



KERRY COUNTY Community and Voluntary Forum

Fóram Pobail agus Deonach Chontae Chiarraí

Newsletter May 2008

Kerry County Community & Voluntary Forum was established in 2000 as part of the Local Government reform process.

The Forum's Mission is to provide a representative voice for Co. Kerry's Community and Voluntary sector at decision-making level.

What does the Forum do?

The Forum's main task is to ensure that the interests/needs of the community and voluntary sector are represented at County level.

The Forum's role also includes information dissemination, networking with other groups and developing responses to issues raised at community level.

In order to carry out this work, Forum members have been appointed on to Board and Committees at County level, which are involved in policy development.

A list of some of these committees is given as follows:-

- Strategic Policy Committees (SPC's) of Kerry County Council:-
 - Housing and Social Support
 - Environment
 - Transport
 - Culture, Heritage & Recreation
 - Planning
- County Childcare Committee
- Kerry County Dev. Board
- Local Sports Partnership
- Play Advisory Committee
- Regional Drugs Task Force
- Joint Policing Committee
- Social Inclusion Measures Work Group

The Community & Voluntary Register

The Register of Groups is updated on an annual basis. The closing date for registration will be the 13th of June 2008. The process of re registration has been agreed with the Local Development Groups in the county. All groups on the Register will be contacted individually by post. A Registration fee of €20 per group has been agreed.

Insurance Scheme. The Community & Voluntary group Insurance Scheme has been very successful. Remember you will need the Group's registration number from the Kerry County Forum to avail of this scheme.

As you are probably aware the BHP Freephone number is 1890 666 111

The RAPID Programme

RAPID stands for Revitalising Areas through Planning Investment and Development. It operates under the Department of Community & Enterprise in Kerry County Council and works in 6 local authority estates in Tralee – Shanakill / Rahoanane, Spa Road / Balloonagh Estate and Mitchel's / St. Martin's Park.

To date the Programme has been hugely successful. New resident led community development structures in which key state agencies participate to implement agreed plans are in place. Very high levels of community participation, active citizenship and a growing sense of pride are evident. All estates have seen a huge improvement in their physical environment along with the development of play, sport and amenity facilities. In the period ahead the RAPID Programme will be putting a special focus on community safety issues. A comprehensive survey has been done and results will be fed back to residents in the coming weeks for them to develop recommendations. This will be the start of our Community Safety Statement Process. At the same time a Health and Family Support work plan will be rolled out in all RAPID areas.

Playground Development:- The Community & Enterprise Department welcomes any group with an interest in developing a Playground in their area. Ten new Playgrounds have been developed around the county since 2004 and six further projects are being progressed. It is hoped that the Government Grant in respect to Playgrounds will be restored in 2008.
www.kerryplay.ie

Dates for your Diary:-

National Drugs Strategy – Public Consultation Meetings. (All Meetings 7.00p.m. – 9.30p.m.)

Fels Point Hotel, Tralee, 20th May, 2008.

Silver Springs Hotel, Cork, 21st May, 2008.

Kerry Joint Policing Committee (JPC)

was established in February 2008. The role of the JPC is to give the Local Authority, Garda officers, members of the Oireachtas and Community representatives an opportunity to work in a co-operative manner to consult and discuss and make recommendations on matters affecting the policing of the county.

The membership will consist of 14 Local Authority members, with four from each of the Tralee, Killarney, Killorglin and Listowel electoral areas, and two from the Dingle Electoral Area.

The County Manager is an ex-officio member, and others included in the membership include five members of the Oireachtas, two Garda Officers nominated by the Commissioner and three persons representing the community and voluntary sector in the county. The Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum nominated the three community representatives, Mr. Sean Quinlan, Mr. Bill Morrell and Mr. John O'Sullivan.

For further information on any item included in this Newsletter please contact Ms. Siobhan Griffin, Forum Development Officer. Ph: 066 7183680.

The Community Smoke Alarm Scheme

The Community Smoke Alarm Scheme is one of the initiatives arising from the Fire Service Change Programme.

