



Communities Creating Jobs

Online Magazine – Autumn 2020 – Issue 30

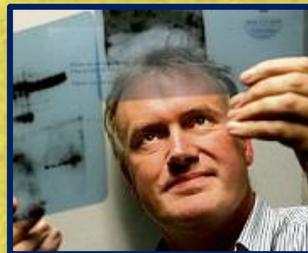


**Launch of Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland
All SERI Board Members & How to Join Them**

Gerry Kiely:
Head of European Commission
representation in Ireland
Europe's Response to Covid-19



**Professor Luke
O'Neill: "We Will
Beat Covid-19
Together"**



**Mairead
McGuinness:**
*Ireland's New EU
Commissioner – A
career in public
service*



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❖ **Community Finance Ireland invests
€30 over 4 years**

❖ **€Billions in Covid relief, record
negotiations & Brexi**

❖ **An introduction to the Bioeconomy**

❖ **The Class of 2020**

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WE ARE SERI

Fergus Finlay (Chair)
Brendan Whelan
John Kearns
Darren Ryan
Michelle Fogarty
John P. Murphy

Karen Leigh
Padraig Casey
Lorraine Corcoran
Dr. Sean Cooke
Larry O'Neill
Tammy Darcy (Interim CEO)

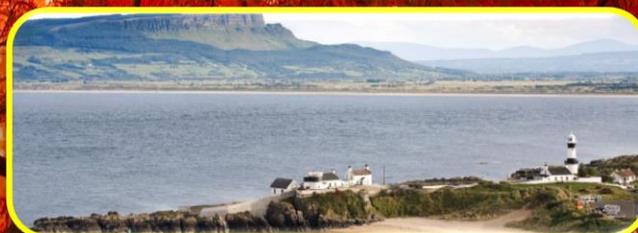
SERI
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

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The Burren Lowlands



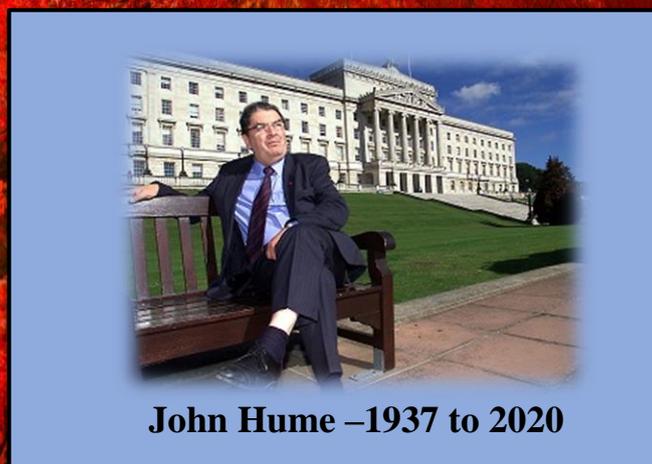
The Inishowen Peninsula



Beekeepers Come to Dunhill



A Social Enterprise Hero



John Hume –1937 to 2020

Editorial

CCJ Welcomes SERI



Welcome to SERI

Our CCJ Newsletter extends a warm welcome to **'Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland'** a national organisation set up to represent the social enterprise sector. **SERI** commits to working with interested

organisations and agencies to create a new dynamic social enterprise sector. It aims to mobilise a multiplicity of resources from state, private and community in collaboration with volunteers to build up the social and economic capacity of communities.

The social enterprise sector is of the people, by the people and for the people. It deals with issues and projects of immediate concern and benefit to people in their communities and from which so many can benefit. Social enterprises, the volunteer director and team of volunteers hold the trust of the people to act in their best interest. The volunteer director is the key person in any start-up, development, and achieving sustainability over their lifetimes.

Social enterprises create jobs, provide education and training opportunities, new services and facilities around health and well-being, security and transport, education and training, climate change, heritage and hospitality, child and elderly care, sports and recreation, waste and recycling and so much more.

Social enterprises provide practical and sustainable solutions for many of the problems troubling people today. **Social enterprises operate on the front line** and are first to respond in addressing needs and opportunities. There is an urgent need to put social enterprise at the forefront of the government's national recovery programme.

Government Support to Deliver a Treble Benefit.

It is now time for **Department of Social Protection and Employment** to revamp its supported employment schemes, such as CES, TUS and RSS.

1. Provide new upskilling/reskilling work experiences for the unemployed.
2. Allow communities to deal with problems at source.
3. Enable communities to build new services and facilities for the benefit of those in need.

Such item such as length of contracts, hours of work, payment, education and retraining opportunities, material supports, flexibilities in work content, career path planning, tracking and reporting of outcomes, clarity of guidelines for trainee and employers should be reviewed to create a win-win-win for individual, social enterprise and State.

An urgent new approach to supported employment schemes is needed to help people to adapt to the challenges confronting them. There is no time to lose in encouraging social enterprises to employ those on the live register in urban and rural regeneration projects. Communities can create safe and inclusive havens for all categories of people, the young and elderly in their own place.

We would like to thank all of you, our readers, and contributors for helping us keep this Newsletter relevant and up to date. If you have any comments or general feedback on what you would like us to include, or if you have any articles you would like to contribute please email:

theccjoffice@gmail.com

Or

Call Malcolm on 089 252 9885

"If you aren't building a social enterprise, I don't know what your business model will be in 5 years"

-Angela Ahrendts-

Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland Launch *Offering help and inviting membership*

In July 2019 then **Minister for Rural and Community Development, Michael Ring, TD**, launched Irelands first **National Social Enterprise Policy**. One of its selling points is that it would help to **‘unlock potential’** and help businesses to grow in scale, support jobs and make a positive impact on individuals and communities in rural and urban areas.



Now a new organisation, **Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland, (SERI)**, has been launched. In their letter of introduction they lay out their mission quite simply and directly while at the same time issuing an invitation to all those interested to join them in this new movement which is created to support the **Social Enterprise** sector in **Ireland**.

The message from **SERI** is both innovative and to the point. *They are created by Social Enterprises for Social Enterprises*. **SERI** members will be hands on in forging their way forward as an **organisation**, a **network**, and a **movement**. Their mission is to support, unite and champion the **Social Enterprise** sector in Ireland and each member of the board is deeply committed to that goal. The board itself, as you will see below, is populated with a membership that brings years of experience and all the practical and theoretical aspects of social enterprise to the fore and will go a long way to making **SERI** a success.

As part of this mission, **SERI** want to build a new and stronger Social Enterprise sector from the bottom up working as an inclusive and collaborative union. Among the commitments given by **SERI** is that at all times, now and in the future, the **Board of Directors** will be made up of at least **51% Social Enterprise practitioners**. In

the post Covid world social enterprise may very well prove to be the silver bullet for communities all over Ireland. The fact that the majority of the **SERI** board is made up of men and women who have an actual hands on experience in this field can only serve to ensure that social enterprise is front and centre in Ireland’s recovery as well as being an important map to success in what has become the **‘new normal’** that is post Covid Ireland.

SERI will also be setting up a formal **Social Enterprise Practitioners Council** the processes for which will be announced soon so keep an eye on their website for more details. (See below board profiles).

“The best way to predict the future is to create it”.

-Jan Owen, Foundation for Young Australians-

[Click Here to Join SERI](#)

[Click Here Visit SERI Website](#)



Please feel free to get in touch. SERI would love to answer any questions you have.

Email: info@socialenterprise.ie

Phone: 051 871181

[Useful Links](#)

[What We Do](#)

[Who We Are?](#)

[What is Social Enterprise](#)

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WE ARE SERI

Fergus Finlay (Chair)
Brendan Whelan
John Kearns
Darren Ryan
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John P. Murphy

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Lorraine Corcoran
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Lorry O'Neill
Tammy Darcy (Interim CEO)

SERI
SOCIAL ENTERPRISE
REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

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The SERI Board Members

Fergus Finlay-Chair: Fergus was **CEO of Barnardos** for 13 years until his recent retirement. Before that he spent about 2 decades as a senior advisor to the **Labour Party** in which capacity, he served in three governments as well as when that party was in opposition. A lifelong campaigner for rights for people with disabilities, he is currently **Chair** of a government task force for the implementation of a comprehensive employment strategy for people with disabilities. Fergus is the author of four bestselling books and a regular contribution to radio and TV programmes as well as writing a weekly column in the **Irish Examiner**. Fergus brings a wealth of experience to **SERI**.

Brendan Whelan: Brendan is the **CEO of the Social Finance Foundation**. Prior to this he has worked as Chairman, **IT Operations and HR in Bank of Ireland**. He is also a fellow of the **Institute of Bankers in Ireland**. As **Chairman of the Board of Directors of Special Olympics Ireland** and **Chairman of the Board of Directors of St. Catherine's Association** in Wicklow. Brendan's experience makes him a valuable and important member of the **SERI** board.

Lorraine Corcoran: Lorraine is **Chair of the Dept. of Finance Credit Union Advisory Committee** and is also a member of the **Dept. of Business, Enterprise, and Innovations Corporate Responsibility Forum**. She is the founder of **Afanite**; a business which bridges the gap between social, for-profit, and public sectors. Prior to this Lorraine's career spanned strategic, operational, credit and customer facing roles in **Financial Services**.



“Perhaps my greatest hero was Big Jim Larkin, who lived all his life with a burning desire to ‘close the gap between what ought to be and what is’”.
-Fergus Finlay-



Brendan Whelan.
CEO of The Social Finance Foundation,
Chairman of the Special Olympics Board

Lorraine Corcoran, Chair of the Dept. of Finance Credit Union Advisory Committee



John Kearns: John is **Chief Executive of Partas**, a social enterprise working to foster entrepreneurship, business training and social economy since 1984. Partas has developed a range of innovative new projects such as Ireland's first social enterprise brewery, (**Priory Brewing**), artisan food hub, (**The County Fare**) and a new co-working hub, (**The Edge**). He has been a member of the **Social Enterprise Task Force in Ireland** and is the Irish representative on the expert advisory group to the **European Commission on Social Enterprise**.

John P. Murphy: as **CEO of Speedpak Group**, John has extensive experience across business, social enterprise, and local development companies. He began his career in education before moving to the private sector where he held business development roles with **Coca Cola, HBC Ireland, and Bass Brewers**. John has led Speedpak Group since 2003 during which time the company won numerous awards for social entrepreneurship.

Karen Leigh: Karen is **CEO and founder of Sensational Kids** and an award-winning **Social Entrepreneur**. She has led Sensational Kids from its foundation in 2007 directly impacting the lives of over 6800 children from all over Ireland. She is a 2014 **Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Impact Award Winner** and the Ireland Fund's Flagship Awardee, 2018 and, in the same year, an award the Social Innovation Fund Ireland: Social Enterprise Development Fund.

Darren Ryan: **Darren Ryan is the CEO of SEI, Social Entrepreneurs Ireland**. This is a not-for-profit organisation that supports people who have new ideas to tackle Ireland's social problems. They have supported 300 social entrepreneurs since 2004. Previously Darren was **Chair of the Soar Foundation** and a member of the **Ireland Funds Young Leaders Foundation**.

Each social enterprise has a unique set of stakeholders – those who have a direct or indirect interest in the work of the organisation. Stakeholders may include employees, customers, beneficiaries, local leaders, funders, and supporters.



John Kearns,
Chief executive of
Partas and a
member of the
Social Enterprise
Task Force in
Ireland



John P. Murphy,
CEO of Speedpak
Group which he
has led since 2003.



Karen Leigh is
CEO of *Sensational
Kids*, about which
she writes later in
this issue.



Darren Ryan is
CEO of Social
Entrepreneurs
Ireland and was
also Chair of the
Soar Foundation.

