

# Communities Creating Jobs



Social Entrepreneurs Ireland's 2016 Impact Awards



Clann Credo 20th Anniversary Conference



Joe McDonagh Tribute

Newsletter Winter 2016  
Vol 16

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## **CCJ Editorial.**

We are back again at Christmas which is special time of year for families and communities across the country. While many families are reuniting and celebrating some families are remembering lost loved ones who passed away during the year. Of these we remember in particular our late lamented Joe McDonagh who is the subject of a special tribute in this edition.

On CCJ we thank Donal Traynor, Meath who retired as chairman at our AGM in October while remaining on the board as a director. He is replaced by Senan Cooke former secretary and founding member of CCJ for 2017. We warmly welcome John Kennedy LIT, Thurles who has joined the board. His business and accounting expertise has landed him the position of treasurer with Ciaran Lynch who recently retired from LIT as secretary and Seamus Goggin, DFBA Community Enterprises Ltd acting as membership officer. Other members of the board are Yvonne Crotty DCU, John Kearney, Skibbereen, West Cork and Michael McGagh, Galway. We look forward to a very successful 2017. We also welcome two new patrons in Brendan Whelan CEO of Social Finance Foundation and Liadh Ni Riada, MEP for Munster & South Leinster.

Another announcement of note that impacts directly on the work of CCJ is the appointment of Pat Spillane, former Kerry football great and RTE Sunday games analyst as chairman of the Croke Park Communities & Urban Development Committee which is engaged with CCJ and GMIT on the completion of the pilot project in Co Galway on community enterprise. This is due for completion in January 2017.

At this time we would like to wish all our members and supporters a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

Senan Cooke, Chairman.



[WWW.CCJ.IE](http://WWW.CCJ.IE)



## A Special Tribute to Joe McDonagh.



A deep sadness spread throughout the GAA and the country in May of this year when news of the passing of former president, Joe McDonagh was announced. Joe was an outstanding hurler with Galway, winning U21 in (1972) and senior in (1980). He was also an outstanding administrator and was elected president of the association in 1996. A very fine person in so many ways, he provided inspired leadership on and off the pitch throughout a lifetime of service to the GAA. Joe was a fluent Irish speaker and singer lifting many occasions with the power of his oratory and his fine singing voice

in Irish and English.

He captured the moment so well on one of Galway's greatest days when he sang "The West's Awake" standing beside Joe Connolly, team captain when he received the McCarthy Cup in the Hogan Stand. This was 57 years after the last time Galway had won the cup. In 1996 he fulfilled a life-long playing ambition when winning his one and only Galway championship, a Junior C medal with his son Eoin playing with him on the team. His passing was a tragic blow to his family, his wife Peig, son Eoin and daughters Muireann and Eilis to whom we offer our sincere sympathies.

Many others with whom he had shared his gift for organising and representing felt it very deeply. It was a devastating blow to the Croke Park Communities and Urban Development Committee of which he was chairman. At the time, Communities Creating Jobs were working with GAA and GMIT in piloting an innovative community job creation model in Co. Galway. As GAA international ambassador Joe witnessed at first hand the effects of emigration at home and overseas. He made a special effort to address the issue and hoped the jobs model would provide new job opportunities for involuntary emigrants.

Current report on the pilot is very positive. When implemented it will be a fitting tribute to Joe as champion of emigrants and the unemployed. The GAA, GMIT, CCJ should in 2017 be able to launch the new jobs programme backed by county and club units and supported by relevant state agencies and private sector companies working together in regenerating small villages and towns throughout the country. Ar aghaidh leis an obair!



## Slieve Beagh Hotel, Co. Monaghan



Knockatallon is in the North Monaghan parish of Tydavnet. It has through sheer dedication and effort developed into a thriving rural hotspot with its own community owned hotel. The parish of Tydavnet stretches for ten miles north of Monaghan Town right up to the border. It consists of four main communities, Tydavnet, Scotstown, Ballinode and Knockatallon. Scotstown is the parish GAA Club and are current 2016 senior football champions. The captain of the team which features the famous Hughes brothers of Monaghan fame is Peter Morgan from Knockatallon which is about 5 miles from Scotstown right in the heart of the Slieve Beagh mountains.

The population of the parish is approximately 1,500 of which Knockatallon has 150 families and approximately 500 people. It was in the early 1990s that Fr Maguire called a meeting to discuss the future viability of the local hall which was opened in 1952. Interest in using it was at very low ebb and the attendance was challenged to either close it down or sell it off. This stark choice awakened a new interest in both the future of the hall and in the village. At that time a study was being carried out by Peter Quinn former president of GAA on 12 communities from both sides of the border on how the border region could be developed. Knocktallon was involved and was asked to identify a development that best suited their needs and assets.

The rejuvenation of the hall was an obvious consideration. A small task group was formed and travelled far and wide examining suitable options. They found a multipurpose building in Creggan in Omagh Co. Tyrone which included accommodation and a variety of indoor facilities that catered for a wide selection of social and sports activities.

Following much consideration it was agreed that a hotel on the hall site which was tight would provide an income and range of social, cultural and economic activities that would help regenerate the area. The site was centrally located close to the church at the heart of the village. A range of grant funding was committed by Interreg, International Fund for Ireland, Co Council, Enterprise Ireland, Failte Ireland, and County Enterprise Board which took a few years to organise. The development committee proceeded with caution as the overall development was estimated to cost £IR 1.1m. The work began in 1998 after much consideration of plans on a hotel with 15 rooms, bar and lounge, sports hall and meeting rooms. A local builder was involved which was to prove very helpful. He became a great asset showing great patience and commitment in making it possible to complete it on a phased basis. A bar license was purchased from a publican in Roscrea, Co Tipperary. An Taoiseach Bertie Ahearn opened the hotel in 2000 amid scenes of great relief and jubilation.



