



# Communities Creating Jobs

## Summer Newsletter 2019 ~Issue 25

### Highlights

- Joint Oireachtas visit Dunhill,
- EU Citizens Dialogue



#### Expert Panel:

- Gerry Kiely, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland
- Patrick Klein, Social Economy Team Leader at Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy Unit of DG GROW, EU Commission
- Brendan Whelan, Chief Executive Officer of Social Finance Foundation
- Janet O'Toole, Community Development Manager, Connemara West Plc
- Chair: Damien Tiernan, Journalist, Author and Broadcaster with WLR FM

All Welcome - FREE event - Booking Essential

- Social Enterprise Information stands and Finger Food from 6:00pm -

For bookings Search for 'Citizens' Dialogue Revitalising Rural Ireland' on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or email: [europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie)

@SocEntEU | #ESER2019 | @eudirect #EUdialogues | #FutureOfEurope



- Remote Working
- Killinkere Co. Cavan
- Dunhill Community and Copper Coast Geopark Nationwide 15th May



### Editorial

There is now greater awareness of social enterprise as a separate and distinct sector following years of research by government departments, third level colleges, agencies, communities and “The Enterprising Community” (2018) published by Dr. Senan Cooke.

The Department of Rural and Community Development completed its final public consultation on its draft social enterprise policy on 14<sup>th</sup> May. It received many comments and contributions from organisations and individuals across the country, then completed an analysis of the invaluable feedback. The official policy has been finalised and is ready for launch. All involved in the social enterprise sector is hoping the policy can be endorsed by cabinet and launched before the end of July and Dáil summer recess.

The next challenge will be to implement the policy. The sector, in particular those who have been engaged in the research have high expectations that the new policy will dramatically facilitate new start-ups, consolidations and expansions of social enterprise projects over the next few years. Built into the policy is a review of progress in 2021. Many people working on the ground have for a long time believed it is a sleeping giant with enormous socio-economic potential. They are convinced the new policy is the missing link in awakening this potential to utilise the many valuable and dormant resources that are available to the sector. If the resources and opportunities we know are made available in a co-ordinated and galvanised way, it will transform every rural and urban community in the country.

CCJ are working with Dr. Shane O'Sullivan of LIT in seeking to access funding for a research project which would examine the CCJ community enterprise model within the framework of a community development approach.



Senan Cooke, CCJ Chairman



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## The Old Creamery Enterprise Centre Phase 2 Official Opening - Piltown Co. Kilkenny

Phase 2 was officially opened by Minister Michael Ring on 22nd March 2019. The Old Creamery Enterprise Centre now consists of 5 units ranging in size from 1450 sq. ft. to 650 sq. ft. Piltown Community Enterprise target is for these units to provide 20 jobs over the next few years. Phase 1 is fully occupied and has created 8 jobs at present. Occupants include Audit Associates, Lyons Fitness Principles and Oak Forest Mills. The latter are moving to a larger unit in the new premises. There is considerable interest in the two other units and hopefully they will be occupied within a short period of time.



Eddie Blackmore Chair. Piltown Community Enterprises, Mary Mulholland Kilkenny Co. Co., Michael Ring TD Minister for Rural and Community Development, Colette Byrne CEO Kilkenny Co. Co. and John Paul Phelan TD Minister of State for Local Government and Electoral Reform

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



Dan Kenny NT, Jimmy Walsh Chair. Kilkenny GAA and Colette Byrne CEO Kilkenny County Council.

