



## SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP CLG.

# LEADER IN SOUTH KERRY

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LEADER) PROGRAMME 2014 – 2020



## CHAIRPERSONS' FOREWORD



### SKDP CHAIRMAN - CLLR. MICHAEL CAHILL:

As Chairman of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG I welcome this publication showcasing some of the SKDP Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020 projects supported in Iveragh, South Kerry. A total of €3.8 million has been allocated by SKDP to almost 200 projects since the programme began in October 2016 across the economic development, social inclusion and environment themes. I would like to take this opportunity to commend all groups and individuals for their engagement with the South Kerry Development Partnership in bringing these projects to fruition. Through the support of successive LEADER programmes since 1991, there is a strong tradition of community led development in South Kerry and it is heartening to see this continue under the most recent LEADER programme. The number of projects supported in the South Kerry area alone is testament to the hard work and dedication of the SKDP LEADER Staff, our evaluation committee and the project promoters, whether they are voluntary community groups, business owners or individuals.

SKDP had all of its LEADER Programme budget allocated at the end of 2020 in line with the requirements of the 2014-2020 LEADER programme. I am pleased to note that additional funding has been allocated under the Transitional LEADER Programme for the period 2021 – 2022 and it is envisaged that the next LEADER Programme will commence in 2023. A key focus of the Transitional Programme will be on building capacity within communities which have not received LEADER funding to date. The programme will also support job creation, and projects which address the climate agenda, digital transformation and encourage rural communities to build on their existing strengths and assets. This is welcome news and it means that there will be no break in the allocation of funding to the area between LEADER Programmes. If you have a business idea in mind or are wishing to expand your existing business or if you are involved in a community group interested in developing a particular project I would encourage you to contact the LEADER Programme officer for your relevant area.



### KERRY LOCAL ACTION GROUP CHAIRPERSON - CLLR. NORMA MORIARTY:

I wish to take this opportunity to acknowledge and commend all involved in our LEADER programme which has been so successfully delivered in Co Kerry over the last six years. The three Local development companies, SKDP, NEWKD & IRD Duhallow in partnership with KCC through the LAG and the councils Finance and Community departments have consistently delivered the highest number of projects of all other LAG's in the country. This success is a testament to the dedication, professionalism and excellence of all of the development officers who work so co-operatively and effectively with our local community voluntary sector and our enterprise and business sector. It is also due to the demand for support to progress projects from our local community and voluntary groups. These activists provide the impetus and are the visionaries who initiate the project proposals and maintain the end product for the benefit of all.

I know that this Transition programme will be as successfully delivered and I will as chair-person of the LAG do all possible with our partners, to secure the best possible funding to augment this work and secure a fully funded new programme to continue the bottom up approach to development that is both sustainable and transformative. Ní neart go cur le chéile.

## OFFICER CONTACT DETAILS:

If you / your group are seeking funding under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme, please contact the Rural Development Programme Officer in your area.

Cahersiveen:	Maureen O'Donnell - RDP Programme Co-Ordinator SKDP, West Main Street, Cahersiveen. T: 066 9472724 • 087 9077837 E: modonnell@skdp.net
Killorglin / Killarney:	Sean de Buitlear, RDP Officer Library Place, Killorglin. T: 066 9761615 • 087 2670689 E: sdebutlear@skdp.net
Kenmare / Killarney:	Aisling O' Sullivan Darcy, RDP Officer 21 Henry Street (1st Floor), Kenmare. T: 064 6641930 • 087 7105937 E: aosullivanandarcy@skdp.net

## SKDP DIRECTORS:

Pat O'Brien, Sean Roche, Anthony Donnelly, Michael J O'Connor, Joseph M Looney, Daniel O'Sullivan, Patrick O'Sullivan, Una O'Neill, Pat O'Driscoll, Donie Doody, Yvonne McDonagh, Edward O'Sullivan, Kevin O'Sullivan, Kevin Fay, Anne Marie Nic Gearailt, Cllr. Michael Cahill, Cllr. John Francis Flynn, Cllr. Donal Grady, Cllr. Marie Moloney, Liam Quinlan  
Chairperson: Cllr. Michael Cahill. Company Secretary: Noel Spillane

