

develop

news from the Irish Local Development Network and LEADER



www.ildn.ie

August 2021



**ILDN CHAIRPERSON
JIM FINN P4&5**

**THE BIG
INTERVIEW**



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BIODIVERSITY**

SPECIAL REPORT P10&11



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HARRINGTON P7**

**LEADER
PEOPLE**

ILDN urges take up of LEADER Food Initiative

The ILDN has added its voice to those of Ministers Humphreys, McConalogue and Hackett in urging artisan micro and small food businesses to avail of the €5 million LEADER Food Initiative.

"Our members across the country stand ready in continuing to assist artisan micro and small food enterprises who wish to invest in their businesses in this important time as our economy emerges from the twin challenges of Brexit and Covid-19. With a revised rate of aid of 75%, the LEADER Food initiative offers attractive support to food enterprises wishing to take

the next step," ILDN Chair Jim Finn said.

ILDN Rural Development Chair Éamonn O'Reilly also called on food enterprises to avail of the funding opportunity. "Our Network of 49 Local Development Companies, 35 of whom deliver LEADER, are ready willing and able in continuing to assist food businesses who wish to find out more about the LEADER Food initiative.

"With a range of supports available including funding up to €200,000, the LEADER Food initiative has proven to be a real catalyst for successful artisan, micro and small food enterprises in



Tasty! Food Companies can avail of funding to grow their businesses.

recent years. I am advising interested parties to seek out their LDC today to discuss whatever plans they

may have for progressing their Food enterprise," he said.

LEADER funding to benefit more communities

A key priority in the next full programme of LEADER will be to work with communities across Ireland that have never had access to funding, says ILDN chairperson Jim Finn.

In an interview in this first edition of the 'develop' newsletter, brought to you by the ILDN, Mr. Finn also said it was important to foster good relations with Government to ensure

the work of Development Companies continues to work for communities everywhere.

Mr Finn also praised the agility of development companies in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic which began two months after he started his tenure as chairman in January 2020.

He told 'develop': "I am absolutely proud of the way in which the 49 companies

approached the pandemic, how they got stuck in and delivered, particularly for the less well off in each of their communities, in very difficult circumstances."

Tipperary native Mr. Finn, said the pandemic had 'changed our lives' and would change how every ILDN operated in the future.

Commenting on the next full LEADER programme which follows the current

two-year transition programme, Mr. Finn said development companies would ramp up the targeting of communities that have not benefited from LEADER funding in the past. He added: "I think it's very important that companies will be allowed to animate communities and prepare them to be able to access funding." **Full story, page 4 and 5.**



Welcome to our Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of 'develop' – a new magazine for ILDN. We hope you like it!

As the name suggests, the magazine is all about the activities of our 49 wonderful Local Development Companies (LDCs) and the LEADER programme. It was created because you asked! 'develop' is a new way to share our stories, connect our LDCs and showcase the great work that's happening across our network.

The pandemic has shown the importance of keeping in touch. It has also underlined how passionate colleagues are about the impact that LDCs have on communities and why it's vital to continue supporting and funding the work.

It can be hard to know everyone or everything that is going on and this magazine is a great way for us to get to know each other better. This is our opportunity to showcase success stories from across the organisation as well as get to know the people and the teams behind those stories. We want this magazine to be accessible and we are open to all ideas on what you would like featured. Just get in touch and let us know.

There will be some regulars such as 'LDC People', 'The Big Interview', and 'Local Focus' as well as photos from around Ireland and a snapshot of what's happening on social media.

We'd like to hear what you think of the first edition – what you liked, didn't like and any great ideas you have for future editions. See back page for details.

Éamonn O'Reilly

Chairperson ILDN Rural Development/LEADER Committee

NEWS

CLDC funded 251 projects to 2020

Clare Local Development Company allocated nearly €7 million in LEADER grants to 251 projects during the 2014-2020 LEADER programme, according to reports from the final board meeting of the programme.

"The 251 projects assisted in the course of this programme are helping to change the future of rural communities in every corner of the county. The community, enterprise and environmental grants ranged from €3,000 to €200,000, resulting in a total LEADER investment of €7m in Clare businesses and communities. With co-financing from project promoters, the total investment in the county is almost twice that amount", CLDC CEO, Dóirín Graham, told the board meeting.