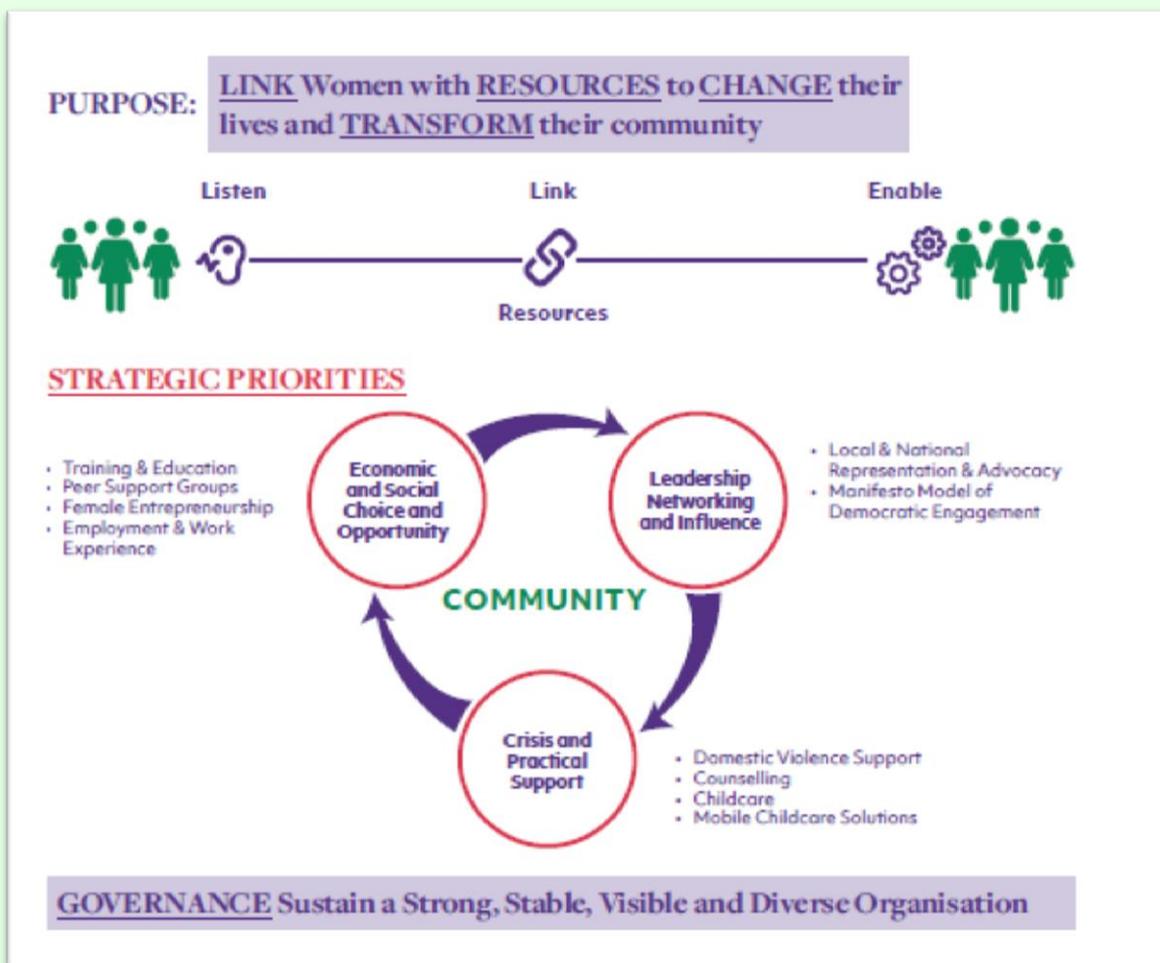


## Longford Women’s Link

Longford Women’s Link (LWL) is a dynamic social enterprise employing over 100 people. Founded in 1995, it links women with the resources to make their community safe and equal. LWL identifies and addresses key inequalities that prevent women from achieving their full social/economic potential. Their work provides real and tangible opportunities for women and their families. Services provided to approximately 900 women and 170 children in Longford/Midlands in 2018 enabled women to access a wide range of programmes and supports yielding real benefits for their families and the wider community. The women-centred services provided include: Education & Training, Childcare, Domestic Violence Support, Counselling, Female Entrepreneurship, capacity-building and local/national advocacy.

LWL is also the lead sponsor of the DEASP (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)

Community Employment Childcare Scheme in county Longford with over 70 participants. Key to the delivery of their services is a unique model of Integrated Service Delivery (ISD). The implementation of this model is underpinned by the specialist, multilevel approach adopted by LWL [the ‘Double Dividend’ (UN, 2006)]. LWL asserts that when we support the women of our community, we support their families – our childcare, counselling, and economic independence programmes are clear evidence of this.



LWL and many similar rural-based social enterprises were severely impacted by both government reform processes and the economic recession. In addition, throughout its 24 years in existence LWL has identified key barriers to women’s full participation in society, experienced by women in Longford. These include rural isolation, experience of domestic violence, lack of access to childcare and transport and lack of third level opportunities.



One particular aspect of their 20 years' experience as social entrepreneurs has been its success in supporting female entrepreneurship. Since 1997, LWL has worked closely with local enterprise support agencies in order to build the 'culture & conditions' for sustainable female entrepreneurship. Following a successful programme under the Department of Justice/ESF Equality for Women Measure, LWL identified the need for an expanded, gender-specific Start Your Own Business Course and developed '*Building for Success – Working for Women*' which has been delivered to over 40 female entrepreneurs. More recent female entrepreneurship programmes have been supported by the Ulster Bank Community Impact Fund (2014) and the Ulster Bank Skills and

Opportunities Fund (2019). Therefore in 2016 it was a natural progression for LWL to establish [Willow Traders](#), an income generation arm in the form of a charity enterprise, specifically a used furniture and clothing shop which will enable us to deliver specific services to women and their families in the region with an added focus on recycling.

LWL engages in widespread regional and national advocacy and are represented on the boards of AONTAS, Irish Rural Link, EAPN, Midlands Simon, Longford LCDC and the NWCI. Their flagship programme, the [Women's Manifesto Programme](#) is a unique model of local democratic participation which aims to support women in Longford and other counties to play an active and meaningful role in their local decision-making structures (including training and support for female candidates), and they have identified barriers to accessing these structures which are critical factors in preventing full and equal participation of rural women in their communities.



