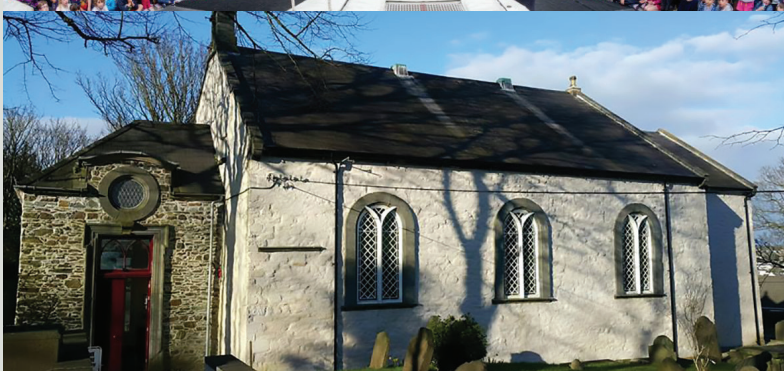


Social Enterprise in Waterford: Mapping Survey & Case Studies 2019



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Rialtas na hÉireann
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ENTERPRISE NETWORK



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Foreword

In June 2016 the Board of Directors of the Social Finance Foundation (SFF) held its annual review meeting in Tramore. The CEO had previously visited Dunhill and was keen to expose his Directors to what is a telling testament to both community action and social enterprise. The Dunhill/Copper Coast Geopark area has a deserved reputation for innovation and the development of successful social enterprise services and facilities in areas as diverse as enterprise itself, education, environment, tourism, heritage, recreation, geology and creative arts. The visit included meetings with community based social entrepreneurs in the Dunhill/Copper Coast area.

Following the visit, SFF contracted Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd to complete research on the identification and surveying of social enterprises in the city and county of Waterford. SFF organised an expert research team, including UCC analysts, to validate the research process and the outcomes. Breffni Integrated Partnership CLG in Cavan and Ballyhoura Development CLG, having expressed interest in the work, were invited to join the project.

The project ran throughout 2017. The findings were rich in learnings. In 2018, the Department of Rural & Community Development conducted an extensive research project to facilitate the development of a national social enterprise policy, which was approved by the Irish Government in July 2019. The findings and insights from the Waterford work served to inform both the research project and the policy itself.

The Waterford study represents a seminal piece of work raising several new issues and perspectives that helped frame the new social enterprise policy. It involved a very detailed process of engagement with social enterprise networks and communities in the city and county. 325 social enterprises were identified, with others likely yet to be discovered. 168 (51.69%) completed questionnaires were returned through a detailed Survey Monkey process.

Further research will be required as part of the implementation of the new policy (2019-2022). The learnings from the Waterford study will provide valuable inputs into that work which will take place as the national social enterprise policy is implemented. So, all those involved in the Waterford study should feel proud of the work which they spearheaded, and which has proved so useful. Social enterprise is now poised to play a leading role as a driver of social, economic and environmental development across Ireland over the next decade as Dunhill has shown over the previous decade or more.

Brendan Whelan
CEO, Social Finance Foundation

Introduction

As a social enterprise located at the heart of a cluster of 22 social enterprises in the Dunhill-Fenor parish, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd (DREL) warmly welcomed the opportunity to engage in the identification and examination of the current state of social enterprises in Waterford City and County in 2017.

Led by the Social Enterprise Foundation (SFF) and including UCC, Breffni Integrated CLG, Ballyhoura CLG and Waterford Social Enterprise Network (WSEN) a serious amount of planning went into establishing the best approach to the completion of the project. The objective was to use the Forfas 2013 definition and make every effort to identify as many social enterprises as possible in Waterford City and County. A period of 6 months was allocated to complete the work. Using well established networks like the Waterford Public Participation Network (PPN), Waterford Leader Partnership (WLP), Benefacts, Waterford Childcare Committee, Waterford Area Partnership (WAP) and others, every community was approached and questioned on local social enterprises in place. A survey monkey questionnaire was circulated to the 325 social enterprises identified and a high return rate of 168 completed surveys was achieved (51.69%).

The following are a selection of results from the questionnaire which contained 35 questions in total. They make interesting reading. The findings have since proven to be valuable in opening up so many people and organisations to the reality of social enterprise and the service provision involved. It has also drilled down, to some degree, into their relationships with state bodies, their concerns, fears and the needs that impact on the work of the volunteer. The main, if not only, interest of the volunteer is in solving a problem, helping an individual or group to overcome a difficulty that is holding them back from experiencing a better, more fulfilling life. State agency support brings with it so many other responsibilities that need further examination as to their relevance and the resources they provide.

The dedication of the volunteer shone through in every social enterprise. It was discovered that there are barriers to be removed and resources to be activated to help the social enterprise and its client base achieve much more from these resources. There is also evidence of opportunities for new start-ups including the freeing up of many valuable dormant resources. The findings informed the Department of Rural & Community Development's research in developing its new social enterprise policy (2019). As a research project committee we are very satisfied that our findings have already made a difference.

Key Findings

The Research Process

The mapping process was carried out using the Forfas 2013¹ definition to identify social enterprises in Waterford City and County; “A social enterprise is an enterprise that trades for a social purpose, where at least part of its income is earned from its trading activity, is separate from government and where the surplus is primarily re-invested in the social objective.”

The four base sectors agreed under the research teams Terms of Reference were:

- 1 Care Services
- 2 Business
- 3 Community Services
- 4 Arts and Leisure

These covered a range of categories including:

- Childcare Services
- Youth Services
- Care of the Elderly
- Education, Training & Employment Opportunities
- Disability Support Services
- Charity Shops
- Community Development Associations & Community Centres/Halls
- Community Enterprise Centres
- Community Cafes/Tea Rooms
- Voluntary Housing Schemes, Voluntary Water Schemes
- Sports and Recreation Clubs with trading facilities
- Tourism, Creative Arts, Heritage and Cultural Projects
- Environmental Projects
- Animal Welfare Organisations
- Social Farming & Horticulture Projects
- Inclusion, Equality and Diversity Projects
- Work Integration Projects

¹ Social Enterprise in Ireland. Sectoral opportunities and policy issues. Forfas 2013

The Waterford team identified 325 social enterprises which were contacted to complete the mapping survey. It achieved a return of 168 completed survey forms (51.69%)

The main reason for the high number of social enterprises identified and the high return of responses was the range of contacts with communities and individuals that were made; an in-depth awareness campaign through the identification of key voluntary community workers in every community across the city and county who were contacted in person and asked to identify social enterprises in their community, the widespread distribution of an explanatory note regarding the purpose of the research, the organisation of local meetings in communities, attendance at meetings organised by the Public Participation Network, Waterford Leader Partnership, Waterford Council and others to highlight the research and its purpose, the use of networks such as Benefacts, Waterford Area Partnership, Waterford Childcare Committee, the GAA, Credit Unions, Community Services Projects and others.

Following the distribution of the survey, which was accompanied by another explanatory note, efforts were made to follow up with social enterprises and to emphasize the importance of the information being sought. Help was provided to assist people to use Survey Monkey, staff helped volunteers and volunteers helped staff.

The Forfas 2013 report identified 1,420 social enterprises in the State. Following the completion of the Social Finance Foundation, University College Cork, Waterford, Ballyhoura and Cavan Social Enterprise Mapping Project 2017, it is estimated that there are approximately 7,400 social enterprises operating countrywide. The Department of Rural and Community Development has an urgent task to complete an in-depth countrywide mapping process to establish the size and value of the sector and to plan for its development, expansion and impact over the next 5 years.

Key Findings and Recommendations from Mapping Survey

- 1 40% of organisations responding to the survey had a total annual traded income of less than €25,000 in 2016.**

The evidence would suggest that there are a significant number of small community organisations across the county that engage in some form of trading in order to support the provision of essential community services. Examples such as renting out rooms in a community hall, maintaining local historical landmarks to enhance tourism, providing vital local public services or running a second hand furniture/clothes shop that contributes towards financing and impacts on a wider social or global inequality. **Our research found that 40% have a total annual trading income of less than €25,000.00, this accounted for 25% of their total annual income.** This indicates that there is a significant dependence on annual fund raising events and valuable volunteer engagement in the management and maintenance of such services. Thus a negative correlation arises where a high level of trading means a low requirement for fundraising and vice versa. High fundraising is associated with low income from all sources and it is also moderately strongly associated with a lower income.

A nation-wide, in-depth & community led mapping process to uncover the hidden, small scale operations which respond to local needs with a huge voluntary effort will provide a backbone on which the development of the sector can be built. Small community organisations that aspire to a greater trading status must not be excluded from the developing strategy and policy.

- 2 52.7% reported the primary motivation of their organisation is to work towards the betterment of the local community and an additional 42% reported their primary objective as being, to provide essential community based services. 41.9% of respondents have created between 1 and 5 direct jobs.**

The level of small scale trading activity across the whole of Waterford County suggests a practical response at community level to the reduction in essential services, the dissolution of direct community development funding and the development of job opportunities. With significant and targeted supports this, mainly voluntary, application of community resilience has the potential to develop sustainable and innovative social/community businesses. We would suggest that provided with additional supports to further explore the business potential of a community facility, employment of a business manager and targeted business training, some of these may develop a greater capacity to trade and expand or replicate other successful social/community businesses that might be operating in other parts of the Country.

Increase funding to the Community Services Programme or the development of a specific programme to support emerging and potential community & social enterprises to bring more community halls and innovative community projects into direct funding provision which will enable the employment of staff to ensure the maintenance and development of services.

- 3 The level of voluntary hours is a significant factor in the maintenance of community support and development services.**

The research provides evidence that up to 10 Board members working up to 40 hours per month each is the average commitment by volunteers towards the objective of the local organisation. This signifies a cost saving to the State and un-recorded social capital. It is notable that one of the most significant barriers to the development of organisations has been recorded as “retention of volunteers”.

