ourselves - meaning the activity of human

beings - that we forget about nature and the environment. We're missing the point of community development, he says.

The reports here - including a summary of Jim's talk - make recommended reading. And if you missed getting to the conference, there will be other opportunities.

It's a gathering of the faithful, though it will cost you. Ask your company/organisation to part or fully fund your attendance.

Like the general public in Ireland and the Ploughing Championship, every community worker should strive to go at least once in their lifetime to a World Community Development Conference.

It's being held in Dundee, Scotland next year, from June 24-26th. Not far away.

Allen Meagher

FILE A REPORT FOR US!

If you believe in Community Development and enjoy writing, why not file a report for us about your community project and what makes it unique. 300-400 words is plenty (and a photo if possible). Certain criteria apply. Your first point of contact should be the editor.



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Bernadette McAliskey rings alarm bells for community development!

- Says it's time to go home if we've nothing to say about the rise of the right, wealth and funding

BY ALLEN MEAGHER

Bernadette McAliskey's speech drew thunderous applause at the World Community Development Conference in Maynooth. She opened proceedings on day two and pretty much brought the house down. She seemed to appreciate that her message was well received. She's seen more in her lifetime than others would in ten lifetimes, yet when she sat down she had tears in her eyes.

She began by giving her view of history in the north of Ireland/Northern Ireland - she used both terms - then talked about how supporting migrants in County Tyrone led her into community development. She finished by ripping into the complacency that has beset many working in community development in Ireland.

"So people ask, 'What is Bernadette doing now?' I imagine they say she's lurking in community development. She's certainly not up to anything good," she began.

"So, I ask myself, 'What am I doing lurking in community development? What are any of us doing - if we aren't systematically working towards real social change?'"

"Our conference is about participation, power and progress. In community development, we're getting participation right - we're doing the engagement."

"Where I'm not so sure we're getting it right - in order to build it along the bottom, in order not to wake the tiger until we are ready - we are forgetting the question of power. It has to be addressed, because the people who have no power are the people we're working with."

"The response of government is still to repress criticism."

"Sometimes, I ask myself have we forgotten about the hard side of peace-making (which is not always about ending war). Are we becoming pacified by government partnerships? Are we becoming pacified by funding criteria?"

"I remember when you went out and saw something was wrong and gave someone a hand to do something about it."

"Now you look up grant tracker, to see who will pay you - to put a poster or a brick through the government's window. Whatever about posters, nobody's funding bricks," she said.

"When we talk of broadening democracy, we have to challenge the core issues. Number one, we are all told there isn't



Bernadette McAliskey, Francisco Cali Tzay of Guatemala and Jim Ife from Australia.

enough money in the system. Yes, there is. If there's not, it's because our governments won't take it off the people who have far too much of it and process it to the people who need it.

"Number two. When we talk about participative democracy, unless we're talking about democratising wealth, we are always going to be lurking in community development."

"There's another problem we have to face. It's fifty years since 1968, when there was an outbreak of popular movements of progress, radicalization and movements of the left. 2018 is seeing the parallel rise of the right and a narrative of division. We are where fascism begins."

"We have a president in America whose behaviour we are excusing on the grounds he may be mentally ill, a puppet for someone else or an idiot. He is nonetheless the president of the USA and he is fuelling the rise of the right and sowing the seeds of fascism. We look to the UK to the last throw of the dice to restore a dying empire in a right-wing move out of the EU. Within the EU, we see a fortress Europe building its walls against people fleeing wars that Europe and America created in those people's countries," she said.

Some people muttered and gasped in seeming disagreement at this point, but she wasn't finished.

"If community development and people working in community development have nothing to say about that, we would need to go home."

The auditorium erupted, people took to their feet and wildly applauded.

"Was it something I said," quipped Bernadette as she sat down, quietly wiping her eyes.

Bernadette McAliskey: a name worth knowing

BY KIRSTY TOBIN

I turn 30 later this year. Born in 1988, the Troubles largely passed me by. My awareness of that period of history starts almost precisely with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. It should come as no surprise, then, that I'd never heard of Bernadette McAliskey (née Devlin). When she finally crossed my radar, I was immediately fascinated.

Part civil rights activist, part badass, part thorn in the side of the British government, McAliskey is eminently worth knowing. At 21, she became the youngest woman ever elected to the British parliament. Later that year, she was a leading figure in the Battle of the Bogside. She was convicted of incitement to riot, served a jail term and still got re-elected.

McAliskey was a first-hand witness of the Bloody Sunday atrocities and, when the UK Home Secretary tried to pass the murders off as self-defence, she slapped him across the face. Later, instead of apologising, she said, "I'm only sorry I didn't get him by the throat."

As a result of her support for the prisoners of Long Kesh's H-block, McAliskey was shot 14 times in her home. It didn't slow her down. She came out swinging, continuing the fight for civil rights north of the border and around the world - a fight she continues to this day.

Learn the name. Learn the history. Learn as much as you can.

SPECIAL FOCUS: World Community D

World conference buzzed with

- Seeking justice, empowering women and giving voice to the voiceless were



Dr Terry Rosch and Wally Endicott from the USA spoke about 'The Power of Hope in Community Development'.



Cari Patterson from Canada and Paul Lachapelle from the USA.



Abi and Adefunke - WCD 2018 would not have been possible without the volunteers.



Dana McGee from Inis Oirr drew people in to describe through art how the conference went.



WCD 2018 participants exchanging views.



WCD 2018 would have been impossible without the students of Maynooth who volunteered.

ABOUT

This was the 65th annual World Community Development Conference (WCDC).

WCDC 2018 was a three-day event 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.

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.

It was co-sponsored by the Department of Rural and Community Development.

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

www.iacdglobel.org
www.communityworkireland.ie
www.maynoothuniversity.ie
www.maynoothuniversity.ie/applied-social-studies
www.drcc.gov.ie

From 25-27 June, 2018, community development workers from all over the globe descended on the small town of Maynooth, Co Kildare, for the World Community Development Conference (WCDC).

WCDC, held in the lecture theatres and classrooms of Maynooth University, brought together 400 people from 40 different countries to talk, learn and share experiences of community development under the topic of 'Participation, Power and Progress: Community Development towards 2030'.

Attendees gathered en masse every day to hear plenaries and keynotes from some big names in community development – including former president Mary Robinson, activist Bernadette McAliskey, academic Yaser Alashqar, Community Work Ireland's Rachel Doyle, academic Jim Ife, Dóchas CEO Suzanne Keatinge, and academic and activist Lynne Segal – before splitting into smaller groups for sessions and workshops.

Emerging themes

Over the three days of WCDC, a number of themes seemed to emerge. Attendees heard and talked again and again about social, economic and environmental justice, empowering women and giving voice to the voiceless.

While many speakers and panellists touched on these issues, it was Mary Robinson – opening the conference with a talk on the connections between community development and climate justice – who spoke about them most succinctly.

"Climate change and migration are the burning issues of the future," said Robinson. "Climate change is a man-made problem which needs a feminist solution."

Quoting Arundhati Roy, she highlighted the need to bring many voices to the table: "There's really no such thing as the 'voiceless'. There are

only the deliberately silenced, or the preferably unheard."

Intentional or not, giving voice to the voiceless was a theme that ran throughout WCDC.

Jim Ife spoke powerfully during his plenary talk on humankind's impact on the planet and about hearing non-white, non-male, non-Western voices: "I used to think that one of the differences between human rights and the rights of nature was that we can't expect nature to articulate rights and demand rights in the ways that humans can. Then I realised that if we had only listened to Aboriginal people, to indigenous people, they would tell us, 'Yes, nature does demand its rights. It's just that we've forgotten how to listen.'"

Ife's talk followed one given by Francisco Cali Tzay, a former president of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. As one of the Mayan Kaqchikel people from Colombia, he was the first indigenous person to hold such a position. Cali Tzay spoke about the long, hard struggle to ensure indigenous voices were heard in corridors of power and reminded attendees that it was impossible to talk about community development towards 2030 without including indigenous people in the discussion.

Grassroots energy

Another thread that ran through the entire conference centred on the recent referendum result. Rachel Doyle, joint national co-ordinator of Community Work Ireland, said during her plenary: "The recent overwhelming vote to repeal the eighth amendment gives us great hope in the power of grassroots movements and the potential for change."

This sentiment echoed through sessions and workshops over the three days, with many calls for community organisations in Ireland to capitalise not only on the results of the election,

h grassroots energy

recurrent themes

BY KIRSTY TOBIN



Clare MacGillivray from Scotland and John Stansfield from New Zealand, organisers respectively of the next and the last world conference.



BLOODY BRILLIANT! Lisa Terry talked about Diabetes globally and brought a bag of blood with her for effect (she said it was tomato sauce).