## FORBAIRT NA DROMODA DEVELOPMENT OF DRYING ROOM FACILITY AT THE COMMUNITY HOSTEL

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

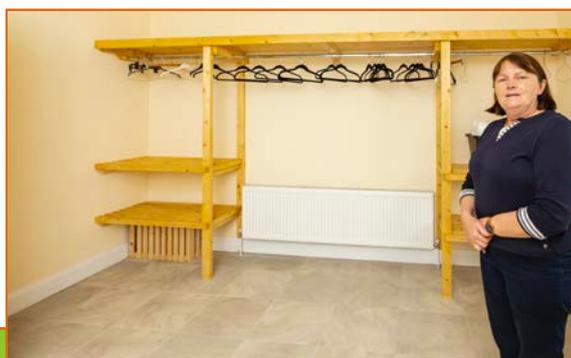
Forbairt na Dromoda has been in existence for over 20 years and is expanding its services and facilities year on year. Facilities at Ionad na Dromoda include a Hostel, Business Units for Rent, Community Hall, and Community Office. Services provided at the centre include; laundry, childcare, first responders, youth club, recycling / waste collection and a huge amount of classes and events throughout the year.

The hostel is the main source of income to cover overheads at the centre and enables the group to offer a comprehensive community service in Ionad na Dromoda. 'We now have a spacious Drying Room/ Laundry facility for our Holiday Hostel which is mainly due to the grant assistance we received from the LEADER Programme and for which we are very grateful as without this level of funding we could not bring such a project to fruition' said Cáit Uí Chonaill Centre Manager.



**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM**

The drying facilities are a crucial part of the hostel as many of the visitors to the area are lovers of the outdoors and with the South Kerry climate, a facility that provides a service of getting all gear dry overnight and ready for the great outdoors next day is vitally important. The real test of the drying room facility was had in August 2020 when Davy's Toughest Team and RTE TV Crew used the hostel as their location in Kerry. 'It proved to be ideal for dealing with a vast amount of drying of outdoor gear in a short space of time'. The laundry element to the hostel is essential, particularly during the tourist season where visitors would book longer stays and need the service. Post pandemic the group are looking forward to utilising the facility to best advantage for visitors and staff alike as when the hostel is fully open an average of twenty visitors per night can be catered for resulting in revenue being generated to be re-invested back into the overall centre for further development.



## VALENTIA COMMUNITY HEALTH & WELFARE ASSOCIATION PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT FOR GYM AT VALENTIA COMMUNITY CENTRE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

Valentia Community Centre & Gym is situated in Chapelstown at the centre of the Island. It is the heart of the community providing many community activities to the wider population of the island and beyond.

The Gym was always an important part of the Centre since its opening in 2007 and provided a facility and area where people could enjoy their workout and fitness programmes. In 2018, the committee made an application to SKDP under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme for the purchase of new equipment as the equipment being used had become obsolete and unsafe for its users. 'We could see that there was a need to address this' said Caroline Heffernan, Secretary of the Centre. 'We researched and devised a plan and with market research and community involvement we took the opportunity to apply for the LEADER grant'.

Con O'Shea, Chairman of the Valentia Community Centre said the committee can see the many benefits the new equipment has brought to the gym. 'It has increased gym membership greatly and when we once had a small number of memberships we now have new members joining that would not have been here before'. The new gym equipment at the centre has created a positive environment and attitude in the community, the equipment is state of the art and the group look forward to welcoming everyone back to the facility post Covid and getting up and running at full capacity again.

**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOWNS**

The management committee and staff of the Valentia Community Centre are very grateful and appreciative of the support they received through the LEADER programme in South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.