[Click Here for more Information on SERI](#)





Senan Cooke: Dr. Senan Cooke is Co-founder of **Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd.** He was also manager of Education and Training in **Waterford Crystal.** He has published two books *'The Enterprising Community'* and *'The History of GAA in Kilmacow', (1884 – 2010).*

He has been instrumental in the setting up of seven social enterprise start-ups in **Dunhill** and the **Copper Coast** area of **Co. Waterford.** He was appointed to *'Expert Group on Future Skills needs', (2000 – 2004), 'Commission for Economic Development for Rural Areas', (2012-2015).*

Padraig Casey: Padraig is CEO of **Ballyhoura Development CLG,** a community led local development company operating across east Cork and east Limerick. He is on the Board of Directors of **Ballyhoura Food Centre Hospital, Ballyhoura Food Centre Mitchelstown,** and **Croom Community Enterprise Centre** all of which provide enterprise incubation space to start ups and developing rural based entrepreneurs and businesses.



Michelle Fogarty: A former international athlete, Michelle has over 15 years' experience leading top tier organisations from a human capital perspective, including supporting a number of high-profile start-ups such as Twitter, Blizzard Entertainment, Beats by Dre*, B&Q, (Kingfisher Group), & Tyco/Johnson Controls. She is the co-founder and COO of the award-winning workplace wellbeing platform – **PepTalk,** she also sits on the Board of the social enterprise – **Sailing into Wellness**



Tammy Darcy – Interim CEO: Tammy Darcy is the Founder and CEO of **The Shona Project,** a multi-award winning social enterprise that aims to educate, empower and inspire today's Irish girls

to become tomorrow's strong confident and curious young women. Tammy is a Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awardee, winner of CEO of the Year Irish Women's Awards, 2018, Image Magazine Social Entrepreneur of the Year finalist, 2018 & 2019, and Waterford Business Awards Social Enterprise of The Year Winner in 2018.

SERI Needs Your Voice.

Following its launch in July, SERI are now inviting expressions of interest from Social Practitioners, including CEO's, Senior Managers & Voluntary Directors to form a Practitioner Working Group. Interim CEO, Tammy Darcy said, *"We believe in the wisdom of people who are living social enterprise every day. SERI is, and always will be, passionately committed to being practitioner-led. With this in mind, we wish to establish a Working Group, which will consist of Social Enterprise practitioners to guide the direction of SERI based on lived experience, knowledge, and expertise"*. The role of the Working Group is to design, develop and establish a formal Practitioner Council, the purpose of which is:

- To provide practitioner inputs so that SERI can listen to, understand, and address the needs, barriers and opportunities facing our members and the sector.
- To work together to develop solutions to challenges experienced by the sector.
- To nominate individuals to the SERI Board.

Once established the Practitioner Council will give power to SERI members to recruit their own representatives, ensuring a rich and diverse group in terms of geographical region, gender, ethnicity, background, organisational size, and sectoral focus. If you are a CEO, Voluntary Director or Senior manager of a Social Enterprise, and a SERI member, you can express an interest by completing this form. [CLICK HERE FOR THE FORM.](#) The deadline for applications is 5pm, Friday October 2nd.

For further information contact: tammy@socialenterprise.ie

Social Enterprise Policy Objectives and Definition

Policy Objectives

1
Building
Awareness

2
Growing &
Strengthening
Social Enterprise

3
Achieving
Better Policy
Alignment

Department of Rural and Community Development.

New Social Enterprise policy launched on 18th July 2019 by Minister Michael Ring, TD, in Speedpak, Coolock, Dublin

Social Enterprise Definition.



A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal, or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners and shareholders.



It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives



It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and it is independent of the public sector. if dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

For social enterprise volunteer directors, volunteers and staff, support agency staff, private sector, colleges, and civic society to know and understand



European Diary with Gerry Kiely Head of European Commission in Ireland Europe's Response to Covid-19

Since the coronavirus pandemic struck, **Ireland** and the **EU** have taken unprecedented measures to protect lives and livelihoods. The deadly virus has inflicted a global tragedy on a scale unimaginable barely six months ago. At the local, national, and European efforts, incredible efforts have been made to tackle the crisis and find a way forward.

The EU has taken decisive actions to try to mitigate the health, social and economic impact of the virus. It freed up every available euro in its budget and used every inch of flexibility in its economic rules. As a first step, it helped finance **EU safety nets of €540 billion**, including the new **SURE instrument**, to help people stay in work and to support hard-pressed families and businesses. It set up and distributed the first ever EU stockpile of medical equipment, including testing kits and protective equipment. EU funding has paved the way for ground-breaking research into the virus and its impact, including many projects involving **Irish scientists and companies**. And on a global scale, the **Coronavirus Global Response** initiative a worldwide pledging marathon launched by the Commission, has **raised almost €16 billion to develop and deploy a vaccine accessible to all**.

These actions were only the beginning of Europe's journey. As countries attempt to return to a new normal, the EU is working to repair the community and social damage, re-start the economy and build a better and more sustainable future for the next generation. It is also working hard to support efforts to improve testing and find a possible vaccine. No country in Europe can do this work alone. **All 27 EU Member States** must work together to ensure that Europe embarks on a collective road to recovery. This sense of solidarity contributed to four days of intense negotiations in July, when **EU Heads of**

State and the Presidents of the European Commission and European Council came together and united and agreed on a **historical €1.8 trillion** recovery package that will help the EU rebuild after the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

This comprehensive package combines the EU's seven-year budget with a new and extraordinary **Recovery Instrument** specifically established to help cushion the effects of a coronavirus-induced economic slump. **This €750 billion Recovery Instrument, Next Generation EU**, will raise huge funds on the financial markets and channel them to support recovery in Ireland and across Europe between **2021-2024**. Adapting current challenges into new opportunities, the Recovery Instrument will allow Member States to recover, repair and emerge stronger from the crisis.



Gerry Kiely

EU agrees on €750 billion Recovery Instrument for Europe

Ireland is in a great position to take advantage of Europe's new ambitious plan. It **will receive around €1.3 billion in the next two years** and an additional amount in **2023** depending on the impact of the pandemic. A separate **€5 billion Brexit** reserve fund

will also ensure that Ireland will emerge strong from the uncertainties posed by **Brexit**. For rural communities across Europe, **Next Generation EU contains a €15 billion boost for the European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development**. For rural Ireland, compared to the Commission's 2018 proposal, this means an extra €354 million over the next seven years.

Social enterprise has a vital role to play in the recovery. The European Commission's support for social enterprise, and its role in helping local communities and securing a sustainable recovery, is reflected in new [European Investment Fund \(EIF\)](#) and **European Commission COVID-19** support measures under the [EaSI Guarantee Instrument \(EaSI\)](#). These measures aim to enhance access to finance for micro-borrowers, micro- and social enterprises for those that have been hit by the socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic. They aim to incentivise financial intermediaries to **lend money to small businesses**, mitigating the sudden increase in perceived risk triggered by the coronavirus pandemic, and alleviating working capital and liquidity constraints. Interested parties are invited to consult the full details in the call documents published on [EIF's website](#).

Waterford's strong track record in social enterprise

Back in May, 2019, I was invited to speak at a public debate on "Revitalising Rural Ireland- Empowering Communities Through Social Enterprise". At the wonderful Dunhill EcoPark, several hundred gathered to engage in lively discussion on the potential of Social Enterprise in revitalising rural Ireland and creating sustainable growth. There was a clear recognition of the power of Social Enterprises in bringing positive change to rural regions in Waterford and beyond.



Amidst the EU's ongoing efforts to manage and learn from the crisis, Member States have readily sought to find solutions to the current pandemic, particularly in the area of research and innovation. With EU support, **Irish SME, HiberGene Diagnostics**, in **May** confirmed that it had **developed a rapid diagnostic test** to detect viral infection that gives **accurate results in 30 minutes**, meaning patients can be isolated and quarantined quickly. With an EU contribution of **€930,000 for the project**, the **HG nCoV19** test was one of 18 projects funded by the European Commission as part of an emergency call for urgently needed research into the coronavirus.

Looking to the longer-term, the [Conference on the Future of Europe](#) is set to play a role in the post-Covid path to recovery. Expected to launch in **the Autumn**, the Conference will engage citizens in a wide-ranging debate on Europe's future. It will focus on how to develop EU policies to tackle more effectively the challenges facing Europe, including the economic repercussions of the **Covid-19 pandemic**. As to the European Commission's thinking on these subjects, they will be set out in detail in the the [State of the European Union address, scheduled for 16 September, by President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen](#). The President will take stock of the achievements and downfalls of the past year and present the Commission's priorities and aspirations for the year ahead.

As we begin to look ahead, the ambitious Recovery Instrument shows that the lessons and the suffering of the past have not been forgotten. We must all remember that this is Europe's moment. We must rise from this crisis in a way that addresses the greatest of all crises - climate change. And we all must work to live up to that challenge for the sake of Europe's green and digital future. **By working together, Europe will emerge strong and resilient in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

[More information on the European Commission Representation in Ireland can be found here.](#)





State of the Union

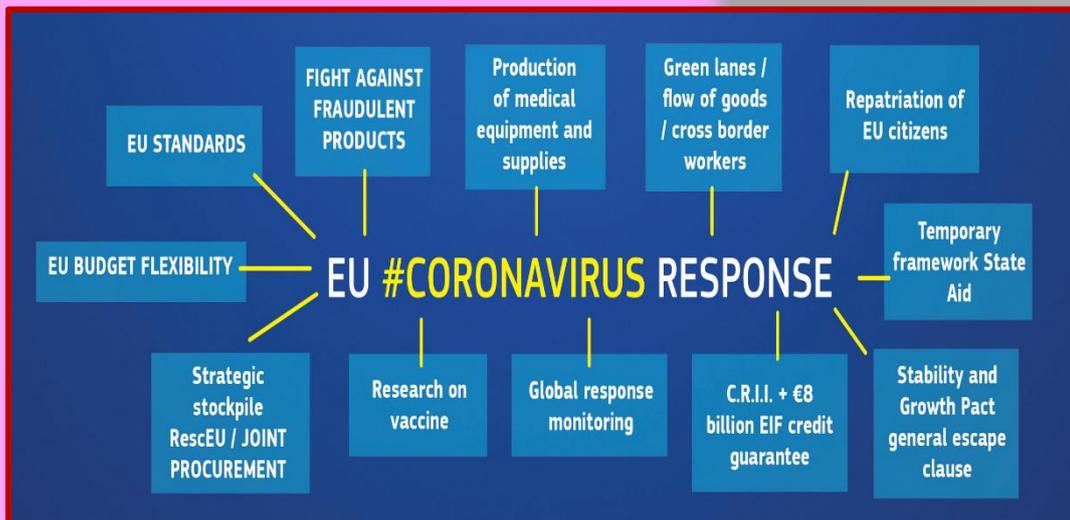
Covid-19 relief and Brexit negotiations take up most of the EU's time

By Malcolm Paull Murphy, CCJ

The **European Commission** is coordinating a common **European response** to the **Covid-19** crisis and is supporting the member states in tackling the pandemic. While member states are on the frontline, the commission has proposed an unprecedented set of measures to reinforce and facilitate their efforts.

The graph below shows, to date, the **European Union's response to the Coronavirus**.

On **July 16th** there was a gradual lifting of the temporary restrictions on non-essential travel into the **EU**. Also starting in July member states started lifting the travel restrictions at the external



borders for residents of some third countries. A full and updated list can be found here; [Travel and tourism in Europe](#). It should however be noted that the list will be reviewed and, if needed, updated every two weeks.

A Recovery Plan for Europe

After some **90 hours of talks** a fund package of **€1.8 Trillion** was agreed by the **EU leaders**. The money will be used to fund the next seven years of spending and will also inject monies into

struggling economies to help them to deal with the fallout from the **Covid** pandemic

As EU summits go this one was historic in more ways than just the amount of money agreed. It was one of the longest ever undertaken and more than one session carried on throughout the night as leaders negotiated. **A deal was finally announced at 5.30 a.m. on Tuesday July 21st**. Negotiations has been ongoing from the 17th.

Because the challenges presented by the pandemic are unique so too has been the EU response.