The level of volunteering, despite its complexity, is generally unrecognised and unrewarded. Whilst regulation is essential, the extent of bureaucracy and the mood of the State towards community voluntary boards is becoming a significant barrier to attracting new and younger volunteers.

The allocation of funding to employ social/ community outreach staff as well as the mentoring support from those with expertise in business & social management would provide both new thinking and the potential to reduce the stress on existing community volunteers.

- 4 58% of respondents are not part of a larger parent organisation and therefore have to deal with governance and compliance directly. 53.7% of respondents agreed or strongly agreed that a new legal structure specific to social enterprise is required to assist in the future development of the sector.**

The legal and financial regulation of Companies Limited by Guarantee, whilst accepted as absolutely essential, is an onerous task for (often) inexperienced volunteers who, in a lot of cases do not have the back up of skilled, qualified, paid staff. The lack, to date, of formal recognition of the sector and no formal, joined up support framework are significant barriers to the growth of the sector and to the retention and engagement of a committed volunteer pool. Traditional business training does not address the needs of a sector that has both a social and an economic imperative. In addition, volunteers should not be expected to undertake business training but should be able to work with trained, properly paid and experienced Managers to undertake day to day business planning.

A specific legal governance and compliance structure that takes learning from that developed in other EU countries needs to be consulted and developed to fit the double bottom line of a social enterprise. Paid staff to support the voluntary Board of Management, the potential for peer mentoring from the traditional enterprise sector for voluntary board members and the provision of regular

professional development opportunities for staff and volunteers that, certainly during the first number of years of set up and development, are grant aided or free to attend would assist in addressing this issue. A recent report from Social Enterprise Northern Ireland 2019, recommended the creation of a national Social Value Act.

- 5 22% of respondents have measured the social impact of the work/activities of the organisation over the past 36 months.**

There is a need to develop a consulted and flexible framework for the measurement of social impact in Ireland. Knowledge and learning from other EU countries that have a significantly more developed social enterprise sector should inform this development.

A flexible tool for the measurement of social impact will support and enable the promotion and understanding of the sector within the wider business, community and public spheres.

- 6 70% of respondents indicated their strong support for the organisation of a county led social enterprise network for the sector.**

The importance of a structured co-ordination of the sector from the ground up is highlighted by the survey responses. A local network enables shared learning, shared expertise, opens up opportunities for collaborative innovation, the sharing of resources and numerous other opportunities.

Full time staff and support for local networks that feed into a representative structure at national level and has active policy maker engagement is necessary to support the rapid development and 'catch up' of the sector in Ireland.

"The Europe 2020 strategy has included plans to significantly increase the funds available for social enterprise as the EU Commission recognises the huge value social enterprise brings to our economies and our societies".

*EU Employment & Social Affairs Commissioner
Marianne Thyssen (December 2016)*

Waterford Mapping Survey Results

1 Numbers contacted for survey & number of survey responses

325 social enterprises were contacted to complete the survey. 168 of these completed the questionnaire.

2 Location

All organisations based in Waterford City & County

3 Legal Structure

The legal structure question was a difficult one for responders to answer as it depended upon their place within the organisation and hence their detailed knowledge of the organisation's structures. Across the survey this was a question that was consistently left blank. Anecdotal evidence would indicate that most organisations are Associations with a constitution or a Company Limited by Guarantee.

4 When was the organisation established?

Before 1970

24.4%

1970 — 1980

6.9%

1980 — 1990

10%

1990 — 2000

17.5%

2000 — 2010

25%

Since 2010

16.3%

5 Is your organisation part of a larger/parent organisation?

Yes – International Organisation

6.3%

Yes – National Organisation

29.6%

Yes – Regional Organisation

8.8%

No

57.9%

Don't Know

0.6%

6 Location in the County

Urban location

45.6%

Rural location

53.8%

7 Total Number of Board Members

Less than 10

61%

10 — 15

25%

15 — 20

10.3%

20 — 25

1.5%

Don't know

2.2%

8 Voluntary Hours of Board Members per month

(as an aggregate, not per person)

None

3.8%

Less than 10 hours

24.2%

10 — 40 hours

48.5%

40 — 100 hours

10.6%

100+ hours

12.9%

9 Number of Paid Staff

109 organisations reported employing men on a full time basis, the aggregated average being just under 3 positions per organisation.

104 organisations reported employing men on a part time basis, the aggregated average being just under 3 positions per organisation.

108 organisations reported employing women on a full time basis, the aggregated average being just under 5 positions per organisation.

113 organisations reported employing women on a part time basis, the aggregated average being just under 4 positions per organisation.

10 Percentage of paid employees on Active Labour Market Schemes

None

53.2%

Less than 25%

17.7%

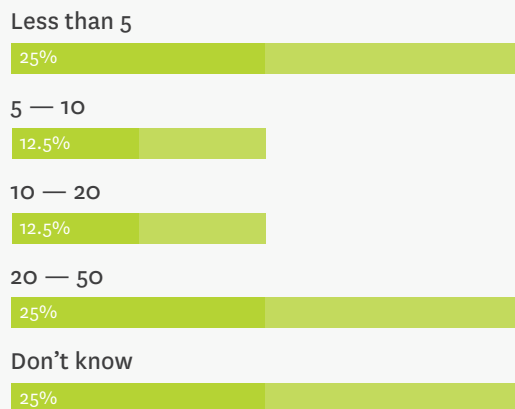
25% — 50%

4%

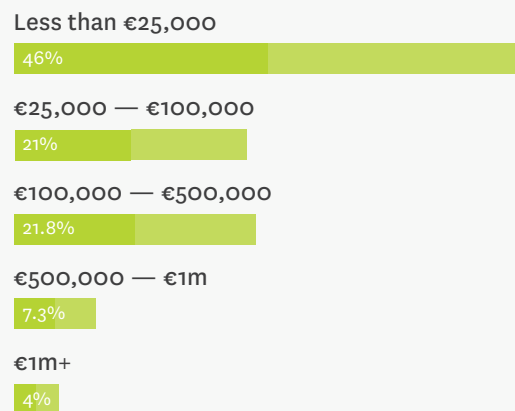
50% +

25%

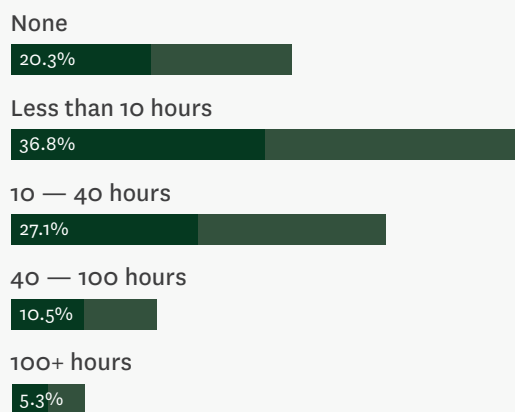
11 Number of jobs created by respondents identifying as Community Enterprise Centres



13 Total income from all sources (2016)

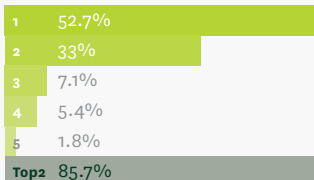


12 Total number of voluntary hours per week (excluding board members)

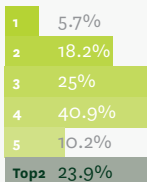


14 Organisation's Objectives

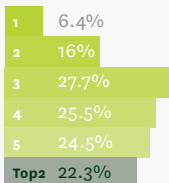
To work towards the betterment of the local community



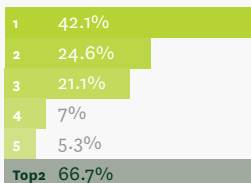
To create local training and employment opportunities



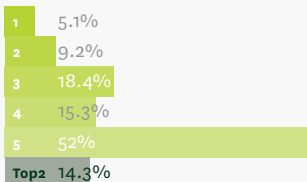
To find innovative solutions to social and/or environmental problems



To provide essential community-based services



To generate an income



15 Which of the following best describes the main goods/ services provided by the organisation?

See table opposite

15 Which of the following best describes the main goods/services provided by the organisation?

	Top3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Total
Education, training and employment opportunities	36	9	18	9	6	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	45
Sporting and leisure	35	23	9	3	2	2	1	1	1	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	46
Operation and maintenance of a community centre/building	32	16	8	8	3	2	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	42
Childcare	25	13	6	6	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	33
Tourism development and promotion	24	12	7	5	3	2	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	34
Provision of youth services	22	9	7	6	4	2	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	32
Arts and culture	20	6	7	7	3	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	31
Disability support and services	12	7	3	2	4	1	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	23
Eldercare	10	4	2	4	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16
Support and consultation service for social enterprises	7	1	2	4	1	2	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	3	0	18
Social housing	5	2	2	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	12
Renewable energy, environment and recycling services	4	3	1	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	11
Financial services	4	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	10
Enterprise support and advice	3	2	0	1	1	1	3	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	14
Retailing, food and catering	3	0	1	2	2	1	1	0	0	0	1	2	1	0	0	2	0	0	13
Community transport services	2	1	1	0	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	9

Local Case Studies

Background

The Social Economy driving social, economic and creative development in communities across Waterford; a positive community attitude

In 2015, the European Council adopted conclusions on 'The promotion of the social economy as a key driver of economic and social development in Europe'. The Council conclusions highlight that the social economy, formed by a rich variety of enterprise models, such as cooperatives, mutuals, associations, foundations and social enterprises, plays an important role in achieving several EU objectives, including smart, sustainable and inclusive growth, the creation of decent jobs, social cohesion and social innovation.

