

develop

news from the Irish Local Development Network and LEADER



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30 YEARS OF LEADER
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**DEVELOP
INTERVIEW**



**FOCUS ON
FOOD!**

SPECIAL REPORT P10&11



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PEOPLE**

We need to reverse 15 years of cuts to rural funding

There should be a minimum of €389 million allocated to the LEADER Programme for 2023 to 2027, the chair of the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) has declared.

Calling for the boost in funding, Jim Finn said there needed to be a reversal to successive cuts to Rural Development cash under the LEADER Programme since 2007.

Commenting ahead of the closure of the Department of Agriculture Food & Marine's Public Consultation on the draft CAP Strategic Plan, Mr. Finn said the money was needed to drive 'bottom-up' community-led investment and maintain

enterprise in rural Ireland.

"We are calling for the allocation of a sustainable minimum of €389 million (€77.8 million annual average) for the LEADER Programme 2023-2027".

M. Finn said this would enhance the rural environment and support climate change mitigation initiatives in rural communities.

The proposed budget of €36 million per year to 2027 down from €50 million annually from 2016 to 2020 "comes as a major blow to Rural Communities," he said.

"Representing 1.8% of Ireland's total CAP budget, an indicative budget of €180 million has been allocated for LEADER 2023-2027. The budget for the 2007-2013 Programme stood at €425 million (€85 million annual average) with the successor Programme that operated from mid-2016 to 2020 reduced to €250 million (€50 million annual average).



ILDN chair Jim Finn

"This marks a significant downgrading of the LEADER programme and rural investment over successive programming periods. The continued erosion of the LEADER budget will deprive rural communities of critical capacity building supports and funding for vital enterprise, tourism, and community-led development.

LEADER
30
YEARS
1991 - 2021



Welcome to the second edition of 'develop' –the magazine for ILDN which reports on the activities of our 49 Local Development Companies (LDCs) and the LEADER programme. In this Christmas edition of 'develop', we continue to showcase the great work that's happening across our network.

As 2021 draws to a close and LEADER marks 30 years since its inception, we take stock at what has been achieved and discuss the challenges that lie ahead in terms of LEADER funding and the way the programme is implemented.

We have some more 'LEADER People' for you to meet and more great 'LEADER Spotlight' features for you to enjoy. Also on page 12, there is our regular snapshot of what's happening out there on different LEADER group's social media.

Wishing you all a peaceful and happy Christmas.

Éamonn O'Reilly
Chairperson ILDN Rural Development/LEADER Committee

NEWS



Dublin projects funded

The Dublin Rural LEADER Local Action Group, which oversees the LEADER Programme in Dublin, approved €230,748.76 in funding for five new projects in Rural Dublin at its November Online Meeting. This brings the total number of projects approved during the LEADER Transition Programme to 15 since it began on April 1st, 2021, with a total value of €543,984.52. The approved projects are in the areas of Economic Development, Rural Environment and Social Inclusion. Fingal LEADER Partnership

CEO, Eilish Harrington, welcomed the approval of the 5 projects.

Anniversary booklet launched

A special publication to mark 30 years of LEADER and the inspirational projects that it has funded throughout rural Ireland has been launched. The booklet sets out case studies of 72 projects that have been funded through the LEADER measure of Ireland's Rural Development Programme and aims to guide and help future applicants to develop projects for their communities. In launching the publication,

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, congratulated the National Rural Network (NRN) for putting it together.

Workshop on LEADER funding

Monaghan Integrated Development held a special online workshop on December 7 to encourage people to come forward with ideas that could attract LEADER funding. The webinar was held via a live Teams link, with attendees discussing possible projects with an environmental or community theme.

LEADER SPOTLIGHT



#LEADERCLLD



An Artful LEADER Anniversary!



Illustrator Ruth Graham – drawn by herself.

Europe saw a number of '30 Years of LEADER' events take place last month to mark the 30th anniversary of the launch of the programme.

In Ireland, an online event entitled 30 Years of LEADER – Learning from the Past, Looking to the Future saw participants reflect on past and current programmes, while also debating rural policy and practice via the next LEADER Programme.

And the event was marked by the creation of a very special artwork by illustrator Ruth Graham who produced this bright and highly creative depiction of the event.

Guest speakers at the National Rural Network organised event included UK Professor Mark Shucksmith of Newcastle University who delivered the keynote speech, reflecting on his experience of rural development and the LEADER Programme.