LWL are co-founders of the [SHE Project](#) (See Her Elected) with 50:50 North West, launched by Marian Harkin MEP in May 2019. LWL sees approximately 400 learners complete courses at its [Women's Community Education Centre](#) annually in partnership with IT Carlow. In 2019 they were the recipients of an [AONTAS STAR Award in 2019](#) in the Adult Learning Initiatives That Support Third Level Access and Engagement Sponsored By - The Teachers' Union Of Ireland

They are very active on social media, e.g. [#EveryDayImLearning](#) phot above and can be found on Facebook at [@LongfordWomensLink](#) and at [@LWLLongford](#) on Twitter





## Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network Showcase

The WREN programme supports female entrepreneurs, start-ups led by women or those interested in becoming self-employed through training and business development supports. The programme is operated in partnership with [Ballyhoura Development](#), Cork Institute of Technology's [Rubicon Centre](#) and [Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence](#) and funded by Department of Justice and Equality and the European Social Fund.

The Showcase is on at [Croom Enterprise Centre](#) on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> June, ring Eileen O'Keeffe for details.



**Women's Rural Entrepreneurial Network**

[f](#) [t](#) [g+](#)

### Female Entrepreneurship Showcase



#### WREN Showcase 2019

Ballyhoura Development over the past 9 months have worked with a group of Female Entrepreneurs who were thinking about starting a business or in the early stage of Business. Working in partnership with Ireland's largest business incubation centre the Rubicon at CIT on its delivery, this part-time business course, started in September 2018 was designed to suit existing work and family commitments. A previous group of Female Entrepreneurs completed the programme in 2017/2018 and are also part of our WREN network. Come along to our showcase to see the progress made by our Female Entrepreneurs and to find out more about supports for female Entrepreneurship and the Women's Rural Entrepreneurship Network.

**WREN Showcase**  
WREN Graduates 2019 are ready to showcase their Business!  
A Showcase of Female Entrepreneurship in the Ballyhoura Development Region  
**CROOM Enterprise Centre**  
**Mon 17<sup>th</sup> of June 11am**

- The entrepreneurship programme included;
- Personal Development
  - Practical Business Skills Training
  - One-to-One and Group Mentoring
  - Female 'Role Model' Sharing of Experience & Support
  - Networking Events
  - Learning Events
  - Facilitated Networking Sessions
  - Online Learning Supports and many other supports

**Eileen O'Keeffe Tel: 087 6216200**



This project is co-funded by the Irish Government and European Social Fund as part of the ESF Programme for Employability, Inclusion, and Learning (PEIL) 2014-2020 to promote entrepreneurship skills and business start-up amongst women in the region.

[www.ballyhouradevelopment.com](http://www.ballyhouradevelopment.com)



## Kilrossanty and the Comeraghs, Co. Waterford

In County Waterford the village of Kilrossanty nestles in the heart of the Comeragh Mountains, a tourism brand that stretches across the province of Munster.

Comeragh's ancient history resonates in song and story, in football and farming, in literature and landscape and is part of a unique upland network of communities. As the new grass dries into a lush green sward with summer and championship hurling on the horizon the old "Deise" war cry "there's a rumbling in the Comeraghs" echoes across the rich pasture lands of a county getting ready for the big days of Munster hurling.

Kilrossanty and Fewes parish reaches into the heart of Comeragh's with the Waterford Greenway on the old Waterford to Cork railway line and the N25 roadway running along in parallel at the base of the mountains. A few miles further south to the coastline is the UNESCO designated global geopark and Copper Coast coastline and its 7 villages. This area linking seaside to mountainside is a wonderland of heritage, wildlife, walking, cycling, mountain trekking, water and landed sports, seafaring, adventure, local food, shopping, accommodation, entertainment with traditional Irish music, song and dance includes so many health and recreational interests.

The parish has a population of 1,200 with two schools, two churches.

On 28<sup>th</sup> November 1996 the **Comeragh Community Development Group** held its first meeting. Their main objective was

1. Clean up the area
2. Improve local amenities
3. Protect the environment
4. Promote tourism.

Annual clean ups were organised which were renowned for the extent of the area covered and the number of people involved in it. Tourism projects were developed and many community, voluntary, environmental, heritage and tourism awards won. Voluntary fund raising and sponsorships from local business and people supported by Council, Coillte and Leader Partnership has provided a substantial fund for investment in the area.

### There are many places of interest, characters, events and memories romanticised in story and song that enrich the visitor's experience.

