

# South Kerry Development Partnership CLG



Marissa Lane, Cathriona Doody O'Connor, George Kelly Director SKDP and Listry Community Council, Breda O'Shea Supervisor, Tony Darmody Listry Community Council and Joe McCrohan RSS and Tús Manager at Listry Community Centre.

## Listry Community Council: enabling and facilitating community inclusion


LISTRY Community Council is one of many excellent organisations working diligently for its community. An active council on many fronts, its core activity is in providing a childcare facility on a daily basis from 8am to 6pm. Meals on wheels, education and training, Irish dancing is but a sample of the activities Listry Community Council facilitate.

This group has availed of the Rural Social Scheme for years, as it provides them with caretaking and general maintenance services. Tony Darmody of Listry Community Council explains that this is an invaluable service which has helped it to prosper. One of the group's strengths is that it invites people to take part in events rather than simply asking them to attend meetings. This is a more interactive approach.

"They (SKDP) have been very helpful to us and we've always found them very good to work with. From supervisors to RSS and Tús participants, the relationship has been very beneficial to us," said Tony.

The aim of the council is to facilitate and work with other groups. In a small parish it is vital to work together, while Tony insists that Listry Community Council have led the way with the weekly lotto, run in conjunction with Listry GAA Club.

"The council helps to bring different groups together and we have a core membership of 24 people that are registered members. The board comprises of seven people and they are responsible for the governance of the council. We're an enabling and a facilitating group," said Tony.



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## South Kerry Development Partnership CLG

### Kenmare & Sneem Supervisors

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# Derrynane Inshore Rescue: a vital rescue and recovery service



To say Derrynane Inshore Rescue provides an essential service would be an understatement. Covering Kenmare Bay into Kenmare, the northern Beara Peninsula and south Kerry coast, Derrynane Inshore Rescue covers an extensive area which makes its presence all the more vital.

As part of 'Community Rescue Boat Ireland', this voluntary group was set up to provide an emergency lifeboat service on call 24 hours. In 2004 a Station House was built to house and

launch the boat. Jerry Clifford of Derrynane Inshore Rescue said that SKDP offer assistance by providing help in the upkeep of the boat house and equipment.

"Most of our members are working full-time, so SKDP provide us with up to 20 hours a week, which helps us with key maintenance. The benefit of this is unreal as we know there is someone there for that amount of time every week to do general maintenance work. Where the boat house is located means this

help is even more important," said Jerry.

While rescue and recovery is the primary function of the organisation, it also expands its service to cater for social and recreational events in the community. They provide a key presence for triathlons, regattas, fishing competitions and charity events. Jerry added that Derrynane Inshore Rescue is always looking for new members. If you're interested, be sure to check out the Derrynane Inshore Rescue Facebook page.

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From left, Jerry Moloney, Enterprise Ireland, Brigid Fitzgerald, Economic Advisor, Kerry County Council, Aidan Murray, Manager Sneem Digital Hub, Niall Scott, Chair Sneem Digital Hub, Moira Murrell, Chief Executive Kerry County Council, Cllr Norma Moriarty, Chathaoirleach, South & West Municipal District and Noel Spillane, CEO South Kerry Development Partnership.

# Sneem Digital Hub: matching technology with quality of living

SNEEM Digital Hub is a progressive vision that was set up and designed by a man with strong Sneem links, Neill Scott.

The hub's main function is to stem the tide of rural depopulation by creating a smart space for people to work while enjoying all that Sneem and south Kerry has to offer.

With high-speed broadband and hot-desking available, it encourages the concept of remote working in a low-cost base for business start-ups and options

for companies seeking to expand remotely. Its facilities can cater for video conferencing technology and meeting rooms. It's unlikely that farming can be relied on in the future as a means of attracting young people to live and work in rural locations. One of the hub's key target areas is to ensure an environment is created that would help technology jobs to prosper.

The old Ring Ballroom was leased and transformed into modern offices so that Sneem

Digital Hub could become a reality. It was at this critical juncture that John Vincent O'Sullivan said SKDP's help played a crucial role.

"The work done by SKDP RSS and Tús participants was essential at that point and time - it gave us the man power to see the project through. This help was critical to the overall project as we simply could not have afforded to pay for this labour. It's a good example of how various SKDP projects can play a big part," said John.

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Wishing South Kerry Development Partnership, the Rural Social Scheme and Tús Community Work Placement Programme all the very best in their endeavours.

**Kerry County Council – working with all agencies to enhance and sustain our rural communities.**



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Michael Murphy, Eoin O'Sullivan, Michael O'Sullivan, Pat Brosnan with Donal McCarthy Supervisor at Lauragh Community Council.