ILDN Appointment

ILDN was delighted earlier this year to announce the appointment of EMPOWER CEO Adeline O'Brien as the network's Social Inclusion Committee Chair. ILDN is the national representative body of LDCs who deliver the €40 million Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP) across the country.

Latest Mayo LEADER Projects announced

An accessible boat for angling and tours and a training programme on conserving and protecting water have been funded in Mayo through the LEADER programme. A grant of over €135,000 was allocated

to Darragh McGee of Newport, to build a purpose-built accessible boat for angling and tours that will allow wheelchair users to enjoy time on the ocean. And South West Mayo Development Company got a grant of €46,000 to deliver a training programme for community and voluntary groups on conserving and protecting water.



A good catch: Leader has awarded €135,000 to fund a special angling project in Mayo.

LEADER SPOTLIGHT



Sligo LEADER scores for Rovers

ONE of Ireland's most storied football clubs has won LEADER funding to prepare a masterplan that could transform its fortunes and create a ripple effect of positive community impacts.

Sligo LEADER is supporting the development of the masterplan by Sligo Rovers which prides itself as community-based club.

The new masterplan will be developed by Rhatigan Architects and examine the external social environment for the football club, such as economic conditions in the country and Irish football.

Internally, footballing performance and structures, underage structures and reach of community, with potential growth areas, will also be examined. Infrastructural development based on a benefit to the community of Sligo and the west of Ireland will be a key component of the masterplan.

Sligo Rovers chairman Tommy Higgins said: "We are delighted to secure the LEADER Programme funding for this project which is vital for the future of the football club. The funding will allow for creation for a thorough and detailed masterplan."

"I'd like to thank LEADER and all that tendered for the project, as well as Sligo County Council for their ongoing support of the football club and their desire to see us further flourish as a vital part of the community."



Ultimate goal: pictures of Sligo Rovers' masterplan.

KEY INFO

- Employment training and placements
- Social inclusion
- Access to education and lifelong learning
- Rural and social enterprise development
- Community enhancement
- Environmental projects



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Cleveragh Road, Co. Sligo
071 9141138
Online:
www.sligoleader.ie

DEVELOP INTERVIEW

Jim Finn, Chair, ILDN

'What has happened has changed our lives'

When Jim Finn ran for election as chairperson of the ILDN, he told his wife Mary that it would mean spending a lot of time away from their home in Tipperary. Now almost 18 months into his tenure, he has scarcely left the house for work reasons since. "I've never been at home as much in my life, even in my farming days," Jim says. "I've only chaired one council meeting in the flesh due to the pandemic."

Jim has been in the role since January 2020 and Covid-19 has largely defined how the ILDN has operated in that time. "We got very tech savvy very quickly. The organisation

at the moment is run with us isolating in our own homes and running everything virtually. I am absolutely proud of the way in which the 49 companies approached the pandemic, how they got stuck in and delivered, particularly for the less well off in each of their communities, in very difficult circumstances," he says.

"I think that what has happened has changed our lives and has changed how ILDN and every single Local Development Company will work from here on in. I think we're going to have a mixture of actual meetings and virtual meetings because it has made it an awful lot easier

for people to actually attend meetings."

Born on a farm in Ballinahow near Thurles in Co Tipperary, Jim joined his father on the farm as soon as he left school in the early sixties. In turn, he took over the running of the farm from his father, and his son took over from him when Jim retired 17 years ago. The Finns have been farming the land in Ballinahow since 1864. Although retired, Jim has kept abreast of all things farming through Ag Report, the weekly radio show he presents on Tipp FM.

A lifetime of volunteering across organisations as diverse as the Junior Chamber of Commerce in Thurles, Tipperary Regional Youth Service, and his local GAA and golf clubs ultimately led to Jim becoming chair of the ILDN. In particular, forming the Thurles Development Association with a group of friends after the Thurles Sugar Factory closed with the loss of 400 jobs in 1989 laid the foundations to the role he occupies today.

He was involved in various incarnations of LEADER in Tipperary from when the first programme started in 1991 and became chair of the North Tipperary

Development Company in 2015. "Prior to the first LEADER programme there was no money being put in to rural Ireland. With LEADER, for the first time ever, there was money available. What really attracted me to it was that that money was going to be given to local people to make the decisions, because they knew the benefits of their decisions to any locality in their county. That is why I became involved and am still involved."

"The original programmes were all about rural development but that has now greatly expanded"

"I can think back in my own locality to four projects we supported in the first LEADER programme, and those four projects are still thriving today."

