



VOLUNTARY MATTERS

LIMERICK COUNTY COMMUNITY & VOLUNTARY FORUM

FÓRAM PHOBAIL CHONTAE LUIMNÍ

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This Issue

Page 1:

- Welcome Letter from Development Worker...
- SPCs
- Planning & Development
- Transport & Infrastructure
- Housing

Page 2:

- Graffiti Reduction
- County Limerick Local Sports Partnership

Page 3:

- Community & Voluntary Insurance Scheme

Page 4:

- News from West Limerick Resources Ltd.
- Community Childcare Subvention Scheme - Update

Page 5:

- Josephine Donohue launches CLCC Strategy 2007-2010
- Voluntary Links

Page 6:

- Registration of Community & Voluntary Groups
- Smoke Alarm Scheme
- Forum Representatives

"Representing the views of the Community and Voluntary Sector by influencing policy and decision making for the benefit of the people of County Limerick through effective communication and consultation both locally and nationally."

Dear Community & Voluntary Sector Members,

This is the first of, hopefully, many Newsletters to come from the Limerick County Community & Voluntary Forum.

It is hoped to produce this Newsletter on a quarterly basis to keep everyone up to date with what is happening both locally and nationally in the Community & Voluntary Sector.

This will also be used to update you with what is happening on the SPCs (Strategic Policy Committees) that our representatives sit on at local level within the Limerick County Council and other Countywide committees that have an impact on the Community & Voluntary sector.

I hope you enjoy and value the information here. However, any suggestions as to how to make the publication better would be a great help so don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully,

Miriam Cregan
Development Worker

WHAT ARE STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEES? (SPCS)

The Strategic Policy Committees (S.P.C.'s) were born out of the 'Better Local Government - A Programme for Change' proposal, designed to enhance the democratic remit and policy making role of the elected members and involve the Social Partners at a local level.

Each SPC comprises of elected councillors and sectoral representatives, including members of the Limerick County Community & Voluntary Forum, working together in a more participative form of democracy, thereby providing a more effective policy focus on the functions and activities carried out by Limerick County Council.

Each Strategic Policy Committee formulates and develops policy, which is forwarded to the full Council for approval. Limerick County Council has five SPCs dealing with a range of policy issues including:

- Housing Policy**
- Transportation and Infrastructural**
- Planning and Development**
- Social, Cultural and Community Development**
- Environmental Policy**

What's Happening Locally:

Planning & Development

Topics being discussed are as follows:

- Development Contribution Scheme
- Strategic Environment
- Assessment Report
- Restrictions placed on persons from Newcastle West when seeking planning permission
- Draft Rural Design Guidelines for County Limerick

Transport & Infrastructure

Burial ground by laws are presently being discussed and a period of public consultation will follow before formal adoption of the by-laws - keep an eye out in the press.

The Small Towns and Villages Initiative adopted by the Council in 2003 has proved to be a very useful instrument in delivering new and improved water services infrastructure.

See inside for more information on Tidy Towns

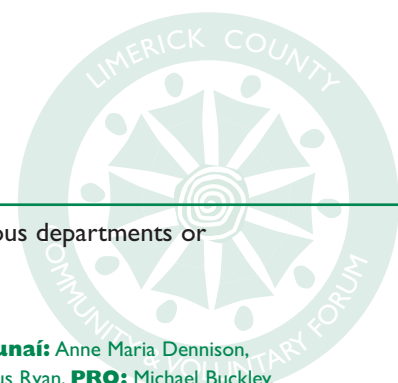
Housing

Under Part 5 of the Planning & Development Regulations any developer with more than four houses must provide social and affordable housing. To date 12 agreements have been made and advanced negotiations are taking place on a further 12 schemes.

For any further information on the above or more contact the various departments or contact www.lcc.ie

Forum Office Bearers:

Cathaoirleach: Michael J. Noonan, **Leas Cathaoirleach:** Seamus Lordan, **Runai:** Anne Maria Dennison, **Leas Runai:** Seamus Hunt, **Cisteoiri:** Patrick Cummins, **Leas Cisteoiri:** Seamus Ryan, **PRO:** Michael Buckley.