There are two million social economy enterprises in Europe employing over 14.5 million people and accounting for 8% of EU GDP. As stressed by Parliament's report on a European Pillar of Social Rights, the social economy sets a good example in terms of creating quality employment, supporting social inclusion and promoting a participatory economy. (www.europarl.europa.eu)

Despite the creation of several admirable national programmes by successive Irish governments many rural and urban communities have yet to benefit to any large degree from economic growth. As a result of their marginalisation, communities throughout the city & county have a history of building local responses to identified need in the face of government inaction. There is an inherent sense of pride of place throughout urban and rural communities in Ireland. This has led to an "anything is possible" attitude by community volunteers who invest large amounts of time and labour in developing much needed services or seeking innovative solutions to local concerns. This has led to the organic development of a social economy combining grant aid, fund-raising and trading.

To date this social economy has not been recognised by the State. The recent publication of a national social enterprise policy and strategy will, we hope, give recognition to these community and social enterprises and further enable their development with themselves as the policy driver not national agencies that claim they represent the sector. We will keep a watching brief on how participatory this national policy will be. In the meantime we will continue to network, support each other and seek opportunities for the communities in which we play a central part.

Our research indicated:

- 24.4% of existing social enterprises were established as far back as the 1970's
- 58% are not part of a parent or larger organisation
- 98% rely on the local market for the provision of their goods and services

The following 25 case studies give an idea of the range of different social enterprises that currently exist in Waterford City and County. These examples show how communities work together to resolve a wide variety of local issues, promote civic engagement and connect with the Sustainable Development Goals.

As evidenced by our research there are many more social enterprises that we do not have the space to profile here. We hope to be able to profile more through our developing social media pages and awareness raising events. Anyone wishing to formally join our network should contact us via the details at the back of this publication.

"It always seems impossible until it is done"

Nelson Mandela



1 Access I.T. CLG

BACKGROUND



Access I.T., formerly named The Computer Access Co-Op (CAC), was established in 1997 by Ballybeg Community Development Project which recognised the need to enable local people, particularly local unemployed people, to access computer training.

A group of local volunteers established a training room with 7 computers in the Parish Centre and developed a 10 week introductory course. This proved to be a great success and the work of the project developed from here.

Access I.T. is now an ICS accredited test centre and has two fully equipped training rooms, with a total of 20 computers, 15 laptops for off-site training and employs 9 people. Access I.T. offers courses from basic I.T. skills to advanced programmes such as ECDL.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Access I.T. delivers a range of accredited Information Technology (IT) education and training programmes to individuals, communities and corporate organisations. We also deliver bespoke IT training programmes to meet the specific training needs of individuals and organisations. Access I.T. delivers an after school I.T. club & camps during the school holidays, and runs a computer club for the Over 55's. Our success is built on us being flexible, affordable and informal

STAFF & FUNDING

Access I.T. employs 1 full time manager and 8 part time members of staff who are funded under the Community Services Programme. We see ourselves as a stepping stone to full time employment for many people.

Over the past few years, members of staff have gone on to gain full time employment with other education bodies which would not have been possible without gaining the minimum experience required for these positions through Access I.T. 1 member of staff has gone on to start their own business. We also support other educational programmes by giving work placement to students on 3rd level courses.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Access I.T. prides itself on providing a stimulating educational experience to those participants who may not have had a positive engagement with formal education in the past.

Numerous participants have stated that completing a course in Access I.T. has given them the confidence and self-esteem to move on to other educational programmes.

Access I.T. works in partnership with a number of state and local development agencies to deliver education and training on their behalf. These programmes augment participant's employability and contribute to these agencies realising their objectives

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Access I.T. will continue to develop long-term partnerships with a number of state agencies, local development companies and large voluntary organisations, which enables us to secure business on a continual basis. These partners have proven effective at publicising the services that we have to offer.

We plan to open up our service to rural areas to ensure that the digital divide is addressed and that information technology training is available to everyone who might need it.

2 Ballybeg Greens



BACKGROUND



Ballybeg Greens grew from an idea by Ballybeg Community Development Project (CDP) to utilise

an unused local space next to the Parish Centre building which was an area susceptible to anti-social behaviour. A Horticulture Training Initiative began in 2009 with funding through WWETB (formerly FAS) to provide accredited horticulture training to adults seeking to develop new skills or to enhance their employment prospects. In 2011 Ballybeg Greens was established as a social enterprise of Ballybeg CDP (now BRILL FRC) and began to supply the local restaurant industry with organically grown primary produce and has developed significantly since then.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Ballybeg Greens offers training and placement opportunities for those most distant from the labour market. It facilitates education programmes and promotes the benefits of horticulture therapy and social prescribing to diverse groups of individuals. Ballybeg Greens supplies local restaurants with organically grown produce, has recently launched a veg box scheme and collaborates with the local primary school in delivering healthy food modules.

STAFF & FUNDING

We have three full time staff funded under the Community Services Programme (CSP) (Social Enterprise manager, Sales and marketing person and a head grower). We currently have five C.E workers that work with our head grower in the gardens.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Our work with groups such as Barnardos, Wave, Down Syndrome Ireland and The Irish Wheelchair Association has given people encouragement to pursue horticulture further as well as offering a horticultural therapy aspect. We run a healthy food module with the local primary school to teach 5th and 6th class the benefits of healthy eating and how to grow your own fruit and vegetables. Furthermore, our volunteers and C.E workers gain horticultural knowledge that is transferable into seeking full time employment.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

We are currently in the early stages of supplying a major Waterford specialist food retailer with fresh herbs. We have partnered Down syndrome Ireland in the development of a veg box scheme. This scheme supports members of Down syndrome Ireland to grow with Ballybeg Greens under a horticultural module and obtain a certification, a percentage of the proceeds of the scheme is donated to Down Syndrome Ireland.

3 Ballygunner GAA Club



BACKGROUND



Ballygunner GAA Club was founded in 1954 by local School Principal Jimmy McGinn. Hurling is the game played in the club. It has had great success especially in recent years at adult and juvenile levels. As well as two playing pitches, dressing rooms, meeting rooms with kitchen facilities, an outdoor artificial pitch and a hurling alley, the club has a complex which includes an artificial pitch, a gymnasium, a multi function room and Montessori school with full time staff. The club also has a walking/jogging track around the perimeter of one pitch. Apart from hurling, many other activities are catered for.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Ballygunner's primary function is the development of hurlers and participation in club competitions. Club pitches and facilities are available to the local schools for games and other activities. Gaelic football and camogie and other sports such as American football, archery, football and cricket are also played. The club provides classes in Irish dancing, pilates, ladies kettlebells, boxing, yoga and general fitness. Club members and everyone in the community are invited to become gym members. Children enjoy their birthday parties at the venue. Staff have also welcomed Malaysian, Indian and Islamic Prayer groups.

STAFF & FUNDING

Ballygunner GAA Club is run by volunteers with the support of 2 or 3 Tús/ Community Employment participants. Approximately 90 volunteers are involved in coaching players and managing teams. The club is run by an executive committee of 18 with health and wellbeing, finance, social, catering, development, maintenance and juvenile



sub committees. These committees involve another 50 volunteers. Funding includes club membership, development fund membership, sponsorship and voluntary fundraising. The club organises one annual event such as Race Night, Strictly Come Dancing and Summer BBQ.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Ballygunner's achievements on the hurling field have been well documented. The club currently has over 200 playing members. Many children hold their birthday parties in the centre. Local schools use the facility and a number have attended youth group meetings. Up to 500 people have been gym members and many others walk or run on the track. Each year the club caters for more than 600 celebrating the end of Ramadan.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

It is the wish of the club to maintain the high standard of coaching and performance. Due to an increase in playing numbers, including local schools, the priority challenge is for the club to purchase and develop a third field. The club plans to develop programmes in healthy eating, physical activity for non playing members, gambling, drugs and alcohol education, youth development, inclusion and integration. Many parents are involved in the club but there is a need to continually promote inclusion and collaboration in the wider community.

4 Ballymacarbry Community Centre CLG



BACKGROUND



In 2004 the community decided to provide a new community centre to cater for the needs in the local and surrounding areas. At a public meeting a committee was elected and it was decided to carry out a survey of 1. The needs of the area. 2. Potential funding avenues. 3. Sourcing a site. The response was very positive to all three issues. Voluntary fundraising was set in motion, a site was sourced and plans were prepared. Planning permission was achieved in the first year. It was decided to construct the building in 3 phases. Phase 1 was completed in 2006, phase 2 in 2008 and phase 3 in 2010. The centre cost €1.7 million. Grants totalling €760,000 were sourced and the remainder was raised by and from the local community. Currently there is only €70,000 outstanding.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The Centre provides; a theatre hall, gym, indoor astro turf pitch, keep fit room, library, 2 kitchens, meeting rooms, dressing rooms, shower rooms, pre-school, 24 bed hostel, laundry, sauna, and 120 car park spaces.

STAFF & FUNDING

At present the Preschool employs 3 people. The Centre has 1 C.E worker in the office and 1 C.E



general operative. There are 25 voluntary workers involved in the running and maintenance of the facility and 40 volunteers involved in fund raising and other events.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Ballymacarbry community has had many achievements to date. Ballymacarbry ladies football club won their 37th county senior final in a row in 2018. The Nire football club won their 9th county senior football title in 2018. Fourmilewater competes strongly in senior hurling. The community has a wide spread of underage teams and in total there are 250 players involved in all the teams. Ballymacarbry won a silver medal in the Tidy Towns Competition over the past 2 years with 50 volunteers involved. We also have an Elderly Housing Scheme with a Daycare Centre which is located in the Community Centre.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Challenges for the future including maintaining and promoting what we have, working as a community to upgrade other facilities that increase the profile of the community and continue to provide benefits to all residents and visitors from children to older people.