Within 2 weeks a wedding was held there and the preparations stretched the committee's capabilities to the limit. It was a very successful event in the village and a great start to the new business. For a few months the hotel was packed to capacity and the bar manager was run off his feet. In 2001 the provision of food was introduced and a meals on wheels service provided by the hotel catering staff for 90 people every Sunday.

An overall manager was appointed in 2005 and given a free hand to run the operation consulting with board on future capital investment for new developments. The financial crash in 2008 hit North Monaghan very hard and created many headaches for the voluntary board and its staff. They were forced for some time to use their reserves to keep the hotel open as a going concern as the tourist trade dipped in the early years of the crisis. In parallel other developments were also taking place in the area in support of the hotel. These included a book 'Hills, Heather and Hope' which was written documenting all the different heathers on the Slieve Beagh Mountains. A walking club was established and 4 different way- marked looped walks that attracted locals, visitors and tourists to the village and hotel for refreshments and overnight stays. The trails were about 10 kilometres in length and weaved their way through bogland and forest, around lakes and mountains and back into the village.

The activities and community spirit displayed earned the recognition and appreciation of Monaghan Co Council. A new housing scheme was built with new sewerage system, new roads and footpaths, lights, car parks and other improvements have transformed the area as a tourist location. The development association leased two acres opposite the hotel and installed 3 all- weather pitches with lights which are now extensively used and bring with it regular business. A steady income is earned with some of it re-invested in other community based projects.

As the developments proceeded several private businesses opened that includes a new equestrian centre which is run by a local girl who now employs 4 workers. Rally School Ireland opened in 200--- . It is now a well run business employing 10 people. A new taxi service to service hotel and all other activities has started up and employs two people.

To create additional capacity a new separate and younger committee has been set up and is taking charge of that add further value to the work being done in the area. The initial development committee that organised the construction of the hotel which led to the creation of so many other voluntary developments and council services is now looking forward to a bright future. When added to the range of new private investments Knocktallon has become a dynamic and enterprising location which is positioned to attract increased tourism year on year. As part of this dynamic a number of festivals are organised locally including a June week-end country music festival 'Hooley in the Heather'

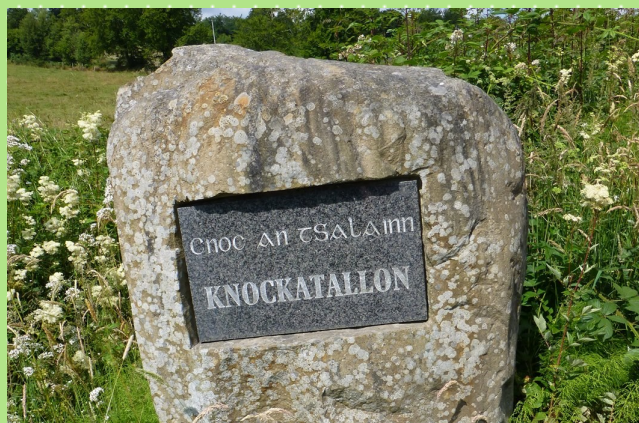




The hotel employs 3 people from its own funds and Pobal provides funding for 5 full time and one part time staff. Several new clubs were set up using the hotel facilities as their base. These include a Bowls Club, Foroige Club and Women Social Club with on average 20 members in each club. A number of contacts have been set up including the Canadian Ambassador and John de Chastellain who verified the decommissioning of IRA weapons in the Peace Process. As a result of the new connections 2 tour parties travel to Knockatallon from Prince Edward Island in New Brunswick, Canada each year. Many other contacts have been made with bus tour operators resulting in increased numbers of visitors and tourists to the area. Repeat business is also very strong demonstrating the high regard in which the Knockatallon, Slieve Beagh visitor experience is held by so many people.



A major extension has been recently added to the hotel to better accommodate weddings and major events that are in planning stage. With tourism on the increase despite negative soundings from Brexit the management committee have high hopes that they are on their way to long term viability. They have successfully weathered the storm of the financial crisis. They have made many additions and improvements to local facilities and services against the odds. The diversity of tourist activities in the areas make for an attractive bundle that will draw in visitors from a wider, more global constituency. With a reasonable run of fortune the future of the hotel and associated developments are assured. The Knockatallon community development story that is centred around the Slieve Beagh Hotel complex built in the 1990s. It is one of pride in place and people, of loyalty and commitment, of courage and creativity that has turned a once isolated community into a go to place for so many people from so many countries across the world. It is now an attractive location for people to live in, work in and invest in. It has been born out of that age old Irish meitheal spirit of self help and self reliance that has sustained Irish communities down the ages. Long may it continue!





## Clann Credo 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference

Throughout the country, visionary community leaders have great ambitions to transform their communities for themselves, their families and future generations. Often financial constraints can be obstacles to making these visions a reality. But Clann Credo provides Community Loan Finance to these groups at affordable rates and Clann Credo staff, who have two decades of experience in the area, help them through the process from the first phonecall.

Clann Credo aims to ensure that finance should not be an obstacle to community and voluntary groups and Clann Credo staff work to ensure that all community projects that could benefit from Clann Credo Community Finance know that they are there to help.

Clann Credo lends money to: community; voluntary; sports and other groups for projects in such areas of: sports and recreation; social housing; community facilities; tourism; sustainable energy; disability; enterprise centres; transport; youth and childcare services and other areas.

At the moment, Clann Credo has two Community Loan Finance offers. The Community Impact Loan Fund is €50m and offers your community group loans at affordable interest rates, with the support and expertise of Clann Credo regional staff. Other extra benefits are included.