€750 Billion will be used in grants and loans that will be funded by jointly guaranteed borrowing by the **European Commission**, the first time this has been done. It was a proposal that faced significant resistance from a group of so called **frugal northern member states** led by the **Netherlands**. The overall amount of the money due to be distributed as grants, that do not need to be directly paid back by national governments, was reduced from **€500 Billion to €390 Billion** by way of a compromise. **€360 Billion** is to be distributed as loans for member states.

The deal, which was driven forward by **Emmanuel Macron and Angela Merkel**, also secured a **€5Billion 'Brexit Adjustment Reserve'**. These are funds which have been set aside for the sectors and countries worst hit by the effects of the **UK** leaving the **EU**. **Ireland** can confidently expect to receive a substantial

share of this being one of the worst countries affected.

Some programmes proposed by the Commission were, however, cut to bring down the overall size of the budget. These programmes included some on health as well as subsidies to help economies transition towards carbon neutrality. These cutbacks were described as *'regrettable'* by **Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission President**.

“This recovery fund, that is based on European solidarity, is indeed a historic change. A historic step for Europe. This is the first time we have been able to set up this budget capacity at this level”.

-Emanuel Macron, pictured below with Angela Merkel-



Brexit

With newspapers across **Europe** being almost fully occupied reporting on marathon European summits, one could be forgiven for thinking that the drama that is **Brexit** has been forgotten. This feeling however was put to rest when **Michel Barnier** said a trade and security deal with the UK government by the end of the year appeared *‘unlikely’*. He further complained that **Britain** was demanding *“near total exclusion of European fishing boats from its waters”*. In a virtual press conference, the **EU’s chief negotiator** told reporters that with just three full months to go to the **October 31st** deadline the two sides were far from agreement.

The second week in **September** brought fresh trouble to the **Brexit** talks. **British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson**, and his government, drew harsh criticism from all quarters, including sections of their own backbench, when they announced they were going to **breach the internationally agreed withdrawal agreement**. Indeed, EU leaders have vowed to block any trade deal if **Johnson** goes ahead with this plan. **United States Speaker of the House of Representatives,**

“In more than 30 years as a diplomat I have not experienced such a fast, intentional and profound deterioration of a negotiation”

-Andreas Michaelis, German ambassador to the UK-

Nancy Pelosi, waded in when she warned that there would not be trade deal with the UK if the Conservative government, by their actions, threatened the **Good Friday Agreement**

Michel Barnier, (*pictured below*), has said that



the EU was increasing its planning for a no deal scenario. Johnson is reported to have told some **250 Tory MP’s** that the planned breach was *“necessary to stop a foreign power from breaking up our country”*, but there was *“no time for questions”*. Whether this will be enough to fend off looming revolts in his own party only time will tell. What is agreed however by most commentators and political leaders in Ireland and Europe is that Johnson’s proposed actions are irresponsible at the very least. At the time of writing this, The EU has demanded the UK drop its bill to override parts of the withdrawal agreement **“by the end of the month”**, or trade talks would collapse. After meeting **Michael Gove, UK Cabinet Officer minister, European Commission vice president Maros Sefcovic** said the EU would not be *“shy”* of taking legal action against the UK government.

Whatever way this plays out the fact remains, as **Germany’s ambassador to the UK, Andreas Michaelis**, said, in his more than **30 years** a diplomat he has never *“experienced such a fast, intentional and profound deterioration of a negotiation”*. **Ireland**, like the rest of **Europe**, can only hold its breath and wait and see where it all ends. No matter what is agreed by the end of the talks and the day the **UK** leave Europe for good, Ireland should brace itself for a very rocky few months and those in government and opposition in **Dublin** will need to keep a united front with regard to protecting Ireland’s interests, **both north and south**.

East Waterford Beekeepers Association
*Beekeepers delighted to be at the Dunhill
Ecopark*

From Anne Marie Fogarty



Our new **Association Apiary** is located at the **Dunhill EcoPark** from this summer and work is currently underway. We hope it is mutually beneficial. The previous temporary apiary location reported a noticeable improvement in pollination of fruit trees and vegetation. Dunhill and the surrounding areas will benefit greatly from the new apiary. The Association was set up in **1957**, with its inaugural meeting held in **Dunabratton, Annestown, Co. Waterford** so in a way, the move to Dunhill feels like coming home. The mission of **East Waterford Beekeepers Association** is to promote the ancient craft of beekeeping, promote biodiversity in the local communities, create awareness of and support the community of beekeepers in **Waterford** and **South Kilkenny** through education, information and exchange of knowledge. There is currently a huge interest in Beekeeping amongst the public. The facilities at **Dunhill Multi-Education Centre** will cater for **Lectures from September to April** as well as practical demonstrations at the Apiary during the summer months. The Association offers **Beginners Education Programmes** together with support to our members including advanced techniques in beekeeping. Our more experienced members are always happy to mentor beginners and offer help in any way they can.

The Association also provides education to schools and community groups about the importance of bees and other pollinators in the environment. Our native pollinating insects are in trouble, but the good news is that you can help by making your garden pollinator friendly. Every garden, no matter what size, can be a haven for hungry pollinators and we would all like to help our pollinators to survive and thrive. We are avoiding pesticides and planting bee friendly

plants. Through **'Managed Neglect'** we are mowing our lawns and roadsides less frequently to provide more forage for bees. It is in our interest to help our native bees and



For more information on the East Waterford Beekeepers Association including details of lectures and courses visit www.waterfordbees.com or email waterfordbees@gmail.com



An Introduction to the Bioeconomy

By Dr. Aideen O'Dochartaigh, UCD.

Shoes made from sheep's wool, clothes made from seaweed and vaccines derived from whey. These are some of the bioeconomy innovations already happening and set to bring new opportunities in enterprise, employment, and community development in **Ireland**. **The bioeconomy refers to** all sectors of the economy which rely on biological resources such as plants, animals, and micro-organisms, including agriculture, forestry, and fisheries. While these industries have always thrived in Ireland, new technologies mean that there is now huge potential for novel, high-value bio-based products and industries, in particular using waste and by-products from traditional sectors. Following countries like **Italy, Sweden and Germany**, Ireland has recently invested significantly in research and development in this area, is building strong international partnerships and developing national policies to support the emerging bioeconomy.

The Bioeconomy is crucially important to Ireland in the context of climate change and sustainable development. In the first instance, the bioeconomy means using bio-based materials in place of carbon-intensive fossil-based materials. For example, many products which are currently made with petrochemicals derived from crude oil, such as plastic, industrial chemicals or paints, can instead be made with lower-carbon bio-based resources like plant oils. This results in lower levels of the **Greenhouse Gas (GHG)** emissions responsible for climate change, which is already affecting communities and industries in Ireland through increasingly extreme weather patterns and events. Bio-based plastics are a typical example of such products; **Irish company Bioplastech**, is working on developing bio-based plastics which can be composted in a home composting bin and thus reduce plastic pollution.



The government's €116 billion development plan for the next decade, Project Ireland 2040, highlights the potential of the bioeconomy in terms of Ireland's future economic and environmental wellbeing.

The bioeconomy relates to the production of renewable biological resources and turning these resources and waste streams into value-added products, such as food and bioenergy.

[Link to The Bioeconomy Policy Information](#)

The next step is the **circular bioeconomy**, which cuts down on natural resource use and reduces waste by using waste or by-products as raw materials, such as whey from cheese production or waste from poultry farming. Developing the bioeconomy in this circular way means that land is used first for food production, with waste being funnelled into the bioeconomy. This avoids the problems encountered by early bio-based innovations such as biofuel, where crops such as corn were grown as fuel instead of food. Problems such as land degradation and biodiversity loss continue in the biofuel industry. The circular philosophy means taking a '**value cascade**' approach, deriving the most value from the biological source and only when the usable life of the material is over is the material used as biomass for biofuel.

The bioeconomy is a huge economic opportunity, which can offer an **enhanced and more sustainable** income to farmers by helping them to produce higher value products from smaller areas of land. Figures from **2016** show that in the **Euro-zone** the bioeconomy was already **worth €2.3 trillion, employing 18.6 million people**. There will be opportunities in the coming years for communities, local development companies and farmers to work with research institutions and larger businesses to gain funding for new projects under schemes such as **the Irish government's Climate Action Fund and the European Green Deal**. Initiatives already underway in Ireland include the **Biorefinery Glas project**, (pictured left), where **IT Tralee** is

working with farmers, along with companies including **Carbery**, to convert grass into a range of new feed supplements and fertilizers which provide higher nutritional value per ounce than fresh grass, maximizing the economic value of the land to the farmer.



[Click here for more information on Biorefinery Glas](#)

Other flagship bioeconomy projects in Ireland include the **National Bioeconomy Campus** on the site of the former Lisheen mines in Tipperary, the **Irish Bioeconomy Foundation**, the **AgriChemWhey** project with **Glanbia** and **Commercial Mushroom Producers**, the **ABC Economy** project and the **BiOrbic Bioeconomy Centre**, (Pictured below). The bioeconomy is an



opportunity to create new highly skilled jobs in areas such as biotechnology, chemical engineering, supply and operations management, product development and more. To support skills development, **IT Tralee**, **UCD** and **Teagasc** are currently developing an MSc in Circular Bioeconomy with Biobased Business.

For the bioeconomy to develop in a sustainable manner, it must be regenerative rather than extractive, recognising the full value of natural resources and biodiversity, and ensuring that communities and producers benefit most from the value created. For example, in Italy, fertiliser company **Acqua e Sole**, (pictured right), 're-naturalized' the 1,300 hectares in which it operates, replacing insecticides with ducks, and cultivating hundreds of hectares of biodiverse habitats such as wetlands and meadows. Soil fertility and biodiversity have increased

dramatically, supporting a resilient business model as well as a resilient environment. In the **BiOrbic Centre**, researchers are working on issues such as natural capital accounting, life cycle assessment and economic modelling which will support a regenerative bioeconomy.

In collaboration with the **UCD College of Business**, the BiOrbic Centre is looking at how we can create the networks around Ireland needed to support the bioeconomy to develop in an environmentally sustainable way which also offers employment, development and business opportunities for people and communities.

If you are interested in getting involved in this ongoing research or would like to know more about the bioeconomy and what it might mean for you, please get in touch with us through the contact details below.

For more information on the bioeconomy visit

www.biorbic.com

www.bioeconomyfoundation.com

Contact:

Dr. Aideen O'Dochartaigh –

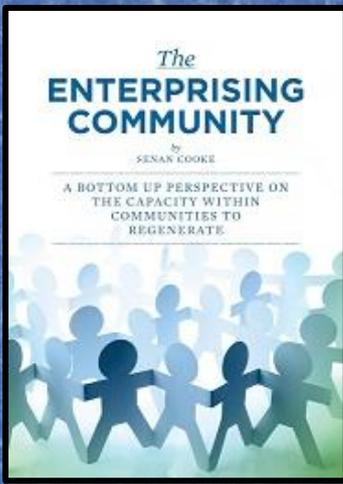
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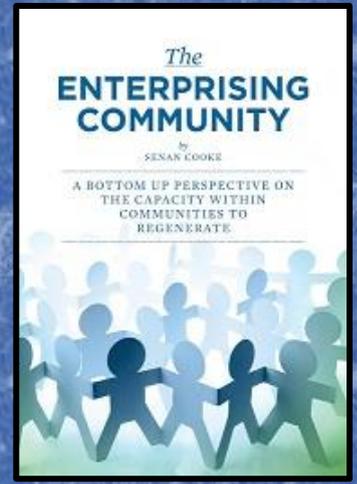
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The Enterprising Community

By
Dr. Senan Cooke



A BOTTOM UP PERSPECTIVE ON THE CAPACITY WITHIN COMMUNITIES TO REGENERATE



As a community, we in DCU would argue that Ireland has a natural affinity with social enterprise. Indeed, we believe that we can become leaders in the development of social enterprise at a European level over the next decade. -

**President Brian MacCraith
-Dublin City University-**



The book addresses a critically important issue for Irish Society today, that of social entrepreneurship and provides readers with a roadmap for the development and enrichment of communities throughout our country and beyond.