5 Blackwater Ecotours CLG



BACKGROUND



Villierstown Education
& Culture Project
CLG (VECP) formally

established Blackwater Eco Tours as a social enterprise in 2015 with the objectives of:

- Generating sustainable employment in the area
- Generating economic activity in the area
- Developing an environmentally friendly quality tourism offering based on the natural resources in the area
- Playing its part and complimenting other groups and individuals working to develop the Blackwater Valley into a thriving economic zone

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Blackwater Eco Tours provides a number of tourism-related services:

River Tours: From May to October there are daily river tours on the Blackwater from Villierstown Quay.

Self-Drive Boats: An individual or group can experience piloting their own boat on the river.

Kayaks & Canoes are available for hire.

Glamping Pods: Four family-sized luxury Glamping Pods are available for hire year round.

Walking Trails: Two Walking trails in woods along the River Blackwater have recently been developed.

STAFF & FUNDING

Blackwater Eco Tours currently employs five people; a Business Development Manager, Boat Coxswain / Facilities Operatives, Tour Guide / Facilities Operative, and a Cleaner. In addition we have participants from the Rural Social Scheme and Tús. This Team is supported by a group of between 10 and 15 volunteers from the local community who help out on a regular basis.

Sources of Funding include; Community Services Programme, LEADER Programme, traded income, Town & Village Renewal Scheme and the Rural Recreation Scheme.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Since mid-2018 we have welcomed approximately 1,200 visitors who have accessed our tourism services.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Funding is always a challenge and we are continuously working to secure the necessary funding to maintain and develop the Social Enterprise.

Being relatively remote and unknown as a tourist destination we are working to increase awareness of the Blackwater Valley with other operators and organisations in the area.

We plan to further develop the facilities and range of services that we offer to broaden their appeal.

We look to participate with other communities and organisations in the development of the Blackwater Valley as a strong economic zone.

6 Cill Barra Community Sports Centre CLG



BACKGROUND



Waterford Local Economic Development Company (LEDC) was established in 2001, has charitable status, and aims to address unemployment and poverty through social & economic development. To date its Board of Directors has consisted of members from the corporate, state and community sectors. Since incorporation, the LEDC has been involved in a number of ventures, significantly the establishment of the Cill Barra Community Sports Centre in Ballybeg in 2006. The centre aims to address the need for affordable and accessible sports facilities and works closely with the local community, in particular disadvantaged groups, assessing their needs and fulfilling their dreams for a vibrant and healthy lifestyle.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The centre comprises of a gym and a sports hall. Individuals and groups can use the gym, or hire the hall. We offer flexible options for gym membership and our hall facilitates everything from Roller Derby Basketball, Uni Hoc, Indoor Bowls, Indoor Soccer, One- Wall Handball to Funerals, Weddings and Birthday Parties. We are the only sports hall in the South East to have Roller Derby floor markings. Our qualified fitness instructors deliver a variety of fitness classes, adapted fitness classes for older people and people with disabilities, and personal training sessions.

STAFF & FUNDING

The Community Services Programme contributes to the wage costs of 2 full time staff and a part time staff member is funded by traded income. We also support participants from CE and Tus. We have 6 members on our Voluntary Board of Directors.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

We provide physical activity and recreational opportunities for older people, people with disabilities, people recovering from addiction, members of the Traveller community, and youth at risk. We partner organisations like Waterford Sports Partnership, Waterford Area Partnership, Local Soccer & GAA clubs, local schools, and youth projects. We aim to deliver activities that meet the needs of our community.

In 2018, we had 4,620 visitors to our gym. More than 2,000 individuals attended our fitness classes. Our fitness classes range from lunchtime classes, over 55's circuit training, early morning bootcamp, and ladies weightlifting classes. We held 5 kid's birthday parties. We engaged with over 40 groups and organisations and a total of 19,500 individuals came through our doors.

Since 2014, we have organised the Cill Barra 5K Fun Run & Walk with over 1,500 people participating to date. This is a fundraiser for the centre, and another local charity. Over the last five years we have raised funds for a local youth project, football club, horticulture project and a search, rescue and recovery service.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Staffing, inconsistencies in the minimum wage increase and wage contributions from funders, lack of funds to upskill staff, recruiting board members, cuts to funding and the issue of displacement and social enterprises.

We have plans to build an extension to increase services available at the Cill Barra Community Sports Centre and to progress new social & economic developments.

7 Comeragh Community Development CLG

BACKGROUND



Comeragh Community Development (a voluntary group of 20 people & social enterprise) was set up in 1996 to clean up the mountains and promote tourism. Their first venture was organising two litter clean up days. The team then developed walking trails with hand drawn maps of recommended walking routes to encourage tourism, hosted art competitions, litter awareness campaigns, production of brochures, design of a calendar including twelve beauty spots, and they achieved protected structure status for road depots built in 1842 on the Lemybrien to Carrick-on-Suir road. In 2019 the Comeragh Clean-up covered 60km squared and attracted 350 volunteers collecting 7.5 tons of rubbish. The event was sponsored by local businesses and individuals.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The first section of Crough Wood 5km walk between Mahon Bridge and Mahon Falls was opened in 2007. It involved legally binding leases, proper insurance cover and national trail regulations. The main objective is to facilitate tourism in the area for generations to come. The second phase of the walk along the river Mahon, is a 1km strip completed in 2014 followed by a third phase, 1.5km. Both strips involved purchase and lease of land. Planning permission for a fourth phase was granted in February 2019 and is due to open by the end of the year. The annual Comeraghs Wild Festival was an outstanding success in 2019. The Comeraghs are rich in heritage, involving famous poets, writers, story tellers, musicians, soldiers, highwaymen, teachers, gaelic footballers, the village ruins of Ballintlea and much more.

STAFF & FUNDING

Two CES workers are employed and up to 30 regular volunteers are on regular duty. Many more are available for the big days; Clean-up, Comeraghs Wild and Sean Kelly Cycle Event. The group has raised over €100,000 in voluntary fundraising. A Strictly Come Dancing Competition attracted many competing couples raising sponsorship which led to a sale of 750 tickets with hundreds of disappointed people unable to gain entry to the event in a Waterford Hotel. Small grants have been received from Waterford Council and Waterford Leader Partnership.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

The Comeraghs featured on RTÉ Nationwide, in European Magazines, as part of Waterford Greenway, Ireland's Ancient East and Munster Vales brand promotions. They are included in Waterford, Regional and National tourism plans. The group has won several awards in particular the Golden Mile award.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

A list of proposals is drawn up to enhance Comeragh tourism and to plan future environmental, cultural and socio-economic developments. The aim is to protect, improve and enrich the local environment while attracting greater numbers to the area. The group is determined to learn from mistakes made elsewhere and ensure a sustainable future for their developments.

8 Copper Coast Geopark CLG



BACKGROUND



UNESCO Global Geoparks are single, unified geographical areas where sites and landscapes of international geological significance are managed with a holistic concept of protection, education and sustainable development. The Copper Coast sought Geopark status in 2001 as a way of bringing together the desires of the 7 different villages in the Copper Coast Area to protect and promote their heritage and engage in tourism in a sustainable manner. Copper Coast Geopark CLG is the community based and volunteer led organisation that continues to develop this goal in the area.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Copper Coast Geopark CLG runs a heritage centre/café in the village of Bunmahon. It promotes and develops local festivals and cultural projects throughout the Copper Coast area, engages in educational activities with local schools and runs a series of tours for school groups and tourists. The Geopark also participates in EU funded projects and develops infrastructure for the area working in co-operation with Waterford Council.

STAFF & FUNDING

The Geopark directly employs 1 full time and 1 part time member of staff all year round. It also has a full time seasonal worker, a grounds keeper employed through CE, and contracts freelance guides for tours and tourism related work. It also has a CE scheme worker as a grounds keeper. It contracts freelance guides for tours and tourism related work. Limited funding comes from the Geological Survey of Ireland and Waterford County Council.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Through engagement in EU projects the Geopark has been successful in winning over €1.2 million in direct funding for the area.

The Geopark attracts more than 10,000 visitors to its visitor centre annually (last count in 2015) and attracts a variety of special interest groups and tours throughout the year and many more visitors to the region as a whole.

Private businesses have adopted “the Copper Coast” brand and use it to sell products ranging from craft beers to skin care. Copper Coast Geopark has won numerous national awards such as the “Community Impact Award” in 2015.

The Copper Coast was successfully revaluated as a UNESCO Global Geopark in 2015.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Our major challenges include; limited funding, increasing expenses, retention of staff, our trading performance, the revalidation from Unesco and the legacy of previous debts.

9 DFBA Community Enterprises CLG



BACKGROUND



DFBA was established in October 1993 as an umbrella social enterprise to encourage the regeneration of the local community. It champions an integrated approach encouraging

social, enterprise, education, environment, housing, heritage and recreational developments in the Dunhill-Fenor Parish. In the early 1990s 2 local national schools each lost a teacher and the population was stagnating. At the same time the Government established the Community Employment Scheme, the Leader Partnership Programme and the County Enterprise Boards.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

DFBA Board of 14 voluntary directors encourages and empowers local people/groups with ideas to act on them. It provides leadership, direction, experience and expertise including accounting, legal, networking, coordinating information and resources within the organisation which includes 12 affiliated and 10 associated projects.

STAFF & FUNDING

There are 70 people employed in the Ecopark which includes an enterprise and education centre. There are another 10 employees in the community on DFBA childcare and maintenance projects. Both schools have increased staff members to 26 in total partly as a result DFBA activities. DFBA projects attract over 200 active volunteers. Funding is accessed from a range of state agencies including Waterford Council, Waterford Leader Partnership, the Local Enterprise Office and from outstanding fund raising projects.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

From 1993 the area infrastructure, services and facilities has been transformed. The population has increased from 1,500 to 2,100, over 250 jobs have been created, school staff increased from 3 to 9 in Dunhill and 2 to 17 in Fenor accommodating a major overflow from Tramore. Several major national and international accreditations and awards were achieved including those to the Copper Coast UNESCO Geopark, Dunhill Multi-Education Centre, the Integrated Constructed Wetlands, the childcare groups and the Anne Valley Walk.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Future plans include; the completion of a new development plan by the end of 2019, promoting the need for a full time Co-ordinator to help to sustain projects, advocating for a full time agency advisory service, seeking a simplification of governance regulations and comprehensive support packages for small social enterprises and a new social impact monitoring system.