Clann Credo has had extensive experience with the LEADER Grant system and now have a LEADER Loan Fund of €25 million. So if your community or voluntary group is seeking a LEADER Grant, Clann Credo's can provide match funding or bridging loan finance at affordable rates. You also have the support and expertise of Clann Credo representatives as well as other extra benefits.

In the 1990s, when Sr. Magdalen Fogarty and other visionary people had the idea of getting finance working for communities on the margins to bring about social transformation and social justice, they had difficulties even finding the right language to communicate the concept.

Clann Credo was established in 1996 and since then, more and more people understand the idea of what social finance can achieve by getting money working to help solve deep-seated social problems..

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Over 20 years ago, Clann Credo, with the help of the Presentation Order, began with a loan of €2 million to Oakfield Trust in Clondalkin. Since then, Clann Credo has loaned almost €82 million to almost 800 projects nationwide, transforming lives and communities and creating and sustaining thousands of jobs.

On the 15<sup>th</sup> September, Clann Credo celebrated their twentieth anniversary with a conference at the historic Richmond Barracks in Inchicore. President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins, accompanied by his wife Sabina, was the keynote speaker and he made the case for economic empowerment of citizens, for its own merits and also as a means towards enhancing the quality of democracy. ‘A true Republic needs informed, organised and empowered active citizens, influencing the economic forces that shape our lives.’, he said.

Senator Marie-Louise O'Donnell spoke about the importance of community in Irish life and she praised the ‘local heroes’ working their communities for the difference they make to people's lives.

Paul O'Sullivan, CEO of Clann Credo addressed the conference outlining the future vision of the organisation. “Our vision is of a future where all finance is social and all investments are judged on their impact on society. We have come a long way in 20 years, but these are just the initial steps on our journey”, said Paul, who is also a member of the European Commission's Expert Group on the Social Business Initiative.

Clann Credo's 20<sup>th</sup> Conference was chaired by Katie Hannon of RTE's Primetime. Other speakers included: Brendan Whelan, CEO of the Social Finance Foundation; Éadaoin Ní Chléirigh, CEO of Richmond Barracks; Jerh O'Donoghue, founder of the Social Action Group, Rathmore, Co. Kerry; Derek Moore, Executive Secretary of Stella Maris Football Club and Alma Gallagher, Manager of Clár ICH, Co. Mayo.

The Conference celebrated the life and work of Clann Credo founder, Sr. Magdalen Fogarty and Cathy Moore of Clann Credo gave a presentation about Sr. Magdalen story of founding Clann Credo. President Michael D. Higgins presented Sr. Magdalen with a commemorative piece of stained glass artwork.

Call Clann Credo at 01 4002100 or email at [info@clanncredo.ie](mailto:info@clanncredo.ie) or check out the website at [www.clanncredo.ie](http://www.clanncredo.ie)





## THREE SOCIAL INNOVATORS SECURE €420,000 BUSINESS GROWTH FUNDING AND TWO YEARS OF DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE FROM SOCIAL ENTREPRENEURS IRELAND SUPPORTED BY DCC PLC



Development programme has invested over €6.7 million in social entrepreneurs in Ireland over the last twelve years

**12 October 2016:** Three social entrepreneurs have been awarded funding and support worth €420,000 at the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards sponsored by DCC plc at the Mansion House in Dublin. Over the last twelve years, the programme has invested over €6.7 million in social entrepreneurs and 1,230 employment opportunities have been created in the process.

CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Darren Ryan and CEO of DCC plc Tommy Breen presented the awards to the three Impact Award recipients who each received funding and support worth €140,000 to develop their businesses. They are:

Claire Brady of **Lakers** which for over 25 years has offered children and adults with an intellectual disability the opportunity to develop their skills and self-esteem by participating in a wide range of sporting, social, recreational and development activities as well as providing a strong, supportive network for parents and families facing these challenges. They now intend to roll out this model nationwide.

Susan Quirke and Niall Breslin of **A Lust for Life** which promotes a holistic approach to positive mental health, suicide prevention and physical health through raising awareness and providing a platform for engagement through their website, events, working with the media and through grassroots advocacy.

Dara Connolly of **ReCreate** which encourages curiosity and creativity by making open ended arts materials and educational supplies affordable and accessible by salvaging clean and reusable materials from businesses and distributes the materials for free and in unlimited quantities to its members which include schools, early childhood settings and community groups.

A further six organisations each received funding and support worth €30,000 in the **Elevator Award** category. They were Sam Synnott and Judith Ashton from Buddy Bench Ireland, Alex Cooney and

Cliona Curley from CyberSafeIreland, Shane McKenna and Killian Redmond from DabbledooMusic, Noelle Daly and Stephen Cluskey from Mobility Mojo, Barry Grant from Problem Gambling Ireland and Francis Cleary from Step Out Ireland. In total, all nine awardees across the two categories will receive funding and support worth €600,000.

Irish company DCC plc has been the flagship sponsor of the Awards for the last six years and earlier this year pledged its commitment to Social Entrepreneurs Ireland until 2019, continuing its financial support with a further €700,000 in funding over this time. CEO of DCC Tommy Breen said “DCC is proud to be a long term sponsor of the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Elevator and Impact Award programmes. It is a great privilege to play a role in getting behind Ireland’s brightest and most ambitious entrepreneurs working to have a positive impact on our society.”