After an opening address by Minister Heather Humphreys,



Dorin Graham, CEO of Clare Local Development Company and Terry Keenan, chair of FORUM Connemara took part in a panel discussion on the lessons learned from LEADER.

The 30 Years of LEADER anniversary in Europe has been marked with groups and events using this illustration.

DEVELOP INTERVIEW

'We cherish LEADER but it needs a reboot!'



Develop sat down with 3 CEOs to reflect on three decades of community projects

The LEADER approach was introduced in response to the failure of traditional, top-down policies to address problems faced by many rural areas in Europe.

Thirty years on, the question is 'have we shaken off that top-down approach?' Or is LEADER mired in layers of needless bureaucracy that stifles and suffocates 'bottom-up' development?

Develop sat down with the CEOs of a number of Irish development companies to see how those ideals have fared over the last three decades. They reflected on their highlights and standout LEADER achievements – and they aired some forthright and honest opinions on where things currently stand.

When first proposed in 1990 by a group of officials at the European Commission, this LEADER concept of connecting and involving local people was quite new. According to officials, these LAGs were to be the main tool for the application of the LEADER approach to local development: directly involving local representatives in the development and delivery of local strategies, decision-making and resource allocation.

The LEADER approach or method is based on seven specific features and is dependent on all of these being present and employed together. These seven features define LEADER as a methodology and separate it from being simply a funding

programme. The seven are:

1. The Bottom-Up Approach
2. Area-Based Approach
3. The Partnership Approach
4. An Integrated and Multi-Sectoral Strategy
5. Networking
6. Innovation
7. Cooperation

The first feature 'bottom-up' is one that IRD Dulhallow CLG Chief Executive Maura Walsh loved about LEADER when she began her work 27 years ago – but an aspect she fears could be lost amid ever-increasing levels of management and oversight being placed on LDCs.

Some CEOs feel that some elements of what made LEADER so different are being constrained and squeezed with inadvertent stifling of innovation and small-scale interventions, both key aspects of LEADER's added value.

Some feel a huge volume of added bureaucracy and being dependent on others to make timely decisions – particularly around the authorisation of payments so projects can advance – has been difficult to manage and demanding of time and resources.

A backdrop of economic uncertainty and the pandemic has made people more risk averse, match funding harder to secure and involvement more difficult to justify. Some blame Government departments and local authorities for this.

One CEO says: "The money is decreasing and the sense of priority around LEADER has fallen. There is a lack of a rural champion in the Department which frustrates me."

The LEADER Programme accepts applications based on projects which improve rural tourism; enterprise development; broadband; basic services targeted at hard-to-reach communities; rural youth; protection and sustainable use of water resources; local biodiversity and renewable energy.

The total funding available under Ireland's LEADER 2014-2020 Programme is €250 million – but many CEOs are on record arguing that this figure should be far greater and as high as €400 million.

So how do LEADER CEO's feel about the operation of the programme, which involves working with – and relying on – local authorities, and the current funding levels?

Maura Walsh says: "We have all stuck with it. We have all had opportunities to go somewhere else. I certainly really, really believed in LEADER and I still believe in it."

She adds: "I think it's in intensive care and I think it can be got out of there. But certain measures have to be taken. The first one has to be the first principles – LEADER was never meant to be a programme to be 'nationalised'. It was always meant to be a local action group, not a local authority action group."

"The main thing would be autonomy has to go back to the Local Development Groups. We should never have relinquished our entitlement to call ourselves LAGS. The minute we changed over to Local Development Company we left the space open for other people to gain that ground. We need to go back to being the local action groups in our areas."

Brian Kehoe, the CEO of Wexford Local Development agrees and thinks the change in structure which gave local authorities a huge say in LEADER projects and funding – as opposed to LAGS making the big decisions – has been detrimental. He is worried that start-up businesses for example, are not accessing LEADER funding like they did in the early days because they don't have the capacity to complete the applications and checks.

He says: "In the conversation, you can lose sight of the beneficiaries. I remember when we were told about the new regime in 2014 with the local authorities now acting as the LAG, I asked the question if anybody in the Department had looked at what effect, adverse or otherwise, that this would have on the beneficiaries and they looked at me as if I had horns or ten heads."

"But the point I was trying to make, because this was a conversation about us and them, was this was not about us and them. The point is that there are thousands of groups and businesses and individuals who benefit from LEADER. Was this going to make life easier for them? We knew the answer was 'no, it's not'."