More recently, he is particularly proud to have been involved in LEADER supporting the Blackcastle

Farm project in Two Mile Borris, when local farmer John Commins and his late wife Ann, who previously worked as a Development Officer for the Tipperary Leader Group Limited, sought assistance in renovating old farm buildings to set up a meat processing and packaging operation on the farm where he raises Piedmontese cattle.

"It is a very good project," he says. It is of benefit to the village; it gives employment, and it has a heritage element because those old farm buildings were preserved for alternative use. It gives me great pleasure when walking through a supermarket to see Blackcastle Farm products on the shelves."

Once Jim became chair of the North Tipperary Development Company, he got involved with the organisation at a national level. "It was a bit of a learning curve for a number of years. The original

programmes were all about rural development but areas such as social inclusion and employment services are now a key part of it," he says.

In assuming the role of chairperson, Jim considered one of the key tasks to be continuing to build good relationships with the government departments that ILDN delivers programmes for, a process begun by his predecessor, Maria Price Bolger. "My job was to build on what she started," he says, "and I honestly believe we have made magnificent strides. When you deal with departments you are not confrontational. You negotiate."

Jim also credits ILDN CEO Joe Saunders with fostering relationships with key decision-makers. "he has overseen the establishment of formal structures to improve the ILDN's interactions with public bodies and ensure the aims of our members are

"I honestly believe we have made magnificent strides. When you deal with departments you are not confrontational. You negotiate."

Jim Finn

strategically communicated" he says. "The appointment of a Communications and Public Affairs Manager has also significantly raised the profile and credibility of ILDN."

These good relations have borne fruit. "We've had two very important meetings with Minister for Social Protection and Minister for Rural and Community Development Heather Humphreys. We got on very well in those two meetings."

He credits negotiations with Minister Humphreys with securing a transition programme after the last LEADER programme concluded at the end of 2020. "She has given us a two-year transition programme with money for projects," he says.

He thinks that the fact that one of the main aims of the programme is to target communities that have not benefited from LEADER

funding in the past is an excellent step in the right direction that he wants to see continued into the next programme. "I think it's very important that companies will be allowed to animate communities and prepare them to be able to access funding," he says.

He is currently focused on negotiating the next full programme. "We have a lot of work to do to shape the programme that will kick off in January 2023. We will try to get the best possible outcome," he says.

"Meanwhile, on behalf of ILDN, and particularly on behalf of the council and board and our staff I would like to thank each and every one of our companies for their courtesy, particularly to me as chair, and their support."

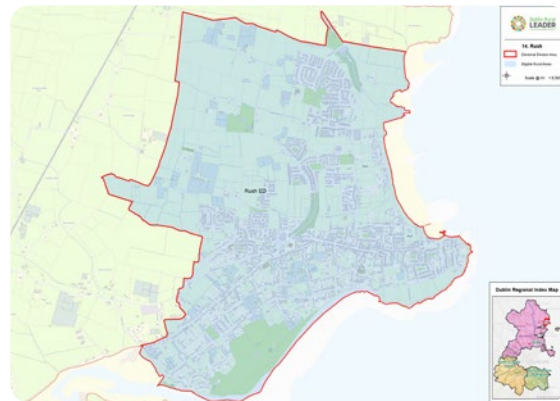


Thurles, where Jim Finn has volunteered for decades.



Dublin Rural LEADER expands reach

Dublin Rural LEADER Partnership can now support more rural communities and businesses in Fingal after the geographical area it is responsible for was expanded to include Balbriggan, Skerries, Portmarnock, Castleknock-Knockmaroon and Dubber. The significant expansion will mean many more individuals, communities and enterprises in Fingal will be able to benefit from LEADER funding and support for a wide range of initiatives. The move to amend the geographic boundaries comes after a campaign by Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group to expand the areas eligible to access LEADER funding.



SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN FINGAL

Remember Us, a registered charity, was established in 1998 by Nora Roban, to provide an outlet for special needs children and their families, both of whom often experience severe social isolation and lack of available supports. Since then, over 250 families participate in the activities offered by Remember Us, who often describe it as a "lifeline". The charity offers groups for children and adults in four age groups and various camps and longer programmes as

well as breaks for the families. The cost of all the clubs and activities are subsidised by Remember Us by 50%. Professional tutors are hired by the charity which also organises transport. Remember Us, which has received funding from Fingal LEADER Partnership, has a voluntary board. It only has one full-time staff position, relying heavily on volunteers and people on work placements. The staff member looks after administration and support to the families.