Lynne Segal made the closing address in Maynooth.



Corina Catterson Flynn, Paul Kernan and Peter Walker from Donegal.



Muhammad Bello Shitu talked about co-ops in Sudan.



Robert Carey, NEWKD spoke on income inequality.

but also the enthusiasm with which both sides fought their corners.

For people from outside Ireland, the result meant something more. When asked why she had come to a panel on reproductive rights and feminism in community work, one American attendee replied, "Things have been getting pretty dark at home. I'm here because I really need to find some hope."

A CALL FOR MORE TIME

If there was one complaint that was prevalent throughout the conference it was that there wasn't enough time – enough time for discussion, enough time to absorb, enough time to sit in on all of the interesting, informative sessions and workshops.

And yet it was impossible to leave Maynooth without gleaning at least something worthwhile, whether from individual sessions or on the whole. One of the most striking takeaways from the conference, for example, wasn't the differences between practices around the world, but the similarities.

This was apparent in numerous presentations, but never more so than in one ringing statement from Kwon-Kin Fung, a Hong Kong-based academic and community worker: "One of the issues facing community workers and social workers in Hong Kong is a focus on paper work more than people's work." Murmurs of recognition and agreement filled the room.

A CLARION CALL

But WCDC was far more than a state of the community development union address – it was, as its overarching topic dictated, a look forward at how the sector needs to change and act in the next decade. As such, many speakers

dotted their speeches with powerful words and almost revolutionary calls to action.

Bernadette McAliskey called out the "lurkers", asking "What are any of us doing if we aren't systematically working towards real social change? Are we becoming pacified by government partnerships? Are we becoming pacified by funding requirements?"

Mary Robinson took a feminist approach, stating "Increasing women's participations in environmental planning leads to improved outcomes for everyone – the whole community benefits. We must tackle the complex barriers to meaningful women's participations."

In a workshop on feminism and community work, Trish Brennan of Women's Council Ireland reminded attendees that their job, as community workers, was to upset the apple cart.

Rachel Doyle warned against the pacification of community development workers: "I hope we'll go home with fire in our bellies and enthusiasm to join the push back against complacency."

Lynne Segal, who closed the conference, ended with a banner-waving moment – a moment that said the fight is far from over: "We have to refuse to abandon the desire to see real change, because that's what all our enemies want us to do."

Yet, in spite of this fire and spirit, the conference itself wound down on a more conciliatory note with the reading of the Maynooth Declaration, which ends:

"We reconfirm community development as a proven means of building a just, sustainable and peaceful world, and call on local, national, regional and global authorities and governments to recognise, support and sufficiently resource independent community work through appropriate political leadership, funding, policy

and legislation."

One thing is clear: with or without that government support, community developers won't be going down without a fight.

For the full text of the Maynooth Declaration, see the back page. If you'd like to attend the next World Community Development Conference, it will take place from 24-26 June, 2019, in Dundee, Scotland.



REPORTING: Allen Meagher and Kirsty Tobin from 'Changing Ireland' and Jamie Gorman from NUIM.



Ruth Smith & Emer Leahy, Knockanrawley, Tipp Town, talked about independent project.

Sweating, singing and speaking

- What was it like at the world conference?



The conference attracted people from around the world and ran for three days. There were noticeably more female than male participants. Photo ©Derek Speirs.

Organisers put in 16-hour days in the run-up to hosting the World Community Development Conference in Maynooth.

"We're not big enough to be doing this," said one organiser, nonetheless beaming at the end of a highly successful Day 1.

As she took a lift in my car from the town square back to the university, she brought me up to speed. The conference had got off to a great start - everyone spoke well, there was a superb atmosphere and it finished with a sing-song on the streets of Maynooth.

What else had I missed? Pabal's Paul Skinnader had posed the question - without answering it himself - Should Ireland once again have a Community Development Programme?

Maybe, if there was one, we'd be under less pressure.

MANY PRESENT, BUT MORE MISSING

It felt like it had taken me 16 hours to drive to Maynooth from Limerick. I arrived at 10.50pm, giving me ten minutes to locate my accommodation. Easier said than done; the campus is now twice the size it once was.

I was escorted by a friendly accommodation staff member to a modern building and a neat, concrete-walled, university style apartment. Very swish, but I wouldn't last a full term. I couldn't get the shower to work properly, even with advice. There's an invisible box outside your door with an invisible switch you turn on 20 minutes before your shower and you're sorted.

In fairness, climate change meant the cold

shower was not an issue - we were in the midst of a heatwave.

Mary Robinson, in opening the conference, linked climate action work to community development work. While she was speaking, I was doing critical admin to get a magazine out. Probably only people in community and voluntary groups understand. Getting a cheque signed for us can involve a 10km round-trip and four stops.

I say this because Irish participation in WCDC 2018 was as much about who wasn't there as who was. Many were willing, but not everyone had three days on hand. And volunteers couldn't afford the fee.

The Department of Rural and Community Development issued a number of free conference tickets - which could be shared - to groups working in community development, but many remained at "the coalface". They knew they were missing out.

I met people who came for two days who were sorry they didn't book for longer. Over 400 people attended the conference from Ireland and - obviously - many other countries.

It was brilliant. While it was largely an academic conference, it gave a platform to world-class speakers to set out the challenges of the day. Imagine a diploma course being held over three days where you'd need a team of ten to cover everything.

The Department of Rural and Community Development had almost that many staff there and senior officials addressed the gathering (more later) and joined the workshops.

'PURPLE PEOPLE'

There was a festival feel to the start of day 2 at the conference. Two volunteers in purple-t-shirts sang their hearts out and everyone

joined in.

I tweeted: "Crikey, we're singing already and it's only just gone 9am. A great way to start day two at the conference!"

Organisers relied on these 'Purple People' throughout - student-volunteers from the university.

Day 2 was seen by full conference attendees as even better than Day 1 - Bernadette McAliskey set the tone, urging community development workers to up their game with facism now coming well into view. An Australian speaker, Jim Ife, told us that while struggles for equality were worthy, those with power and wealth were laughing all the way to the bank while we were "distracted". Meanwhile, we are burning the planet.

We cooled off with iced drinks and a set meal that evening in a Harry Potter-style dining hall, followed by a sing-song and a return to the square. This was the premier networking spot.

There I met Fiona Boyle from Australia who spent six months travelling mostly overland for the conference. She'll have to do it all again next year to reach Scotland.

DUNDEE NEXT

I met past and future organisers of the WCDC, from New Zealand and Scotland respectively. Two very energetic people, beaming positivity.

John Stansfield from NZ said, "The best thing for me was the way very poor students from West Auckland stepped up to lead the conference as volunteers."

Clare MacGillivray from Dundee proudly told us that the conference venue for 2019 is "a revolutionary, forward-thinking and friendly

ing up in Maynooth



Mary Robison, guest speaker at the conference, meets Rohingya activists.
Photo ©Derek Speirs.

Invest more in poorest parts of the world - Minister Kyne

At the World Community Development, calls were made for the democratisation of wealth in a world where the rich keep getting richer. Asked for his opinion on redistributing wealth, Minister of State, Seán Kyne, told 'Changing Ireland':

"Within countries, there is unequal society - the amount of wealth in the hands of a small few is worrying and the disparity is growing.

"In terms of government policy - speaking of our own country - we have a very progressive tax regime, according to the OECD and others.

"But we want to see a greater dispersal of wealth, to create a more equal society and it needs to be done worldwide. We need to see (more) programmes that invest in the poorest parts of the world. We've seen the immigration crisis from Africa into the EU. People will always want a better life for themselves and their families and that is absolutely understandable.

"By promoting growth and development in Africa and other poor areas, it will encourage more people to stay and grow their own prosperity in their own countries.

"As the EU, we, as a wealthy collection of countries, have a responsibility to do more," he said.

BY ALLEN MEAGHER

city". Encouraging people to plan ahead, she said that - "just like Ireland, it's gonna be scorching, at least 30 degrees."

Maynooth's conference programme shows that the third day was planned to start a half-hour earlier than the day before, but not enough of us took notice of the earlier start time. Everything ran a little late. People were not overly concerned.

It wasn't as if anyone could get to see everything. You'd need to be able to be in two places at one time to take in less than a quarter of the sessions. People had to choose from eleven parallel seminars/workshops, each with multiple speakers and that was just one of the morning sessions.

Look up #wcdc2018 and you'll get a good flavour of what rocked people's boats.

And, never say never. Dundee will only cost most Irish people €50 - €60 more than attending Maynooth. Just as Maynooth provided cheap, quality accommodation (€37 per night) so too will the University of Dundee, Clare assured me.

Presuming prices don't change, the only additional cost will be the travel. The question to then ask yourself is - can you plan to have three free days in your calendar a year from now? And how are you with haggis?