**Professors Gerry McNamara &
Joe O'Hara, - Dublin City
University-**



Rural Ireland needs people; people need jobs. Jobs mean local enterprise, community, sporting, and cultural clubs. In this book, Senan outlines what has been achieved.....and more importantly, what can be achieved in the future.

Sean Kelly, MEP

The Enterprising Community is the definitive work about social enterprise. Volunteerism and its importance, community regeneration, education, and numerous case studies and much more all tell the story of social enterprise and what exactly it is and how relevant it is to Ireland today.

**To order your copy please contact theccjoffice@gmail.com
or call Malcolm on 089 252 9885**

Please note special rates are available for students and colleges and libraries.



**[Visit Our Website](#)
[Click Here](#)**

Community Finance Ireland Has
 Invested €30 million in communities
 over a four year period

A makeover for the annual **'Willie Clancy Festival'** in Clare, an upgrade for **Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre**, and new equipment for the **Dublin Cliffhangers Climbing Club** in Finglas are just some of the projects in **Ireland** that have benefited from our **€30 million investment** in communities between **2016 and 2019**.

The positive news continues, as earlier this summer we officially launched our **all island rebrand**. The rebrand indicates our continued commitment and open for business message to all those **Changemakers** amongst us who have an idea and want to create social impact. Our rebrand saw the introduction of the following.

- **Our first ever all island Impact Report.** This report demonstrates the extent of our investment in communities across Ireland. **Since 2016 Community Finance Ireland** had loaned **€8.6 million** to clients in **Leinster**, **€3.5 million** to clients in **Munster**, **€1.8 million** to clients in **Connaught** and **€16.3 million** to clients in **Ulster**. The report, created digitally, highlights clients right across the country and can be downloaded or reshared on this link;
www.communityfinanceirelandreport.com
- **Our brand new all island website.** Built with the **CVSE** sector in mind. Covering news links from right across the island and offering a very easy to use our online loan application form.
<https://communityfinanceireland.com>



A Collection of Client Videos and our New Podcast Series: Where our diverse clients share their insights, the tipping point that got them involved or saw the need for social finance. Whether you are interested in sport, sustainable food, or broadband facilities in your community these are the voices of inspirational **Changemakers**. They are available on our website and **@ComFinanceIrl**

- **A series of panel discussion webinars** where we listened to how we might support communities beyond **Covid-19** and how best might we support grassroots. These webinars are available to view on our **Facebook** page – there are some really good insights from right across the island of Ireland.

Donal Traynor, Associate Director of Community Finance Ireland, said: Access to social finance will be more important than ever as communities recover from **Covid-19**. With the fallout from the pandemic, we anticipate a reduction in grant funding to the community sector generally, so, in the coming years, social finance will play an increasingly vital role in supporting grassroots community organisations and social enterprises. At the same time **Covid-19** has starkly shown the importance of community solidarity, **'social capital'** and sustainability within communities.

We have seen yet again the resilience of the sector and we remain open and committed to supporting where we can. **Our loans continue to range from €30,000 to €500,000** and we invite all **Changemakers** to come and talk to us. We are listening.

The banner includes a map of Ireland with regional statistics:

Region	Number of clients	Number of loans	Loan total
Region: Connaught	18	25	€1,849,500
Region: Leinster	40	76	€8,562,500
Region: Munster	15	18	€3,500,000
Region: Ulster	12	15	€16,300,000

Below the map is a video player with the text "hello change-maker" overlaid. To the right of the video player is the slogan "choose change" and the text "We want to ensure social impact is felt, not just dreamt. We welcome change-makers. communityfinanceireland.com". At the bottom left is a video thumbnail for "WESTERN FORESTRY CO-OP" and at the bottom right is the Community Finance Ireland logo.

Click the Link Visit Our Website
Community Finance Ireland

Professor Luke O'Neill

We will beat Covid-19 together.



Imagine, only seven months ago the disease called **Covid-19** hadn't even been named, not the virus

that causes it, which is called **Sars-CoV2**. Seven months on and millions of people have been infected with many hundreds of thousands dying and all because of a virus that jumped from a bat into a single human and then spread from there. It turned out to be especially contagious and because it was brand new, we had no immunity to it, and it spread like wildfire.

We have learnt an awful lot about Covid-19.

We know it can infect the nose and upper airways where it causes mild disease a bit like the common cold. But in some it goes deeper into the body infecting the lungs and **can spread to other organs**, including the **heart** and our **digestive systems**. We know that **80%** of people who are infected get over the infection or even show no symptoms at all. **15%** have a more difficult time and sadly can have symptoms that persist. And then **5% get really sick**. Around **0.5% sadly will die**. Many of these are in **vulnerable groups** which include **older people** but also younger ones who have other pressures on their bodies. These **include obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease**. This makes Covid-19 a serious disease and doctors and scientists everywhere are working on it.

First, we must decrease the spread of the virus.

Because it jumps out of our mouths when we speak or worse when we shout or sing proximity to someone else puts them at risk. Therefore, **crowded places** that are indoors with prolonged **contact between** people are a huge no-no. Pubs and clubs turn out to be high risk places. **Cough etiquette**, wearing masks and hand hygiene, (in case you touch a surface that has the virus on it), are essential, as is social distancing.

Avoid the Three C's
Especially if all 3 are evident.

- **Close contact**
- **Closed spaces**
- **Crowds**

Important to Remember
Avoid M.E.N-Follow W.O.M.E.N

Avoid:

Mouth

Eyes

Nose

Follow:

Wash Hands

Obey Social Distancing

Mask Up

Exercise Regularly/Eat Well

No Unnecessary Travel

Every small business must therefore make sure to keep these things in mind. **Mitigate against the 3 C's, and avoid M.E.N, follow W.O.M.E.N.**

Ventilation and hygiene and less people will also all help.

Apart from doing all these things, remember science is going to get us out of this. There are two main approaches.

- ❖ **A Vaccine.** Huge effort is going into this with over **170 being tested** and **6** of these reaching **the last stage** of testing. It is a bit like having 170 horses in a race. The problem is that vaccines have failed in the past, either from lack of efficacy or safety concerns, so we cannot be sure. The best we can say now is that we are *'cautiously optimistic'*. All things going well we should have a **vaccine next year**.
- ❖ **Better Treatments for those Hospitalised.** The vaccine is better because prevention is always better than cure. But doctors are getting better at treating Covid-19 patients. **Two drugs** that have shown promise are the anti-viral **Remdesivir**, which kills the virus directly and **Dexamethasone**, an anti-inflammatory drug that protects people on ventilators. These are a start and other drugs are in the pipeline including some being tested in my own lab.

If Covid-19 becomes treatable, we will be in a much better place. So, we carry on. If we all stand together, we can buy time until the scientific cavalry arrives, which they will surely do. Covid-19 will then be disease we can prevent or treat and become something none of us will ever forget.

Many congratulations to Luke and his colleagues on their recent sale of **Inflazome** to Swill company **Roche**. This means Professor O'Neill's work will continue into the future. We wish his every success.

Mairead McGuinness Replaces Phil Hogan

CCJ Patron named as new EU Commissioner

by Malcolm Paull Murphy, CCJ



It is with the greatest pleasure that we congratulate **Mrs. Mairead McGuinness**, (pictured above), on her new appointment as **Ireland's European Commissioner**. Mrs. McGuinness has been appointed following the resignation of **Phil Hogan** and will be given the **financial services portfolio**. Mrs. McGuinness is currently **Vice-President of the European Parliament** having first been elected as an **MEP in 2004**. She brings a wealth of experience to the position; as **European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen** said, when she made the announcement.

“This experience is critical in carrying forward the EU’s financial sector policy agenda and ensuring it supports and strengthens the commission’s key priority, notably the twin green and digital transition”.

Mrs. McGuinness’s name was put forward by the **Irish Government** along with that of former **European Investment Bank vice-president Andrew McDowell**. **Dr. von der Leyen**, (pictured above right), had requested that both a *“woman and a man”* be nominated for the role. Mairead has been a Patron and a great supporter of CCJ for many years.



Mairead McGuinness, MEP, Career Highlights

1980: Mairead McGuinness is the first female graduate of UCD’s Bachelor of Science degree in Agricultural economics

1984: Collected a diploma in accounting and finance.

1984 to 2004: Worked in media as a journalist and as a researcher for the **Late Late Show** and



a presenter on RTE’s **Ear to the Ground** and **Celebrity Farm**. She was also a journalist with the **Irish Farmer’s Journal**, and editor of the **Irish Independent’s Farming Supplement**.

2004: Elected to the **European Parliament** for the first time. She was appointed to serve on several European Parliament committees including the **Committee on Agriculture and Rural Development** and the delegation for relations with **Australia and New Zealand**. She is a substitute member of the **Committee on the Environment, Public Health and Food Safety**, the **Committee on Petitions**, and the delegation for relations with the **People’s Republic of China**.

2007: She was a **Fine Gael** candidate for the **Louth Constituency** at the general but was not elected.

2009: re-elected on the first count at the European election topping the poll with **25.7%** of first preferences votes.

2011: Sought the **Fine Gael** nomination for the **Presidential Election** but was defeated by **Gay Mitchell**.

2014: re-elected to the European Parliament for the new **Midlands-North-West** constituency.

2014: Elected **Vice President** of the European Parliament and under the leadership of **Martin Schultz**, she oversaw the parliament’s information policy press and citizen’s relations. In addition to her committee assignments and duties as Vice president, Mrs. McGuinness is a member of the **European Parliament Intergroup on the Welfare and Conservation of Animals**. She received the second highest number of votes in **2016** when she ran for President of the European parliament, losing out to **Italian MEP** and former European commissioner **Antonio Tajani** who was elected as the EPP group’s nominee to replace incumbent **President Martin Schultz**.



Sensational Kids.

My Story: Karen Leigh.

CEO & Founder of Social Enterprise:

Sensational Kids
Realising Potential Together



Karen Leigh is the founding member and CEO of **Sensational kids**. Having experienced lengthy waiting lists and a lack of affordable and accessible occupational therapy services for her own children, Karen founded Sensational Kids, **bridging the gap between public and private therapy services** for children of all abilities.

Sensational Kids is an **award-winning** social enterprise that has already changed the lives of over **6.800 children**, saving their families over **€1.5 million in therapy fees** since we opened our doors **12 years ago**. We provide vital front-line therapeutic supports for children with additional needs, ensuring that these children in need have access to vital supports when and where they need them.

With **45.000 children** on waiting lists for speech



therapy & occupational therapy our services are a **lifeline for families** whose children would otherwise be waiting for **3-4 years** to access services and would lose the opportunity for timely intervention and better outcomes for their children.

Sensational Kids operates four nationwide Child Development in

1. **Leinster (Kildare)**
2. **Connaught (Mayo)**
3. **Ulster (Monaghan)**
4. **Munster (West Cork)**

Providing affordable, accessible, and timely intervention services, such as occupational therapy, speech & language therapy and play therapy.



To those of you starting out, remember that Sensational Kids did not always look like this map. This took 12 long years to achieve. I started out around my kitchen table working from home with not a cent raised!

Fundraising and earned income from **Sensational Kids' Child Development & Learning Store** and training workshops help to subsidise our therapy services, so that we can bridge the gap between public and private therapy services, *providing a practical, accessible and affordable service for those in need.*

In **2019** Sensational Kids supported over **1.290 children** to avail of therapy supports across Ireland; and **generated** approximately **€1.3 million** in turnover to fund that work.