Remember Us is heavily involved in fundraising to be able to continue offering the services to its members. For the oversight of this project they have set up a steering committee and design team including an architect, a project manager, a quantity surveyor, and engineer. The main aim of Remember Us is to offer a much-needed service for people with special needs, both children and adults, and their families. They offer various club activities, longer programmes, events,

and family breaks. The charity manages with only one full-time staff and rely on volunteers and people on work placement to keep operating. They purchased their own building giving them the opportunity to have a constant presence and base in the community however, the building needed to be retrofitted to make it fit for purpose. The promoters extended the mezzanine of their freshly purchased building and retrofit of the ground floor also to make it



fit for purpose. Furthermore, they established an office room, a sports hall, a kitchen, recreation and gaming room, a number of activity rooms,

a sensory room, a meeting room, a family room, a storage space and toilets, fit to be used by members with limited mobility.

"The expansion will mean many more individuals, communities and enterprises in Fingal will be able to benefit from LEADER funding and support for a wide range of initiatives."

LEADER PEOPLE



Eilish Harrington

Chief Executive Officer
Fingal LEADER partnership CLG

Tell us a little about yourself?

I'm originally from Union Hall in West Cork but grew up outside Boston before coming back to Ireland as a teenager. My background is in community development, primarily in Munster working with Special Olympics Munster as a development officer and the national youth organisation Foróige. I also worked as manager of EmployAbility in West Cork before joining Fingal.

What is your role with Fingal LEADER?

As CEO, I manage the company and the day-to-day running of the programmes we deliver – the Dublin Rural LEADER programme for eligible areas in South Dublin, Dun Laoghaire Rathdown and Fingal, the Tús scheme, the Rural Social scheme, Care and Repair Service, a Jobs Club, and an Ability programme.

What does your day-to-day involve?

I manage 23 staff and oversee the programmes we deliver. This involves managing the projects that are coming in, expressions of interest, looking to see where we are in terms of budgets and targets, working with community groups, and working with projects. I also liaise with the Department of Rural Community Development and Fingal County Council.

What is it about your work that gives you the most satisfaction?

Seeing the direct impact that the funding has on the community groups or small businesses. You see straight away the benefits that it gives the wider community once the grants are received. With the social inclusion funding, it's enabling people young and old to have or keep facilities for activities in their own rural area.

Why do LEADER projects matter to people?

It creates jobs. It enables people to stay living and working in their own rural communities. That gives them a better quality of life and it keeps a rural community alive.

How has LEADER helped in your area during the pandemic?

Dublin Rural LEADER allocated €1.5 million in funds during 2020, so we were busier during the pandemic. We adapted and delivered workshops and courses online to support the communities. The pandemic has shown the importance of amenities for rural Ireland because a lot of people left the cities and relocated to rural areas during it.

Tourism is fighting back from Covid with the help of LEADER

The Irish tourism industry is beginning to take tentative steps to recover from the pandemic and a number of tourism ventures across the country that benefited from LEADER funding are hoping to reap the rewards of their hard work as restrictions ease for a staycation summer.

With the backing of Donegal Local Development Company, Clare and Marcus Tindal realised a dream when they opened Lough Mardal Glamping Lodge on a 90-acre lakeside site near Ballintra in South Donegal.

What was previously just an expanse of bog land is now home to five luxuriously furnished yurts, each of which is fully insulated. The yurts are equipped with wood-burning stoves and private decking overlooking the lake.

Guest amenities are housed in the large and uniquely designed eco-building, The Lodge, which is a beautiful structure built with straw bales and offering panoramic views.

"We are forever indebted to LEADER for the funding without which we could never have built our glamping lodge," Clare Tindal says. "It was an unconventional and ambitious eco building project, the lodge was built with strawbales and all natural materials and has a grass roof, but the DLDC supported our vision all the way."

"We now have a very successful business and were awarded a Trip Advisors' Travellers Choice Award this year. We are attracting new visitors to this part of Donegal as well as creating local employment all thanks to financial support from LEADER."

After spending a number of years racing yachts in the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, David O'Connor returned to his native Sligo and set up Wild West Sailing, a sailing and

powerboat school that offers adventures and education, in 2016.