Minister of State Seán Kyne with organisers and participants at WCDC 2018.



Catherine Corcoran talked about 'Citizen Participation in the Irish Planning System'.



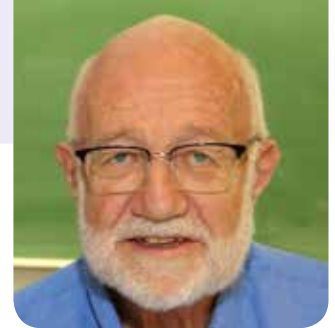
Brendan O'Keeffe talked about the changing role of LEADER in Community Development.

Didn't make the conference? You can still engage - Kyne

Minister of State, Seán Kyne, visited the World Community Development Conference, in Maynooth. He said that the event was "hugely important" to the Department of Rural and Community and he was "delighted" to see a global conference held here.

He appealed to community workers who could not attend WCDC 2018 to follow up later, to visit www.wcdc2018.ie and to learn from the findings when they are published.

"Check it out. See what was said, what was suggested, what was called for. It's important that people engage," he said.



COMMUNITY ISN'T ALL ABOUT PEOPLE

- "If we had only listened to Aboriginal people" - Jim Ife

*On the second day of the World Community Development Conference, the audience heard from activist and academic Jim Ife, the author behind *Community Development in an Uncertain World*, *Human Rights and Social Work* and *Human Rights from Below* – required reading for many community development students and practitioners.*

*Ife took to the podium as part of the plenary session on *Global Peoples and Local Conflicts: Framing Community Development for Today's World* to offer an overview – and at times blistering commentary – of humankind's impact on the planet, and how community development work is essential in its reversal.*

What follows are extracts from that talk:

I'm standing here now as a privileged, white, Western male with a sense of shame because it is privileged, white, Western males that have so comprehensively stuffed up the world. (We have) given so many people a real sense of despair as we look to the future.

And it is with that sense of shame that I come to this presentation really arguing that it's time that the privileged, white, Western male view of the world was set aside to allow other voices, other narratives, other wisdoms to take over.

Human activity has now had such an impact that we've entered a new geological period, which has been called the Anthropocene [the period during which humankind has acted as the dominant influence on climate and the planet], because human activity has actually affected the earth physically in such a way that the certainties of the Holocene [the period humankind has been living in since the last ice age] are gone.

There are critics of the idea of the Anthropocene, saying that it's not just the result of human activity ... it's the result of particular forms of human activity by dominant groups who have chosen to ignore the limits of the planet that we live on and who do not understand the intrinsic value of the natural world.

There have been a number of writers who have suggested we should call it a Capitalocene ... because it is capitalism, pure and simple, that has led to the destruction of the world.

What pretty well all the writers in this area agree on is that if there is a way forward, it will require strong communities. All comes back to the importance of grassroots community activism.

As we look at our national leaders on climate change, we despair. But if we look at what's happening at community level, there are some amazing things that people are doing despite the inaction of their governments.

It seems to me that community development has never been more important than it is now – but it does need to lose some of its thinking about community as only consisting of humans and never mind anything else.

We have to rethink our ideas of community,

development, participation, human rights and social justice. We have to understand humans as embedded in non-human communities. If it wasn't for non-human communities and our interdependence with other species, we would not survive 24 hours.

“Community workers, have become conservatives.”

I used to think that one of the differences between human rights and the rights of nature was that we can't expect nature to articulate rights and demand rights in the ways that humans can. Then I realised that if we had only listened to Aboriginal people, to indigenous people, they would tell us, 'Yes, nature does demand its rights. It's just that we've forgotten how to listen'. Learning how to listen again is really important.

The need for immediate activism is as strong as ever and maybe more so. We've forced ourselves into a position almost where progressives, including community workers, have become conservatives because we're putting so much energy into trying to preserve what's left of what we

value. We're fighting a defensive war. That turns us into conservatives.

We've been trapped into not articulating the alternative vision. Because many of the issues that we fight about are really important, but they're also distractions. We have to remember that the .1% [are] really happy for us to be putting a lot of effort into things like marriage equality because it's actually allowing them to get away with what they're continuing to get away with: corporate greed, unchecked growth, environmental destruction... it could go unchallenged while we are put in a position of having to fight these important battles.

We have to take a long-term view as well as engaging with the immediate challenges. We have to develop and articulate alternative visions – not just react all the time.

I want to outline what I think five important lines of community development need to be:

1. Stand against capitalism.
2. Strengthen our alliances with the environmental movement.
3. Deconstruct human privilege.
4. Incorporate and validate indigenous and non-Western world views.
5. The importance of matriarchal values.

Community development, both as practice and a way of thinking, I believe, will be central to a transition to a saner world.



Bernadette McAliskey, Francisco Cali Tzay of Guatemala and Jim Ife from Australia. Photo (c) Derek Speirs.

NEW STRATEGY FOR LIBRARIES

330 LIBRARIES TO BECOME “COMMUNITY HUBS”



The strategy includes ending fines and opening doors ‘til late 365 days a year.

A new five-year, strategic policy document re-imagines the country’s 330 libraries as “community hubs” open from early until late, 365 days of the year. And fines will soon be a thing of the past, according to ‘Our Public Libraries 2022 – Inspiring, Connecting and Empowering Communities’.

There’s nothing like real consultation and the new strategy has all-round backing and was launched, with immaculate timing, a day after unions voted overwhelmingly to call off the threat of industrial action.

In the past 12 months, there has been a multi-million euro increase in funding for our public library service.

The new strategy was launched in the spectacular Lexicon Library in Dun Laoighaire by Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development.

He said, “The overall aim is to increase active library membership from 16% of the population to 30% by the end of 2022.”

Judging by the 2016 Census figures, that means moving membership numbers up from 761,000 people to approximately 1,500,000 members by January, 2023.

In part, that will be achieved by ending fines, extended opening hours and reaching out further into communities.

On ending fines, Minister Ring said the strategy focuses on “removing barriers to access by eliminating fines and other charges, and challenging the belief that the library is only for certain sectors of society.”

Fines are already gone in many areas and on the way out in others.

The roll out of the ‘My Open Library Service’ will see a pilot scheme expanded to “up to 100 libraries by



Fingal County Librarian, Betty Boardman, with Minister Michael Ring at the launch.

2023, with the goal of reaching 200 library branches over the next decade”.

This means that libraries will be open at night-time, including weekends.

The Minister said the strategy “aims to improve access, use and visibility of the

library as a community hub, and develop the library as a focal point for community and cultural development”.

It promises to see our libraries “work with local partners to reach disadvantaged, marginalised and new communities, increasing these communities’ awareness of services available and firmly establishing the library as a resource for all”.

The five year strategy is a joint initiative of the Department of Rural and Community Development, the County and City Management Association and the Local Government Management Agency.

Download the strategy here: <http://www.librariesireland.ie/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/LGMA-Our-Public-Libraries-2022-ENG.pdf>

**For more information, contact:
Libraries Development and
Community Policy,
Department of Rural and Community
Development, Government Offices,
Ballina, Co. Mayo, F26 E8N6.
T: 076 106 4900.**

- A. Meagher

TRIPLE THE INVESTMENT

The Government invested more in libraries last year than in the three previous years combined. Speaking at the time, Minister Ring said: “This very significant investment in our public libraries will enable the purchase of self-service technology for more than 200 libraries; books to promote literacy for children; and hot desk facilities for business people and job seekers. It is an exciting time for the public library service and for library staff.

NEW STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES



All smiles - there'll be no more fines!



The three year old Lexicon building - the amazing new library in Dun Laoghaire - is now the fifth most visited, free-entry, public building in Ireland.

The Secret Librarian



will really see libraries become “community hubs” as envisaged.

We turned to our Secret Librarian for a blunt appraisal. We’ll call her Laura (by the way, never mind the photos on these pages - she’s not from Dun Laoghaire). She is an old hand who’s seen it all before and we believe speaks for many.

So, what does she make of the strategy? It’s mostly positive. She is concerned about staff being replaced by automated services, but sees progress in other areas.

FINES NOT ALL GONE YET

Laura’s library has done away with fines, but other places still have them. The service varies from county to county and within counties.

12 MILLION BOOKS

You can now borrow any of the 12 million titles available across the library network.

It’s true. Laura can source a book from anywhere in the country and have it delivered to your local library for collection.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING

While librarians are partly engaged in community work, it’s not something they are trained in.

Laura and her colleagues did receive mental health training which was very good. They also received two hours of anger management training.

YES & NO TO FOOD & DRINK

People can use the rooms in Laura’s library for meetings and can bring along food and drink. Adults in the main library can bring in a (non-alcoholic) drink, but not children.

LIBRARIES OPEN LATE (WITHOUT STAFF)

Laura remains to be convinced about the idea of late opening without staff present. She wonders how it will work with only CCTV in place.