Brian believes the escalating levels of paperwork and oversight have put "an undue burden on applicants and potential beneficiaries" and he believes urgent changes are needed.

"The delays in the programme now are just crazy – and there

delays from processing the application, the local authority doing the checks which they take an age to do and then delays to payments at the other side."

Brian and the other CEOs don't argue about the need for checks and oversight, but they say there is a sense of powerlessness among in wanting to fund projects for in a timely fashion.

He adds: "Getting the decision in the first place takes three months longer than it did previously, payments are a lottery. That stuff is very real. Local authorities don't get urgency; there is no understanding of a business that is down down to the wire and might need a payment."

"That's something that has been lost. All these layers have taken the personal touch out – and led to a lack of understanding of the working of the programme on the ground and the real problems people have accessing funding."

These sentiments chime with recently retired CEO of South West Mayo Development Company CLG Gerry O'Neill who laments what he sees as a move to 'bigger projects' that require less paperwork and administration which means smaller projects are being squeezed out.

"There has been a move towards larger projects – which means there are fewer. Larger arises because you are giving 'much to more' in the sense that those who are able to put together substantial and detailed applications are going to go ahead and succeed."

"There isn't the time or resources to go the ones that are not able to do that and help them along. The impression is out there now that funding is awkward and difficult – and it is."

Going forward, adds Gerry, LEADER needs to not just have more autonomy but plans that "identify and zone in on bringing energy and excitement back", an aspect of LEADER that he says has faded over the past few years.

Maura Walsh says a reboot is needed if we are to have

BACK STORY

On 15 March 1991, EU nations decided to establish the LEADER initiative to serve as a model for community-led 'bottom-up' rural development.

The acronym 'LEADER' derives from the French phrase "Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale" which means, 'Links between activities for the development of rural economy'.

The thinking was to engage the energy and resources of people and local organisations as development actors rather than beneficiaries. It would empower them to contribute to the future development of their rural areas by forming area based Local Action Group (LAG) partnerships between the public, private and civil sectors.

Since its launch, LEADER has undoubtedly helped rural communities across Ireland and the European Union to actively engage and to direct significant and lasting local development of their area.

In its experimental phase between 1991-1993, LEADER involved 217 areas in designated disadvantaged rural regions. LEADER II reached more than 900 areas and between 2007 and 2013 while LEADER IV covered a huge 2416 rural territories across all the EU member states.

another successful 30 years of LEADER. If that happens, she is optimistic that LEADER can look forward to another 30 years of achievement and helping communities.

"We need to reinvigorate our boards and carry out a very strong sustained lobby around change. We need autonomy. It's not about an agency or a body sitting with a body of money like a deck of cards to be divvied out."

"It's about showing communities what they can do – with ideas and local leadership without looking for votes or a payback and moving communities along on a continuum."

Gerry O'Neill, South West Mayo

Helping an enterprise get off the ground

"There was a young fella I knew in my time teaching technical graphics who was good at the subject. After he left school, he worked for a local engineering company. He came to me six years later and said he wanted to start his engineering business. He now employs 50 people and exports farm machinery all over the world. He started off making bail carriers at the back of his house. The likes of that business would never have come up without the bit of hand-holding that was LEADER's ethos to provide. I look at that and say that every LEADER company could look at that and pick out similar projects. It got more than the money. That project makes me very proud – it's a project that LEADER helped get off the ground."

Maura Walsh, Duhallow

Developing projects for the community

"For me what stands out is bringing our local development company from just being individual project support-orientated, to looking at the stuff that an individual community could not do by itself and taking on that task ourselves, becoming the promoters. For example, very early in the first LEADER there was a community idea around long-distance walking, to link the Wicklow Way to our part of in our part of Tipperary. We were told there was "no evidence of demand for walking in rural Ireland" but we persevered on behalf of the community as their Local Action Group. We developed the Duhallow Way/Blackwater Way. To me that project with the goal of common good had the real ethos of LEADER."

Brian Kehoe, Wexford

Development of tourism, food and community centres

"For many businesses over the last 30 years LEADER was the only game in town, particularly for a small tourism operator or a food business. Without LEADER, there is no doubt that a lot of the tourism businesses like attractions and activity-based tourism would not exist and I think there us a huge legacy there. I would say the same for food, with the focus on 'where it comes from' – the whole area of food provenance. That did not happen by accident, that was very much a LEADER idea to say 'this is where we come from' whether it's whiskey, butter or yoghurt. Another huge legacy has been the improvement in standards of community centres and infrastructure including playgrounds. I remember being in draughty halls with tin roofs – there are very few of these buildings left now. There was LEADER money there to do all of that."