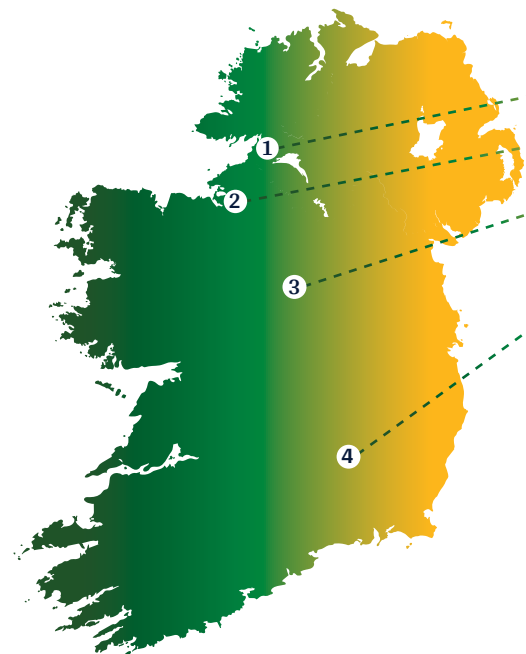
With initial business going well, David sought support from Sligo Leader Partnership to purchase and fit out an expedition racing boat.

"Sligo LEADER supported us with 50 percent funding towards the expedition racing boat. It has allowed us to offer trips on the Wild Atlantic Way that no other company in Ireland is offering," David says. "I have never been busier. We did two trips around Ireland in June alone and the feedback was incredible. We won Irish Sailing Training Centre of the Year in the Irish Sailing Awards 2020 and that was partly due to what we can offer because of this boat."

One of Co Longford's most picturesque villages, Newtown Cashel, was short on registered tourism accommodation until Longford Community Resources CLG supported Gary and Sile Mulvihill with their plan to create self-catering tourism accommodation above the bar they have run in the village since 2015. The renovated property now offers three double en suite bedrooms as well as a large sitting/kitchen/living area.

"We completely gutted the first floor of the pub and turned it into a luxury apartment for tourists," Sile Mulvihill says. "Without the LEADER funding we would not have been able to afford to do this work and definitely would not have completed it to the standard that we did. It is going really well thankfully after a very rocky start due to COVID-19 hitting just after we had completed the works."

In a heritage tourism project, Kilkenny LEADER partnership has been working with the Walton Institute at Waterford IT and the Lingaun Tourism Group to develop an app for smart



1 Lough Mardal Glamping Lodge

2 Wild West Sailing

3 The Local Lodge

4 Lingaun Valley AI project

phones that will allow visitors to Lingaun Valley to view the heritage sites there as they would have looked when they were original built. The Lingaun Valley is a small area of scenic beauty on the Kilkenny Tipperary border which is home to a multitude of heritage sites, including solar-aligned passage tombs and high crosses.

The app uses a technology known as 'augmented reality' (AR) to enable users to view historical artefacts in their original state. The project has encompassed the work of archaeologist David Pollock and artist Bettina Norton to ensure accurate depictions of the artefacts.

This artwork and historical information were then incorporated, via 3D modelling and AR-based software development, so that visitors to the Lingaun Valley will be able to view virtual representations in close proximity to the actual artefacts and presents information about other points of interest and local histories at each of the sites. The app was officially launched on July 22nd.



Ballyhoura Development CLG among groups to drive regional tourism in Cork, Kerry and Limerick

One of Ireland's leading diaspora initiatives has launched a new network of regional Irish partners to connect those of Irish heritage abroad with their places of origin.

Ireland Reaching Out (IrelandXO), which has more than 150,000 members worldwide, wants to team up with local organisations to help drive regional tourism as part of the economic recovery.

And one of the first organisations to join the network is Ballyhoura Development CLG which will cover the counties of Cork, Kerry and Limerick.

Ballyhoura CLG works with communities, families, individuals and businesses in the Ballyhoura region of East Limerick and North Cork. The CLG is already heavily involved in developing the region for Landscape and Heritage Tourism.

David Whyte, Development Officer with Ballyhoura Development, explains: "Ballyhoura Development works on social inclusion, rural development projects and tourism in East Limerick and North Cork. We also work with local tourism providers to help promote the region especially in terms of heritage and local history tourism. We help those who want to research where their families came from using local knowledge and connection to the communities."