Darren Ryan CEO of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland said “Social entrepreneurs are problem solvers. Whenever the current system is too slow, inadequate or missing, a social entrepreneur will roll up their sleeves and take action. The social entrepreneurs awarded today are all pioneering new solutions to some of society’s biggest challenges. With the ongoing commitment of DCC plc, we will back these entrepreneurs to take risks and be brave in pursuing ideas to solve Ireland’s social problems.”

The ceremony in the Mansion House was hosted by Joan Freeman, the founder of Pieta House, and John Evoy, the founder of the Irish Men’s Sheds Association, who are both former recipients of Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards.

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### About Social Entrepreneurs Ireland

Social Entrepreneurs Ireland (SEI) is an Irish not-for-profit organisation that supports people with new solutions to Ireland’s biggest social problems. SEI helps these individuals to increase their impact by providing significant funding alongside in-depth technical and practical supports.

Over the last 12 years Social Entrepreneurs Ireland has supported 204 social entrepreneurs, and this year’s funding will bring the total support to over €6.7 million in their projects, in addition to providing significant additional supports. These projects have in turn directly impacted 520,000 people all over Ireland, creating over 1,230 employment opportunities in the process.

For more information please see [www.socialentrepreneurs.ie](http://www.socialentrepreneurs.ie)

### About DCC plc

DCC plc is an international sales, marketing, distribution and business support services group headquartered in Dublin with operations in Britain, Continental Europe and Ireland. DCC has four divisions - DCC Energy, DCC Healthcare, DCC Technology and DCC Environmental. In its last financial year ended 31 March 2016, DCC generated revenue of £10.6 billion and operating profit from continuing activities of £300 million and currently employs approximately 10,500 people in 15

countries. DCC’s shares are listed on the London Stock Exchange and are included in the FTSE 100 Index.

For more information please see [www.dcc.ie](http://www.dcc.ie)



Included in photograph: (Left to Right) Impact Awardees Susan Quirke and Niall Breslin of A Lust for Life; Tommy Breen CEO of DCC plc- flagship sponsors of the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland Awards; Dara Connolly of ReCreate; Clare Brady of Lakers; Darren Ryan CEO of Social Entrepreneurs



# THINK TECH

Ideas for a  
better Ireland.

## Minister Simon Coveney Announces the Winners of €1 Million THINKTECH Project

- First Four THINKTECH project winners announced –

- Winners will receive grants totalling €750,000 and a place on a five month Accelerator programme-

**8<sup>th</sup> December 2016:** Simon Coveney T.D., Minister for Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government today, at an awards ceremony at Google, announced the four successful not-for-profit projects selected to take part in the first ever THINKTECH Accelerator. THINKTECH is a collaboration between Social Innovation Fund Ireland and Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, which invests in teams with bold ideas that create lasting impact. Google.org made a €500,000 donation to the project, which was match funded by the Government.

The THINKTECH project enables non-profit social innovations to grow their ideas for a better Ireland, by accessing supports similar to those provided by venture capital companies to commercial enterprises.

The organisations awarded funding under the THINKTECH project are:



Space Engagers - Early stage award - €100,000

Philip Crowe and Aoife Corcoran (Dublin)

Helping to tackle homelessness and other challenges by engaging citizens with mapping in their communities

## ALONE

Supporting older people  
to age at home

The Alone Platform - Full award - €220,000 (€170,000 cash + €50,000 non-financial support)

Seán Moynihan (Dublin) and Dr Rodd Bond (Louth)

Supporting older people to live independently at home, by using technology to track and improve wellbeing and combat loneliness



Foodcloud Hubs - Full award - €220,000 (€170,000 cash + €50,000 non-financial support)

Aoibheann O'Brien (Dublin) and Emma Walsh (Waterford)

Rescues surplus food from food businesses and distributes it to charities across Ireland, using a technology Platform and three hubs in Galway, Cork and Dublin.



iScoil - Full award - €210,000 (€160,000 cash + €50,000 non-financial support)

Marianne Checkley (Dublin)

Providing access to education for early school leavers through online and personalised learning Programmes.



THINKTECH project awardees will now take part in a world class Accelerator programme devised by Social Innovation Fund Ireland, and supported by Google.org and the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government.

**Speaking at the Awards ceremony, Minister Simon Coveney, T.D., said:** “I want to congratulate the four winners on the quality of their projects and the range of critical social issues they address which demonstrate how technology can be a force for good. Housing, homelessness, poverty, education, and the wellbeing of older people are all priorities for this Government. To be in a position to support and encourage innovative solutions to such fundamental social challenges is what good government is about. The THINKTECH programme is an example of what government, corporate leadership and social innovation can achieve when they unite for society’s benefit. I look forward to seeing these projects accelerate positive change in our communities.”

**Deirdre Mortell, Social Innovation Fund Ireland CEO, said:** “This is about making Ireland better. Creating THINKTECH as the first ever Tech for Good project in Ireland has been an exciting journey. 69 projects applied and these top four projects demonstrate both excellence and innovation in using technology to solve Ireland’s critical social issues. Homelessness, early school leaving, reducing food waste and food poverty, and aging well at home are all critical issues of our time. At Social Innovation Fund Ireland we look forward to working closely with these projects to make Ireland better as they join our newly designed five month Accelerator programme in January 2017.”

**Fionnuala Meehan, VP and Head of Google Ireland said:** “THINKTECH is a great example of what we believe at Google.org, that teams with bold ideas can create lasting impact on issues we all care about. We are delighted to partner with Social Innovation Fund Ireland and the Government to create THINKTECH, and to offer the winners a package of Google supports as well as critical funds to enable their projects to fly.”

THINKTECH was launched by Minister Simon Coveney, T.D., in June, and the Government has granted funding of €500,000 to match a €500,000 donation by Google.org. THINKTECH winners will receive an award fund totalling €750,000 in grants as well as support and mentoring, and will join a five month Accelerator programme from January to May 2017.