**Education:** Kilrossanty Parish has a deep involvement in education. According to the Commissioners for Public Instruction in 1835, pre famine, there were 4 schools in the parish. One maintained by Robert and Mrs Thompson was supported by an annual grant from Colonel Palliser, with 24 pupils; 12 boys and 12 girls. A second school was run by Terence O Donnell and supported by payments from families, with 117 pupils of which 78 were boys. A third school was run by Edmund Power with 120 pupils, 75 boys and 45 girls. The fourth school was run by Fanny Kelly with 39 pupils, 23 boys and 16 girls. (Does it still have 4 schools?). The parish is also home to two famous poets Patrick Carmody and Bob Weldon, also the international explorer John Palliser who discovered parts of Canada in 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**Kilrossanty Village** The old school has been renovated and restructured as St Bridget's Community Centre hosting many services and events all year round. The local 'Bachelors in Trouble' comedy group has featured on RTE. Kilrossanty and Comeragh community is a great place to live in, work, visit, learn and enjoy. [Kilrossanty GAA](#) is reputed to be the oldest club in Waterford, where football was played long before GAA was founded in 1884. The club has won 15 senior county championships and has developed an outstanding grounds and club complex at Lemybrien.

**Comeragh Comhaltas, a branch of Comhaltas Ceolteorí Eireann** includes outstanding musicians and dancers. They provide entertainment for so many people at sessions and festivals throughout the year.

**Comeragh Wild Festival**- Established in 2015 has in a short time exceeded all expectations. It is now a major event on county and regional calendars and involves local communities from Comeragh to Coastline.





**Comeragh Drive** – takes visitors on a journey of discovery through mountain, lake, forest, rock face and with the sea visible in a variety of colours full of surprises and moments of exhilaration.

**Golden Mile** is a voluntary community project supported by Council and Leader on the Kilrossanty – Mahon Bridge road. The Dungarvan to Waterford Railway line, on the Golden Mile, you will come across two magnificent viaducts, a tunnel, a railway station full of history, the scenes of many ambushes during the War of Independence and Civil War, the blowing up of a viaduct and of course the Atlantic opens out in front. It cuts through forestry, river, hill track, heritage and breath-taking scenery.

**Magic Road- by Tom Power, 'The Postman Poet'**

" Is it an optical illusion?  
Or am I suffering from delusion?  
I'm feeling quite perplexed,  
A certain amount has got me vexed;  
That's the law of gravity  
And how it applies to you and me.

It can never be denied,  
No matter how and when you tried,  
Why did my car go up the hill  
Up and up of its own free will  
Now you may think that is stunning  
But, the engine was not running



The Magic Road & Fairy Tree -photo from WIYP ©

At the Fairy Bush on the Magic Road the driver turns off the engine and the car proceeds to roll back up the hill which is all very mysterious. It is shrouded in tales of supernatural forces and of a road structure set in a pressure vacuum that makes strange things happen!

**Ballintlea Famine Village.** Remnants of housing ruins exist where once stood a busy village in early 1840s. Villagers emigrated to US during famine years and ruins capture one of the darkest periods of Irish history.

**Road Depots.** The Dungarvan to Carrick –on –Suir road runs through the parish there are 24 'depots' at 1/8 mile apart designated as protected structures. Road Depots are inlets that date back to 1842 and consist of stone walled inlets on side of road built to hold large stones which were broken up and used to surface the new road at the time.

**Comeragh House,** Lemybrien is the home of John Palliser famous international explorer who discovered places in Canada including Calgary, Brannf and Bruff now known as the Palliser Triangle.

**Crotty's Lake** – is named after an infamous highwayman William Crotty (1712-1742) who was reputed to rob from the rich to give to the poor until he was captured and decapitated in 1742 in accordance with his sentence.

**Mahon Falls** – (right) The Mahon Valley and Mahon Falls with sheets of white water crashing down on the rock face into the valley is a sight to behold. The car park close by is a select picnic area.

**Lake Coumshingaun** – (far right) is the largest lake in the Comeraghs and is the finest example of an ice age corrie formation in Europe. The imposing rock face framing the lake in a horse shoe shape climbs almost vertically several hundred feet above the lake. **Lackendara** – was a hermit who lived his life under a stone faced enclave near Lake Coumshingaun up to the 1950s. He was a famous character who has become part of folklore and mystery of the mountains.





## Killinkere Community, Cavan

Killinkere is a large rural parish situated in east Cavan between Virginia and Bailieborough with a population of approx. 450. Its claim to fame is the birthplace of General Phil Sheridan (1831) who went on to play a major role in the American Civil War.

### Killinkere GFC

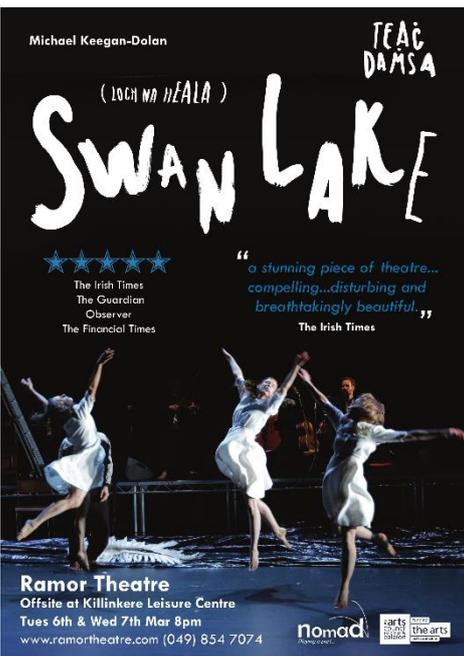
Killinkere Gaelic Football Club was formed in 1929 and for many years used a farmer's field as a football pitch until the early 1970s when restructuring of Church of Ireland in the area resulted in the amalgamation of four churches into the Virginia Group of Parishes. Subsequently **The Rectory in Killinkere** and surrounding 50 acres were put up for sale and the club took the brave step of purchasing them for the princely sum of £15,000.