LOCAL SPOTLIGHT



30 Years of Supporting Enterprise

LEADER has a proud record of helping businesses to innovate and grow with thousands of enterprises supported during the last three decades.

South Tipperary Development Company has at different junctures supported many businesses including one family-run business in Emly, helping it to become of Ireland's leading agricultural engineering firms.

WM O' Donnell Engineering Limited is a family-run rural business founded in 1978. Initially operating from a small garage, the company has now expanded to a production facility of 123,000 sq.feet. encompassing large workshops, storage and office space across two sites.

The company's primary motivation was to supply progressive

farmers in the locality with innovative products, which contributed to the efficient running of both farmyard and farm activity.

From humble beginnings, the business has become one of the leaders in its sector. All products are produced with the user foremost in mind. Accordingly, all products are manufactured to the highest standards and cost-effective design.

This company has benefitted from LEADER funding on a number of innovative projects over the past decade and South Tipperary Development CLG has guided them through the process by providing advice, support and guidance.

The projects funded include the installation of three phase electricity at their newly expanded manufacturing site back in 2010 and the purchase of a bandsaw and bending machine in 2011. This enabled the company to both undertake Research and Development work into the new and innovative area of automated cattle handling facilities and to manufacture these new products.

The most recent projects approved under the LEADER Programme include the installation of ERP company software and the purchase of a Laser Cutting Processing Centre.

These projects represent significant innovation and upgrade in their equipment and processes and the scale of the investment involved would simply not have been possible without LEADER grant aid.

Commenting, Director Billy O' Donnell said "We are very grateful to South Tipperary Development Company and LEADER for their support of us over the years. They came on board at crucial points in our development, and helped us to grow to our current size, employing 24 people in this small rural village."

KEY INFO

- Creating and sustaining jobs
- Social inclusion projects
- Supporting startups and enterprise development
- Tourism initiatives including festivals
- Giving communities IT skills
- Environmental projects



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Cabragh Wetlands: Conservation, Education and Recreation



Located just outside of Thurles in Co. Tipperary, the Cabragh Wetlands have had a chequered environmental history. Today, however, it hosts an innovative environmental and educational project that has played a pivotal role in the development of Ireland's ecotourism sector, especially within Tipperary.

Set up in 1993 to save the wetland habitat from destruction after the closure of a nearby sugar factory, The Cabragh Wetlands Trust acquired the lands to ensure a resting place for migratory birds.

Following an investment of €414,000 during the 2007-2013 LEADER Programme (a co-operative project between the LDCs in North Tipperary and South Tipperary, with NTDC being the lead partner), the Trust's environmental and educational impact reached new levels with the development of a visitor and education centre.

After almost three decades of conservation, the area is now hub for biodiversity and attracts many schools and colleges annually to study its various habitats, such as ponds, reed swamps, hedgerows, streams and wild flower meadows.

The centre facilities are wheelchair accessible and include a tea room, food preparation area, a lecture and training room with accommodation for 60-70 persons, an exhibition area and outdoor spaces, all with panoramic views of the wetlands.

The centre also hosts many activities for the local community such as music nights, lectures and guided walks. Footpaths and raised walkways with information boards allow for easy navigation and enjoyment of the habitats.

Patrick Killeen of North Tipperary Development Company explains: "The Cabragh Wetlands project was excellent value for money, the progress that has ensued at the site due to this development has seen Cabragh Wetlands become the leading centre for environmental education and training in the county of Tipperary with the training available varying from basic knowledge to science and even further into new cosmology. A great resource for the county and region."

The Wetlands' Cosmic Walk feature has proven to be incredibly popular: this immersive walking trail tells the origin story of the universe through ten sculptures which complement the landscape, the design of each informed by key events in the history of the cosmos.

The Wetlands hold great potential for further growth; future plans include the development of specialised ecotourism services and an Environmental Education centre in Tipperary, with a particular focus on education around climate change and action.



LEADER PEOPLE



Sabina Trench

CEO, South West Mayo Development Company

Tell us a little about yourself?

A native of County Mayo, I started working with South West Mayo Development Company after graduating from University of Limerick with a Master's in Entrepreneurship. I then spent some time as a volunteer in community development in El Salvador and worked in Wicklow and Wexford before returning to SWMDC in 2010.