10 Dungarvan Care of the Aged CLG

BACKGROUND



The Déise Day Centre was founded 25 years ago with a Membership of 287 people. It is a home away from home where people aged 65 years and over can meet and join social &

therapeutic activities Monday – Friday inclusive. We have a great team of volunteers who support the Centre; drivers, kitchen staff etc.

We are a team of individuals dedicated to promoting the independence of our members, personally, medically, psychologically, socially and spiritually. We advocate for continuous quality improvements to ensure that the lives of our members are as full as possible.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

We have a 5-day full in-house service, providing morning tea/coffee, home cooked dinner & afternoon tea. A full range of activities take place daily, including Yoga, Pongo, Music, Arts & Crafts, Singing, Bible Studies, Pool and many other activities. We have buses to transport Members daily to the Centre, from their home. We run a Meals on Wheels service covering Dungarvan, Abbeyside, Ballymacarbery, the Nire Valley, Newcastle and Touraneena which operates 5 days per week. Services provided include Holistic Therapies, Hairdressing & Chiropody.

STAFF & FUNDING

We have 2 staff from Tús, 14 C.E Scheme and 6 full time Staff, we have over 100 Volunteers and sources of funding range from POBAL to various grants. We also run fundraisers.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

We are providing a much needed service to the local community, reducing loneliness and allowing people to remain in their own homes. Our membership continues to grow which proves ours is a much needed service.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Cost is always a major factor for us, without central funding we could not operate and therefore this is our biggest challenge to date. As our membership grows, our building will become smaller and this presents our biggest challenge.



11 Dunhill GAA Sports & Leisure Centre



BACKGROUND



Dunhill GAA Club was founded in late 1880s. It has been the main sporting, social and cultural organisation in the parish since then. In 1989 GAA President John Dowling opened a new state of the

art club house which cost IR350,000. The clubhouse was completed and debt eliminated over a short period. It provides inclusive recreational facilities for youth, elderly, women and men.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Dunhill GAA Sports Centre includes a newly refurbished and fully equipped gym, two indoor halls, meeting room, spacious function room and playschool. Its range of activities includes exercise classes, High Intensity Interval Training, Circuit and Bootcamp aimed at males and females of all ages and fitness levels. The gym provides personal training and programmes for those rehabilitating from injury/illness, older adults, youths, those with obesity issues and the general public. It caters for youth/children at the Saturday morning Fit Club, Birthday Parties, Halloween, Easter and Summer Camps and the organisation of bi-weekly games and activities. Various social events such as adult country music dancing nights, awards nights, meetings of various clubs, and societies in the locality are held in the Centre. Operation Transformation is also organised on an annual basis. It caters for outside clubs/teams for weekend breaks and bonding sessions. Tiny Tots Playschool is located in the Centre with 15-20 children and a three-person staff team attending on a daily basis.

STAFF & FUNDING

The Centre employs a part time manager working approximately 24 hours and another part time



member of staff. It also employs a CES or Tus worker. During the summer, Easter and Halloween Camps 5 or 6 students are employed to assist staff. The club draws on over 100 volunteers including club officials, team mentors, fundraisers, gatemen/women, first aid, complex maintenance workers, sponsors and others. They manage events such as funerals, celebrations, major events in the parish, fundraising for good causes and general running of the club. Sources of funds include Annual Deise Draw, Weekly Split the Pot, Membership Fees, Gym Fees, Rent from Play School, Golf Classic, School Tours, Birthday Parties and other initiatives such as Auction, Pub Quiz, Croke Park Draw and other events.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

The club complex caters for hurling, camogie, football (women and men) from under 8s to adult levels. Dunhill GAA, St Anne's Camogie and Ladies Football, Clanna Gael U16 to 21 and Na Gael U8 to 14. The Centre provides physical, social and cultural activities for the local population.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

It has many opportunities to expand its service provision and is currently upgrading its development plan which includes 6 new facilities.

12 Dunhill Multi-Education Centre CLG



BACKGROUND



The company was formed in 2004 to provide accessible training opportunities to people in the community. The centre has evolved and now has three priorities; community,

education and employment. It is now a dedicated social enterprise with charitable status and voluntary board of directors. The provision of local community services, such as the community café reduces isolation and is used by students and the local population. In order to maintain sustainability the centre undertakes external training contracts with ETBs and Teagasc nationwide.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The centre accommodates a variety of activities. These include; a meeting space, a women's group, a parent & toddler group, winter history lectures, pilates/yoga, bridge and supervised study. It has a community café, a community garden with polytunnels, supports community conferences and Ecopark events with catering/exhibition & meeting space. It is in its 7th year of a Local Training Initiative titled Tourism Trails with Smart Media and funded by WWETB. It offers QQ1 level 6 Training & Development and bespoke training. The company undertakes external training for Teagasc nationwide, ETBs and private clients.

STAFF & FUNDING

Nine people are employed in the core business in Dunhill Ecopark. A number of them are employees co-funded by the Community Services Programme administered by Pobal on behalf of the Department of Rural & Community Development (Manager + 3 FTE). The Local Training Initiative provides funding



for a coordinator and assistant coordinator along with sessional tutors. The company employs 20-30 tutors nationwide to cover external contracts with Teagasc and ETBs. The company also engages 3 TUS contracts. A dedicated board of directors with four people is very active and up to 40 volunteers are available to support the full range of services.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

The company has seen its income expand 7 fold over the past decade. It has increased its staffing level by a factor of four. The new roles are more sustainable with a commitment to work towards industry standard rates and avoid minimum wage levels. Careful cashflow management with external training contracts meant the company was not adversely impacted by the recession. The centre footfall has exceeded targets set in business plans and funding continues to be renewed.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

The company is committed to the provision of community services, education & training, meaningful and sustainable employment roles. The challenges will include securing continued funding, retention of staff and careful management of cashflow and income streams to sustain the business.

13 Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd



BACKGROUND



Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd (DREL) was set up in 1999 by DFBA Enterprises Ltd which was established in October 1993. One of the objectives was to create new job opportunities in the local area.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

DREL purchased 2 acres in 1999 from the diocese of Waterford & Lismore and built a phase 1 and 2 building of 35,000 sq. feet in total to accommodate small enterprises. In 2004 DREL opened a multi-education centre in the phase 2 building. In the same year it purchased another 9.5 totalling 11.5 acres. Since the buildings opened in 2000 it has accommodated 250 jobs. A 2.5 acre site was set aside to construct an integrated wetlands to deal with waste water from the ecopark buildings.



STAFF & FUNDING

DREL has a voluntary board of directors and a part time accounts clerk. There are usually 2 or 3 workers on labour market schemes employed. DREL has the support of the community and of 10 + volunteers from the 200 volunteers engaged on DFBA related projects. They help in organising, stewarding, sponsorship of events, conferences, maintenance work and fund raising.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

DREL survived the worst economic crisis in the State since its foundation by a huge voluntary input. We maintained a high occupancy rate despite losses, closures and relocations whilst honouring all debt payments. We currently (July 2019) house 32 small enterprises employing 70 people and have recently produced a 5 year strategic development plan.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Our challenges and plans include; installing fibre broadband, strengthening the voluntary board, expanding the unit space, leveraging funding and employing a full time Manager. We are optimistic that the new social enterprise policy will bring a fresh approach to state support for social enterprise.

14 Kilmacthomas Social Enterprise CLG

BACKGROUND



Kilmacthomas Social Enterprise Group (KSEG) was formed in the summer of 2016 and incorporated in September of the same year.

The group allows Kilmacthomas take full advantage of the opening in March 2017 of the Waterford Greenway. The Greenway runs directly through the village of Kilmacthomas and forms the halfway point between Waterford City and Dungarvan town. The new entity allows the village to apply for various grants and financial assistance. It is also important for a village leadership group to work in partnership with the local authority in attracting various events and activities to the village.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

KSEG acts as a leadership development group for the village. KSEG sees itself as a hub to support the other not-for-profit and voluntary organisations e.g. Kilmacthomas Tidy Towns and Kilmacthomas First Responders in the area. KSEG will apply for development grants and work with local authorities on development projects and help bring events and activities into the village. KSEG promotes Kilmacthomas as a tourist destination and business location. KSEG operates the local Community Text Alert.

STAFF & FUNDING

KSEG does not have staff and the committee has 12 members with 10 other volunteers in the community to do the work. Our main sources of funding are local authority grants and local fundraising through the sale of a Kilmacthomas calendar.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Successful applications for two Town and Village renewal grants totalling approximately €200,000 were secured. This was used to restore the railway station, light up the viaduct and develop promotional materials. Kilmacthomas through KSEG is now a part of the Comeraghs Wild Festival which involves running a concert and village fete. Kilmacthomas entered into the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town Award in 2018, and achieved runner up in Munster. It has set up and operates the community text alert system.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

The main challenge is future funding and to attract further volunteers to the committee. There is so much work to be done. KSEG future plans include supporting the Comeragh Wild Festival, developing a five-year development plan for Kilmacthomas and to work with Waterford City and County Council on its Health Check in 2019. It will continue to mobilise local community and businesses to build on the success of the Waterford Greenway in Kilmacthomas.

15 Lady Lane Retirement Services CLG



BACKGROUND



Waterford Care for the Aged Society was founded in 1963 to provide for the elderly of the city and surrounding areas. At that time the meals service which

evolved into Meals on Wheels was started by people cooking an extra meal in their own home and delivering it to an aged person at risk. In the 1980's the organisation turned its thoughts to the provision of accommodation. Since 1965 the Day Centre was directed by Sr. Carmella McDonnell (Sister of Charity) who gave 22 years of her life in the caring service of Waterford's senior citizens. In 1990 the Sisters of Mercy continued the work under the administration of Sr. Monica.