Major fundraising efforts continued for many years to pay for and develop the grounds and this culminated in the development of a sports & leisure centre in 1982. The club currently has two top class pitches a running track and has just started an extension of the leisure centre to meet the growing needs of the community. Further redevelopment is planned for which Killinkere GFC have created a 'Go Fund Me' Page, where they offer rewards for donation.

The club is the focal point for all community events in Killinkere and the surrounding areas with weekly activities such as ceili dancing, bingo, music & first aid classes along with women's group activities, communion and confirmation celebrations and numerous community and family events. It also has mobile tiered seating which allows hosting major events such as Swan Lake/ Loch na hEala for Ramor Theatre, fundraising events for the club and other local organisations.



Bailieborough Development Association fundraiser with The Celtic Tenors



Diversity is an important feature with groups from 10 different nationalities using the centre for national celebrations in the past year and it is home to a French School every summer.



Nathan Carter visits Ceol Lab Trad Summer School



## Killinkere Development Association



Before (1999)



After (2003)

Killinkere Development Association (KDA) was formed in 1997 to develop the economic, social, cultural and heritage interests of the people in the area. KDA is a community driven, non-profit organisation. KDA leased the 19<sup>th</sup> century Rectory building from the GAA Club in 1999 and through significant fundraising and grant aid from International Fund for Ireland, Peace & Reconciliation & Co. Enterprise Board, the building was restored from ruin relaunching as The Rectory Activity Centre in 2003.

The facility offers hostel-style accommodation for up to 40 people on a budget. It is an ideal venue for sports teams, youth groups, family gatherings & team building, who can avail of self/full catering options.

Visitors can benefit from the use of the extensive outdoor facilities including training and playing pitches, running track and cross country. Groups also have access to the indoor facilities including a large hall, meeting rooms and the only GAA Club bar in Cavan - all within the grounds of The Rectory.

Additionally, the centre has links with a variety of organisations in the locality and can provide access to activities such as:

- Horse Riding at Derryham Stables & Rock Equestrian Farm
- Cavan County Museum, Ballyjamesduff
- Fishing
- Virginia Golf Club
- Cavan Walking Guide
- Killinkere Visitor & Pet Farm
- Ramor Water Sports Club
- Ramor Theatre
- St Kilians Heritage Centre
- Cavan Canoeing Centre



Grounds of Rectory Activity Centre

The project is managed and run by local volunteers with support from workers on CE and Tús schemes. A number of people are also employed on a part-time basis to help with catering and housekeeping. Local businesses and trades people are supported by the centre and any proceeds go towards fundraising and charity events.

Killinkere's Rectory can be found on **Airbnb** or for further info contact **Breffni Clarke 087-1225465**.



## Remote Working

By Brendon McLoughlin

### It's a Wonderful World of Work



*"I see fields of green, red roses too, I see them bloom, for me and you and I think to myself..."*

My name is Brendon McLoughlin and since 1990, I've been a remote worker living and working in county Tipperary. I don't specifically work in manufacturing and I don't specifically work in seasonal tourism. But I do work all year round, when and where I can apply my skills, so my gun is very much for hire when I'm not slinging it. As one of nearly 200,000 gun slingers ... sorry! ... remote workers now in Ireland, I currently work for a global ERP cloud provider called Unit4 Business Software as a Product Manager and Technical Project Manager and many of my colleagues here in Ireland also work remotely.

I sincerely believe that 'Remote Working' is the future of work and the future of sustainable living and working in rural Ireland. I also believe 'Remote Working' has the potential to bring a world of work and benefits to any size business or community in rural Ireland.

Following in the ethos of the 'Grow Remote' movement currently taking Ireland by storm, I so sincerely believe this, that I've joined with a small team of volunteers in county Tipperary to create a new chapter to support new and existing 'Remoter Workers' and any local potential employers seeking to harness the opportunities, benefits and value 'Remote Working' can realise. To read more see my third article entitled 'Tipperary Remoters'.

I have come to realise just how precious a gift living and working in rural Ireland really is. I'm so happy to be lucky enough to be one of a growing number of people who don't just get to call rural Ireland their home, but I also get to work there. For the first time in over a decade, the negative impact of the last 10 years on rural communities has seen a break in the storm as the warm rays of hope shine through the cracks to illuminate a new potential path towards a more long-term sustainable rural Ireland. Back then, however, little did we know, there were more dark days ahead.