**Issued on behalf of Social Innovation Fund Ireland by Heneghan PR**

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**About THINKTECH**

The THINKTECH Award and five month programme includes:

- Cash grant of up to €200,000, plus up to €50,000 worth of non-financial supports including -
  - Development of a Growth Plan
  - Mentoring
  - Expert Coaching on social impact measurement, governance
  - Access to Social Innovation Fund Ireland and Google networks
  - A package of Google supports.

**About Google.org**

Google.org, the philanthropic arm of Google, supports non-profits that innovate to address humanitarian issues. Google.org was created to pursue, experiment with, and build upon ideas to improve the world, and continues to take an iterative approach to philanthropy today. Google.org develops and invests in pursuits that can have measurable impact on local, regional and global issues, and rallies Google’s people in support of these efforts with a singular goal of creating a better world, faster.



## Loop Head Lighthouse



### **Loop Head. Clare.**

The Loop Head Peninsula is a remote but beautifully rugged area located in West Clare. It is mid way along the Wild Atlantic Way West of Ireland Route. A line linking the towns of Kilkee and Kilrush separate the peninsula from the rest of the county. It is a rural environment with farming, fishing and crafts as the main employment opportunities with people the largest exports over the past 150 years. The Loop Head Lighthouse is its most striking heritage feature. The area consists of three parishes Kilbaha, Carrigaholt and Kilkee. Clare Co Council's most recent socio-economic report highlights a decline in the population between the two census reports of 2006 and 2011. The measurement of affluence and deprivation showed the national score worsening by 6-55 with Clare worsening by 7-2 however Loop Peninsula worsened by -12.8 almost twice the national score. Adding to its remoteness and isolation is the fact that it is one of the most marginalized communities in Clare. It is at least 40 miles from major transport hubs and medical facilities and has low broadband speeds. It is fair to say its economic development opportunities are limited. On a positive note the peninsula is surrounded by some of the most spectacular scenery in the West of Ireland. Much of it is classified and is a protected and fragile environment. The worst ravages of the Celtic Tiger have by-passed it, leaving a totally unspoiled and low population density which increases the sense of solitude and wilderness. It has an unparalleled cultural and heritage product kept alive by local communities for no other reason than it is important to them. With this in mind tourism is the most realistic option left open for the economic development of the peninsula. In 2009 the locals established Loop Head Tourism to examine options as a tourism location bearing in mind its unique features. The aim was to get the three parish organisations to work together in a voluntary capacity to benefit the peninsula community overall. The type of tourism was major consideration at the start. Eco, community, sustainable, educational, adventure, cultural and others were all considered as alternatives to offering mainstream coach tourism and independent travellers with a different landscape and environment. The natural unspoiled features of the area provided the opportunity to offer a very different experience than what was available in the rest of Clare. The Dingle to Doolin motorway passes by the peninsula with lots of traffic but very little of it benefiting the area in terms of tourism. Even the Burren with its huge investment in facilities and marketing was not benefiting as it should be as the coaches drove through the area just stopping off to visit the main features along the route.

The quote that tourism is like a fire – it can cook your dinner or burn your house down came to mind for the committee as it developed its strategic plan. The difference between mainstream and unique for the committee was management. Loop Head Tourism set out to manage the validation of the experience over time. It also set out to manage the story of the place and why the experience is as much about doing as seeing. The narrow winding and windy roads with no lay-bys to accommodate the big tour operator coaches and the absence of big businesses with capacity to hold large numbers of people was used as a positive. The flat topography of the area is suitable for walkers and cyclists and its inaccessible cliffs are perfect for over wintering and migratory birds which the quiet bog roads and lack of coach traffic support. Many small tour operators are interested in working with the committee to maintain the sustainable experience and that is different and unique.

The decision to protect and promote its remoteness and wild beauty has become the differentiating factor and unique selling point for the peninsula. Tourism is the tool used to build the sustainability of the three communities. It is not a stop off point for large coach tours. In many locations large coach tours bring lunches and use local tables, chairs, napkins, water, toilets and rubbish bins as stop off points on the way to the main attractions on the route with the locals cleaning up after they have departed. The resources of peninsula are not available to profit external agencies that don't have to live with the negative social and environmental costs. Visitors to the peninsula stay and enjoy the beauty, solitude, facilities, food, entertainment, storytelling, music, exercise of walking and cycling so much more. The peninsula has become a haven for relaxation, reflection and regeneration.



The trickle down effect in which the left overs from the coach tour business does not work as the spending outside cost of the overall package which covers visits to the big centres of Killarney and Burren on Wild Atlantic Way Trail is minimal. The two ways to ensure tourism works as a development tool for Loop Head Peninsula is to maximise linkages between local businesses and minimise leakage from local economy. The objective is to attract visitors to the peninsula for what it has to offer and make it a never to be forgotten experience. Winning the European Destination Excellence award (EDEN) was a great first step in showing what can be achieved by everyone working together can achieve.

The three parishes organise festivals, events, entertainment in rotation. Businesses host special social and cultural events and celebrations all year round. Everyone helps out and creates a business camaraderie that is enjoyed by the visitor who is at the centre of all the collaborative activity. Everyone is encouraged to purchase locally from each other and the farmer, horticulturalist, fisherman, craft worker and so many others supply local shops, restaurants, pubs and other traders. A similar approach is taken on leakage. It is fundamentally easier and a lot cheaper to retain a higher percentage of every tourist euro within the local economy than it is to attract more visitors to the area in the first place. Everyone becomes a guide, marketer and ambassador ensuring the provision of produce, equipment, tourism experiences, promotion becomes the responsibility of everyone in the area. One good example is how the restaurants act as a link between customer and producer and create an authentic experience for customers. The Loop Head Food Circle have a listing on their menus of locally produced food using the Lighthouse symbol to highlight them. This initiative has increased sales to local producers by approx €150k in just over one year.