Voluntary Matters

What's Happening Locally:

Community Graffiti Reduction Programme

Scheme A applications no later than end of April 2008

Scheme B must be submitted either in May or October 2008

During 2006 and 2007 the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform carried out a pilot programme which funded anti-graffiti actions in parts of Dublin City, Bray and Galway City.

Following an evaluation of the work undertaken, the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government and the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltach Affairs have reviewed the programme and have agreed that funds be allocated to broaden its scope and geographic spread.

Funds will now be available nationally. In accordance with the Government policy of targeting state resources, priority access to funds will be given to RAPID areas.

Scheme A will be confined to RAPID areas only. Scheme B will be available nationally.

There is an application procedure with specific requirements. For more information contact Pobal on 01 4484876 or www.pobal.ie. You can also request the application forms from Pobal.

(article courtesy of www.pobal.ie/live/graffiti)

Your Input:

If you would like an article in the next issue of this Newsletter please contact us on infolccvf@gmail.com or send it by post. Hopefully the next issue will be published in July 2008.

This Newsletter can also be found on our web site www.lccvf.ie with regular updates.



County Limerick Local Sports Partnership:

The County Limerick Local Sports Partnership (LSP) is a sub-committee of Limerick County Development Board and is supported and funded by the Irish Sports Council, to co-ordinate, plan, promote and deliver sport and physical activity opportunities locally.

The Role of the Local Sports Partnership:

The 3 main functions of the Local Sports Partnership are:

- **Information:** establish a consultative **forum**, initiate **research**, compile a sports **directory & database**, identify **needs and resources** to form the basis of local **planning**
- **Education:** overall objective to provide quality **opportunities** for education and training at local level, provide **training courses** targeting **volunteers**, provide **access** to sports specific courses through the National Governing Bodies of Sport
- **Implementation:** develop a **strategic plan** for local sport, appoint a **professional administrator** and secure related support services, select participation **programmes** for LSPs modified to suit local needs, increase impact of **national programmes** delivered locally, **market** and promote sport.
- The Board of County Limerick LSP consists of the various decision making agencies in County Limerick. There is a representative from each of the following: County Limerick VEC, FAS, HSE, An Garda Siochana, The LEADER Companies: Ballyhoura Development Ltd. and West Limerick Resources Ltd., Local Authority, Limerick Youth Service, Foroige, Sports Forum, Limerick County Community & Voluntary Forum, Shannon Development and University of Limerick. The LSP are currently developing a strategy that will cater for the sporting and physical activity needs of all communities in County Limerick.

Website:

Our website is a point of reference for all interested in sport and physical activity. The site includes a comprehensive listing of Sports Clubs in County Limerick. An updated calendar of events is available where details of upcoming courses and items of interest are listed. The web address is www.cllsp.ie Should you have any information you wish to share with us and the general public please e-mail same to:

infosports@limerickcoco.ie

Contact Details:

Mr. Phelim Macken / Ms. Kathleen Kennedy
Co-ordinator/Administrator
County Limerick Local Sports Partnership
County Hall
Dooradoyle
Co. Limerick
Tel: 061-496248 or 087-2079172
E-mail: pmacken@limerickcoco.ie

Community & Voluntary Insurance Scheme

Insurance cover is the single biggest headache for voluntary groups in this country. In fact, inability to meet insurance premium costs has put many voluntary groups out of business and prevented others from ever getting started. We are delighted to announce that we have appointed BHP Insurance as the Insurance Broker to the INCVF in response to an obvious need and have worked very closely with BHP Insurance to secure a facility that will greatly reduce insurance premiums for all voluntary groups affiliated to their respective County / City Fora. The Report by the Taskforce on Active Citizenship welcomed the work done by the INCVF in developing a Group Insurance Scheme and recommended that it be promoted widely amongst relevant organisations and groups.

This facility has been a great success to date, with members seeing substantial premium savings and the benefit of a bespoke insurance facility which caters for their requirements and needs, including fun days, fundraising events and their voluntary activities.