Some libraries are open much more than others. Oddly, some full-time libraries don’t open on Saturdays, only from Monday to Friday. Laura would like to see this change.

SOME LIBRARIES ALREADY ARE COMMUNITY HUBS

The new libraries strategy promises “to develop new relationships and build on existing ones with local communities and organisations to promote local libraries as vibrant centres of community, culture and learning for all communities”.

Laura is already highly committed and actively engaged, linking up with local community groups, collaborating, running events, offering new services.

She ably demonstrated how connected her colleagues are with the people in the community. They know when members are stressed and will reach out.

Libraries are definitely already becoming community hubs. In many places, people now only have libraries and post offices to meet in.

TEAM DEVELOPMENT

The new 2022 strategy promises “library team development with skilled staff taking a more proactive and confident customer-focused approach”.

Laura said staff numbers are low - there was a moratorium in place until recently. She’s glad it is gone, but, recruitment embargoes are cyclical. There was a moratorium on recruiting staff in the 1980s

Library staff around the country have been applauded by Michael Ring, Minister for Rural and Community Development, for their “commitment, passion and enthusiasm... in delivering the broad range of services now available”.

“Library staff have been leaders in driving change in our public libraries,” he said.

Libraries have indeed changed. They may appear the same as before on the outside, but looks can be deceiving. Step inside and it’s a different world.

You can bring a coffee with you into the library, hold public meetings there, sign up to improve your health and fitness, stay till late. And much more is promised between now and 2022.

It makes for a striking contrast with the UK where public libraries have, shockingly, been forced to shut.

In the ROI, as the new strategy makes clear, “There remains strong local and central government commitment to support, develop and resource the service as a modern multi-functional service at the heart of communities.”

Will we see library staff taking on the role of community worker? It already happens in places. But, can we trust this strategy



Philomena Poole, Chief Executive, DLR County Council, speaking at the launch.



Minister Michael Ring with members of the Library Strategy Working Group. The new Public Libraries Strategy 2022 was launched by the Minister over the summer.

and the fear is that it will happen again when the next recession comes.

PROPER PLANNING

The new libraries strategy promises “to establish a flexible structure for communication across the library team”.

Locally, Laura’s experience up to now is akin to having been a mushroom. She and colleagues were kept in the dark by senior management on any local plans.

The strategy’s ambition for better communications may reflect concerns Laura and colleagues nationally had. Thankfully, library staff across the country were fully engaged by those tasked with drawing up the new strategy. Laura’s crew were engaged in formal consultations for two full days.

Already time’s are changing for the better. Senior management is now obliged to hold regular meetings with staff and the meetings must be minuted.

INTERNET ACCESS & TRAINING

Society is in the midst of a fourth industrial revolution (the internet) and the new libraries strategy promises “to establish the library as an important enabler of digital services and facilitator of digital skills development”.

Laura and crew already help people with scanning documents, printing and accessing email. Many people don’t have a computer and, as the CSO found in 2016, 18% of households had no internet connection.

People often call to the library in a state of panic. They might need to print off bank account statements and don’t know how.

Laura has seen the value of government investment in teaching digital skills to library members. Her library has people in their 80s now who now know they have to learn how to use computers.

PEOPLE V MACHINES

Laura is not pleased about the installation of self-service machines for people borrowing

books. She is not sure this is the way we should be going. It raises a philosophical question: What kind of society do we want? The banks are already automatic and people hate it. The supermarkets are going that way too. Do we really want libraries to be the same?

ANOTHER STRATEGY!

Laura sees the new 2022 strategy mostly as a vision document. The library service already has three strategies guiding it, which she is happy to rate. They are:

1. The Healthy Ireland strategy,
2. The Right to Read strategy,
3. The Work Matters strategy.

RIGHT-TO-READ

With the Right-to-Read campaign, for which local government is responsible, libraries sought to become champions of literacy support and development. Laura likes the campaign, especially since there is an onus on local authorities to ensure it happens in their areas.

WORK MATTERS

Regarding ‘Work Matters’, which supports

people in business, she queried the point of the ‘Hot Desk’ facilities, dedicated computers for people applying for jobs and so on. There are other agencies already providing this support, but someone in Dublin had a bright idea, she supposed. She sees it as duplication.

HEALTHY IRELAND

Healthy Ireland and the HSE gave €400,000 last year to the library service to buy a large number of health and medical-orientated books.

In Laura’s workplace, the special shelf of health-related books is on prominent display. Recently, a chef visited and gave members cookery lessons. Cooking in the library - whatever next! She was impressed.

UK LIBRARIES

Lord John Bird, founder of the ‘Big Issue’, described the shut-down of 500 libraries in Britain, between 2010 and 2016, as a “dastardly deed, this process of philistinising our communities.”

He told the House of Lords: “If you are going to cut libraries, you must be prepared to build more prisons, to build more homeless hostels.”

‘MY OPEN LIBRARY’

The ‘My Open Library’ initiative will see opening hours extended for library members on a self-service basis, outside normal opening hours, seven days a week, from 8am to 10pm, 365 days a year.

By 2023, a hundred libraries should be offering this service.

‘My Open Library’ is currently available in Banagher and Tullamore Libraries in Co. Offaly and Tubbercurry Library in Co. Sligo. A full range of services are available there, including book borrowing, meeting facilities, study spaces and ICT facilities.

The aim is to allow access to the library at times that suit members, while allowing libraries to become a focal point for community engagement.



COMMUNITY FOCUS: Moyross youths

INTRODUCTION

For more than a decade of its near 45-year history, Moyross was in the national and international media spotlight. It suffered from extreme neglect by the State, consequent poverty and related crime.

In recent years, media fascination with the area has waned. This is partly because services that should have been provided from the get-go began to receive funding, policing was improved and the community's population was pretty much halved through "regeneration".

'Changing Ireland' was set up - not alone to shine a positive light on communities nationwide - but to be a positive community media presence within Moyross. Our story here - in tune with that thinking - is a good news story, told honestly and bluntly, about a project that is but a three-minute walk from our premises.

Here, we feature testimonies from young people and report on the rebranding of two long-established projects, now known as the Moyross Youth Academy.



Official opening - the traditional cutting of the ribbon. All pics by A. Meagher.



Minister David Stanton points to Darragh O'Keeffe, Lee Quinn, Eddie Carey and Laura Hughes

Minister Stanton Launches Moyross Youth Academy

In 2014, problems were found in the roof structure of one of the most important youth projects in Moyross. It provided an opportunity for the voluntary board managing the facility to completely re-design the building and redevelop the project.

And so, four years later, on June 29th, the new Moyross Youth Academy and its multi-million euro facility at The Bays, Moyross, was officially opened.

Over a hundred people hugged the walls for shade or massed beneath umbrellas for the launch by David Stanton, Minister of State at the Department of Justice and Equality, and Stephen Keary, Mayor of Limerick.

Minister Stanton began by praising four young people, who spoke before him about how the project had been a catalyst for change in their lives.

"To be able to stand up here and speak like you did is fantastic, but to be able to do it with such confidence, courage and honesty is amazing. Your stories should be told to every young person in the country - and to older people as well," he said.

He said he was "really impressed" with the new building "and by the sense of energy and commitment that I get from the staff working here and of self-confidence of former participants."

The Minister said he was "committed to supporting this work and to doing more at an earlier stage."

"The State and all its agencies need to focus more on earlier intervention and on sustained long-term support for communities and families under pressure and this is a priority for me in my role as Minister of State responsible for youth justice," he said.

Moyross Youth Academy was initially run by volunteers in the early 1990s. It operated for two decades from cold warehouses designed for manufacturing companies that never materialised. Today, it employs 26 staff providing training, mentoring and education to over 100 young people. It remains rooted in the community, a fact the Minister emphasised in his speech.

"When you see people - who came to us because it gave them a chance in life - returning here as adults to tutor others, you know you've turned a corner," said Elaine Slattery, manager of Céim ar Chéim (probation project), now part of the MYA.

"Young people are now emerging with skills, self-belief and confidence that was not so apparent even a decade ago," she said.

"The investment in young people is having a visibly positive influence on communities across Limerick - we see it in the greater confidence young people have in themselves," said Dave Mulcahy, who has been involved in the project since its early days. He is currently chairperson of the Garda Youth Diversion Project, part of the MYA.

"They are achieving standards that virtually guarantee them employment in the future. They are doing their communities proud and helping to de-stigmatised the area," added Elaine.

Some of the services provided by the MYA, including a highly-regarded equine project, reach out to youths across the city.

"We want to continue to expand our reach, particularly in the area of improving employability," said Mr. Mulcahy.