Occupation of the new apartments commenced in May 1990. On October 16th 1990, the official opening of Lady Lane House took place with the Mayor, Bishop Russell, guests and members in attendance. Many representatives from the South Eastern Health Board, Directors of Respond and the ESB were there and the sponsoring organisations were thanked for their help and generous sponsorship.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Nutritious meals are cooked on site and provided in the Day Care Centre. They are also delivered to people in their homes in the city, county and South Kilkenny (Meals on Wheels). Four hundred meals are prepared in the centre and served every day of the week. The meals with dessert cost €7. The 42 apartments are rented out for accommodation with rent rates depending on personal circumstances and floor sizes.

STAFF & FUNDING

The organisation is funded by apartment rents, meal prices, public donations, local business sponsorship and an annual grant from the HSE. The centre employs 5 full time people and 15 Community Employment Scheme workers. The staff team of Mavis Kelly, manager, Paula O Reilly, reception secretary, Mary Cashin, chef, Tom Walsh, chef and John Nolan chef are supported by 12 volunteers. New volunteers are always welcome and such jobs as minibus drivers, tradesmen, cleaners, security are needed to share the load and provide a top class service.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Many people, once living alone are now accommodated in the house and receive proper attention and support. They are no longer subjected to loneliness and their needs are catered for with the best of food and clean and warm surroundings. A chiropody service is made available on the second Monday of every month. Shopping trips are organised and weekly outings are also a feature of the centre experience. The Day Care centre is a very hospitable place and where people enjoy each other's company throughout the day. The people are able to live out their lives in dignity and contentment. Those who are visited in their homes and served hot food are able to remain at home. The visit of the food van also checks in on their general welfare which is important to the person/s. The impact on the individuals, families, communities is substantial.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

The immediate aim is to retain the Community Employment Scheme workers as they are vital to maintain the service. The organisation depends on these workers and a band of volunteers which are available free of charge to cover all the work that is necessary to maintain standards of care.

16 Rathgormack North Waterford Community Development CLG



BACKGROUND



Formed in January 1998 following 4 years of fundraising by locals committed to a programme of integrated development for Rathgormack village and surrounds.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Purpose built hostel with accommodation for 22 people, including self-catering kitchen, meeting room, sports hall, stage, changing facilities, climbing wall in 2000.

Clodiagh Playground – in Nov 2010 funding was secured to provide a playground for children of all ages.

Rathgormack Looped Walks – 2009. series of waymarked road, forest and hill walks close to Rathgormack in the Comeragh Mountains.

Comeragh Amenity Area – 2019 enclosed floodlit all weather 4G astro turf games area; 400 metre floodlit walking track; Community Space including provision of outdoor recreational facilities (scouting/ picnic area, natural/rustic children's recreation area and landscaped outdoor entertainment/stage area; drained natural grass playing area/court adequately sized to accommodate lawn tennis or other outdoor pursuits, activities, games etc).

STAFF & FUNDING

3 TÚS personnel work on maintenance of the centre and the operation of hostel and hall bookings. 22 active volunteers including directors, active keyholders and committee members are heavily involved in fundraising and operations. Innovative fundraising ideas have been a feature and much funding comes from the supportive local

community. Fundraising events included two hugely successful mayoral campaigns, almost 20 years apart, along with annual events such as concerts, discos, Christmas fairs etc. Further grant aid and support for the projects has come from Waterford Leader Partnership and Waterford County Council.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

The centre opened up a new chapter in the social history of Rathgormack and the surrounding area, contributing to reduced rural isolation and leading to the establishment and revival of many clubs & community events. Uses of the centre include; Schools activities, Badminton, Ceol Craobh Crotaiagh, Scouts, Karate, Indoor hurling/football/soccer, Set dancing, Dance and drama, Card nights, Parent & Toddler Time, Circuit Training, Mountain Rescue training and events, Rathgormack Ramblers Walking Group, public meetings, Gaisce and other school/ colleges outings, tourists, Community Games. The new facility will add to the offering and already has a busy bookings calendar.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Financially and operationally, the centre & new additions will require prudent management to successfully expand the offering given the added capacity of the new facilities. There is real buy-in from the local community and clubs. The committee not only consider the project self-sustaining but indeed having potential for growth. Areas being investigated include: New events and festivals; Children's summer camps; Birthday parties; Team building events; Attracting visiting teams and clubs; Attracting scouts and other visiting groups.

17 Renew Enterprises



BACKGROUND



Treo Port Lairge CLG has been providing services and programmes to people with criminal convictions since

2000. An important part of this work has been the development and provision of accredited workshop based initiatives for participants which have also served to benefit local communities.

Since 2018, these mini enterprises have been formally established, as *Renew Social Enterprises*. Renew provides full-time employment for people with criminal convictions who face a wide range of barriers in securing and maintaining employment. We are committed to social inclusion and social justice through our role as an employer and as a provider of relevant goods and services.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Renew offers the following products and services:

- Lawnmower and Small engine repair and servicing
- Bicycle repair and servicing
- Second Hand Bicycle sales
- Delivering QQI and City & Guilds accredited *Bicycle Mechanics* courses.
- Delivering QQI accredited *Four Stroke Engine Repair* courses.
- Custom-made furniture and woodcraft items
- Pallet furniture (indoor and outdoor)
- Kindling production
- Wheelchair repair and servicing

STAFF & FUNDING

Renew employs three full-time (One manager and two people with convictions) and two part-time staff (Bicycle and Mechanics' tutors). Renew is funded from traded income and from the Community Services Programme.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Forty nine people from a range of groups and agencies were upskilled from participation on Renew's courses.

Renew provided professional and affordable repairs & products to people from our local community including:

- 75 lawnmowers serviced and repaired
- 84 bikes repaired and 18 bikes sold
- 273 items of woodwork
- 2,739 bags of kindling sold
- 6 wheelchairs serviced
- 14 spinning bikes repaired in a local gym

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Under the Dept. of Justice & Equality 2018 "Kickstart" Initiative, Renew secured part funding to be able to put a van on the road allowing us to expand geographically in terms of repairs, service provision and course delivery. We are actively working towards becoming a centre of repair and servicing of e-bikes, electric wheelchairs, mobility vehicles and trishaws. Further exploration of diversification options in Mattress recycling and Woodcraft is underway. Additional full-time operatives will need to be employed to meet these business development needs.

18 The Shona Project CLG



BACKGROUND



The Enterprise was founded in October 2016, won the Social Entrepreneurs Ireland award in 2017 and received funding from the Social Innovation Fund in 2018.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The Shona Project aims to educate, empower and inspire today's Irish girls to become tomorrow's strong, capable and confident young women.

STAFF & FUNDING

We received €10,000 funding from SEI in 2017, which was invested in our website. We had no paid staff until September 2018, when we received €50,000 funding from SIFI which allowed us to employ the CEO for 1 year. We have a team of 30 volunteers who contribute in various capacities and include our board and our youth council.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

To date we have reached 6,000 students in schools over Ireland and almost 200,000 online. We have delivered conferences, and additional projects and are currently developing our workshop to be used by charities in Africa as well as our online primary curriculum for Irish schools.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Opportunity, bookings, interest, impact and ideas have never been an issue for us. Our biggest challenge has been, and always will be, funding which is always 10 steps behind our growth.

19 Tramore Water Centre Group CLG (T/A Splashworld)



BACKGROUND



Tramore Water Centre Group opened the swimming pool in 1993 with funding from the EU, Bord Failte and donations from the local community. An

indoor gymnasium was added in 1998 and a fitness studio a couple of years later.

We are run by a voluntary board of directors.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Splashworld provides a well supervised environment for swimmers, be they families, groups or children with their friends. We also have specialist adult swims and aqua aerobics as well as parent and toddler times. We provide swimming lessons as well as fitness classes and access to a gym.

STAFF & FUNDING

We employ over 30 staff, a lot of whom work on part time contracts at the weekend. We currently do not employ any staff on schemes nor do we access state funding streams.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

We consider one of our major achievements to be teaching the community of Tramore and the wider south east area to swim. We have patrons from throughout the County of Waterford and other counties in the South East, and provide a safe space for all families to enjoy water based fun – whatever the weather. We also have a gym, providing classes and gym instruction to encourage a healthy lifestyle through fitness. We are open all year round and welcome visitors from all over the country to participate with us in a fun filled environment.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

One of our main challenges is dealing with high operating costs, specifically annual insurance, electricity, gas and wages. We also have no access to state backed funding streams to support our traded income. There is a lot of work to do currently to upgrade our facilities and give the whole place a lift in order to continue to provide the high standards and welcoming facility that our visitors deserve.



20 St. Patrick's Gateway Centre CLG



BACKGROUND



The first recorded mention of St. Patrick's church in Waterford dates back to the year 1100. In 2010 the Methodist community made the decision to save the building and open it as a community centre. The building project was finished in 2014 and St. Patrick's Gateway Centre was officially opened by President Michael D. Higgins. Since then St. Patrick's Gateway has served not only as a place of worship but also as a multipurpose community centre seeking to address the educational, recreational, social, artistic and cultural needs of Waterford City and its surroundings. The Centre is managed by a voluntary Board of Directors.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

St. Patrick's Gateway Centre has various rooms to rent that are available all year round for family parties, meetings, classes, concerts, rehearsals, talks, exhibitions, markets and personal ceremonies. These include; a main hall with a capacity of 180, 2 rooms with a capacity of 30 2 smaller rooms with a capacity of 10 and 2 office spaces. We also have full kitchen facilities.

St. Patrick's Gateway facilitates the Helping Hand charity which was setup to support homeless people, including people in emergency accommodation.