BHP are one of Ireland's leading business insurance brokers and risk management advisors and this facility, which is open to all members of the INCVF, is underwritten by Royal and Sun Alliance, one of the largest insurers in the Irish market. The many benefits available include:-

Immediate Cover

Substantial Insurance Cost Reductions

Covers Specifically Tailored to Meet your Needs

Expert Advice on Covers Needed

High quality, keenly priced covers

Quotations over the phone and completed in under 15 minutes

No Proposal Form to complete

All Documentation issued within 48 hours

Premiums can be as low as €135.00

Some of the covers which can be arranged are as follows:-

Liability Insurance

Liability Insurance would be considered essential as all groups are at risk of claims being brought against them as a result of injuries to third parties for which the group may be responsible. BHP can provide cover in respect of potential claims from the public, employees and volunteers.

Property / Consequential Loss Insurance

Many Voluntary Groups and Organisations have assets which can be pivotal for operation and for which insurance covers are required. BHP's comprehensive package can cater for Buildings, Contents, Computer Equipment and even Portacabins and Timber Cabins.

FÁS Funding

FAS have very specific insurance requirements for people who are obtaining FAS funding, and as part of this facility BHP can arrange insurance to meet with the requirements and can complete the required documentation for FAS to ensure there is no hold up in obtaining funding

Directors and Officers Liability Insurance

In response to the risk exposures faced by directors, officers, committee members and trustees against their personal assets as a result of their capacity in their organisations we have organized an exclusive facility whereby Directors and Officers Insurance can be arranged with no hassle and low premiums to allow our members to continue in their good deeds with peace of mind and security

Household Insurance

We are delighted to announce our exclusive new Home Insurance offering with BHP's "Home Sweet Home", which we would recommend to all our members. BHP can provide household insurance for all people who are involved in companies, groups or associations who are members of the INCVF, with comprehensive cover and competitive rates. BHP Insurances can provide both security and savings to any members who wish to avail of their offering.

To become a member of the INCVF phone the **Limerick County Community & Voluntary Forum on 061 372459** or email infolccvf@gmail.com or check our website for an Affiliation Form. There is an annual Affiliation Fee of €20.

Sean Quinlan, Chairman INCVF, Noel Ahern TD, Minister of State & Mark Phelan, Managing Director BHP Insurances at the National Launch of the Insurance Facility.



News from West Limerick Resources Ltd.

Rural Development Programme

Despite indications of an early 2008 start, no date has yet been fixed for the roll out of the eagerly awaited rural development programme 2007-2013. "The new programme is likely to be one of the most important and significant delivered to date. The funding and general support levels available are expected to increase and the criteria for eligibility have been favourably amended," says Shay Riordan, West Limerick Resources Manager. "We are committed to maximising this investment and focusing our resources on actions that will have the most significant impact on rural development in the West Limerick area."

"Once the new programme is launched we will publicise its supports widely in the West Limerick area. However, despite this unexpected delay, we at West Limerick Resources are strongly encouraging individual entrepreneurs and businesses, as well as community groups, to contact our office to discuss their ideas with a staff member. Please contact Joan Casey, Rural Development Programme Coordinator on 069 66294 or email jcasey@wlr.ie.

Arts Based Community Development

West Limerick Resources has long been a supporter and advocate of Arts Based Community Development. Currently, we are planning a workshop facilitated by Blue Drum – the specialist support agency for arts in the community development sector in Ireland – which will take place on 22nd May 2008 from 7pm to 10pm in the Parish Hall, Newcastle West. Part-funded by County Limerick VEC, it is hoped that the workshop will form the first step in the establishment of a network of community-based arts workers in West Limerick, a network that not only promotes understanding of and best practice in arts-based community development but which also allows members to access and share information and identify areas for future learning, collaboration and practice. For more information contact Mo Foley, Community Development Worker with West Limerick Resources on 069 66298/ 087 9915873 or email mfoley@wlr.ie

Community Childcare Subvention Scheme – Update

The NCIP Community Childcare Subvention Scheme (2008-2010) is available under the Office of the Minister for Children (OMC) to support community-based, not for profit childcare services to enable them to provide quality childcare services at reduced rates to parents experiencing disadvantage. The introduction of the new scheme meets a commitment made at the launch of the NCIP in December 2005, to bring a new scheme into effect in 2008 when the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme (EOCP) staffing grant support scheme comes to an end.