Andrew O'Byrne of Moyross Development Company,

on ross y

By Allen Meagher



Andrew O'Byrne

established in 1993, said, "It has taken 25 years to get to this stage and there is more to do. With the right support and through partnership, we see fantastic scope to expand this facility and the service."

One such partnership has been with Peter McVerry Trust, the national housing and homeless charity. Pat Doyle, the Trust's CEO said they were "delighted" to work with MYA to help create employment and training pathways for young people in Limerick. The Trust funds and supports a MYA social enterprise initiative that produces furniture for the charity's social housing units.

Elaine Slattery said: "We've always been open to challenging ourselves and to continually changing. We've grown with the young people here."

The project she manages, Céim ar Chéim, has gone from providing basic QQI level 2 and 3 at the beginning to providing Leaving Cert Applied and third level support.

"Compared to other EU Member States, Ireland actually has a very good story to tell in the area of youth justice; we have comparatively low numbers of children in care or in detention. But the challenge is always to identify what more we can do and what new approach we can take to diverting children and young people from crime and anti-social behaviour," she said.

Dean Quinn is an outreach staff member who, as a youngster himself, benefitted from the training and mentoring provided by MYA.

"In launching this project, it's timely to ask people to think twice before they label communities negatively. Look at the facts first. Communities mature and move on, but sometimes the reputation they once had lingers," he said.

"It's time for the public to recognise that a new Moyross is emerging. One that is smaller for sure - we've suffered depopulation, but this brings a necessary opportunity to respond innovatively and creatively to the young people that remain so as to be confident, higher skilled, calmer and more optimistic."

The refurbished building consists of seven classrooms, a carpentry workshop, fully-fitted training kitchen, gym, indoor soccer, meeting rooms and offices. The refurbishment was funded through the Government's Dormant Accounts scheme and had support from volunteers, the Department of Justice, An Garda Síochána, the Probation Service, Solas and the Department of Employment Activation and Social Protection.

Those attending the event included former minister Jan O'Sullivan, TD, Senator Kieran O'Donnell, Cllr Maria Byrne and Cllr Daniel Butler (a community worker and now the new metropolitan mayor of Limerick).

A barbeque was held afterwards.

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E: andyoby@gmail.com (Andrew) or ceimarcheim@gmail.com (Elaine)



Anton McNally, Michael O'Donoghue, Eddie Carey, Aaron Brosnan and Marcus Rice.



Fr Pat Hogan, parish priest, spoke at the opening.



At the opening of Moyross Youth Academy.



Having the craic! Anton McNally grows old waiting for Jude Meaney to take his shot watched on by John 'Hulla' Quinlivan.

Laura Hughes: I'm from Moyross - this is who I am.

Laura Hughes, a past participant and now a staff member attached to the Moyross Youth Academy, spoke about her life's journey at the launch (previous pages):

"For people who don't know me, I'm from Moyross and this is who I am.

"When I was a baby I was placed in foster care, as both my parents were alcoholics. I spent nine years in and out of 19 different homes which, as you can imagine, was extremely traumatic and stressful for a young child.

"I'll never forget the day I came home though. I was nine years old. I didn't know it was 'home'. I just thought it was another move. But I was home with my mammy - my real mammy - and my real brothers and sisters. And I'm delighted to have done them proud today (especially) my real mammy who is here and who is 25 years keeping sober.

"Living in Moyross was hard. It was at the height of the feuds in Limerick and there were shootings, violence and robbed cars - that was the norm around here.

"I'd grown up in the countryside and I wasn't one bit streetwise. However, it wasn't long before I was fitting right in. I became involved in petty crime, hanging with the wrong people and causing a lot of disruption in the community. This was my path - for me there was no turning back. I could see my future and it was in prison.

"By the age of 12, I became involved in the Garda Youth Diversion Project. I attended the pool club every Tuesday night. We loved it here. We queued at the gates for hours waiting to get in and to see who would get the best pool cue. I was hooked, I wanted to be part of here.

"I now know that these drop-in nights were so important... where young people like myself made positive relationships. I became involved in many groups such as the girls' group and the equine project.

"Also, at the time I'd no place in mainstream secondary school, so I started going to St. Augustine's School and here I found my passion for sports and particularly soccer. I really believe the combination of support from the school, the Garda Youth Diversion Project and my involvement in sports has moulded me to be the person I am today.

"Throughout my teenage years, I stayed involved and became a youth leader. I volunteered in after-school clubs, running pool competitions and coaching soccer.



Laura Hughes

I found a new passion and saw a future for myself working with young people - something I was good at, something I could be successful in.

"When I finished school, I studied Childcare and Special Needs... Then with support from Céim ar Chéim and Corpus Christi National School, I completed a Diploma in Youth and Community Development from UCC.

"Today, I stand here as a proud member of my community, but also as a staff member of Moyross Development Company. It's true what they say, 'When you love what you do, it doesn't feel like work at all.

"In my role here, I'm giving back to my community. I have an understanding of where the young people are coming from. I get it and I get them."

She said it was an honour to represent the community at the opening of the new facility:

"(This) is a place where everyone is welcome, where everyone can feel safe and where young people can dream, discover and learn. We have the space to create opportunities for young people and with further support the potential here is endless."

"I know over the years Moyross has received a lot of bad press. After today, I hope you can see the opportunities that are being created here and know that a

new Moyross is emerging.

"There's new housing and a new community centre on the way and there's a new generation of young people who, through pathways of education, continue to inspire in their community, and aspire towards their goals through hard work and dedication," she said.

EDDIE FACED JAIL AND A DIFFICULT LIFE; NOT ANYMORE

Eddie Carey, a participant, spoke about his experience with the MYA:

"I've been in Ceim ar Cheim for the past two years. I got referred here through my probation officer.

"I had a lot of problems when I came here. I thought I'd only last a few weeks before I'd take another car and end up back in jail.

"But I knew this place was different, so I started opening up to the people here. They supported me through all my court cases. I couldn't believe the effect this place had on me.

"I was so out of control, but the lads here showed there was more to life than taking cars.

"They helped me with a new start on a fresh path. I've done my Leaving Cert here, I got a license through here and got a job through here. I completely turned my life

SOCCER STAR



Cian Power (left) being interviewed by Sam Power (no relation) in 'Changing Ireland's office.

around. And I became a father also.

"This programme is one of a kind and I wouldn't be where I am today, because (only for it) I'd have killed myself, or killed someone in a car. It shows anything is possible.

"I hope to go to college in September. Before here, I wouldn't even be thinking into the future," said Eddie.

DARRAGH O'KEEFFE, CARPENTER

Darragh O'Keeffe was a participant with the project in 2012.

"After being here a while, they begin to challenge you... in a good way," he said. Encouraged, he began working with horse trainer Jim Bolger two years ago.

"I was up at 6.30, working at 7.30, mucking out... it was hard. I always wanted to work with horses, but after a while I wanted to be a carpenter," he said.

Through the MYA's partnership with the Peter McVerry Trust, he is now two months into a six-month traineeship.

"I'm proud of our product," he said. "I am one of a group of 13 young people on this programme with the ETB. It's a great opportunity for people and something that needs to be supported. The payback is huge for us all."

LEE QUINN, JOCKEY ACADEMY GRADUATE

Former participant Lee Quinn said there was a time when he "wasn't great at getting up for school".

Through the MYA, he got a trial with Ireland's jockey training academy - the Racing Academy and Centre of Education (aka Race) - in The Curragh, Co. Kildare. He came close, but missed out.

"So, I gave up the fags, trained hard (using MYA's gym) and went for a second trial.

"All my hard work paid off. I topped the fitness class in Race. I've now graduated from Race. I'm proud," he said.

BY SAM POWER*

Not everyone can be a star, so how come so many people from Moyross are famous?

Keith Earls and the Corpus Christi National School Choir, to take two examples. People are talented obviously, but they strive harder here than elsewhere to succeed. They feel they have to.

They need to excel to beat the stereotypes about people from Moyross. For years, people from Moyross lost out on jobs and more just because of their address. You needed to stand out as someone above average in society at large.

Success on stage and in sport can lead to a career path. It beats a life in crime, or struggling on the margins.

I spoke to three young men from Moyross who value the role sports plays in the community. One of them has played for Ireland. No, not Keith Earls - Cian Power.

Cian is a 17 year old soccer player who plays for Pike Rovers in Limerick city and he hopes to make it professionally across the water.

He has already represented the Republic of Ireland at under-18 level and has been capped seven times with the national side.

"It was always a dream of mine to play for my country," he said.

He sees himself in five years' time "hopefully playing professional football somewhere - that's my dream."

While from Pineview Gardens, Moyross, on the Clare side of the city - Cian crossed the Shannon to play with Pike Rovers - because at the time Moyross did not have an age group that he was able to play for. He is playing with Pike ever since.