Today, it's difficult peering over my old neighbours ditch only to see the long since abandoned fields surrounding what was a family home now struggling to stand proud above the over growth. Since 2008, the garden has been long empty of the screams and shouts of small children, full of their fun. Often this youthful life blood of rural Ireland grew weary of waiting for political miracles and an infusion of new jobs to arrest our communities decline. Instead they grew up to face a new reality full of compulsion to go further a field and seek out a life in the urban jungles of the world often far beyond the shores of the Irish sea. So many young Irish were lost or left to deep despair as we faced a modern famine, a famine of outsourcing by in large of our own making, a jobs famine.



Wind the clocks forward a decade and the last 10 years have seen a great turn around in modern Ireland. New technologies have brought new opportunities, new business, new jobs and a new cosmopolitan people who attempt to refill, refresh and revive our communities. Just as we Irish have been welcomed the world over, we embrace and welcome the world home to Ireland. We count new online global consumerism, ground-breaking pharmaceuticals and life-saving biosciences among their number. Just as new technology washes over the land, the old model of labour-intensive manufacturing and local retail footfall quickly recedes beneath a super tsunami of new technologies, online consumerism, robotics and automation.

For those newcomers to new technologies (aka 'Newbies' or 'Noobs'), keeping your head above water means embracing new technology skills, devices and opportunities. In a new modern Ireland, no one is more adept to this new Ireland than the 'Digital Nomad'. If you're a newbie, you can be forgiven for imagining a 'digital nomad' is some form of sofa surfing graduate with electro-pop & dance music implanted into their neural net.



A 'Digital Nomad' is a name given to a person who works without being inside their employers facilities (factory/offices etc..) using perhaps as little as a credit card, mobile phone and laptop working wherever they can get the best high-speed connection to the internet often hiring a shared desk (hot-desking). Not really that different too the 'Newbies' first impression, but its more about what they are doing rather than who they are.

In this case, the 'Digital Nomad' works remotely from their employer, perhaps working one or two days per week and often working for one or more employers. They are often a freelance contractor. For want of a better description, they are a lone gun for hire, but instead of a gun, their weapon of choice is a mouse, laptop or tablet, moving nomadically from employer to employer or as they would say working 'gig to gig'. They also most often gather together working in online groups more correctly phrased as 'virtual teams'.



Another name for 'Digital Nomad' is a 'Remote Worker' (aka 'Remoter'). The only difference being that a 'Remoter' most often works from a home office, hot desk or shared co-creation, co-working space collaborating with their team either within the shared workspace or virtually over the web using collaborative team tools.

Here's the real magic, this gun for hire can mosey into town on demand whenever the organisation has a skills wanted requirement. Those skills can be as simple and diverse as sales, support, design or authoring to name but a few. But the real magic is they can provide this skill seamlessly over the internet to and from anywhere in the globally connected



world. This allows the organisation to access a world of 'Remote Workers' and allows 'Remote Workers' to access a world of work regardless of where in the world they happen to be based ... for all intents and purposes, the 'Remote Worker' need not even be on the planet, they just need to be connected to the web.

The explosion in 'Remote Working' both from the perspective of the number of people employed as 'Remote Workers' and organisations of all sizes employing these 'Remote Workers' continues to go from strength to strength in Ireland. In Jan. 2019, 20 Irish people as volunteers with a shared interest in 'Remote Working' got together on the interest. By March, this small group had grown from 20 people to nearly 70 chapters springing up all over Ireland. By May, 'Grow Remote' this new national movement started in Jan. was asked to give evidence in the Oireachtas. The evidence related to the potential role of 'Remote Working' in long term rural Ireland sustainability and the new world of remote working and global opportunities being exposed as a result.

If you have a deeper interest in the 'Grow Remote' movement, also see my 2nd article entitled 'Grow Remote' - a movement for rural sustainability through 'Remote Working'.

As I said earlier, I am one of the very lucky who has been given the gift of living and working in rural Ireland. I still keep in contact with my old neighbours via Skype. I even help out when some of those kids return to Ireland but now as adults, bringing with them their new skills learnt abroad. The only difference now is, rather than being my old neighbours next door, they are now my new online neighbours.

Think about it ... my employer and I demand real mutual trust and respect of each other and I've been working with my colleagues on and off for nearly 15 years as a result. It's nice to build great relationships with great companies and being called back sometime after years have passed. It's also quite surprising when you consider, they are not far from being alone in being a global company employing remote workers from across the globe.

Today, when I step outside my office to take a break, *I see fields of green, red roses too, I see them bloom, for me and you, and I say to myself ... what a wonderful world ... online is!*



Louis Armstrong - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BDgQOd3p-0>

**About the author:**

Brendon McLoughlin is a Product Manager with Unit4 Business (Ireland) Software - a global supplier of ERP Solutions. Brendon is a Lean Six Sigma Black Belt, Senior Technical Project Manager, PhD candidate specialising in the field of Frugal Innovation in SME's.