Like many **social enterprises**, Sensational Kids still relies on raising funds philanthropically though fundraising and grants from trusts & foundations. Our **traded income** is currently around **90%** but we still rely on **having to raise** another **10%** from non-traded sources, I guess this makes us a mixed social model social enterprise. Financial sustainability is still something we are working on. It is an ongoing process, particularly for a social enterprise to become less reliant on

philanthropy and move to higher percentages of traded income



We are very proud to run Ireland's only Child Development & Learning Store that is run as a Social Enterprise. 100% of our store proceeds go towards supporting out therapy services for children. The online store is available at www.sensationalkids.ie

Sensational Kids has won many awards including

- Rethink Ireland's Growth Fund Awardee, (2020).
- Ireland Funds Flagship Award Winner, (2018).
- Social Innovation Fund Ireland, Social Enterprise Development Fund Awardee, (2018).
- All Stars Charity/Non-profit of the Year, All Ireland Business All Stars, (2017).
- GSK Ireland Impact Award, (2016).
- Ulster Bank Leinster Business Achievers Social Enterprise Award, (2014).

As a social entrepreneur Karen herself has won many awards including

- Services to Charity/Third Sector, The Irish Women's Awards, (2019).
- Irish Tatler Social Entrepreneur of the Year, (2018).
- Network Ireland Businesswoman of the Year Awards, Winner of the Social Enterprise Category, (2017).
- Winner Social Enterprise CEO of the Year – Republic of Ireland & Best Educational Support Charity, (2017).
- Social Entrepreneurs Ireland, Impact Award, (2014).

Like many **social entrepreneurs**, I never actually knew that I was a social entrepreneur or that I was running a Social Enterprise until the then **'WINSENT'**, (**Wales Ireland Network for Social Enterprise**), visited me having seen an article about us in a newspaper. It was **'WINSENT'** who explained to me that I was in fact a social entrepreneur and that I was running a social enterprise! It was an *aha* moment for me. I felt that I had at last found my tribe and a sector that finally understood my desire not to profit out of a social problem. Most people thought I was mad!

I had always followed my own instincts when setting up Sensational Kids in that it should be a **'non-profit'**.

There is still **no specific legal entity** vehicle for a social entrepreneur to set up a social enterprise in the **Republic of Ireland**. It exists in **Northern Ireland** and the **UK** but not here, which is a shame. This, I feel, results in very well-meaning social entrepreneurs running **'non-profits'** that are **registered as charities** which creates confusion with the public. Sometimes this also results in social entrepreneur's not actually running a social enterprise.

It was only recently that the penny dropped with me that you can be a social entrepreneur and not run a social enterprise. They do not always go hand in hand. Instead sometimes we see social entrepreneurs running a **'for profit'** company that is **marketed as a 'non-profit'** where profits go to **shareholders/owners** and there is no clause in the company's constitution to transfer ownership to another similar organisation, as per the **government's definition of a social enterprise**.

There's huge confusion for social entrepreneurs when setting up their organisations as to the legal entity options available to them. I also know many social enterprises who deliberately market themselves as **'non-profits'** rather than call themselves **'Social Enterprises'**, as their marketing experts will tell you that the general public **do not understand the term 'social enterprise'**. With so little awareness and information about social enterprises out there for social entrepreneurs it is no wonder there is so much **confusion**.

The term ‘**non-profit**’ also does not help social enterprises when they are striving for financial sustainability and longevity of their organisation. **Profit is not a bad word.** It is what you do with it that makes all the difference and **separates social enterprises from their fellow ‘for profit’ enterprises.**

It is because of this confusion and the lack of awareness around social enterprises that I was very pleased to recently become a founding director of the **Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland, (SERI)**, along with several other amazing social enterprise practitioners. There is a huge need for better support and understanding for this **very distinct sector in Ireland** and what better way than through an organisation founded and led by social practitioners themselves.

I would encourage all social enterprises to join us so that we can collaborate on creating better eco-system for social enterprises to flourish. There is lots more information on the **SERI** website. Check it out, you will be pleasantly surprised.

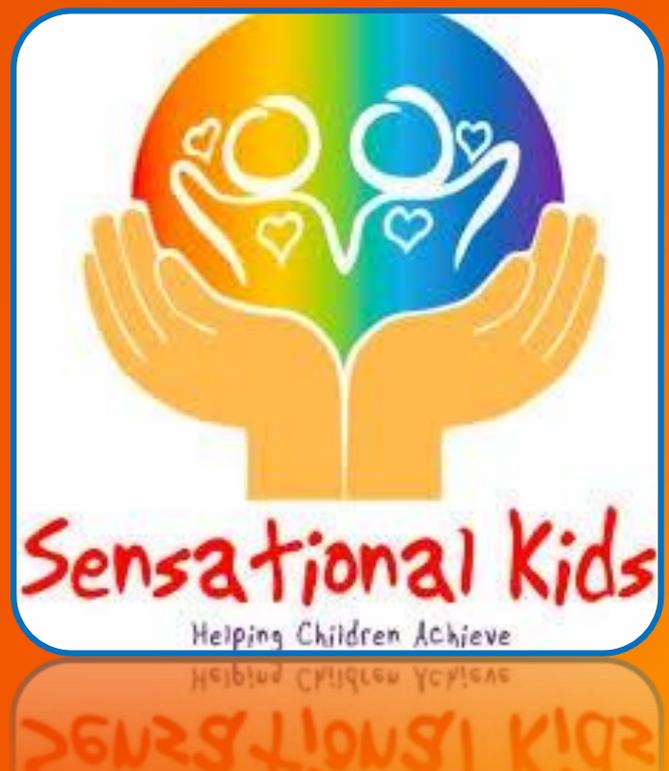


<https://www.socialenterprise.ie/>

Today Sensational Kids **employs 28+ staff**, including a **highly skilled clinical team** across our child development centres in **Kildare, Mayo, Monaghan, and West Cork** providing vital supports such as occupational therapy, speech & language therapy, play therapy and hippotherapy.

After 12 years it feels like we are only beginning. We are still growing and are about to embark on our biggest project yet; a **custom-built therapy centre and HQ** on a Greenland site which will be a dream come true.

Running a social enterprise is still a roller coaster journey. It is not for the faint hearted and definitely not an easy path to take. It is a constant and often lonely struggle, particularly highlighted through the last few months of the **Covid-19** pandemic. I do it because of my values and my belief in the ability of social enterprise to solve problems and make a real difference to the lives of people in our community.



Contact Sensational Kids

[Sensational Kids Website CLICK HERE](#)
[Sensational Kids Online Shop CLICK HERE](#)

Telephone: 045 520 900

Info@sensationalkids.ie

The Burren Lowlands

CLG Community Group, 2014-2020

By Karen O'Neill

Introduction

The Burren Lowlands CLG began with a bold concept: unite the **South Galway/ North Clare** region as never before into a better place to live, work, and visit. The group was **formed in 2014** in response to a government report (**CEDRA**) by **Teagasc** that **Gort** had fallen furthest in its index of rural towns from one of the **top ten** nationally in **2006** to one of the **bottom ten** in **2011** as a result of the economic crisis. The community responded with public meetings attended by representatives from all over the **Burren Lowlands**. Following a **SWOT** analysis by over 200 attendees, the three main pillars of **Tourism, Enterprise, and Community** were identified as the main focus for future development. The Burren Lowlands is an area in **South Galway and North Clare** forming the hinterland of Gort. It stretches from **Crusheen** in the south, **Ardrahan and Kinvara** in the north, and east to the **Slieve Aughties**. The limestone karst landscape is home to many turloughs and underground rivers, which gives it a unique ecology. The sea at **Kinvara** and **Ballindereen** is famous for oysters and clams. The monastic site at **Kilmacduagh** and other ancient monuments are found in the territory. The area is rich in traditional **Irish music** and is home to a strong cultural heritage of the **Celtic Revival**, especially in literature.

Pride of Place. One of the first things achieved was to brand the area. With funding received from **REDZ (Rural Economic Development Zone)** a wide range of Tourism and branding schemes were initiated.

- “**Welcome to Burren Lowlands**” signs were erected at strategic points with a logo designed for Burren Lowlands, “**Live, Work and Visit**” along with the Enterprise arm, “**Connecting Communities**” logo.

- **Regional maps of the Burren Lowlands** area were posted with addition local community specific information, such as at **Kiltartan Gregory Museum, Kilmacduagh and Gort.**

Tourism

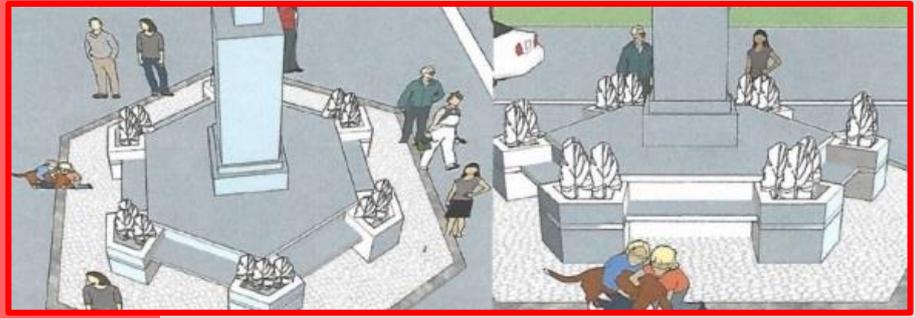
A **Tourist office** opened in Gort almost immediately, staffed by Burren Lowlands volunteers. Located in the historic **Weigh House**, **850 visitors** were recorded in **2019**.

Failte Ireland have committed to a **Burren Drive** loop off the **Wild Atlantic Way** after community consultations. Two cycle trails have been developed, the **Monastic Trail** and **W.B. Yeats Way trail**. Arts and crafts trails are identified and await development. **Galway County Council** funded a “**Heritage Town Trail**” developed and researched by local volunteers.



Community

The Burren Lowlands CLG vision is to have a sustainable, inclusive community supporting the many organisations and active groups in the region. In May 2019, a **H.E.A.R.T. of Gort Festival** celebrated the Heritage, Environment, Architecture, River and Traditions of the town in partnership with **Galway 2020** and **I.C.O.M.O.S.** The festival attracted participation from Burren Lowlands communities with events in cinema, music, market stalls, storytelling, poetry competition, town, and river walks. GRD and **Clare Local Development Company** funded a preparatory outreach study of Burren Lowlands communities in 2019. Plans are to act on the data collection soon. During the **CoVid19** restrictions, Burren Lowlands continued to support local initiatives of groups like the **Yeats/Thoor Ballylee Society**, the **Brothers of Charity**, Tidy Towns, and the River Walk as they applied for various grants.



Enhancements of the **Market Square** in Gort are underway, with **Phase One** of works completed in 2019 on **the Christ the King Statue**, a significant local monument. **Funding for Phase Two** of the project, which will incorporate seating and a more pedestrianised Square, was granted in August **2020** by Town & Village Renewal Scheme, Accelerated Measure Covid Response.

Enterprise: Introducing Forge Works

Burren Lowlands' contributions to Enterprise focus on **Forge Works**, a coworking space also designed to provide the highest office **Covid**



mitigation in Ireland. Forge Works will enable the development of initiatives for migrants living in the area, networks for existing businesses, and opportunities for remote workers. It gives entrepreneurs among diverse communities a cost-effective professional environment from which to launch their businesses. An Enterprise grant has been awarded to Burren Lowlands for a **3-year Enterprise Programme** beginning with:

- Appointment of an Enterprise Manager**, first BLG employee, Laura Tannian.
- Renovation of a site into an Enterprise Centre**, "Forge Works".

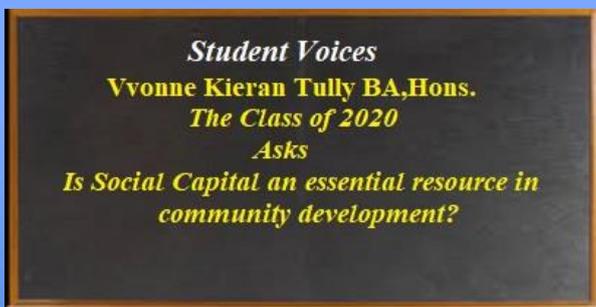
Contact Forge Works on Facebook, on **Twitter @works_forge**, by phone at **087 633 4895**, or **visit <https://forgeworks.ie>** Partners include Enterprise Ireland, Local Enterprise Offices (Galway and Clare), Galway Rural Development Company, Gort Education & Training Centre, Atlantic Economic Corridor, Gort Credit Union, Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection, and Grow Remote Ireland. See Forge Works Face Book page for additional information as the project commences.