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# Lauragh Community Centre a focal point for the locality...

THE presence of community centres across south Kerry is essential to how people organise events and interact socially. Lauragh Community Centre is a good example as it continues to host exercise classes, cookery, parent & toddler groups to name a few. It's an important amenity for people as they can book the centre for various events. The nearby Caha Family Resource Centre also rent the hall for classes, which makes Lauragh Community Centre even more vital in the region. The centre has an upstairs section, while renovating the kitchen, toilets and securing broadband are the next projects in line. This will also help create remote working spaces for people.

"The centre hosts both day an evening classes and it's a wonderful amenity for the area. Coffee mornings also bring people together," said Jenny Riney.

Thanks to SKDP's assistance in securing Leader Funding, the roof was replaced on Lauragh Community Centre. This is of major benefit to the centre, while through Tús and Rural Social Schemes, workers do a fantastic job maintaining the centre.

"We have very limited funds and we couldn't afford to pay someone to do this work. These guys come in and they are brilliant. They are very efficient and anything we ever ask, they're there to help."

## South Kerry Development Partnership CLG



The Rural Men's group leaving for a trip to Mayo with organisers Kevin Griffin, Michael Foley and Andy Murphy.

# Rural Men's Group: tackling isolation by enhancing social inclusion

THIS fantastic group is run by voluntary members with the aim of enhancing social inclusion. The Rural Men's Group organise day outings for men in the south Kerry region. They receive great assistance in their work from the SKDP offices in Cahersiveen, Killorglin, Killarney and Kenmare, which is where bookings are taken from people interested in attending day trips.

Kevin Griffin of the Rural Men's Group explained that it was initially set up to tackle rural isolation. "The men really look forward to trips and they will always ask us 'when's the

next one?', which is a good sign. It's good for them and a great social outlet," said Kevin.

The group takes in around six trips a year including overnight trips. The most recent overnight trip was to Youghal in County Cork where the men got to enjoy the history of the area. Day trips to Dingle and around Kerry are also popular.

"We have a database of a couple of hundred people. Some people take their partners along as well and they are more than welcome. It works for them and we're delighted to be able to provide the service," Kevin said.

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## Senior Alert Scheme bringing peace of mind to elderly people...

BRINGING peace of mind to elderly people whether they live in a rural or urban setting is vital. The SAS is one such programme which does that. SKDP cover a vast area within the region from Kenmare to Killarney delivering the programme which provides personal alarms for people over 65. The advantage of the SAS is knowing that people have an immediate point of contact in the event of an emergency. This brings added comfort to those over 65 who qualify for an alarm. Moreover SKDP work closely with many smaller community groups and public health nurses to help identify those who need the

alarm. To date SKDP has been involved with the instillation of 350 alarms in the region which is important for to a person's sense of security. SKDP are a registered group with Pobal who are responsible for the delivery of the scheme and Breda O'Shea is the contact for the SAS within SKDP. She explains that this is a very important support and how many more people over the age of 65 could do with such an alarm device. Breda says that the main thing for people is knowing that we are at the other end of the phone if they have any issues with their alarm.



SKDP Supervisor Mary Clifford and Breda O'Shea of the Senior Alarm Service.

## A focal point for elderly people at Taobh Linn Social Centre

KENMARE Community Care has a long and established reputation in the locality for over 40 years and its main success story continues to be the Taobh Linn Social Centre.

This centre provides a crucial outlet for elderly people with its warm and friendly atmosphere. Taobh Linn provide a four-course affordable meal to older people in need within the wider Kenmare community, while it also provides a 'meals on wheels' service.

But Taobh Linn is about more than just a place where food is prepared and served,

it also hosts a range of other activities for older people including arts & crafts, bingo, exercise sessions and meet & greet gatherings. Day trips are also arranged.

Tanya O'Sullivan has worked with Kenmare Community Care for many years and she is an important link between Taobh Linn Social Centre and the people who use it.

SKDP schemes ensure that RSS and Tús participants help to keep the centre looking good and there is even a polytunnel at the centre where vegetables are grown

and prepared in house. This is run by a diligent worker as part of a scheme, including kitchen personnel, who are equally a key part of the service.

"To be honest we couldn't run it without the work of the people that are provided under SKDP schemes. It's all about community involvement and interaction and Taobh Linn is essential for the elderly as there is no other place in Kenmare for them to go. We have a great mix of people and ages, which adds to the atmosphere," Tanya said.



John McCrohan, Patrick Doyle and Donal McCarthy, Supervisor at the Taobh Linn Services in Kenmare.

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