"Through the partnership with Ireland Reaching Out, we will be covering all areas of Cork, Limerick and Kerry, working with the volunteers and groups that we have built up relationships with over the years, applying the knowledge and expertise we have gathered from over 30 years of community engagement and connecting people from outside of Ireland to those in the local communities."

Ireland Reaching Out plans to build on the surge in people tracing their Irish roots during the lockdowns and who now wish to travel to Ireland as the country starts to reopen. As well as Ballyhoura Development CLG, Visit Castlebar and Tower Museum — have also joined and Ireland Reaching Out is now seeking other interested regional heritage and tourism groups to join.



Pictured at Saint Fin Barre's Cathedral are (l-r) : Kieran Jordan (Ireland Reaching Out Volunteer), David and Denise O'Leary (Ireland Reaching Out), David Whyte (Ballyhoura Development) and Stephen Malone (St. Fin Barre's tour guide)



At a time when there is greater awareness of the importance of understanding, protecting and nurturing biodiversity in our ecosystem, particularly in the face of climate change, local development companies have been to the fore in supporting initiatives that promote and safeguard biodiversity.

Biodiversity is critical to human health as it influences food production through maintaining the productivity of soil and is essential to all of the species and crops that we harvest for food. Scientists fear that as climate change alters temperatures, the number and variety of species in the global ecosystem will greatly reduce.

Other aspects of the way humans live have also placed species at risk – one third of Ireland's bee species are threatened with extinction because our landscapes no longer offer them enough flowers (food) and safe nesting sites to survive.

ILDN recently welcomed the allocation of over €500,000 in funding to three local development companies in the southwest for farm and community biodiversity initiatives. The granting of the funding to the LDCs in counties Cork, Kerry and Limerick followed an open call for biodiversity projects from the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine.

The projects are IRD Duhallow 'Owentaraglin River European Innovation Partnership (EIP)', the Ballyhoura Development CLG 'Parish Habitats and Biodiversity project' in Limerick as well as their 'Deel Spatially Targeted EIP' and the South Kerry Development Partnership 'Kerry Eco-Social Farming Project'.

ILDN chair Jim Finn said: "Local development companies are increasingly becoming leaders in meeting the challenges of climate action and the promotion of biodiversity. These are examples of LDCs working with communities to deliver

local results-based actions making a real difference to their environments."

The need for new initiatives to develop and foster biodiversity is clear, and Clare Local Development Company has also been playing its part in promoting awareness and understanding across the county through supporting an innovative training programme about local species and habitats for 15 communities.

Burrenbeo Trust, based in Kinvara, Co Galway delivered the training programme on behalf of CLDC to the communities of Mountshannon, Ballyvaughan, Clarecastle/Ballyea, Ballynacally, Broadford, Connolly, Corofin, Doonbeg, Lisdoonvarna, Kilkee, Kilkishen, Kilmihil, Miltown Malbay/Spanish Point, Newmarket-on-Fergus and Ruan.



Biodiversity: Leader is helping to fund local projects.

The programme consisted of a series of modules, demonstration days and workshops and equipped participants with the skills to design and conduct a local biodiversity audit and develop a biodiversity action plan for their local area. The modules covered diverse areas of biodiversity such as coastal planting, invasive species and recognition and identification of native species.

The programme culminated in an exhibition of the plans for members of the public at Glór Theatre in Ennis in January 2020.

CLDC LEADER Development Officer, Gerry McDonagh says that the biodiversity training programme led to a greater awareness within each community of the wealth of their local biodiversity resources.

"The biodiversity training programme benefited a host of community representatives including tidy towns groups, heritage groups, landowners, schools and other member groups," he says.

"It generated new LEADER funding applications from individuals and community groups that stimulated actions to enhance their local biodiversity and encouraged CLDC to deliver other biodiversity projects, a number of which are currently ongoing."

Two of these relate to the provision of a training programme to enable 20 landowners to enhance biodiversity on their farms and training for 25 communities to enhance the biodiversity of their local outdoor recreational areas. CLDC are also rolling out three projects as part of a pilot programme to deal with the problem of knotweed in the county.



Mindful: People are making more efforts to protect nature

Louth Leader Partnership has also been to the fore in supporting community groups in their efforts to promote and protect biodiversity in their locality. Monasterboice Tourism & Tidy Towns group were awarded a grant of €7,484 under the Rural Environment theme, sub-theme Protection and Improvement of Local Biodiversity.