Cian says, "I really enjoy it up there. They have a really nice set up and are great for developing young players."

He said that growing up in Moyross "wasn't so bad. "There was some rough moments, but I kept my head down, stayed out of trouble and I kept working hard."

He is grateful to family, coaches, team-mates and friends for their support.

"Everyone has helped me. My aunt used to bring me up and down to training and games every week when I was a kid," he said.

If later in life he had to choose another career, he said, "I would still try to be involved in some sort of sport, for example as a gym instructor."

Cian continues to train hard and has become a role model for younger kids.

Luke Ward went to school with Cian and is a Moyross resident. He aims to become a soccer coach "and help kids in the community".

"The boys like Cian and Keith Earls are giving the place a great name," he said. "Everyone gives Moyross a bad name, but they work very hard to prove people wrong. I've lived here for 11 years and it's a great place," he said.

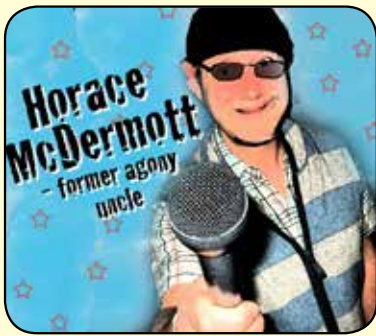
Resident Jordan Guerin agreed that sports stars from Moyross "give the place a good name". He felt that "there are a lot of opportunities for people in Moyross at the moment". He himself hopes to open a business.

• Sam Power is from Ballynanty, beside Moyross. He wishes to become a journalist, and earlier this year, in collaboration with Limerick Youth Service, he was on placement with 'Changing Ireland'.

PRIDE IN ROOTS SHOWN ON BOOTS: As first worn by Keith Earls from Moyross when playing for Ireland against Italy, in 2011.



HORACE HELPS!



HELLO! HAVE YOU BEEN SIGH-CAPPED?

- COMES WITH FREE GIFT
- GET YOURS TODAY!

The ESRI has confirmed that the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) has achieved more than any other government-funded acronym.

Ireland is renowned for its acronyms, as anyone in the Community Sector, who quickly or slowly learns a new language, will testify.

Some acronyms reflect what they're about more than others. e.g. LEADER gives the impression of a programme that is to the forefront and ahead of the rest. Whereas U.C.D. suggests students don't see many 'As', 'Bs' or 'Cs' in their results.

However, SICAP has the distinction of also being used as a verb, as in "You've been SICAPPED!"

But, how do you pronounce it?

Horace McDermott, as his millions of fans worldwide know, is a former Irish civil servant, one-time community worker and occasional agony uncle attached to this publication.

Now, Horace has begun to help the multitudes who have difficulty with the pronunciation of the €190m, five-year programme to reduce poverty through community development. It has Horace really worried.

"I kept thinking of it as the NICAP programme, as in 'Knee-cap', but that was run by a different outfit," he said.

"I couldn't even pronounce 'pronunciation' myself when I started this," he said. "It's tough."

"Even participants on the programme don't know they've been SICAPPED, let alone know how to pronounce it.

"They just think it was Mary or Tom down in the centre that lent them a hand. They'd remember if they were sent to Love Island, but can't remember SICAP which has higher success rates."

Alarming, some TDs are still asking what it's all about.

"So, I called Pobal," he said.

"In response, Pobal has now



• Comes in colour (above) or black and white (see below).

contracted me (after an arduous public tendering process) to lead community workers in promoting the programme.

"I've given up darts, divorced herself, said goodbye to my children awhile and dedicated the next five years to bringing people together under the programme banner. My mission - to raise public awareness at low cost and teach people how to say 'SICAP' properly."

Last week, Horace rolled out his first Pobal-backed initiative - it insists that everyone who has anything to do with the programme from now on must be able to pronounce it properly.

Yesterday, 'Changing Ireland' sat in on a session (hidden behind a dummy mirror, due

to privacy concerns) and was impressed.

Community worker to citizen: "Say S.I.C.A.P."

Citizen (actually Sheilagh Murrey from Durtnagapall): "Okay, here goes - Sickap".

CW: "No."

Citizen: "Sea-cab".

CW: "No, that's how LCDC people say it." (Not all - Ed).

Citizen: "Free-cap".

CW, exasperated: "Try harder."

Citizen: "Mud-flap."

CW: "Look, there's no point in us getting you on a course, into a job or supporting your group, if you think it was Santa Claus gave you the dig-out. Now, say it!"

Citizen: "Re-cap."

CW: "No."

Citizen: "Night-cap."

CW: "For feck's sake Sheilagh!"

Citizen: "I have it... Sigh-cap."

CW: "That's it, well done!"

Citizen: "Can I go now?"

CW: "Not yet."

Horace at this moment stepped into the room: "Well done Sheilagh on passing the pronunciation test. To mark the occasion, we would like to offer you a free SICAP tattoo. Roll up your sleeve there, please!"

Citizen: "Thanks, but no thanks. I'll just take the support, the advice and any grants going, thanks."

CW: "Arra go on. There's no charge for the tattoo. Also Sheilagh, it's necessary for us to meet our EU programme visibility requirements."

Citizen, recognising there's no escape: "Hmmm, it's a nice logo... very colourful. Oh go on, put 'Sigh-cap' on my upper arm."

Horace: "Sure, SICAP helps thousands and you only live once."

CW, showing off: "Look, I got my mid-riff SICAPPED and I got five EU and Department logos too."

Horace reaches for needles and a biro: "Now, please sign this 12-page form exonerating us of any responsibility if it discolours, or anything else goes wrong like you die."

Citizen: "Uh..."

ZZZZZ..... Zzzzz..... DONE!

Horace: "Congratulations! You've been 'sigh-capped'."

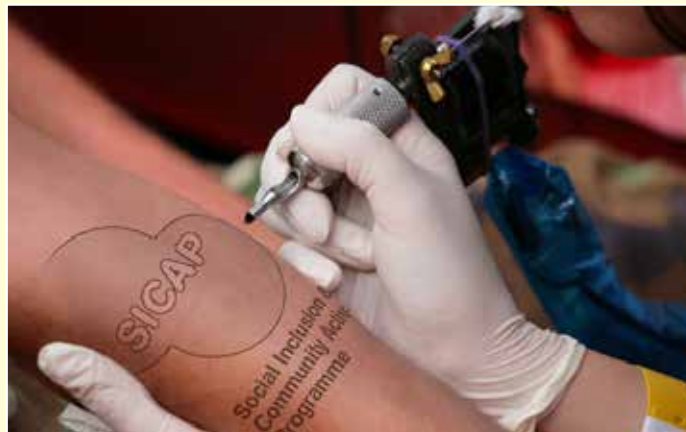
Citizen: "I suppose you'd like me to wear short-sleeved shirts from now on?"

Horace: "Would you be a darling? If you do, we get a commission."

After Sheilagh left, Horace turned to the community worker: "We should have started tattooing in 2016... because if we had, we would by now have over a hundred thousand people going around wearing the SICAP logo."

CW: "But, that's so much ink. Just think of all the community groups we support. Surely, we'll only tattoo their chairs?"

Horace: "Their chairs, tables, desks, the lot - if we can SICAP it, we tattoo it. We've only just begun."



Understanding SICAP

Social inclusion is one of our best weapons in fight against far right

Right-wing populism, coming from both east and west, is creeping this way. An ugly, exclusionary kind of nationalism is emerging.

In this context, it is even more important to shine a spotlight on work we do in the area of social inclusion, WRITES ALLEN MEAGHER.

Our work is not something for us to be humble about. We do try. Every year, we have 'Social Inclusion Week' with hundreds of events held around the country.

But what about promoting the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) itself?

Have Local Community Development Committees new ideas for promoting SICAP?

The EU which part-funds the programme is nowadays getting fixated on visibility and rightly so.

SICAP is worth €38 million this year alone and you'd think everyone would know about it.

Even people who benefit from SICAP support – while emerging better off – may not necessarily know the name of the programme they received support through. Does that matter? I believe so.

The programme aims to reduce poverty through community development and, every day, it achieves hundreds of major and minor successes.

SICAP has been around since 2015 and will be around for at least another five years.

The programme helps to combat discrimination. Its target groups include young people not in education or employment, migrants, lone parents, people on low income, people with disabilities and more – in short, the people who have been left on the margins of society and those who most need help to remain within it.

The rise of the right under Trump has seen the semi-normalisation of racism, misogyny and militarised police. Anti-minority sentiment

is amplified and people on the margins are pushed away.

Yes, there are now more jobs in the USA, but at a cost. And, what's there to support those on the margins? Have they anything like our SICAP?

It's important the public knows about this unique kind of social inclusion work:

SICAP already reaches into nearly every community. The programme involves the government, the EU, Pobal, 33 committees* operating under local authority auspices, 51 Local

Development Companies, hundreds of groups engaged as project partners, and hundreds of community workers.