STAFF & FUNDING

St. Patrick's Gateway Centre employs 1 full time Manager and 12-part time TUS & CE scheme participants.

Funding comes from a range of sponsors, donations, loans and traded income from room rental.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

In September 2018 we opened a newly extended building which gave us additional space available for rent. This enables the Centre to increase their sustainable income stream and achieve our social objectives. A defibrillator is now placed in the front entrance hall of the church and necessary training provided to a range of neighbouring organisations

St. Patrick's Gateway Centre provides quality work experience for people on labour market schemes, over 100 having been employed to date. We are also a Place of Sanctuary in Waterford promoting a culture of welcome and inclusivity.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

St. Patrick's Gateway Centre will continue its development of the building and graveyard as a national heritage site, develop an open access quiet space for reflection, as well as making it increasingly accessible for wheelchair users.

21 Tallow Enterprise Group CLG



BACKGROUND



In 1986, Tallow Enterprise Group formed in response to high unemployment in the area. The group is a Limited Company with charitable status. Three years later, newly refurbished premises named Nora Herlihy House was handed over to the Enterprise Group. Over the next fifteen years, there was a community playschool established at the Enterprise Centre. Tallow Enterprise Group took charge of the Tallow Carnegie library and opened its doors to the public once more. The Enterprise Centre became the HQ for a Community Employment Programme. TEG purchased a disused garage on Barrack St. to provide further necessary workspace units. Tallow Enterprise Group was chosen to operate the Local Employment Services Scheme. Ten computers were purchased for computer training at the Enterprise Centre with assistance from Waterford Leader Partnership. On-going Computer Training courses are provided for the public in the Centre. Leisure Courses are provided as demand requires. Finally the Multimedia Centre was opened as a Test and Training Centre for ECDL.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

At Tallow Enterprise Centre, we provide in-house computer training for the community as well as assisting older people out in the community on a call out basis. We have beginners and improvers computer classes, ECDL courses and also provide one to one tuition. There is supervised after school and exam study for students. We provide rental units for small businesses which are at capacity at present. Our office support services include production of CV's, emailing, binding, faxing, printing, booklets, leaflets – to name but a few for all of the community. We run workshops, art classes and provide a space for the local Active Retired Group.



STAFF & FUNDING

At present, there are 2 full time staff, 4 part time staff and one from a CE Scheme. We receive funding from Pobal annually.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Tallow Enterprise Centre has played a pivotal role in community developments such as the redevelopment of Tallow Community Centre, the new Link Road and the restoration of the Alms Houses. We provide education and training for all identified needs in the community. We target specific disadvantaged groups and continue to encourage them to effectively participate in programmes of personal and social development. We provide a safe space for supervised after school and exam study for students. Our administration services support individuals, community groups and businesses.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

The challenges we face are increasing costs in overheads which can affect us in providing a cost effective service. Future plans include the provision of more hobby courses for the vulnerable in society. We hope to be in a position in the future to offer room rental space or hot desks for start-up businesses.



22 Tramore AFC

BACKGROUND



Formed as Tramore AFC in 1952, we have developed into an influential club. As we enter our 69th year of existence we have many achievements that we as a club and community are so proud of.

Moving to our current home, Graun Park, was one of the best decisions made by the club – as evidenced by the facilities we have on site. We have raffled bikes, cars and even houses to raise money for this development, and we also had a fortnightly lotto. Today's fundraisers include winning 4 tickets for every Ireland home game at the new AVIVA stadium, our Good Friday Soccerthon, a sponsored walk at Easter and numerous ad hoc events.

We have had many successes in our years of existence including winning the Waterford Premier League four times and the Munster Youth Cup twice. We have also won the FAI Under 17 National title in 2017 and the FAI National Youths Cup in 2018. Our ladies' side of the club is rapidly growing and we have competed in four different leagues in different counties, such as has been the demand for teams at Tramore AFC. In 2010 we were crowned Munster Champions and the ladies have since built on this success. Our new approach to coaching has seen us put a system in place that dedicates quality coaching time to all players from the age of 3 upwards. Little Dribblers is a session put on by our coaches helped by Transition Year students of Tramore CBS, offering soccer in a fun environment for kids aged 3-5 years. We have dedicated ourselves to making sure that the coaches are also coached, and numerous volunteers at the club have taken FAI coaching courses in recent years. We now have coaches at every level from UEFA A right down to Kickstart 1.

Our proactive activity in Tramore AFC and the community has been rewarded on a national stage from the FAI when we were awarded AVIVA club of

the year for 2011. Everyone at the club is extremely proud of this achievement, and we promise we will not rest on our laurels but continue to develop on and off the pitch to make Graun Park and Tramore the number one venue for soccer in the country.

We have produced 31 international players for Ireland at every level. We have two full Ireland International players – Jim Goodwin and Derek Williams. We have also hosted 5 international matches as well as the UEFA Under 19 Championships in 2005. We host all Waterford schoolboy and schoolgirl cup finals, 27 in total per year.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

We have 30 teams starting at Under 11 right through to our senior premier league team. We cater for both male and female teams.

STAFF & FUNDING

Approximately 50 people between groundsmen, committee members, coaches etc. All are volunteers except for 3 people on publicly funded schemes, covering ground maintenance and clerical functions.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Our achievements are numerous. We bought our facilities outright in 1976 and we are completely debt free. Our facilities include club house, 4 dressing rooms, disabled toilet, ladies' toilet, gear room and referee's room. We have a kitchen, office, club shop and gym. Outside we have an all-weather astro training area, two full pitches and a covered stand to cater for 200 spectators.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Extra dressing rooms & outdoor toilets. The implementation of a new irrigation system to combat global warming. To extend and modernise our current club house.

23 Waterford Spraoi CLG

BACKGROUND



Waterford Spraoi is a professional street arts, spectacle and festival producer founded in 1993. Based in purpose-built studios in Waterford City the company's roots are in voluntary community arts and it has evolved to become a leader in the professional Irish street arts sector. Today Spraoi produces work for festivals and events nationally whilst retaining deep roots in its local community.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

Spraoi produces an annual international street arts festival in Waterford that attracts performers and producers from around the world. The festival is a significant contributor to Waterford's social, cultural and economic life. Waterford Business Awards 2018 named it Tourism and Visitor Attraction of the year. Spraoi has produced street attractions for events in Cork, Dublin, Limerick, Galway, Kilkenny and other centres. Spraoi Studios are a development hub for visiting street artists and the company mentors talent with its N.E.S.T. (New Emerging Street Talent) programme, which includes international networking opportunities for participating artists.

STAFF & FUNDING

Spraoi maintains a core staff of four full-time, seven part-time and some 150 contracted artists and technicians.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Waterford City and County Council data indicates Spraoi Festival generates daily footfall in excess of 78,000. ISACS research indicated 51% of the festival's 2019 audience came from outside Waterford City. Organisers of St. Patrick's Festival Dublin 2019 estimate five hundred thousand viewed Spraoi's performance as spectators and on television. The company's work is seen via diverse platforms, e.g. The Late Late Toy Show 2018 with one and a half million viewers.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Sufficient investment and income generation to maintain standards and impacts for audiences and stakeholders.



24 Waterford & Suir Valley Railway CLG



BACKGROUND



In 1999 a feasibility study on the three abandoned Waterford Railway lines; Tramore, New Ross and Cork concluded that the section of the Waterford to Cork line from Kilmeadan Station to Bilberry was the best choice for a tourist attraction as the line was still intact, the most scenic, and, along with Kilmeadan Station, it was still in the ownership of CIE. In 2000 the Waterford & Suir Valley Railway Company was formed following an agreement with CIE Group Property. It became a FAS Project and with the support of both Waterford Councils, the Enterprise Board, Leader, INTERREG 3A, Irish Rail, local business and volunteers the railway was built and opened to the public in May 2003. Today there is 10km of track and it welcomes nearly 30,000 visitors each year.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

The narrow gauge railway offers a regular train time table from April to September and Feb and Oct Mid term breaks. Visitors board the train at Kilmeadan Station, then take off on an exciting journey through the countryside, taking in panoramic views of the River Suir, get a glimpse in to Mount Congreve Gardens, make a wish as they pass through the Fairy Wood and on to Carriganore beside Waterford Greenway. Events throughout the year include, School Tours, Nature Express, Choo Choo Fun Days, Sunset Express, Spooky Express and Santa Express. The station has also become an important location on the Waterford Greenway offering facilities such as a coffee shop and toilets as well as parking.

STAFF & FUNDING

The railway has 50+ volunteers, eight staff on state employment schemes, three full time and three seasonal employees who provide expertise and oversight of the key engineering and operational activities. Funding is primarily from revenue generated, EU funded development with match funding loans from Clann Credo. Other sources include sponsorship schemes and donations.

ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

Since the railway opened as a tourist attraction, 370,000 visitors came to Kilmeadan to enjoy the experience. It provides employment and provides facilities to visitors to Waterford Greenway. As the longest operating narrow gauge railway in Ireland it has generated international publicity for Waterford. As a registered charity we work with other charities to help them fundraise using railway facilities. Volunteers involved with the project get to use their free time productively, learn new skills and enjoy the sense of achievement of being involved with a successful project. The company has preserved a part of Waterford's rich railway history in a linear park setting on Waterford Greenway and beside Mount Congreve Gardens for this and future generations to enjoy.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

The railway is regulated by the Commission for Railway Regulations, which brings its own challenges. The constant requirement for maintenance of the track, bridges, river wall and rolling stock will always be a challenge and uses a good portion of the revenue generated. Waterford & Suir Valley Railway has achieved most of its objectives, however the two toughest challenges remain. 1. To extend the track in to Waterford City. 2. To operate with a steam locomotive.

25 Williamstown Community Childcare CLG



BACKGROUND



Williamstown Childcare is in operation in a purpose built building since

2007. It is run by a Voluntary Board. It caters for children from 2 years up to 12 years. All Staff are qualified and children are cared for in a bright and comfortable building. We have a beautiful outdoor area and cater for up to 100 children.