The volunteers used the funding to create a project with a number of elements including the design of a high-quality map of Monasterboice identifying areas of biodiversity and conservation, the erection of biodiversity signage in each area, an analysis of a wetland area to investigate how to preserve it and secure it with fencing and the planting of an orchard of 100 native pollinator friendly fruit trees and plants and the replacement of fencing around it.

The group's activities led to greater awareness of the importance of wetlands, both generally and to the local area, and to an increase in visitor numbers to Monasterboice as people developed an interest in observing nature and the environment at close quarters.

LEADER PEOPLE



Gloria Callinan

*LEADER Programme Coordinator,
Clare Local Development Company*

Tell us a little about yourself?

Originally from the Burren in Co Clare, my qualifications are in social science and community development. I started working with Rural Resource Development (RRD) on the LEADER programme in 2002.

Tell us about your work with Clare Local Development Company (CLDC).

I was a development officer with RRD, which became part of CLDC. Over time, I became LEADER programme coordinator managing a team of development officers and ensuring the delivery and implementation of LEADER. After 20 years, I am standing down from the role in July.

What does your day-to-day involve?

The great point about LEADER is that the role is so varied. You could be working with an evaluation committee in the morning presenting and assessing project applications, after lunch you could be meeting individuals, farmers, farm families, landowners, businesses or companies and that night you could be at a community meeting in Labasheeda (or wherever).

What is it about your work that gives you the most satisfaction?

The energy I get back from meeting a person or a group of people with a new idea is the best job satisfaction you can get, especially if you can assist them in their journey.

What CLDC project are you most proud of?

The project I am arguably most proud of is the Tradaree community regeneration project run by Obair in what was a disused public house in Newmarket on Fergus. Obair bought the premises and CLDC invested €500,000 over the course of the 2014-2020 LEADER programme in the refurbishment of the building, catering for a meals on wheels service in South Clare, a state-of-the-art training kitchen and individual enterprise kitchen hubs. The building also houses community meeting rooms, a youth space and is a base for the social enterprise.

How has LEADER helped during the pandemic?

Programmes, projects, services, supports, and capacity building workshops were all delivered remotely. Perhaps due to people having more down time, we had higher participation in training, webinars, and online meetings than pre-pandemic. The Tradaree Obair Meals on Wheels increased production and delivery of meals to vulnerable and older households, which would not have been possible without significant LEADER support.

Our new car and repair van is on the road. Please call our office on 018074282 if you live in the North County Dublin area and need some support for care for the elderly. Or email CareandRepair@fingalleaderpartnership.ie



We are now accepting expressions of interest for small food & artisan micro businesses to apply for funding under the LEADER Food Initiative.

Apply here at

ow.ly/gnBV50FBvCD

Contact maryoneill@cllp.ie / 087 1735168

Read more at ow.ly/gNlk50FBvCC

LEADER
FOOD
INITIATIVE
FUNDING



SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT

your posts from
TWITTER



Waterford LEADER Partnership Social Farming @... · 30 Mar 2018

L to R Martin Rogan, Philip Farrelly (Wexford) Denis O'Connor Social Farmer, Robbie Robinson (Wexford) listen as Jeanette Leydon Education and Youth Support Worker outlines her views on Social Farming at the National Conference last Friday



Ciaran Mullooly @ciaranmullooly · 46m

Where else would you be on a sunny Friday? Caller Tommy Egan at the Community bingo underway outdoors at Boyle in county Roscommon organised by @RoscommonLP SICAP #HeatWave2021



Irish Local Development Network Retweeted



NorthsidePartnership
@NS_Partnership

This July, 55 children from our community are getting the opportunity to attend summer camp. Our thanks to the community organizations who helped us fund this.



The July, 55 children from our community are getting the opportunity to attend summer camp! Our thanks to the community organizations that helped us to fund this.



Ballyhoura Development CLG @BallyhouraDev · 21 Jul

Ballyhoura BEO's "Teen Hardtails" Mountain Biking sessions are aimed at teens aged 13 - 16 years old. The skills learned sets teens up to fully enjoy the sport and build confidence to progress faster and safer while having fun. To pre-book tickets visit: tinyurl.com/yehzemu9



We hope you have enjoyed this edition of 'develop' and we will be bringing you a second issue very soon. We'd love to hear your feedback on the stories featured and any suggestions or ideas for future issues. Photographs are also very welcome. Please email info@ildn.ie