In 2016, SICAP supported 47,511 individuals on a one-to-one basis, and 3,076 local community groups. That's how many were SICAPed in just 12 months.

We need to emphasise why supporting people on the margins matters.

We need to highlight the easy ways (relatively speaking) in which individuals and communities can be empowered, and talk about why we need a more equal and fair society.

Every week, more than a thousand new beneficiaries emerge.

SICAP is something we and our political representatives should be striving to promote. The programme is hard-working, but does not get the public recognition or awareness it should.

Many of us have a neighbour, friend or relative who could benefit a lot with SICAP support. People involved in setting up community groups may not be aware that their groups would qualify for SICAP support.

We need to spread the word about inclusion at community level.

Everyone should know about SICAP, even people who are not in direct need of its support. All of society benefits.

Empowered communities should be encouraged to acknowledge the support they are receiving through SICAP.

If nobody knows of long-term, community development initiatives, it leaves the field open for populists with short-term and nasty solutions to take over.

The evidence is there to show that the programme makes a real impact. Let's get the word out there.

* Local Community Development Committees.

SICAP 2018 - 2022
Top Ten Changes

- 5 Years** Longer funding commitment
- Greater focus on quality community development and more intense engagement
- Fewer indicators and targets
- New way to record the barriers that SICAP clients face
- No age limit
- Simple and flexible
- Gone from 3 goals to 2
- Easier registration process
- More target groups, plus an emerging needs group
- Grants to support local community groups and individuals
- A new specialised SICAP tool to measure personal progression

SICAP 2018-2022 is funded by the Irish Government through the Department of Rural and Community Development and is co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employment, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020.

Logos: Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds 2014-2020, European Union, Invest in your future European Social Fund, Kóras na hÉireann Government of Ireland, pobal

SICAP 2018-2022 & LCDCs - Contacts & Background

Information on the current SICAP programme (2018-2022): <http://bit.ly/SICAP2022>

Statistics, outcomes & solid information from the previous SICAP programme (2015-'17): <http://bit.ly/SICAP2015-17>

Contact list for SICAP local Programme Implementers - updated May 20, 2018: <http://bit.ly/SICAPcontacts>

SICAP Contact List for Local Community Development Committees (LCDCs) - updated May 20, 2018: <http://bit.ly/LCDCcontacts>

“SURE, WE’RE ALL THE SAME WHEN WE’RE IN WELLIES”

While some people go to the Electric Picnic, more go to the Ploughing - over 240,000 people attended this year, despite the bad weather.

The Ploughing Championships, held again in Offaly, are about much more than farming or ploughing. All of rural life is here.

As one community activist put it, “Sure, we’re all the same when we’re in wellies”. By way of example, she addressed two government ministers in a matter of minutes.

It’s not just government departments that rent space, but also civil society groups. Well done to the many thousands of staff and volunteers who shelled out advice, support, information and opportunities to the public.

Photos by ‘Changing Ireland’.



Brian Duffy feeds his three-year-old son James at the Ploughing.



Ministers Charlie Flanagan and Michael Ring and Minister of State Seán Kyne led the discussion in a public forum on rural Ireland.



RURAL AND URBAN CARE IN THE COMMUNITY: Colette Ryan, general manager of CareBright, Bruff, Co. Limerick with Marie Price Bolger, CEO of Trustus We Care, in Tallaght, Dublin.



The Public Participation Network stand was one of the busiest of all; there were non-stop enquiries.



Minister Ring, Pobal's Emma Rorke and Graham Brown from Tullamore Social Services.



Minister Ring at the busy Volunteer Ireland stand.



Brendan O'Loughlin, CEO with Offaly Local Development, welcomes Minister Ring back to Screggan. In background: Declan Costello and colleague.



Tina Gallagher and Clodagh McDonnell from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Helen Behan of Boardmatch with Minister Ring.



Sheila from Get Ireland Walking.



Matt Horan and colleague tell Minister Ring about a film festival being held in Birr - with support from Offaly Local Development - this Autumn. Details: www.offlinefilmfestival.com



Libraries want people to walk rather than drive. It is part of a new initiative to 'Get Ireland Walking' launched by Minister of State Catherine Byrne at the Ploughing Championships.

Above: 3 avid walkers, Fiona Donovan from Healthy Ireland with Rebecca and Killian Kingstown from Bantry, Co. Cork.

Pictured (left): Jason King from 'Get Ireland Walking', Bairbre Nic Aongusa, Assistant Secretary, Department of Rural and Community Development, Minister of State, Catherine Byrne, Kate O'Flaherty and Fiona Gilligan, both from Healthy Ireland.





Tara Taheny and Caoimhin Ó Tuathail from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Dancing in the rain in the aftermath of Storm Ali at the Ploughing Championships 2018. The rain was pelting down.
All photos: Changing Ireland.



Minister Ring was assured that this dog wouldn't bite by Teresa Madigan, Dog Control.



Minister Ring with siblings Tomas and Aisling O'Connor from Ballinagore, Co. Westmeath.



Catherine Conroy and Minister Ring at the Department's Rural Recreation stand.

SMILING civil servants, chiefly, with President Michael D. Higgins, in the marquee housing the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Minister Ring tries out a bicycle from Mid-Ireland Adventures which is based in Banagher, Co. Offaly.





"Right, how do you explain it all in a minute?!"



Ready for every question the public put to them.



Bernie Reape, DRCD, and Maria Farry, Pobal, were there to promote the Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP).



Paula Dowd, Rosie Smyth and Joe Syron from the Department of Rural and Community Development.



Terence O'Rourke, Chairperson, and Deirdre Mortell, CEO, of Social Innovation Fund Ireland. They were at the Ploughing to present cheques to six winning social enterprises.



COMMUNITY FINANCE: Credit Unions

Credit Unions clean as driven snow, yet me - A credit union view 10 years on from the bank ba

Credit Unions may soon become mortgage lenders, in places literally stepping in where banks have abandoned whole communities.

While banks still struggle, ten years on from being bailed out by the State, credit unions are flourishing. Unlike banks, they don't need marketing campaigns asking people to trust them.

Of the hundreds of credit unions, only three went to the wall and not one was bailed out. Every bank in the State took a bailout.

But if you were to read the newspapers at the time - and sometimes even still - you would be forgiven for thinking credit unions were just as much to blame.

Ted O'Sullivan, who has conducted a study on the matter, believes some Irish banks sought to sully the name of credit unions, possibly to distract from banks' guilt in the crash.

Speaking in UCC, he said that despite having a 99% success rate, credit unions have been demonised in sections of the print media.

At a summer school for and about credit unions, he recalled apocalyptic headlines such as "Credit Union Debt is a Time Bomb for the Whole Sector" (Irish Examiner, 2009).

And: "Crack down on Credit Unions, not us - say banks" (Sunday Tribune, 2009).

Even this year, the negativity continues. The 'Irish Independent' ran with a front page lead story in January claiming 'Half of Credit Unions Heading for Collapse'.

Fake news it would seem. How many have collapsed since January?

For the record, no matter how badly credit unions were painted, Ireland did not have a credit union collapse.

Nonetheless, print media reporting during the crash included false claims that credit unions were facing closure and were going to cost the taxpayer tens of millions of euro.

Three years ago, a survey of Irish brands found - to no surprise - that credit unions were highly trusted. In a report conducted by CEXi.org, credit unions topped the list of Irish brands that provide the most positive customer experience. The report said the credit unions' popularity was because of their "ethos and culture" as organisations which are "deeply embedded in the communities in which they operate".

In May, this year, Credit Unions were named in a survey as the most highly regarded organisation in Ireland, rated first in a list of 100 well known brands and institutions. The study by The Reputations Agency measured the public's trust, respect, admiration and esteem "for our most important organisations and institutions".

Credit

Unions received the accolade for their role in providing trusted financial services to local communities.

In the same survey, banks were ranked with the Gardai, the FAI and Irish Water. The two least trusted news sources were Facebook and Independent News & Media, coming 84th and 85th respectively.

People aren't fooled all the time.

- A. Meagher



January, 2018, the 'Irish Independent': Alarming front page headline, once again attacking credit unions.

Brian Corr sees credit unions growing while banks are "retrenching from many localities"

The Department of Finance is a fan of credit unions and how they serve communities across Ireland.

Brian Corr, head of credit union policy at the Department, was among those to speak at the summertime credit union conference in UCC. It was his second time in nine months meeting staff, directors and students at a credit union event in UCC and he encouraged people to look ahead with optimism.