What does your day-to-day involve?

The variety of work is remarkable. In just one day last week, I had a meeting with the ILDN Simplified Cost Options Working Group, actioned several LEADER enquiries, attended a social enterprise event, progressed work on our new website, and started a submission to the National Outdoor Recreation Strategy. One aspect of my day-to-day work that I really enjoy is collaborating with colleagues across programmes.

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

Driving around our area, I see the impact of my LEADER work all around me. We aim to offer our businesses and communities the highest level of service and support that they need and deserve. But the impact of our work as an integrated development company, combining LEADER grants, our labour activation schemes and programmes such as SICAP, is where the real value of SWMDC lies. These synergies between programmes are always greater than the impact of any one intervention.

Why do LEADER projects matter to people?

LEADER projects matter to people because they are of the people. We have stayed true to the principles of the bottom-up approach, which is as relevant now as it was in 1991 when LEADER was first conceived. Businesses and communities come to us with their needs, and we support them.

How has LEADER helped during the pandemic?

We kept LEADER on track by progressing grant claims online. We have paid out almost €2 million since March 2020, maintaining cashflow and cash circulation in local communities and businesses. Lately, we focused on post-pandemic supports for businesses and communities, with several countywide initiatives.

Food, glorious food! How LEADER has fed a growing sector



Food culture in Ireland has transformed in recent years as the Irish palate has become more sophisticated and discerning, and, in turn, this has led to a growing appreciation for Irish food and drink produce across the globe. LEADER funding across Ireland has been central to enabling food and drink companies to develop and promote their diverse offerings.

Tipperary is one of the top 5 Foodie destinations in the world – according to the glamorous travel bible Condé Nast Traveller. And it's no surprise! It has long been synonymous with the production of high quality food from its rich lands and adding value through innovative and artisan processing.

South Tipperary Development Clg (STDC) and the LEADER programme have been to the forefront in developing this important sector. Early stage supports from LEADER were key to the development of household names like O'Donnells Crisps and Cashel Blue cheese. More recently innovative producers like Blanco Nino Tortillas and The Butchers' Daughter are leading the way along with many other food entrepreneurs.

STDC gave its backing to Una O'Dwyer, when the Master Butcher was developing her brand, The Butcher's Daughter, which offers hand-crafted sausages and puddings made with premium Irish meats. Una developed a passion for fine artisan foods while watching her father, Martin, skilfully crafting meats in the family-run butcher shop in Cashel, Co Tipperary. With her produce available in numerous outlets, including Dunnes, Una needed to enhance the business with a processing facility as well as storage/dispatch and packing facilities in order to continue to grow nationally.

"The funding we received from LEADER supported the capital investment made in increasing the size of our production premises," Una says. "This was essential to sustain existing business and employment. As a result of the extension, we have been able to work more efficiently and grow our business and our team. We really have welcomed the LEADER support in these trying times as a result of Brexit and Covid."

The Butcher's Daughter brand is now well established in the

retail sector nationally and the timing of the LEADER grant was fortuitous, as the extra space enabled Una to remain open throughout the pandemic while working in a safe environment.

Recognising the importance of networking small artisan producers, and developing a Tipperary Food Brand, STDC and partners in the Local Enterprise Office and Tipperary County Council helped to establish the Tipperary Food Producers Network.

"Supporting the network also enables the individual businesses to grow and develop. This is not just about producing food, it is also about connecting consumers to farmers and enhancing Tipp's tourism offering" explained Isabel Cambie, CEO of STDC. "Many of the producers are organic and sustainability is an important part of what they do. We have been committed over the years to supporting this via LEADER and will continue to do so".

"The funding we received from LEADER was essential to sustain existing business and employment. As a result we have been able to work more efficiently and grow our business and our team."

In 2007 Ed O'Donnell, a young seventh generation farmer, saw a niche in the market for an Irish hand cooked crisp and decided to make crisps from the potatoes grown on his farm. He applied for LEADER grant aid from STDC in 2010 to examine the market for potato crisps, and to develop a branding and marketing strategy for his new product.

Ed was awarded LEADER funding of €28,000 to undertake the research and he hasn't looked back since. O'Donnells are now one of Ireland's leading brands of hand cooked crisps. "LEADER funding for the initial feasibility study and the support we received were important factors in the growth of the business over the past 10 years," says Ed.