In Conclusion

The Burren Lowlands CLG works with a range of partners including: **Galway Rural Development**, Galway Co. Council, **Clare Local Development Company**, **Leader** and **Dept. of Rural and Community Development**, **LEO Galway**, **LEO Clare**, **Atlantic Economic Corridor**, **Western Development Commission**, **IFA**, **NUIG**, and **NUIG- Cathal O'Donoghue**, to create an identity for the region, building on its unique quality of life, and literary and cultural heritage. Rural revival, community energy, engagement, and integrity are the key words that guide Burren Lowlands' efforts to support the diversity of the local communities. Contact us through the **Burren Lowlands Facebook** page, on **Twitter @BurrenLowlands**, or by phone at **087 686 0939**. The website is under development. As the rural town that was most affected by the economic crisis, Gort and its hinterland did not accept its demise. This sobering experience was a catalyst which brought the community together, with the all-volunteer based Burren Lowlands Development Company turning plans into a reality to make the area a better place to live, to visit and to work, thereby enabling the rural revival. While voluntary, community energy, and dynamism are important drivers of economic recovery in rural areas, they cannot do it all themselves. Public policy needs to back this local ambition and drive.

**Prof Cathal O'Donoghue BSc MSc MA MPA
PhD CStat Dean, College of Arts, Social
Sciences and Celtic Studies, The National
University of Ireland, Galway Former CEO,
Commission for the Economic Development of
Rural Areas.**





Student Voices The Class of 2020 Introduction

Community development is becoming more important and prevalent in Ireland today, especially in communities in rural Ireland as they face particular challenges that hinder development opportunities. Some of these challenges include low population densities, the supply of social capital, distance from labour or capital markets, poor transportation networks, closure of small schools, post offices shops and pubs, higher infrastructure costs, outward migration and most recently **Covid 19**.

Covid-19 has completely turned lives upside down. **In rural communities the changes are profound.** More people are at home. Some are cocooning for in isolation, some are there because they have lost their jobs or are working from home. Consequently, rural shops are thriving, neighbours are getting to know each other, and many people have volunteered as part of the community response call to reach out to people who need help.

This project was born out of a personal interest for a small rural village in **Galway** which has seen its population decline over the past decade, its post office closed and more recently its national school closed its doors. This has caused a division in the village as children now attend four different primary schools both inside and outside the parish. There also lies the school building now vacant and leaving the village without a pulse. There is good community spirit in the area, however, according to **a capacity building report in 2017**, community development is lacking, the elderly feels isolated and lonely whilst the young do not know each other and have no reason to meet up.

Social Capital is fundamentally intangible, vague and has many different connotations, making it difficult for academics to create one appropriate definition for it. Whilst all three of the godfathers of social capital literature, **Pierre Bourdieu**,

James Coleman and **Robert Putman** have their differences, all three consider that social capital consists of personal connections and interpersonal interaction together with the shared values that are associated with these connections. **Robert Putnam (2000) noted** the importance of social capital in society, “**social capital is important in that it allows citizens to resolve collective problems more easily**” (*Putnam 2000, p.288*). **Cooke feels that social capital “builds a sense of place and pride in the community”** (*Cooke 2018, p. 28*), in which leaders emerge to tackle common problems and to look for new opportunities that could better serve and develop the community to improve welfare and solidarity (*Cooke, 2018, The Enterprising Community*).

The present popularity of social capital rests in it combining the gluey stuff of social cohesion with the economic stuff of capital. It is the intangible resource that societies, communities and individuals possess, their shared values, norms, trust, and belonging that make social exchange and strong networks possible through mutual support and co-operation for the benefit of the community and society as a whole.

Putnam (2000) in his works on “*Bowling Alone*”, found that social capital in **America** was in decline and that there were serious grounds for concern stating that,

“the very fabric of our connections with each other has plummeted, impoverishing our lives and communities”. (*Putnam, 2000, p120*).

His studies highlighted how we have become increasingly disconnected from family, friends, neighbours, and our democratic structures.

Putnam links the decline in social capital as cited **in Stephens,2019**, with declining perceptions of honesty and trustworthiness from a peak in the mid **1960’s**. He discovered in his work that every ten minutes of commuting reduces all forms of social capital by **10%**. That together with the sheer busyness and time pressures associated with two career orientated families have reduced the commitment of women in particular to community development and reduced levels of civic engagement.

Based on this evidence, **Putman concluded** that “*most Americans are less connected to our communities than we were two or three decades ago*” (*Putnam 2000, p.180*). He identified the **two main culprits** for this as; home based electronic entertainments and generational change.

Methodology

In order to gather the information necessary to answer the research question, the use of the multiple collection approaches was adopted, literature review, semi structured interviews, and an online questionnaire survey. There was a response rate of **54%** from the online questionnaire survey, **65** completed questionnaires were returned out of **120** distributed and a total of two interviews were conducted via the online resource, zoom.

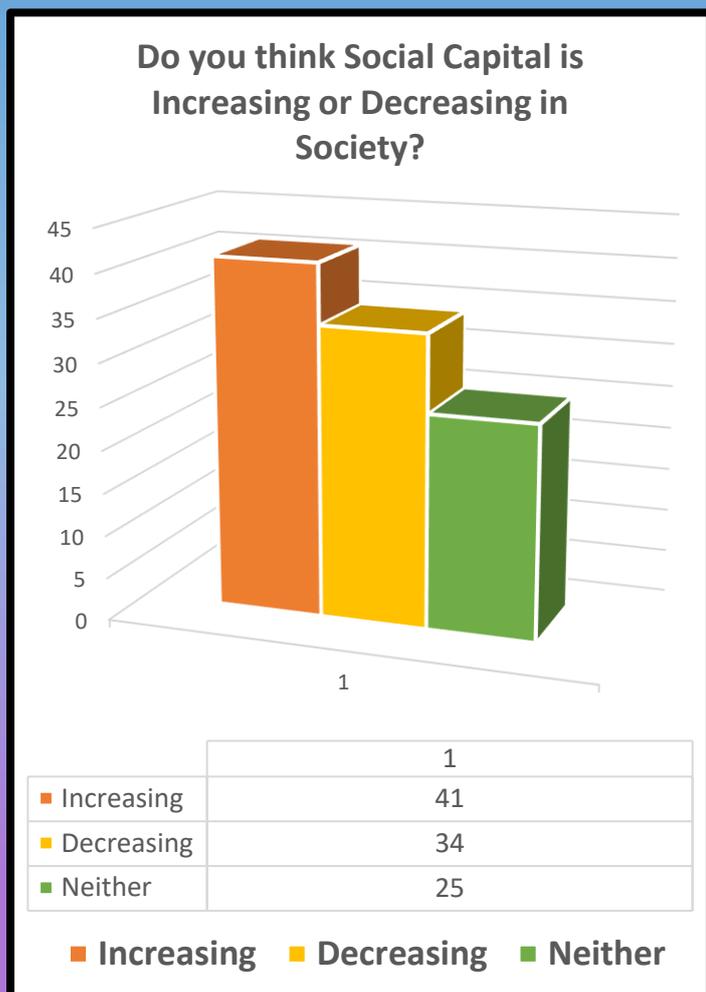
Findings

The following are a summary of the findings of some of the questions pertinent to the research question.

Q. Do you think social capital is increasing or decreasing in society in recent years?

Graph 1. The Status of Social Capital in Society in Recent Years.

The answer to this question was very close on all counts as per **Graph 1 (above)**, a total of **41%** of participants felt that the supply of social capital was

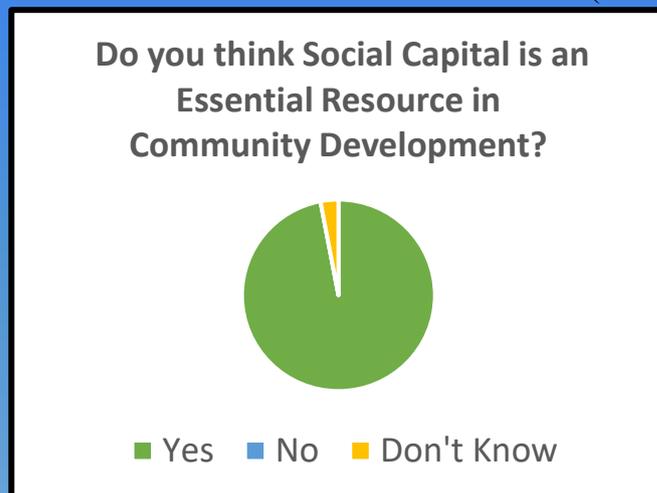


increasing in recent years, **34%** felt it was decreasing and the remaining **25%** didn't feel there was any change in the levels of supply.

Q. Do you think Social Capital is an Essential Resource in Community Development?

Graph 2. Is Social Capital an Essential Resource in Community Development?

There was **unanimous** response from participants, (**97%**) felt that social capital is an essential resource in community development and that everybody needs to play their part. This consensus would concur with Putman's (2000)



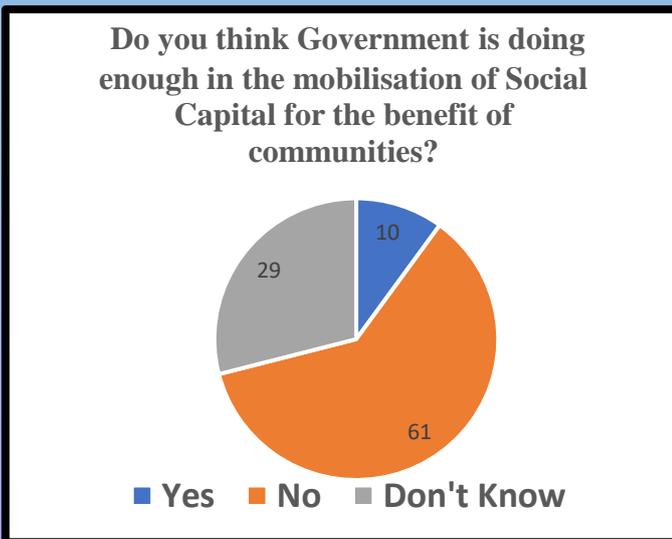
notion that social capital is important for lubricating the fabric of society allowing modern communities to function efficiently. Participants felt individuals and Governments need to become more involved and engaged, people need to be nicer to each other, heighten awareness of social capital and its benefits, investment in youth, community, and education. One noted *“educate the young generation”*, another participant noted the importance of *“greater recognition for those who volunteer, an incentive to re-invest locally, educate our youth through the school system on the impact and importance of volunteerism as being part and parcel of a successful career and sustainable way of life”*.

Q. Do you think Government is doing enough to benefit communities in the mobilisation of social capital?

Participants had a very clear answer to this question, **61%** felt that Government is not doing enough, **29%**, didn't know, whilst the remaining **10%** felt that Government was doing enough to mobilise social capital in communities as illustrated in **Graph 3, (below)**.

Graph 3. Is Government Doing Enough in the Mobilisation of Social Capital?

Research by Dale and Newman (2010) noted that



social capital alone is not always sufficient to sustain and develop community initiatives, as inputs of economic and human capital are often necessary from **Government**. Participants agree with this research and note that Government could provide the following inputs in a bid to mobilise more social capital for community development; the introduction of “**community champions**”, the establishment of “*a community mobilisation unit, with capacity to unify the various local level initiatives and ensure coherence of multiple funding strands*” another noted the need for “*creating spaces for people’s voices to be heard and networking opportunities*” whilst another felt “*there needs to be more long term supports put in place like, community development offices, assisting with administrative tasks and the promotion of awareness, education and participation in local community*”.

Conclusion

To conclude, the findings are very much in line with the literature on social capital and no conflicting views were discovered. Participants agree that social capital does what the theorists have claimed it will and can do, and that it is now up to individuals themselves to become more involved and engaged in their communities and reap the benefits of the rewards it has to offer.