For further information the website can be found [here](#)





# Joint Oireachtas Committee Visit Dunhill and Copper Coast Geopark on March 27<sup>th</sup>

**“The Joint Oireachtas Committee on Rural and Community Development visited Dunhill recently to hear about the impressive developments which have taken place within the local community**

MANY visitors, including politicians, senior civil servants and members of different community groups, have come to Dunhill in recent years to discuss issues relating to job creation, and in particular, how to encourage an enterprising spirit within communities. On Wednesday March 27<sup>th</sup>, the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Rural and Community Development attended a working lunch and discussion with local government and business representatives in Dunhill. The committee has recently been discussing the development of remote working opportunities, efforts to improve passenger and freight rail links into Waterford City, and the role of UNESCO Global Geopark in driving investment and tourism in rural areas”. [Read more in the Munster Express.](#)



Nationwide 15<sup>th</sup> May highlighted 6 Social Enterprises: DFBA Community Enterprises, Copper Coast Geopark, Dunhill Education Centre, Cois Cille Housing, Anne Valley Walkway & Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ecopark

Under [IRL RUBIZMO](#) Dunhill & Copper Coast in Waterford City & County has been nominated as a hot spot for Social Enterprise.

**Front Row L-R:** Willie Moore, Dan Cowman, Senan Cooke, Bruce McDonald, Seamus Goggin, Sinead O Higgins

**Mid Row L-R:** Helen Kavanagh, Senator Paudie Coffey, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Senator Grace O Sullivan, Joe Carey TD, Martin Kenny TD, Richie Walsh

**Back Row L-R:** Donal O Brien, Leo Bollins(Principal Clerk Houses of the Oireachtas), Donal Lehane, John Murphy, Rupert Maddock, Eoin McMahon, Michael Murphy, Michael Casey, Stan Kiely, Michael Walsh, Mary Fenton, Marie Cox, Donal Murphy



Senator Paudie Coffey TD, Dan Cowman, Stan Flynn, Rita Burns, Joe Carey TD and Chairman of Joint Oireachtas Committee

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



Marie Cox, Éamon Ó Cuív TD and Senan Cooke



Donal Murphy, Donal Lehane, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, Senan Cooke, Senator Grace O Sullivan, Martin Kenny TD, Joe Carey TD (Committee Chairman), Marie Cox, Senator Paudie Coffey



# Citizens' Dialogue: Revitalising Rural Ireland in Dunhill

Citizens' Dialogue:

Revitalising Rural Ireland

Empowering Communities through Social Enterprise

@SocEntEU | #ESER2019 | @eudirect



### Expert Panel:

- **Gerry Kiely**, Head of the European Commission Representation in Ireland
- **Patrick Klein**, Social Economy Team Leader at Advanced Technologies, Clusters and Social Economy Unit of DG GROW, EU Commission
- **Brendan Whelan**, Chief Executive Officer of Social Finance Foundation
- **Janet O'Toole**, Community Development Manager, Connemara West Plc
- **Chair: Damien Tiernan**, Journalist, Author and Broadcaster with WLR FM



**All Welcome - FREE event - Booking Essential**

- Social Enterprise Information stands and Finger Food from 6:00pm -

For bookings Search for Citizens' Dialogue Revitalising Rural Ireland on [www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com) or email: [europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie](mailto:europedirect@waterfordcouncil.ie)



@SocEntEU | #ESER2019 | @eudirect

#EUdialogues | #FutureOfEurope



Approximately 200 people attended the event in Dunhill on 13<sup>th</sup> May at which speakers Patrick Klein Brussels, Gerry Kiely EU Commission Dublin, Brendan Whelan Social Finance Foundation, Janet O' Toole Connemara West presented on Revitalising Rural Ireland - Empowering Communities through Social Enterprise. Damien Tiernan, well known journalist acted as chairperson. A terrific dialogue among everyone in attendance took place. [For more see the Munster Express: Empowering Communities Through Social Enterprise](#)



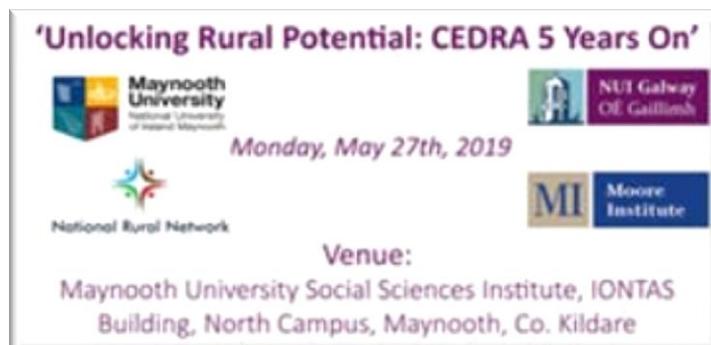


## Unlocking Rural Potential: CEDRA 5 Years On

Seamus Goggin and Senan Cooke attended this workshop hosted by Maynooth University Social Science Institute, the Moore Institute at NUI Galway and the National Rural Network on behalf of CCJ.