GOODS & SERVICES PROVIDED

We are a community run creche offering quality and affordable childcare for children aged 2 years up to 12 years of age. We have a toddler room, pre-school rooms and offer afterschool activities.

We open for 48 weeks a year running camps through Easter, Summer and Halloween. We offer free pre-school (ecce) and training subsidies (CETS).

STAFF & FUNDING

We have 18 paid staff members, 4 CE Scheme and 2 volunteers. We receive funding for the hours the children are with us only. If children are absent, we do not receive funding. Our core funding comes from the Department of Children and Youth Affairs (DCYA), which we have to supplement with fundraising activities throughout the year in order to make up the short-fall.



ACHIEVEMENTS & IMPACTS

We offer affordable childcare to children and parents who need it. The impact this has on many families is huge. It gives parents a break, or the opportunity to go back to work/education without paying huge childcare costs. For some children it is important for their social skills to attend the creche as this helps with their developmental goals. We also provide healthy and nutritional snacks. It is also a meeting point for many families who may not have a lot of support.

CHALLENGES & FUTURE PLANS

Funding is always a challenge. The new Affordable Childcare Scheme is starting in September 2019 and we are unsure as to how it will work. We hope that all families will benefit from a reduction in childcare costs.

Board members are extremely hard to find as it is a huge commitment to sign up as a director/member with all the responsibilities involved.

Pre-Start Up Social Enterprises

WSEN is a network for social enterprises & social entrepreneurs at any stage of development, from pre-start up to business scale up. We understand that it can take a long process to move from ideation to trading, in particular whilst working with a voluntary board and, in most cases, without seed capital and paid staff.

We hope that the new Irish Social Enterprise Strategy will recognise this level of need as an enterprise moves through the business development continuum. We also hope that it provides very specific support to community groups wishing to commence trading, and to those most marginalised for whom working in an enterprise with a specific social mission that is empathetic to their situation is the only place that they will be able to gain employment and experience.

What follows are three short stories that relate to three developing social enterprises in Waterford. There are many more of these stories as communities and social entrepreneurs bring their ideas for change and action into focus. The social economy requires investment and political support to grow in line with the traditional economy, to build businesses that benefit the many not the few and whose impacts can provide ripples out into the wider community, society and environment.

Tory Services/Enterprises

Tory services is a service within the Brothers of Charity Waterford which provides day and residential services for adults with disabilities. Within Tory services is Tory Enterprises which looks at how the service can create its own enterprises using the skills and resources within the service. Presently we are looking at creating two new enterprises within Tory.

Ability Cycling Initiative on the Waterford

Greenway: This initiative looks at providing all ability bikes on the Greenway for rent by locals, tourists, groups etc. It will be run by people with disabilities with the aim of providing employment for people with disabilities, raising awareness of accessibility and inclusion of people with disabilities.

Production of Crates: This service has just started making wooden crates from pallets which will be marketed in the community. Any profits made from either enterprises will go straight back into the business to improve/expand the service and to create paid employment for those with disabilities who work within the service.

Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLí)



The Waterford Sustainable Living Initiative (SLí) is a Company Limited by Guarantee with Charitable Status that also operates as a Social Enterprise. SLí was incorporated in the Spring

of 2019 under the direction of the Management Committee who operate under the guiding principle that we are at a crucial global moment and we have a moral imperative to embrace the principles of sustainability and just development. SLí is also the Irish word for 'the Way' which we feel represents our desire for a more sustainable and responsible way of living.

SLí's vision is for a clean, just and sustainable future for all. Waterford SLí's mission is to provide a community-based Sustainable Living Centre combining waste-free retail, education programmes and awareness raising events, and public space to enable our community to embrace a more sustainable and connected way of life.

SLí provides a range of education and awareness raising programmes to the formal and non-formal education sectors as well as working within community settings. SLí works at the intersection of sustainable living, responsible consumption and climate change. SLí is currently in Phase I of its development which consists of securing their education and awareness raising programme. This programme primarily targets young people both in schools and through youth groups.

Phase II, which will commence in 2020, will see the establishment of a minimal waste retail space combined with meeting space and a sustainable coffee shop. SLí provides a comprehensive approach combining education with the means to go forward and act on this raised awareness. At the moment, there are a few minimal-waste shops (primarily in the Dublin area). There are also a number of organisations that promote sustainable living (also primarily in the Dublin area). There are no organisations that combine the two. SLí is in the process of creating a Sustainable Community Centre which will combine minimal waste retail options, education programmes for young people, awareness raising events for the community, a waste-free and ethically sourced coffee bar, and space for people to meet and share ideas.

National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland

2019–2022

Waterford Integration Services



Waterford Integration Services is a humanitarian NGO delivering integration, transformational education & training

opportunities complemented by advocacy services to refugees, vulnerable migrants and those seeking humanitarian protection in Ireland.

Introducing Social Enterprise as a methodology for inclusiveness connects people with a sense of place and belonging, and an opportunity for long-term sustainable integration. Waterford Integration Services with the support of partner agencies is investing in the integration of migrant communities for long-term goals and sustainability by protecting, preserving and promoting culture, values, norms and rituals that showcase global constructs.

We are exploring the potential to develop a Creative Social Enterprise Programme for local migrant communities, providing business opportunities, qualification and financial independence through creative expression of cultural identities. The programme's creative output delivering animation for Waterford's Cultural Quarter, through vibrant culturally embedded products and services, will enhance the creative capabilities of our new communities in the sustainable development of their neighbourhood.

We are committed to the development of an inclusive cultural landscape as practitioners, educators, mentors and facilitators to cultural groups residing in Waterford City & County.

Policy Objectives

- 1 Building Awareness of Social Enterprise
- 2 Growing and Strengthening Social Enterprise
- 3 Achieving Better Policy Alignment

Social Enterprise Definition

A Social Enterprise is an enterprise whose objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact, rather than maximising profit for its owners or shareholders.

It pursues its objectives by trading on an ongoing basis through the provision of goods and/or services, and by reinvesting surpluses into achieving social objectives.

It is governed in a fully accountable and transparent manner and is independent of the public sector. If dissolved, it should transfer its assets to another organisation with a similar mission.



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

Waterford Social Enterprise Network (WSEN) — Our Story

Waterford Social Enterprise Network was formed in 2015 as a result of work by Senan Cooke, Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd (DREL) and Liz Riches, Waterford Area Partnership CLG, to bring together organisations in Waterford City & County that identify as Social Enterprises, community/voluntary organisations that aspire to trading as a Social Enterprise and individuals interested in Social Entrepreneurship. Following dialogue at regular meetings and workshops over the intervening years a mission statement and strategic action plan have been agreed.

Mission Statement

The Waterford Social Enterprise Network (WSEN) will provide a participative and collaborative space that supports the development of Social Enterprises in Waterford City & County.

Steering Committee

A Steering Committee drives the agenda for the meetings and actions and selects a Chairperson annually. Membership of the Steering Committee is open to all of those interested in furthering the mission of the network.

Administrative Support to the network is currently provided by Waterford Area Partnership (WAP) through the Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) social enterprise function until such time as the Steering Committee agrees otherwise.

Wider Membership

Contact with a wide network of interested individuals and groups for training and events is undertaken by WAP through its Social Enterprise Co-ordinator. A wide range of organisations have been involved in WSEN activities to date.



Objectives of WSEN

- 1 To encourage and support the development of social and community businesses within Waterford.
- 2 To engage collectively in identifying the common development needs of the sector in Waterford, and to seek supports to meet those needs.
- 3 To lobby on behalf of the WSEN membership with regard to local, national, European and international social and community enterprise policy developments, strategies, structures and inclusion mechanisms.
- 4 To maintain and share information resources within the Network regarding sectoral developments, strategies, funding opportunities, research, innovation, practise and policy.
- 5 To profile and promote the sector, by showcasing successes, in particular with regard to the impact of the sector locally, regionally and nationally.
- 6 To capture and share best practise and encourage learning and collaboration for sectoral and business development.

Over the last 4 years a range of actions have been undertaken by WSEN to benefit the development of the organisation, its members and the wider social enterprise sector in Waterford. These include:

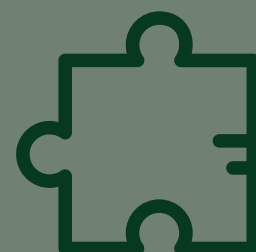
Mapping Research

WSEN and Dunhill Rural Enterprises Ltd participated in the pilot Social Enterprise Mapping Survey 2016–2018 undertaken with the Social Finance Foundation, UCC and the Ballyhoura & Cavan Local Development Companies. The survey outcomes have informed the National Social Enterprise Strategy. Using intensive on-the-ground contact the Waterford Mapping Survey achieved a response rate of 51%, which represented 168 self-identifying social enterprises.



Training & Workshops

- Social impact measurements
- Making funding applications
- Social media for social enterprises
- Idea generation
- Social enterprise and the circular economy
- Start your own social enterprise



Education

- Delivery of QQI L6 Social Enterprise Development in collaboration with WWETB and An Cosán.
- Tailor-made programmes for target groups, eg. migrant women, that combine accredited education with idea generation.
- Sharing education resources and information inside and outside the network.



Mentoring Programmes

- Partnered pilot programme with Waterford Local Enterprise Office
- Start-up Mentoring and feasibility study production
- Business Development Support for scale-up



Promotion & Development

- Engagement with other networks on sales and promotion events.
- Engagement with EU Direct to increase awareness and connection with EU social economy programmes and dialogues.
- @waterfordsen



Plus lobbying, networking, shared learning, profiling and highlighting the sector.

Chairperson: Ray Power, *Ballybeg Greens*
Secretariat: Liz Riches, *Waterford Area Partnership*