Whilst, Putman (2000) noted a long-term decline in the supply of social capital in society that was not the outcome in this study, whilst the results were close, it would appear that the Covid 19 pandemic was responsible for the change in direction, the supply of social capital in **Irish society** is

increasing according to this study. The study concludes that this needs to be harnessed and nurtured by introducing social capital into the education process.

The core idea of social capital is the way in which networks and their properties, including norms and trust encompass a resource for their members is readily accepted by all. It would appear from this study that social capital has become a surrogate for social relations and social interactions. Participants agree that social capital does what the theorists have claimed it will and can do, and that it is now up to individuals themselves to become more involved and engaged in their communities and reap the benefits of the rewards it has to offer.

Social Capital is an essential resource for sustainable community development however, it is not sufficient in isolation and needs to be supported by Government policy alignment in which to establish a stable environment within which community groups can sustain and increase the scale of their operations.

This study concludes that the supply of social capital has increased in recent times and this has mainly been attributed to the Covid 19 pandemic.

It also concludes that Government has a critical role to play in re-aligning processes, policies, and procedures in community groups, in communicating and raising awareness of the benefits of social capital to individuals and communities. To introduce social capital into education and introduce incentives to complement and build on the new social capital network formation because of Covid 19.

By: Yvonne Kieran Tully. BA (Hons) Degree in Business, Social Enterprise, Leadership and Management. The Class of 2020.

The Source for all graphs used in this piece are given as Kieran Tully, 2020.

References: All works referenced in this article are on file with CCJ Online Magazine.

CCJ would like to thank Yvonne for this contribution and wish her every success in her future endeavours.



By John Deely

The Class of 2020 *My Year in Review*

Here is a short note reflecting on some of the key experiences from my final year of academic study to receive my (Hons) BA during the now infamous year of 2020.

The class of 2020 my working group has been a terrific source of friendship, encouragement, and support without which I do not know how we all would have come through it. Personally, I learned a great deal and each of the 16 modules brought deep adult learning and I certainly have greater understanding of the issue and challenges.

Reflection Summary: Introduction

I would like to extend thanks to **Senan and Malcolm** for the invitation to contribute a note to this edition of the newsletter. I would also like to thank all those who reached out and connected following the previous edition. I gained some new sectoral colleagues where new professional relationships will be grown.

I wanted to reflect on my experience of a year of Academic application sharing with family life during an unprecedented global pandemic. Certainly, the human dimension of the classroom and workshop were missed and had been a more important piece of the puzzle than I originally had realised. However, the separation occurred, and, in some way, it brought our group of classmates closer and a strong close-knit working group emerged. Sharing challenges and sharing struggles builds relationships and motivation and encouragement follows. In the same way, communities throughout the world are experiencing challenges like never before while we endeavour to adapt to these new ways of living together. Never before has there been a need for us to act and think fast and make changes that need to be made so we can build a fairer and just society for all.

What I do know from my own personal experiences within all this. When I returned to the **City Centre** to attempt to try and bring our physical retail shop to life following being **closed fully for over 3 months** the task ahead seemed very daunting. We began with the cleaning away of the weeds and painting and freshening up and presentation of the spaces around and the whole experience became quite neighbourly very quickly. When eventually the doors were opened, what I encountered could only be described as powerful, the positivity and positive vibes and energy that was being brought to us by people familiar and new has been notably overwhelming. **People want change for the better.** We need to learn from these experiences and re-emerge better for it. Back to the old ways is not sustainable. People are enjoying re-discovering their own **Island of Ireland** and all the treasures it has to offer. Our identity and our story within all of this can only be a story charted and told by us. We need to make sure it is the right one.

On reflection, my recent assignment on *Not for Profit, Theory and Practice* has been a thoroughly empowering learning experience. In particular, the main surprise to myself having come from undertaking the exercise is my newly formed appreciation and understanding of the importance and relevance of **Co-Operative's as a legal structure** for organisations trying to balance commercial activity alongside social reform and positive community impact.

There were clearly capitalists and idealists for over a hundred years that believed there is sure to be a better way.

“A credit union is a mutual society, owned and run by members on a democratic co-operative basis to provide savings and loan service. Co-operation, a basic human process, was expressed in the traditional Irish meitheal by which neighbours helped one and other with the harvest. The origins of modern formal cooperation were in the self-help movements of the Victorian era, which took different forms in various countries”. (History Ireland, 2013).

Can Not for Profit Theory and Practice Impact Lives?

So, how you make a nation is back to the agenda as **Capitalism**, as we now know, it has not worked out so well for the benefit of all. In the search to find a better way we are led to examine the alternative legal forms of company organisations that may be adopted or championed in this race to save humanity locally and globally from a fate more dismally divisive and unequal than was ever imaginable. I questioned myself throughout asking am I naive or what, there has always been emperors and lords with empires and vast palaces while the commoners scurry around sharing out the scraps. **Does society just go round and round** in a cyclical fashion in the same way as fashion cycles repeat themselves?

We live in a world more interdependent and interwoven than ever before in history. Nations need to trade with other nations, not only with our neighbours but also with far flung countries. Our phones and TV's are designed on one continent, built on a second one and bought and shipped from a third. Our culture and curiosity are filled with movies, books, art, and music from all around the world and our food is similarly intercontinental. **So, globalisation had brought us closer** in many ways, however there is still an important need for distinction. Every nation or country has its own way of doing things. That particular way of doing things develops gradually over time, changes are incremental and subtle. **Governments come and go** and even the most radical often struggle to leave much of a footprint. Short term policies might be different but does the nature of a nation change any? Not often. (*Gestalten, 2016*). Only ever rarely is a nation forced to rethink its whole reason to be, to take a long slow deep breath and start again, press refresh. In almost every case in the past it has been out of a necessary, often urgent desire to break from the past. It is time that all nations, young and old, take a big step back and think again about who they are and what they want to be.

So how do you save a nation if you still believe

there is hope? You will need to start with the basics. A strong set of governing principles that underpin everything you do is the necessary first step. **A good education** for all, from nurseries to schools, then universities for those who are able. **A caring state** that provides a decent level of healthcare and treats its elderly population with dignity. **Infrastructure** that keeps a nation running, roads, and railways energy grids and fibre optic cables. (*Gestalten, 2016*). **Nations need brands** to be proud of, companies to act as ambassadors for their country of birth. The most important thing to remember is this, the answers are already out there. This study has affirmed that. **There is no wheel to be reinvented.**

Conclusion

Our small and beautiful island of Ireland has always been outward looking subjected to many different influences. **We have been strongly influenced** by the blatant consumerism of western culture from the **US**, with the prosperity and revolutionary change brought about by industrial revolutions and technological advancement. **We have been influenced by our UK neighbors** and the cyclical nature of the fast fashion industry and consumer trends set out by the UK multiples dominating the main street for decades. **We are heavily influenced by our Nordic states and Scandinavian** makers and creatives and we are **European** too on many levels. We travel well and borrow ideas and inspiration from **Eastern culture** and yet we are still uniquely Irish. We have to use the technological advancements that science has given us, to build bridges of shared experience with our fellow humans throughout the world. **But we must chart our own course**, learning from the experience of others and leading our society to strive to leave the place in a better condition that we found it for our future generations. **Like any good brand with heritage and DNA**, we can only look forward as far as we can look back. And we can look way back and the key to our future may lie in our past, where we have come from. Perhaps now I believe that the good old Co-Operative, may just well be the hybrid organizational structure we need to revive our communities and value the merits of a triple

bottom line.

The wheel does not have to be re-invented in Ireland. The stories are there. **The successes from communities are there.** There are incredible people in every community doing amazing things for humankind inspired by making better lives for themselves and others. **Senan Cooke's** book, *'The Enterprising Community'* is an eye opener documenting stories of courage and community led leadership stories a nation can be very proud of. **The CCJ Communities Creating Jobs** newsletter is a marvelously succinct summary of some of these humane advancements of humankind. We here in Ireland have form in this. It is in our DNA and heritage; it is where we have come from.

The tool's we need are there. We need the decisive action, alongside policies to support our agreed upon definition of where we are going. A strong set of governing principles that underpin everything we do. It is time to re-evaluate what we stand for and get citizens old and new to stand behind these values.



Thanks & Acknowledgements



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to *Equal Ireland's* team for their continued support and encouragement throughout the course of this study in challenging times. There is also a list of practitioners that I would like to give particular thanks and appreciation to, these include:

Many thanks are due to the unfailingly helpful *Ivan Mc Phillips*, for his particular interest in the projects and that early encouragement that spurred me to take a leap of faith and dive wholeheartedly into the unknown and actively pursue this course of study and passionately drive after the changes I so desperately wanted to effect. *Ms Nuala Keher* for her insight, guidance, clear direction, and patience and especially for the detailed presentations of each lecture on this project without which I could not have completed. To all my working group and colleagues who proved to be a valuable resource sharing challenges and experiences throughout. I would also like to thank *Senan Cooke* for his input, guidance, availability, and encouragement at various stages throughout. *Malcolm* for his engagement, discussion, and invitation to contribute to the *CCJ* newsletter on behalf of *Social Enterprise and Equal Ireland class of 2020*, giving additional exposure to the needs of the sector. I look forward to additional publications alongside the class of 2020 in subsequent publications. I extend thanks to all the other groups and agencies including, *Donal Traynor, Community Finance Ireland* for reaching out and connecting, *Barry Sheridan of Men's Sheds Ireland, Tammy Darcy of The Shona Project, Social entrepreneurs Ireland, Michael Smyth of SCCUL Enterprises* for always being available with deep insight and introducing me to the movement of *Humanitarian Management. Peter McVerry Trust, O'Cúlainn Housing alliance, Michelle Reynolds and Gerry Prior of Fóroige, Tracy and the team at Clann Credo* and many others who have generously given their time and shared their experience and knowledge to further and advance this study and its relevance. There are others who helped along the way, and none more so than my wife *Grainne*, and children *Eoghan, Ellen, Sarah & Hannah* for their love, support, encouragement, and patience while I undertook this project.

John Deely, Sept. 2020

John Hume

A Social Enterprise Hero

By Malcolm Paull Murphy, CCJ

There are many reasons for arguing that the fact that gunfire no longer forms an audible soundtrack to everyday life in **21 century Northern Ireland** is due in no small part to the work of the late **John**



Hume who died recently. It could also be argued that the **punk** and **glam rock** music, which was also part of the soundtrack in that

province, was also, as unlikely as it may seem, due to the influence of John Hume.

In a recent article on Mr. Hume the economist, **David McWilliams**, reveals that without the former leader of the **SDLP**, the **Derry** rock group, *The Undertones*; seen as one of the most successful bands to come out of Derry, and indeed, **Ireland** in the **1970's**, would never have existed. The band had a vision but, like so many small businesses in Ireland then as well as now, they had no money. The answer today would be simple. Go to the bank with a well-prepared business plan, show those in control of the purse strings your bona fides, apply for and get a loan. In **1970's Northern Ireland** this was not so simple. John Hume, who understood that the ability to access money is as important as access to education for social mobility, had the answer and the **Derry Credit Union** was established. It was, as **Mickey Bradley** stated in his book, *Teenage Kicks*, 'a community bank for a community that the Unionist banks of Northern Ireland ignored'. Bradley, a member of the band, went on to make music history with a loan of **£400** courtesy of the **D.C.U.**

If you work, as I do, as part of a rural social enterprise organisation, (**DREL – Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd**), then John Hume is a hero. Indeed as this magazine, published by **Communities Creating Jobs, (CCJ)**, has shown time and time again social enterprise encompasses so many facets of life that it might not seem

obvious at first that the formation of a rock band comes under its banner, but it does.



"Through his faith in principled compromise, and his ability to see his adversaries as human beings, John helped forge the peace that has held to this day. I'll never forget our night in Derry in 1995, with the town square and blocks around full of hopeful faces, walking with him across the Peace Bridge nearly 20 years later, and all of the moments we shared in between.