Craft beer is one of the sectors experiencing significant growth and Galway Rural Development Company was delighted to support Galway Craft Brewery, producers of the iconic 'Galway Hooker' brand, with investment that allowed it to double its production capacity and increase the shelf life of its drinks.

Based in Oranmore, Co Galway, the brewery approached Galway Rural Development for assistance to purchase new tanks and kegging equipment. The upgrade ensures that the company's products have a longer shelf life, thereby allowing the brewery to expand into new export markets.

Liam Byrne is the third generation of his family to farm the land in Ballygarrett, Gorey, Co Wexford, but the first to produce water buffalo meat. Wexford Local Community Development Company supported Liam's Macamore Buffalo Farm with a range of capital and marketing costs so that Liam could deliver Wexford's first buffalo meat to consumers.

Macamore Buffalo Farm was borne out of a need to diversify the family farm coupled with a passion to farm ethically and in a sustainable way. Buffalo meat is higher in protein and lower in fat and cholesterol than other meat products and, as robust animals, buffalo need little or no veterinary intervention, so their meat is pure and free of contaminants.

South and East Cork Area Development (SECAD) Partnership has supported a number of artisan food producers in Cork with €300,00 in grant aid under the LEADER Artisan Food initiative.

From the Skibbereen Food Company in West Cork to Leahy's Open Farm in Dungourney in South Cork, the reach of the funding was wide and inclusive. Investment supported the purchase of production equipment, branding and marketing activities as well as new product development with the potential creation of 26 new jobs.

Cahill's Farm Cheese in Newcastle West, Co Limerick, has a long history of successful artisan food production. The family business was started in the late 1970s by David Cahill and his wife Marian and, in 1984, theirs was the first artisan cheese listed in Superquinn. A year later, the family began exporting, and their cheese has since won recognition globally, including a Gold Star from the Guild of Fine Foods and Silver at the Great Taste Awards and the Mondial du Fromage.

In 2006, the majority shareholding passed to their son, Dan Cahill and he has continued to build a strong team of skilled, dedicated workers, each with their own focus and responsibility in the plant. Cahill's Farm Cheese is exported to more than twelve countries and they employ 21 people, with a turnover in excess of €2.8 million. West Limerick Resources was pleased to support them with LEADER funding for a continuous improvement programme to increase efficiencies, growth and expansion.



O'Donnells Crisps



Cahills Farm Cheese





South West Mayo Development Com...
@southwestmayo

Happy #InternationalMigrantsDay! To celebrate, we are launching our #DiverseFoodMayo interactive #cookbook with recipes from migrants living in Mayo, accompanied by beautiful hand-drawn illustrations - check it out!



SOCIAL SPOTLIGHT



DLDC CLG
@DLDCclg

DLDC is currently developing its new strategic plan.

👉 We want to hear from you – how can we bring about positive changes in your life and in your local community?

👉 Click on the survey link and help us ensure we are meeting your needs.



Sligo LEADER Partnership
@SligoLeader

The magical looking Tubbercurry Day Centre
Definitely getting the Christmas feels now 🎅
@tubbercurry_ie
#Christmas2021 #Christmas #tubbercurry #Sligo



South Tipperary Development Cig
@sthtippdevco

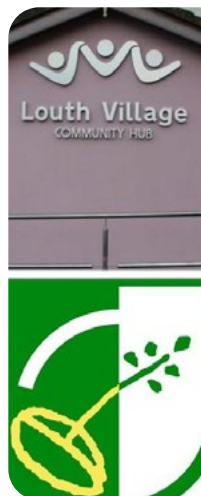
Funding totalling €17,650 has been approved by South Tipperary Development Company under the current #LEADER Rural Development Prog to begin working on an enhanced design for 'The Plan' in Tipperary Town.
@theILDN, @DeptRCD, @TippTRevitalise



Louth Leader P'ship
@LouthLeaderPart

Another local project which has been supported under the LEADER 2014-2020 programme in Co. Louth: LEADER funding of €130, 292.32 was awarded to The Louth Village Community Centre. The Centre was in need of upgrade & improvement works.

Link: countylouthleader.com/map



Irish Local Development Network
@theILDN

Helen Mulhall @CountyKildareLP #LEADER Project Development Officer was delighted to meet Stephen Morrison to complete the final site visit to the beautiful Hartwell Creative Retreat Centre in Kill. For details of this farm diversification project visit soearthprojects.com