He drew attention to the fact that credit unions don't have the constraints that faced their founders when getting established. They now have, he pointed out:

- A membership base of three million and counting.
- An unrivalled reputation to build on, regarded by their members as Ireland's most trusted financial services brand (CX Survey).
- €1.1 billion capital in excess of regulatory reserves.
- Funding of €7 billion to lend.
- Local infrastructure nationally, in contrast to banks which have retrenched from many localities.

He noted that internet banking is growing, with scope to reach levels greater than 90% (currently Ireland is at 58%). This is a challenge credit unions know they must face up to.

Other key trends that credit unions face, he said, include: a growing population, increasing urbanisation, longer life expectancy, diversity, housing trends, and the nature of work and pensions.

- A. Meagher



Brian Corr, head of credit union policy at the Dept. of Finance.

Photo by Changing Ireland.

Media portrayed them as menace to society Bailout



• Ted O'Sullivan (above) is a researcher and lecturer with the Centre for Co-operative Studies, UCC. He has produced numerous papers on co-operative development and served as a trainer for the Irish League of Credit Unions. He has also, through the Irish League of Credit Unions Foundation, facilitated training in Ghana, Sierra Leone, Ethiopia and Uganda. He is currently a member of the board of Douglas Credit Union. He was speaking at a Credit Union Summer School organised by UCC's Centre for Co-operative Studies, Cork University Business School and the Adult Continuing Education at UCC.

Credit Unions welcome government report on local public banking, as exists in Germany

The Government in July published a report looking at prospects for establishing a system of local public banking in Ireland, as first proposed by Irish Rural Link and the Savings Banks Foundation for International Cooperation.

Sparkassen was founded 200 years ago with a "philanthropic aim to fight poverty" and that aim "quickly developed to include support for local tradesmen and businesses, including mortgages."

It operates 390 local public banks - if operating here, the state or a local authority might be the owner. Local public banks come somewhere between fully commercial banks and credit unions.

While the Government said it recognised positives to local public banking, including that it would be a support to local communities, it concluded that there was not currently a compelling case for the State to invest, noting that to do so would cost €170m.

It however saw many positives and committed to commissioning an independent external evaluation of other possible ways in which the public banking concept could be promoted in Ireland.

Ed Farrell, CEO of the Irish League of Credit Unions, welcomed the report, noting that "it rightly states that 'credit unions are seeking to play an increasing role in the Irish retail financial landscape'".

The report is available to view at: www.drccd.gov.ie



Sparkasse banks are a common sight across Germany. We could have a similar system of local banking here. Price-tag €170m.

Social Enterprise in Ireland - new beginnings

Anticipation is building in the Social Enterprise Sector in Ireland as a report from the Government on how best social enterprise can be supported is to be published shortly.

These photos are from recent social enterprise gatherings in Dublin and Limerick.

The top five photos are from an event organised by the Irish Local Development Network. The bottom five are from one organised by the Department of Applied Social Sciences in the Limerick Institute of Technology.

Full coverage from both events - and more - in our next edition.



NEWS: Cash for communities

Resilient winners leap for joy

- €500k to nurture ideas of value to communities nationwide

Minister of State, Seán Kyne, announced the six winners of the 2018 Resilient Communities Fund at the National Ploughing Championships in September.

The fund is worth €500,000 and the winning projects were chosen from over 90 entries. Each of the winning projects was awarded a grant of between €10,000 and €100,000.

The fund was set up to strengthen community resilience and to support projects that have a social, environmental or economic impact.

All the winners were on site to celebrate the occasion and the pressure is on them now to come up with solutions to problems that could be replicated in other communities.

However, they are not alone. As well as grant aid, the winning projects also receive valuable support and mentoring from the Social Innovation Fund to develop their ideas.

The Resilient Communities Fund was created by Social Innovation Fund Ireland and it is supported by the Tomar Trust and the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Dormant Accounts Fund.

The 2018 winners were:

Volunteer Doctors (in the Community), a network of over 200 volunteer doctors who can provide professional A&E care directly to the site of life-threatening emergencies throughout Ireland, with particular impact in rural and disadvantaged urban areas.

Grant: €65,000

The Cottage Market is a national community markets initiative that emphasises 'homemade, homegrown and handcrafted' produce in communities. It promotes rural life and supports grassroots enterprises.

Grant: €80,000



The Resilient Communities Fund was made possible through partnership between a civil society organisation, a government department and a philanthropist. The partners here are the Social Innovation Fund Ireland, the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Tomar Trust.

AgeWell uses peer-based social engagement and mobile technology to enable and empower older people to age well in their homes for as long as possible.

Grant: €100,000

The Irish Men's Sheds Association, supports the development of Men's Sheds. The sheds are community-based organisations providing a safe, friendly and inclusive environment to men.

Grant: €80,000

Cloughjordan Community Farm's Food

Resilience Project aims to educate local families in Cloughjordan on the benefits of eating ethically produced, chemical-free food grown on their doorstep.

Grant: €65,000

Terenure Sustainable Energy is a group of volunteers dedicated to mobilising the community to retrofit their houses and generate their own renewable energy.

Grant: €10,000

For more information, visit: www.socialinnovation.ie/resilientcommunities/

Budget 2019: €62m increase in Rural and Community Development budget

The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, and Minister of State, Seán Kyne, welcomed increased funding to the Department of Rural and Community Development as part of Budget 2019.

The overall level of funding for the Department will increase to €293m for next year (from €231m in 2018). This funding will facilitate the continued delivery of programmes across the rural and community development areas; provide €55m for the roll out of the new Rural Regeneration and Development Fund in 2019 and allow additional supports for programmes.

KEY MEASURES IN BUDGET 2019:

An additional €55m has been made available to invest in rural towns and villages through the €1 billion **Rural Regeneration and Development Fund** which begins in January, 2019.

€2m more is budgeted for expanding the successful **Walks Programme** bringing its total allocation for 2019 to €4m.

Library Development: Additional funding of €3.3m to support

the Library Strategy, bringing the total allocation for 2019 to €7.2m.

Additional support of €2.4m was announced for measures under the **Dormant Accounts Action Plan** which address economic, social or educational disadvantage. This brings the total Dormant Accounts allocation in 2019 to €12.6m.

€2m extra has been allocated to the **Community Enhancement Programme**, bringing the total 2019 allocation up to €4m. This is to enhance community facilities in disadvantaged areas, for example renovating community centres, improving town parks and common areas.

Additional funding under the cross-border **PEACE Programme 2014-2020** will bring the total 2019 allocation up to €5m.

Additional funding of €500,000 will go to enhance the **Western Development Commission's** capacity to support innovative and strategic regional development initiatives in the West. This increases this allocation to €2m.

Additional funding to support the work of **Irish Water Safety** will increase the total allocation in this area for 2019 to €1.1m.

THE MAYNOOTH DECLARATION

We, the delegates at the World Community Development Conference held in Maynooth University, Ireland, in June 2018, make the following declaration collectively:

- *We reaffirm community development as a process where people concerned with human rights, economic, social and environmental justice act collectively to change societal circumstances.*
- *With good processes determining good outcomes, community development will continue to address power imbalances and strengthen the capacities of rights holders to define, claim and realise their rights by holding stakeholders to account.*
- *Supporting and valuing the diversity of communities, community workers will continue to address the causes and consequences of marginalisation and oppression on the basis of key factors, including but not exclusive to, gender, 'race' and class.*
- *We value the on-going contribution of community development to addressing local to global concerns.*
- *We recognise its contribution to the deepening and invigorating of democracy, in the creation of better policy, in enhancing equality and in realising rights, in contributing to social cohesion, and in strengthening the collective voice of communities experiencing poverty, prejudice, social exclusion and inequality in the decision-making processes that affect their lives.*
- *We reconfirm community development as a proven means of building a just, sustainable and peaceful world.*
- *We call on local, national, regional and global authorities and governments to recognise, support and sufficiently resource independent community work through appropriate political leadership, funding, policy and legislation.*

The 'Declaration' also:

- Recognises the many challenges, including poverty, racism and inequality, which are enduring features of all societies and present the context for community development throughout the world;
- Acknowledges that the way we use and treat our world is unsustainable and that there is an urgent need for climate and environmental justice actions globally;
- Emphasises the intersectional nature of poverty and oppression, which exacerbates injustice and rights abuses and systematically ignores and undermines the diversity of cultures, communities and peoples throughout our world;
- Resists neo-liberalism as a key contributor to the persistence and growth of poverty globally and the creation of economic systems that sustain and deepen inequalities, eroding the capacity of national governments to uphold their responsibilities as human rights duty bearers;
- Remembers the role community development workers have played in mobilising communities and creating the conditions for civil society to address needs, concerns and interests;
- Reasserts our commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in this its 70th anniversary, the international human rights architecture enshrined in human rights treaties and covenants of the United Nations, as well as the UN Sustainable Development Goals essential for our future and regional multilateral organisations across the globe.