In brief, five hundred self-contained 10-year battery smoke alarms are to be installed in the 2007 allocation and a further five hundred in 2008. To date the groups involved include Local community groups, Community Alert Groups, Rural Social Scheme, Local Development companies and Gardaí.

Two training courses, run by the Kerry Fire Service, and facilitated by the Forum, have been held in both North and South Kerry. It has been agreed that where possible participants on the Rural Social Scheme will install the alarms as they are already involved in minor repairs to older people's houses. The current roll out of the scheme has been applied only to two areas of County Kerry and it has been agreed to defer working in the other areas until the 2008 allocation has been secured. The work that has been carried out to date has established the ground work for expansion of the scheme.

Kerry Local Sports

Partnership in conjunction with KCC and ITT is currently undertaking a FACILITY AUDIT. In order to ensure that all facilities in the county have been identified, Community & Voluntary groups are being asked to verify accuracy of data information, by logging on to www.kerrylsp.ie under the **Kerry Sports Facilities** page. If your facility is not registered please submit information before May 31st 2008 so as to be included in the audit.

Kerry Community Awards

Kerry Community Awards presentation of prizes was held on 24th April 2008 at the Dromhall Hotel in Killarney. Tralee Community Development Project was the overall winner but all of the eighteen groups that reached the finals were winners in their own right. Category winners honoured on the night included:-

Cáirde Éanlaith Éireann Chorca Dhuibhne for the Heritage and Environment Category

Kerry Life Education for the Community Services Category
Killorglin and District Mental Health Group for the Community Renewal through Social Entrepreneurship Category

Fossa Historical Society for the Community, Arts and Culture Category

St. Brendan's Athletic Club under Physical Activity Category.

Special prizes went to groups from the Gaeltacht areas including **Comhar Cumann an Leithrúigh, Croí Uibh Rathaigh and Forbairt na Dromoda Teo.** The Annual Community Awards competition is normally launched in early October. Watch out for details.

Anti Racism and Diversity Strategy

An initial meeting has taken place with groups and agencies working with new communities in Co Kerry towards the development of an anti racism and diversity strategy. This work is one of the priority objectives of the County Development Strategy, Meitheal Chiarraí.

Comhairle na nÓg –

Comhairle na nÓg (*Young People's Council*) is part of a year long process in Kerry, where young people from all over the county gather at local youth forums to discuss and debate issues that affect them. This year, the young delegates discussed issues such as; mental health, facilities for young people and our diversity and culture as a multicultural Irish society. The Comhairle is developed as a partnership between Kerry County Council, Kerry Community & Voluntary Forum and the Kerry Diocesan Youth Service.

The seven delegates elected for 2008 and who represented the county at the Dáil na nÓg 2008 in Croke Park are:-

- Jamie Hooper, Killarney
- Brian Kirby, Listowel
- Tony O'Connor, Listowel
- Rosie O'Dowd, Tralee
- Edel Ní Bhraonain, An Gleann, Ballinskelligs (Gaeltacht Rep.)
- Sarah Breathnach, Ballydavid (Gaeltacht Rep.)

The Kerry Hub

A national strategy called The National Spatial strategy outlines how balanced development should take place in the country. One recommendation arising from this document is the development of the Kerry Hub, including Killarney and Tralee and communities/villages surrounding and linking these towns. A Kerry Hub strategy is currently being developed which will outline the economic and social objectives for this area. Different Agencies, Government Departments and the Community & Voluntary Forum are working with Kerry County Council on this strategy.

Pride of Place 2008

Three deserving communities/projects will go forward to this year Pride of Place competition. Mr. Tom Curran, Kerry County Manager announced the names at this year's Community Awards ceremony including Tralee Community Development Project, Valentia Island Heritage Centre and Bonane Community Co-op society. The Pride of Place competition is a Cooperation Ireland/Local Authority led competition. The aim of the initiative is to recognize and celebrate the vital contributions that community groups make to society.

Kerry County Development Plan

The Draft Plan will be on display commencing mid to late June for ten weeks. This will be your opportunity to review the contents and have your say. Please watch local press for details.