The Community Childcare Subvention Scheme uses Parental Declaration Forms to categorise parents into Bands A to C, dependant on economic status. Community Childcare services who are eligible for the scheme will receive a subvention in respect of eligible parents. This will allow services to reduce the fee charged to these parents. Both the Childcare Service and the Parent must meet eligibility criteria to avail of the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme.

The subvention in respect of Band A parents (those in receipt of social welfare related payments) has been increased from €80 to €100 per full-time place per week (€5,200 p.a.). Example, if a service charges €150 per week and the parent is entitled to a €100 subvention then the parent pays €50 per week.

The subvention in respect of Band B parents (those in receipt of Family Income Supplement (FIS) or certain childcare subsidies e.g. under FAS/VEC schemes) has been increased from €30 to €70 per full-time place per week (€3,640 p.a.).

Services will also be grant aided to enable them to provide reduced childcare fees for parents who are marginally above the Family Income Supplement (FIS) threshold. Low-income parents in Band C of the Scheme who qualify under this measure are expected to benefit by €45 per full-time place per week (€2,340 p.a.).

For further information on the Community Childcare Subvention Scheme please contact County Limerick Childcare Committee on 061 600918 or the Childcare Directorate of the OMC on 01 635 4000.



Josephine Donohue Launches CLCC Strategy 2007-2010

On Thursday the 22nd November 2007, Josephine Donohue launched the County Limerick Childcare Committee Strategic Plan for 2007-2010. Speaking at the launch Josephine, co-author of 'Education and Care in the Early Years – An Irish Perspective' commented on "the commitment and energy which practically leaps off the pages." Josephine also "welcomed the plan to attend to issues such as quality, research and review, dialogue and partnership . . . you are obviously not content to merely do enough – you plan to do more and keep improving on that."

The Strategy outlines the goals and actions which County Limerick Childcare Committee (CLCC) will pursue over the period 2007-2010. These include supporting the development of childcare in County Limerick under the National Childcare Investment Programme (NCIP), promoting the profile of childcare as a business, supporting training and networking for Childcare Providers and Parents, the promotion of social inclusion and the delivery of information to the sector and to the general public.

The launch was well attended by Childcare Providers, Parents, Public Representatives and other interested individuals, who took time to browse the photographic exhibition on display. The exhibition which focused on the work of CLCC to date also contained a representation of the Childcare Projects who have received funding under the Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme 2000-2006 (EOCP) and the National Childcare Investment Programme 2007-2010 (NCIP).

Commenting on the exhibition, Eimear Brophy, Chairperson of County Limerick Childcare Committee acknowledged that "a total of €10.08m has been allocated to County Limerick, and 763 new childcare places were created by the end of 2006", through the implementation of the EOCP and the recent rollout of the NCIP, with support from the CLCC.

Henrietta Kearney of Galbally Community Childcare documented the support provided by CLCC during the development of their service. "From early beginnings we regularly knocked on the doors of County Limerick Childcare Committee and availed of the valuable input and advice that the staff gave us – from preparation of our Business Plan, organising our first morning sessions, consulting with the Health Board and collating all our operational procedures."

County Councillor Brigid Teefy, Leas Cathaoirleach of Limerick County Council, spoke of the links which have been formulated between the two organisations since the commencement of CLCC in 2001 and her anticipation of future links, which will serve the development of not only Childcare but the County as a whole.

Teddies Community Playgroup, Dromcollogher presented a number of Christmas decorations produced by the children who attend the playgroup. Among these were snow globes which contained Dresden Teddy Bears. The Launch concluded with a performance by Tots to Teens – Banogue Community

Childcare Service, who enamoured the audience with their rendition of 'Féach ar an Máinséar' as well as other traditional pieces.