Leading thinkers on Rural Development discussed the state of rural Ireland, reflected on the legacy of CEDRA in putting rural economic development higher on the national agenda, and considered directions for future development.

The Keynote speaker was the European Commissioner for Agriculture and Rural Development, Phil Hogan, who as Minister for the Environment established CEDRA in 2014.



### Points made at the conference.

1. "A better life in Rural Areas - The Cork 2.0 EU Declaration on Rural Development" (Jim Walsh, position)
  - a. The EU's vision for rural areas: a common vision for the future European Agriculture and Rural Communities.
  - b. **"THE RURAL VOICE WILL ONLY BE HEARD IF IT IS LOUD"** ! (Dr. Franz Fischer & EU Commissioner Phil Hogan)
  - c. Rural Ireland accounts for 58% of population (Rural – outside 5 main cities), CSO figures - 41%
  - d. Physical locations do not matter, i.e. it doesn't have to be in an urban area.
  - e. Uneven impacts with recovery in Ireland
2. Rural change is always changing (never stable) social, economic, demographic, political and environmental.
  - a. There is no grand narrative of rural change as there is constant change occurring.
  - b. "The need to change the narrative to strategic outcomes" (Kevin McCarthy, see position and DRCD)
  - c. Three Pillars are:
    - i. Building Social Capital – building trust and belief
    - ii. Innovation
    - iii. Dissemination & Replication
3. Project 2040 – Rural Capacity Building & Creative Ireland
4. **"Be part of the solution rather than be seen as part of the problem"**
5. Generational Renewal in Communities
  - a. Encouraging new entrants
  - b. Process and active engagement for the elderly
  - c. Social farming
6. Burnout is a constant theme – Social Capital required!
7. The vision of a community and continuous development with the support from Local Authorities
8. **The DRCD (Department of Rural & Community Development) to create the enabling framework.**



<http://www.ruralireland.ie>



## An Cosán VCC Annual Community Partner Forum 2019



**Theme: ‘Empowering Communities using Technology for Education, Leadership and Enterprise’**

**Keynote Speaker:** Bairbre Nic Aongusa, Assistant Secretary, Dept. of Rural and Community Development.

**Facilitated by:** Catherine Breathnach, National Director of Adult Education; Maria Flanagan, Community Partner Lead and Dr Thomas Murray, Pedagogy Lead of An Cosán VCC.

**Two Panel Discussions:** “Global, national and local: The role of technology in shaping the future of education and work” and “How local community leaders are embracing innovation and technology to empower individuals and communities for the future, through education, leadership and enterprise”

**Check out the review in the Event in the [Irish Tech News](#)**

### Panels included:

- Bairbre Nic Aongusa, Assistant Secretary, Department of Rural and Community Development
- Monica Donlon, Managing Director, Accenture
- Colm O’Muirí, Project Manager, Southend Family Resource Centre Wexford
- David Pollard, Co-founder Learning Tech Labs
- Dr Senan Cooke, Co-founder, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd, **Chairperson of CCJ.**
- Tracy Keogh, Co-founder of Grow Remote
- Máirín Ó Cuireáin, Executive Director, Robert Emmet Community Development Project (CDP)



Seamus Goggin representing [Communities Creating Jobs](#) (CCJ) and Senan representing CCJ and Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd. attended the gathering of community education providers, policy makers and agencies - committed to objective of providing blended options to support digital access to lifelong learning at the [NDRC Digital Exchange in Dublin](#). It was a day of really engaging panel discussions and presentations

Senan “*spoke passionately about Communities as Problem Solvers & Wealth Creators ~ There is no limit to what can be achieved by a community working together*” (An Cosán)

Máirín Ó Cuireáin from Robert Emmet CPD spoke out their simple but powerful CORN initiative, a community network and voice for the south west inner city in Dublin working collectively to support sustainable, inclusive, and

thriving community. **Our Values:** Equal and Inclusive, Honesty, Transparency, Co-operation and Respect. They meet once a month with other organisations to share information – simple but powerful!



“With digital opportunities such as [@AnCosan\\_VCC](#) and [#EPALE](#) we have the opportunity to create an inclusive educational environments” [~DavidPollardIRL](#)



[#MyJobMatters](#) on 10th June there was a digital campaign to support social enterprises in engaging directly with their staff, reminding them that their role is making a difference. Search for the hashtag to read inspirational stories from people working in social enterprises worldwide.



Please feel free to share with colleagues or friends who may be interested in their quarterly round up of communities making a difference around Ireland.

Keep in touch with Communities Creating Jobs on Social: [Linkedin](#), [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#).

- **Should your Group or Organisation wish to include an article/ case study with photos for our Autumn Quarterly Newsletter on urban and rural regeneration, please submit to [ccj@dunhillcopark.com](http://ccj@dunhillcopark.com) before August 31<sup>st</sup>**