The Loop Head Lighthouse development began shortly after the EDEN award win. Lead developers, Clare Co Council and Shannon Development invited the Loop Head Tourism to join with them in planning the development. After much discussion the original plan for mass tourism with intrusive design was reviewed and it was agreed to maintain the isolationist approach favoured by the Loop Head Tourism Committee. The site and buildings were refurbished with car park, walkways, accommodation, museum, craft shop and guided tours provided. Guided tours included traversing the internal stairway of lighthouse and enjoying the history of the place and the spectacular views of Dingle Peninsula and other places of interest on a clear day. Only special small coach tours from Kilkee are allowed visit the lighthouse up to 11 a.m. each morning. Overall the area is devoid of coach traffic for remainder of day and week retaining that overall sense of solitude and remoteness.

Another development involves two local women who opened a craft shop and gallery approx one mile from the lighthouse. It was the first bricks and mortar project in the area for 100 years and was as a result of two initiatives. These were the lighthouse restoration project and the heritage trail project which was supported by a heritage training programme 'learning from the landscape'. There are 6 children from the two families attending the local national school. The shop/gallery employs two local girls in the summer months who are able to cover their college fees and expenses while 90% of the stock is sourced from within Co Clare providing further opportunity for employment. The shop has won the best newcomer at the Clare Business Excellence Awards. Overall Loop Head Tourism Committee has encouraged the development of micro enterprises which add to and diversify the tourism product on the peninsula. There is now a network of 47 locally owned and operated businesses who work together as allies. This community connectivity and the 'all for one' culture shone through when Loop Head Peninsula won the 'Irish Times Best Place to Holiday in Ireland Competition' in 2013 and a gold medal in the 'Irish Rural Tourism Awards' in early 2016.

In the rush for numbers which is one of the key criteria used to measure tourism performance it is well to remember two quotes. One is by Tony Goldman who is responsible for preserving much of the art deco building treasures in South Beach Miami "People are slowly waking up the fact that we're not going to run out of tourists-----it is environmentally sound and attractive destinations ---that are becoming scarce. People will not stop moving around the globe, but will do so more selectively.

Yogi Bear summed it up very succinctly if we get it wrong by saying "Nobody goes there any more--- it's too crowded!"



# Limerick Institute of Technology Thurles Campus



The SESBA (Social Enterprise Skills for Business Advisors) project hosted a seminar on the 25 October 2016 in the Thurles Chamber Enterprise Centre. SESBA is an EU funded project under Erasmus+ strategic partnerships, aimed at:

- enhancing the profile of business advisors in order to better respond to the field of social entrepreneurship.
- developing new training practices and consulting techniques.
- cultivating new practical advisory skills by business advisors in order to be able to encourage attributes of social entrepreneurship.

The seminar commenced with presentations by LIT, which outlined key research findings emanating from two SESBA research reports. These included the 'Status of Social Entrepreneurship in Europe' and 'Training Needs of Social Business Advisors and Best Practices in Social Entrepreneurship'. Both of these reports can be downloaded from: <http://sesbaproject.eu/en/research>.

The guest speakers provided excellent and engaging presentations on social entrepreneurship. Donal Traynor (Community Finance Ireland) outlined key needs and challenges of social entrepreneurs; Kathleen Prendergast (Economic Development Officer, Tipperary County Council) discussed policies for promoting social entrepreneurship; Eamon Ryan (BNest) provided tips and techniques for the successful operation of a social enterprise; and Mary Fogarty (Loughmore Co-operative Shop & Tea Rooms) shared her personal experiences of establishing a social enterprise in a rural area in Co. Tipperary. The seminar concluded with a group discussion on the policies and support structures required to promote social entrepreneurship; and the ways in which business advisors can better serve the needs of social entrepreneurs. For further information see [www.sesbaproject.eu](http://www.sesbaproject.eu)

## S.E.D.E.T.T - SOCIAL ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND TRAINING TOOLS

Limerick Institute of Technology has recently commenced a new project called SEDETT - Social Enterprise Development, Education and Training Tools. This strategic partnership aims to support the development of innovative practices in the education and training of individuals engaged in social enterprise.

The project aims to develop a digitally enhanced blended learning set of social enterprise development, education and training tools (S.E.D.E.T.T.) that can be used by, social entrepreneurs to learn how to assess their capacity development needs, educators and trainers in higher and further education and VET to deliver formal and informal courses of education and training.





Partas, formerly known as Get Tallaght Working (GTW) was set up in 1984 in response to increasing levels of unemployment and disadvantage within Tallaght. The founding members believed that enterprise creation and self-employment offered real opportunities to those who found it difficult to find employment during the bleak 1980s.

Social enterprises like Partas constantly face funding challenges, and so it was of significant import that Tallaght Partnership, following its inception in 1991, sub-contracted a significant portion of its enterprise programme to Partas. This enabled the organisation to expand its services to its client base, and firmly established Partas as a key player in the development of both the local and social economy.

A key factor in creating and supporting an entrepreneurial culture in Tallaght is the provision of affordable and suitable workspace. Since 1984 Partas has worked with State agencies, NGOs, Businesses and Community Representatives in developing enterprise space and now manages four successful Community Enterprise Centres, namely:

1986 Tallaght Enterprise Centre - 19,000 sq ft

**1995 Bolbrook Enterprise Centre – 8, 000 sq ft**  
**Centre – 8, 000 sq ft**

**1995 Bolbrook Enterprise**



1998 Brookfield Enterprise Centre - 26,000 sq ft

2002 Killinarden Enterprise Park - 22,000 sq. ft



In addition to its core work in Tallaght, Partas has participated in many high-profile EU programmes over the past 25+ years and has significantly benefited from its experience with European partners. It has become an acknowledged expert in devising, leading, managing and administering such complex projects.