"His legacy will live on in every generation of Northern Ireland's young people who make John's choice, to live free of the hatred and horror of sectarian violence. And it will endure in the hearts of those of us who loved him and will be shaped by his example to the end of our days.

"Our love and prayers are with Pat, their children and grandchildren. May he rest in peace, never losing the twinkle in his eye or the sly smile that lighted our eyes."

-President Bill Clinton-

Part of the description of what a social enterprise is states that it is *“an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact”*. Attracting young people, be they musicians or artisan food producers, and showing them how they can make a difference to their communities and themselves is part of what social enterprise is all about.

John Hume understood this. He understood too that social enterprise **is not just about creating 9 – 5 jobs** but it is also about creating a path that leads to people and communities becoming self-sufficient. That is vital to Ireland, especially in a **post-Covid world**, if we want to compete and be progressive and innovative.

Social enterprise unites us, regardless of the tradition or community we come from. We can respect each other’s differences and at the same time encourage our similarities to enable us to forge a future we can all be proud of whether we are from the **North** or the **South**. John Hume got this before many others and acted to make it a reality. **Ireland**, he said, *“is not a romantic dream. It is not a flag. It is 4.5 million people divided into two powerful traditions. The solution will be found ... on the basis of agreement and partnership between both”*.

John Hume proved, perhaps more than most, that social enterprise and unity of purpose is the only way to secure a decent economic and healthy future for all on this island. He never stopped pushing the idea that communities from all over the world must live in peace and amity with each other, **the European ideal** if you like. Without a shared vision and purpose, both between north and south in Ireland and between Ireland and the rest of Europe, nothing could really be achieved. However if we can respect the views of others without asking anyone to yield their cherished convictions and beliefs we can *“forge a covenant of shared ideals based on commitment to the rights of all allied to a new generosity of purpose”*. This goes to the heart of community and social enterprise. Social enterprise is about that commitment to others. It is about negotiating a way through the things that divide us and towards the things we can use together to make us



“I can’t put my finger on when John started to produce what was called his single transferable speech. The positive thing about that speech was his getting Irish nationalists to move away from thinking about the land, to saying that the problem isn’t that the land is divided, the problem is that the people are divided. And if you want to cure things then you have got to address that, you have got to have an agreement between the people.” The leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party and SDLP did what a lot of people thought was impossible: we managed to put together a relationship good enough to create the institutions, to get them up and running and show they could be used. There was a large section of the community, particularly among the unionist electorate who were deeply sceptical about it, and who thought that it would not work. But people came grudgingly around to saying that, ‘Yes, this is it, this is the only show in town’. It is still there, and it is still there basically as we designed it.”

-David Trimble, Former Ulster Unionist Party Leader-

stronger as individuals, as businesses and, as communities.

In Oslo on December 10, 1998 as part of his **Nobel Lecture**, John Hume said that is his work for peace on of the things that strongly inspired him was his own European experience, how clear it had become that the **European Union** was the best historical example in world history of conflict resolution.

The thing about the **EU** was that while we may differ in race, religion, and nationality it was important that we do not see those differences as threats. They are, he said, natural. *“The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace – respect for diversity”*. He was making the point that regardless of all the things that divide us, in the **EU** we learned to work together in a common economic interest.

In a few months **Britain** will formerly leave the European Union. That will present many challenges that we might have forgotten about in our attempts to fight the current **Covid** pandemic. But these challenges are very real, especially for Ireland and it is only with a coherent unity of purpose we will, as an island, be able to rise to the challenges of the post **Brexit** world. John Hume understood these challenges, he had been rising to meet them for most of his life regardless of what guise they took. There are lessons in John Hume’s life for all of us involved in social enterprise.

During his Nobel lecture he said, “I want to see an Ireland of partnership where we can wage war on want and poverty, where we can reach out to the marginalised and dispossessed, where we build together a future that can be as great as our dreams allow”. This is what social enterprise is all about. John Hume knew this, and he knew too that if we ignored these things then social enterprise would never achieve those dreams and would simply become another lost cause. John Hume did not believe in lost causes and neither should we. John Hume fought to make the dreams of the many a reality that would enable communities to stand tall and take their place as living, breathing entities that could achieve both economic and social success. **The Derry Credit Union** started as an idea, a way to raise communities from the bottom up. We owe the

memory of this great man our very best efforts to ensure that we, not only continue the work he started, but bring it to a conclusion he would be proud of.

Awards and Honours.

1996 – Four Freedoms, Freedom of Speech, medal recipient.

1997 – Golden Gloves for Peace, Journalistic Prize.

1998 - Nobel Prize for Peace, (with David Trimble).

1999 – Martin Luther King Peace Award.

2000 – Freedom of Derry City.

2001- International Gandhi Peace Award.

2004 – Freedom of Cork City.

2012 – Pope Benedict XVI made him Knight Commander of the Papal Order of St. Gregory The Great.

John Hume was also the recipient of some 44 Honorary Doctorates.



John Hume, 1937 to 2020

“The answer to difference is to respect it”

Inishowen Development Partnership.

Pivoting the services & supports they offer during the Covid-19 Emergency

By Karin McCormick

For the first couple of months of 2020 it was *‘business as usual’* for all at **Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP)**. We were meeting with and supporting individuals and groups across the **Inishowen Peninsula**. We had started to recruit for new posts (**Social Enterprise and Community Development Officer, Inishowen Skillnet Administrator and a Research Post was being developed**). We were focusing on an Inishowen wide consultation that took place in 2019 looking at our strategic direction – vision, mission and where we wanted to be by 2023.

On March 12th, 2020, the Taoiseach announced measures being taken by Government to tackle Coronavirus and Covid19 in response to the Irish National Public Health Emergency Team advice to Government. This was given in light of the **World Health Organization** formally describing it as a pandemic and the **European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC)** updating their guidelines advising us all to act early to be effective.

“I know that some of this is coming as a real shock and it is going to involve big changes in the way we live our lives. Together, we can low this virus in its tracks and push it back. Acting together, as ne nation, we can save many lives”.

In that first week of the Covid-19 lockdown supports and programs had to be put on hold. As the new reality of lockdown, no school, no gatherings and remote working became the *‘new normal’* IDP continued to do what we have always done - we listened, responded, adapted, and pivoted the development approach taken to meet those challenges and continue to connect and reconnect with our client base. IDP had to become proficient remote workers from that date onwards. Systems had to be put in place to support the work and a *‘virtual infrastructure’* had to be built in a very tight timespan. We built our own capacity to deliver in an online virtual world, we kept a check on our own health and well-being and supported the team to respond to this emergency. We invested in



cloud storage and digital technology to maintain established connections and to reconnect inwards

and outwards. We were keen to remain connected and to listen and respond to the people who live and work in **Inishowen**. What could be progressed online was embraced, underpinning capacity, and promoting self-reliance was central and new approaches were developed collaboratively.

Between March 12th and June 30th, the work developed in three distinct phases as follows:

1. **Phase 1 #WeWillPrevail** – this involved coming to terms with the announcement and measures put in place until March 29th. For IDP it also centered around an assessment of needs – both individual and group ‘common purpose’ needs as well as specific individual and group named needs.
2. **Phase 2 #InThisTogether** – this involved keeping connections open and reconnecting with others. The emphasis was on following the government regulations and support groups and individuals throughout the ‘stay at home’ timeline and restrictions on movements and interactions
3. **Phase 3 #StrongerTogether** – this involved planning the phased return to the workplace and reopening for many groups, businesses and opportunities for individuals who live and work in Inishowen.

A positive example of this approach is how we worked with the **Inishowen Social Enterprise Network (ISEN)** - made up of social enterprises that were already established and those that were under development.

Their initial reaction was indeed shock and questioning - *‘how could this work?’*. They were concerned about the challenges this would bring when supporting individuals and groups and how they could progress the social and developmental work they needed and wanted. The first step was to build capacity on the use of technology for support,

meeting, training, collaborating, continuing professional development, etc.

groups such as the Inishowen Social Enterprise Network (ISEN). This is a strong resilient group of people – they are leading social enterprises across Inishowen.

Social Enterprises in Inishowen COVID-19 Emergency pivoting supports and provisions



Their coping skills were evident whether that was to listen to each other and their communities, to innovate with new products and services such as making visors, adapting sewing skillset to become proficient mask makers and offering counselling and listening services virtually. They tapped into each other's

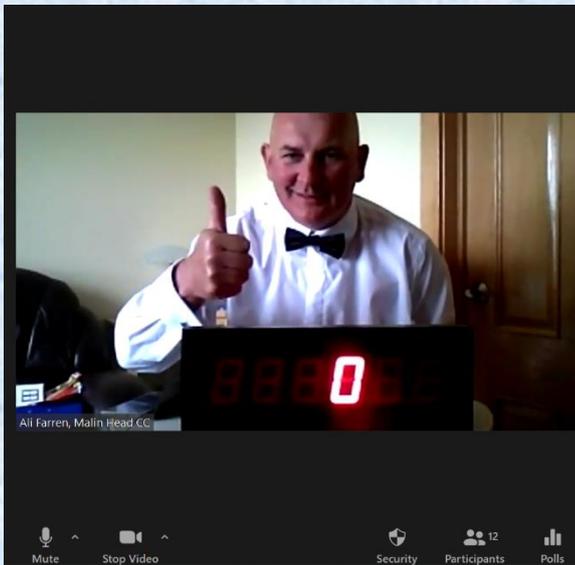
It was important to pause and understand what we were dealing with and to map it out. Building virtual connections and networking opportunities supported the social enterprises through crises in terms of having to stop supporting the people they worked with, having to close their doors, continuing to pay overheads, insurance and rent payments on empty buildings, sudden stop in income and cashflow. Many were feeling very vulnerable because of this sudden 'unknown' and the now precarious situation in terms of survival. Shared experiences supported a collective response – learning from each other around knew work practices and ways to approach something like funding applications became second nature and helped to focus on the endgame – whether that was new ways to trade and generating income, communications, connections and collaborations. Those receiving support under the **Community Services Programme (CSP)** received welcome news when **Pobal** confirmed that funding would continue, and the government were announcing Covid-19 Pandemic supports and subsidies. Others received supportive news from other core and project-based funders e.g. **Peace IV Programme, TUSLA, HSE**, etc, etc.

Frequency of support sessions also increased to weekly and in some cases daily - but the feedback has been incredibly positive. This sustained intervention has been of enormous benefit to

knowledge and experience, they engaged with their volunteer base as well as the valuable mentoring support offered through the county-wide **SESI** programme (a collaboration between **Inishowen Development Partnership, Donegal Local Development Company**).



IDP convened a range of sessions and meetings including a community bingo to help broker a social connection, albeit virtually between groups and their community members. The ISEN groups shared practical tips such as making funding applications or overcoming glitches in the portal. They consolidated how they all were signposting to other services and offered a place to consider reframing their services and activities then, now and for the future. IDP developed resources and capacity building opportunities and made space for a coordinated and collective voice.



For more information please contact admin@inishowen.ie Or on 074-936 2218.

For example, we convened a meeting with Liam McGeever from Pobal with members feeling it provided clarity, was productive and brought some relief at a time when they were ‘hitting the wall’ in terms of fatigue of cocooning and the anxiety, pressure and responsibilities around re-opening. We have also considered possibilities for the future to explore collaborative and co-operative ways of working and possibly an immersive governance journey together - watch this space.

We are very positive about the learning and changes that have happened and very realistic about the recovery we are facing. We are proud of the work and progress that has taken place.
#StrongerTogether



Communities Creating Jobs Wants Your Help

We are inviting our readers, project teams and organisations to submit articles with photos that inform our network on any aspect of social enterprise development. Any job creation project or voluntary community development that would be helpful to others. CCJ is a shared learning network dedicated to helping fellow organisations and projects realise their ambitions and objectives. Any information, idea, solution, contact of interest and value should be shared within our network. Many thanks.



Please think about it and contact Malcolm at theccjoffice@gmail.com or 089 252 9885