"In all aspects of its work, CLCC will continue to strive to meet the emerging needs of the Childcare Sector in County Limerick, through consultation with the sector itself and with key stakeholders represented on the Management Committee. Such partnership will form an integral part of the future work of County Limerick Childcare Committee said Ciara Kane, Acting Co-ordinator."

CLCC would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in making the launch a success; namely Teddies Community Playgroup, Tots to Teens, Josephine Donohue, Henrietta Kearney and Brigid Teefy and the staff and management of the Fitzgerald's Woodlands House Hotel.

To obtain a copy of the Strategy, please contact **County Limerick Childcare Committee on 061 600918** or clcc@eircom.net

Voluntary Links

The online network for Irish-non-profit organisations

www.activelink.ie

Limerick County Council

www.lcc.ie

Limerick County Development Board

www.limerickcdb.ie

Community Workers Co-Operative

www.cwc.ie

Combat Poverty Agency

www.cpa.ie

Information on volunteering for Limerick

www.volunteerlimerick.com

Useful information for voluntary organisations, volunteers etc.

www.volunteeringireland.com

Irish rural Link great for funding and policy development and finding out what's happening.

www.irishrurallink.ie

Pobal– administrative body for funding from Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

www.pobal.ie

Registration of Community & Voluntary Groups

The County Council are presently writing to all organisations on their database and asking them to re-register with updated details. Please do this as this will ensure that you are contacted when important events arise that might affect your organisation. This data base will also be used in 2009 when the Community & Voluntary Forum will be seeking election to the Forum.

SMOKE ALARM SCHEME TO BE EXTENDED ACROSS COUNTY LIMERICK

A Community Smoke Alarm Scheme successfully piloted in Foynes last year is to be extended to the remainder of County Limerick.

Under the scheme, Limerick County Fire Service intends to oversee the installation of 1000 smoke alarms in homes across the county by the end of 2008. The initiative, which forms part of the National Fire Service Change Programme,

is also aimed at making County Limerick householders more aware of fire safety routines and potential fire hazards.

“Through this scheme vulnerable households are identified to have alarms fitted at no cost to the household”, explained Niall McMahon, Assistant Fire Officer.

All voluntary agencies and community groups in the county are invited to contact Limerick County Council to avail of free smoke alarms for members of their community who would benefit most from the installation of working smoke alarms within their homes.

Limerick County Fire Service will provide training for community groups on how to correctly install and advise homeowners on the maintenance of the alarms. Members of the fire service will also oversee the installation of the alarms.

For further information on the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme, contact the Community & Enterprise Department of Limerick County Council on 061 496454 or Limerick County Fire & Rescue Service on 061 496270

Forum Representatives:

Newcastle West Area:	Bruff Area:	Castleconnell Area:	Kilmallock Area:	Rathkeale Area:
Deirdre Barrett	Ger Hehir	Patrick Dempsey	Patrick C. Lynch	Joe Whelan
Jeremiah O'Connor	Des O'Connor	Michael Ryan	Seamus Ryan	Mary Quaid
Larry Begley	Ann Gill	Patrick Ryan	Michael Buckley	Patrick Cummins
Denis McAuliffe	Seamus Lordan	John Keane	Charley Richardson	Tina Healey
Seamus Murphy	Joan Dempsey	Elizabeth Stanley	Theresa Lee	Liz McAuliffe
Anne Maria Dennison	D.J. Hinchy	Pat Fogarty	Maria O'Connor	Sean Donovan
Jim Dennison	Michael J. Noonan	Sr. Mary Crosbie	Alice McAuliffe	Michael Mulcaire
Seamus Hunt		Barbara Hartigan	Bernadette Stokes	Kevin Flynn
		Pat Mulcahy		

14 / 15 Castle Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: 061 372459

E-mail: infolccvf@gmail.com Web: www.lccvf.ie

If you want to include your link here just let us know at: infolccvf@gmail.com