#### **Partas today**

- ✦ Manages 4 enterprise centres
  - ✦ 48 staff
  - ✦ Advice and support given to over 1000 new enterprise clients annually, training for over 5000 participants per annum and helps 200 new businesses to start up each year
  - ✦ 71,000 square feet of Community & Enterprise space
  - ✦ 140 workspace units
- 400 staff employed in its centres

#### **Partas tomorrow**

- ✦ Tackle increasing unemployment in our communities through the promotion of self employment and social entrepreneurship
  - ✦ Continue to expand and widen our services
  - ✦ Tackle new and emerging target groups in our community
  - ✦ Continuing to lobby on issues affecting target groups
- Concentrate on further developing EU partnerships and capitalise on funding opportunities

In addition to the above, PARTAS has embarked on a new strategy aimed at revitalising the dynamic within the local economy of Tallaght in particular. They have devised this new strategy to harness the collaborative potential within South Dublin and to mobilise the factors which they believe create new opportunities within their community. This new strategy is called: the **Social + Local Enterprise Alliance**.

The S+L Alliance is a collaboration of agencies in South Dublin County who are dedicated to commercialising local opportunities, to develop the local economy, create jobs and fund more enterprises. Agencies involved include: Dublin Food Chain, Enterprise Ireland, IT Tallaght, Local Enterprise Office South Dublin, Partas, South Dublin Chamber, South Dublin County Council, South Dublin County Partnership, Synergy Centre and Trustus. All enterprises developed under this Alliance will re-invest their profits towards the further creation of other local jobs and enterprise opportunities.



John Kearns, CEO of PARTAS:

'I believe that we are seeing the emergence of a new aspect of social economy – one that is converging with a new aspect of local economy. There is a trend towards the creation of a new-style local community that is emerging from a post-globalisation, post-capitalism desire for traditional values. That trend is being seen in the growth in quality artisan food and drink, creating a new local economic opportunity that creates wealth for all, revives local food systems and helps heal the planet. It is contributing to a greater pride in and sense of place and the appreciation of producing and consuming locally. Artisan food and drink is truly at the vanguard of a new economic impetus that answers the demands of the post-crisis consumer and can well re-generate local communities through the emergence of a genuine local economy. Within that is the opportunity for such economy to be also social and 'green' in fabric.' After months of planning and development, the Alliance is ready to launch a series of new businesses over the coming weeks. The first of these is a highly innovative take on the community kitchen concept, called 'KitchenTime'.



KitchenTime is the first of many initiatives to be launched under the Social+Local Enterprise Alliance umbrella. It is a fantastic new initiative which harnesses underused HSE approved kitchen space (that is already in situ within the community!), allowing artisan producers to rent underutilised kitchen space on an hourly basis, at a time and place that they can afford. KitchenTime has sourced 6 separate professional kitchens in South Dublin County which are currently only used for a small number of hours each day, and making the unused hours available to food producers on an hourly basis to test, prepare, process and package food for the market place. All of this is operated via an online portal to facilitate ease of booking and payment. KitchenTime has received priming support from the South Dublin Local Enterprise Office. More details on [www.kitchentime.ie](http://www.kitchentime.ie).



The second business that the Social + Local Enterprise Alliance is planning to launch is 'The County Fare' – a new centre for the county of South Dublin that will act as a showcase and test market for the best artisan food produce of the county and become a new central point for various tourist and heritage trails. In excess of 25 local food producers will benefit initially by having this showcase to both display their produce and make it available to the public. The entire initiative is self-sustaining by also providing an inviting space to enjoy barista-style coffee and a modern twist on healthy and appetising food designed in conjunction with the Culinary Arts Faculty of the Institute of Technology Tallaght, making it a complete celebration of the quality and diversity of local artisan food. The County Fare is expected to open early in 2017. Also launching in the Spring of 2017 will be 'Priory Brewing Company' – a new craft microbrewery in the heart of Tallaght.

Such new dynamism is exciting and self-fuelling. There are many, many other ideas in the pipeline and Partas is committed to lead the collaboration of partners in the Social + Local Enterprise Alliance to becoming the model for a new style of enterprise development – one that is truly local and social at the same time and that creates jobs and a new confidence and a pride of place that for too long has been allowed to flag. The journey is only beginning.





Wexford Town.

“Innovation Wexford” was established in 1986 in response to high unemployment and emigration in the town. It is the trade name for “Wexford Community Development Association Society Ltd”. It is a social enterprise of outstanding merit and is one of the leading profitable and sustainable social enterprises in the country. It has been responsible for creating over 1,000 jobs since its foundation.

This development is well worth studying and replicating in reduced formats in country towns under the new “Regeneration of Small Towns and Villages Funding Scheme” (2015) from Dept. Environment, Community & Local Government. Innovation Wexford is a voluntary community organisation (company) limited by guarantee with charitable status. Its chief executive officer, Brendan Ennis is a dynamic, imaginative and restless spirit forever researching and developing new job opportunities including for those with disabilities. Its board of voluntary directors are drawn from Wexford’s community, business and professional sectors and

involves a number of Wexford’s leading private entrepreneurs.



It’s mission statement is: ‘To support the creation of sustainable employment through the encouragement and stimulation of private and co-operative enterprise in County Wexford and to impact posi-

tively on the social fabric of the county’

Four enterprise development projects

Wexford Enterprise Centre is a hub of enterprise, innovation and training specifically focused on assisting and supporting the development of start up and SME companies within the local community. It was officially opened in 1989 and is one of Ireland’s largest and most successful centres. It currently (April 2016) houses 33 companies employing over 150 staff. It offers flexible tenancies and high speed fibre broadband. Currently there is 45,000 sq feet of modern office and industrial space with 50 individual enterprise units including innovation centres, conference and meeting rooms. Sectors catered for include general incubation offices, general industrial activities, food processing, medical device manufacture, research and development, information management, laboratory, environment, information communications technology, training and consultancy, logistics, communications and healthcare.



Datagroup was launched in 2010 as a job creation division of Innovation Wexford supported by Pobal. Its aim is to create sustainable employment for individuals combating disability, marginalisation and social disadvantage. Data group manages and protects confidential information on behalf of many of Ireland's leading indigenous, multinational and state organisations. It currently employs 14 staff. Its ethos is to match a person's 'ability' as distinct from their 'disability' to a specific job or task. Datagroup services include document scanning, document storage, confidential shredding and cloud.



Recycling 2,000 employs 12 staff. It is a social enterprise and an environment job creation division of 'Innovation Wexford' with Pobal support. It specialises in the collection of over 1,000 tonnes of newspaper per year from numerous collection points throughout the County Wexford. The paper is used in the production of animal bedding materials which are sold extensively throughout Southern Ireland. An integral part of the initiative involves working with primary schools throughout County Wexford and supporting organisations like St Vincent de Paul. It engages the schools in Wexford in gathering waste paper for the project.

**Foreign Direct Investment** Innovation Wexford sent a delegation headed by Brendan to Silicon Valley in 2010. Since then CRI Medical have set up in the centre employing 12 employees with plans to expand to 30 employees over the next few years.

**Innovation Wexford** is a social enterprise and passionately believes that business is about much more than profit. It redefines profit as gains in job numbers (employment opportunities) and improvements in the lives of socially disadvantaged individuals and their financial advancement. Social enterprise and corporate responsibility is at the core of everything it does and how it operates. It is part of its unique selling proposition and one





# COMMUNITY FINANCE IRELAND

Financing Social Enterprise



## ***Facing the challenge: Where to for the community, voluntary and charity sector in 2017?***



Depending on how you interpret them, percentages can tell you many things. Primarily in the voluntary community and charitable sector (the sector), funding in 2016 is down between 35% – 45% on 2008 levels with some signs of modest increases coming through but being applied at a much smaller overall base level.

The reduction in funding levels to the sector has forced many organisations into making serious choices in terms of the provision of much needed services on the one hand as against governance, fundraising development and other important organisational responsibilities on the other. The eternal challenge is getting the right balance between both.

In the past, the sector operated on the basis of trust and self-governance. The emergence of the Charities Act 2009 began the process of serious change within the sector at a time when the economy as a whole was depressed and in serious turmoil. In the midst of that chaos, the sector did not really acknowledge or appreciate this move towards regulation (larger organisations excepted) and were not prepared when it eventually landed on their doorstep in October 2014.

In my work within the sector, I regularly encounter the challenge facing organisations in terms of being compliant. It is a burden for many as they struggle with the physical resources required to complete the necessary paperwork. Inevitably there is a “shelving” of the problem until such time as it becomes an issue. To do what is necessary and to do it right first time requires time and attention and a combined effort on the part of the whole organisation which must be led by the board. The Charities Regulatory Authority requires groups with charitable objectives that provide a direct public benefit to register with them and begin the journey to becoming more compliant, transparent and accountable with the view to instilling confidence in the minds of the public.

An area I believe that should be explored is that of cooperation & sharing. This would entail a group of organisations in a similar geographic area coming together and pooling resources, in this case finance, to create a training budget from which they can all benefit. There is strength in numbers in addition to the division of a burden. This would be a powerful step forward and would grow the knowledge base in the sector exponentially. I also believe there is an urgent need for government to create a training & education fund that small and mid-size organisations in particular can access. This should be complemented by a sector-wide education program to enable directors, trustees, managers and committees to better understand their operational responsibilities and their responsibility to society as a whole.

So what can organisations do? Where should they go for help? The process requires a “one step at a time” approach. Firstly, there are a number of avenues available such as Waterford Area Partnership, The Wheel, PPN, Accountants, Solicitors, Consultants, [www.goodcharity.ie](http://www.goodcharity.ie) and of course the Charities Regulatory Authority website [www.cra.ie](http://www.cra.ie). The CRA website provides all the information any group needs to know to help make their organisation more compliant, accountable and transparent. Secondly, the directors, trustees or management committee need to agree and place a priority on improving structures and governance and identifying critical needs. Thirdly, create a small budget and seek professional support to address the critical needs in the form of an action plan. Finally, there is the continuing need to remain true and faithful to the process which requires ongoing maintenance.



I have over 37 years’ business experience including the last 11 years in the sector. The services I offer include, but are not limited to, Strategic Planning, Code of Governance Journey, Policies & Procedures, Compliance, Risk Assessment and CRA Registration. With the ever increasing governance, reporting and compliance requirements being placed on the sector, it is more important than ever to be “business ready”

and to plan for the future. JE Warren Consulting was created to offer such support.

Visit [www.jewarrenconsulting.net](http://www.jewarrenconsulting.net) or contact me on 086.8261610

**We are delighted to welcome two new Patrons to CCJ**

**Liada Ni Riada MEP for Munster and South Leinster.**

**Brendan Whelan CEO of Social Finance Foundation.**