## COISTE FORBARTHA NA SCEILGE IONAD OIDHREACHTA NA SCEILGE – THE SKELLIGS HERITAGE CENTRE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

Baile 'n Sceilg, translated as the townland of the Skelligs, continues to showcase its close links and association with Sceilg Mhichil – Skellig Michael. The focus of this association is now showcased in the Skelligs Heritage Centre in the village of Dungeagan in Ballinskelligs. In 2013 when local rural Garda stations were closed down Coiste Forbartha na Sceilge acquired the local Garda station in Ballinskelligs from the O.P.W (Office of Public Works) and decided to convert the station into a Heritage Centre highlighting the unique heritage and culture of the Ballinskelligs area.

The development of the Skelligs Heritage Centre is very timely in terms of the development of the Ballinskelligs area and indeed the entire Iveragh Peninsula. 'With the development of the Wild Atlantic Way, the Coiste Forbartha saw the need for having an information point (for both locals and visitors) on extensive cultural and historical features of the Ballinskelligs area' said Dessy Cronin, Centre Manager.

The Coiste Forbartha with the assistance of SKDP and the National Trails Office also developed the Skelligs Monks Trail - 2.5km walk which features some of the main historical landmarks of the area. Information on these landmark features is



**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM**

now available in the newly opened Skelligs Heritage Centre. The centre also houses information on St Michael's Well, Ballinskelligs Cable Station, Ballinskelligs Castle, St Michael's Abbey, The Coastguard Station, The Monastic Settlement of Cill Rialaig and of course The Skelligs Rocks. 'As Baile 'n Sceilg is steeped in folklore and literature the works of our famous contributors Seán O'Conaill and Mícheál Ua Ciarmaic as well as many other local writers have a special prominence in the Centre. The Centre also displays many old photographs of school days and of local characters many of whom have passed.' Dessy added. Information is available in both English and Irish at the centre.

Funding provided to the group under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme included technical equipment, electrical works and display signage. 'The Centre is a great addition to Ballinskelligs and all of Iveragh and we could not have completed it without the help of SKDP who made it all possible' said Dessy.

The group are constantly looking at new additions to be included in the centre and are presently converting one of the rooms into an information centre for the Kerry Dark Sky Reserve. When completed this room will highlight all the Dark Sky Reserve has to offer.



## HERITAGE IVERAGH - OIDHREACHT UÍBH RÁTHAIGH DEVELOPMENT OF ATLANTIC TELEGRAPH CABLES TRAIL

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

The Atlantic Telegraph Cables Trail project of Heritage Iveragh tells the amazing story of how the Skellig Coast of the County Kerry's Iveragh Peninsula became the 19th Century centre of global communications. Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding was provided towards the plaques and plinths by Alan Ryan Hall, Sculptor, with artwork by Barbara Hodges, at sites associated with the Cable Stations of Valentia, Ballinskelligs and Waterville as well as the Cahersiveen area, where the first attempt to lay a cable was made in 1857. A brochure of the Trail, with design and artwork by Barbara Hodges, was also produced and an on-line version is available at [www.atct.cablehistory.org](http://www.atct.cablehistory.org)

Co-ordinator of the project Tom Horgan said that 'the trail, as well as enhancing our own appreciation of Iveragh's great technological, communications, built and cultural heritage, will greatly benefit the area's economy by tapping into the increasing visitor interest in heritage'.

PRO for the project Mortimer Moriarty said 'It will increase overall visitor numbers to Iveragh and increase the circulation of visitors between the four cable associated areas of Valentia, Ballinskelligs, Waterville and Cahersiveen and will complement the UNESCO World Heritage Site status of Valentia Cable Station, when, hopefully, this is granted'.

**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM**



The group are very grateful for the funding provided under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014-2020, without which this project could not have happened. They would also like to acknowledge the support of Kerry County Council Community Support Fund and from private, community and business sources.

An official launch of the project will take place when Covid-19 restrictions permit.

## CAMO'S ARTISAN FOODS MARKETING AND PROMOTION OF CAMO'S ARTISAN FOOD PRODUCE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

Rory McCarthy has been running Camo's, a small family restaurant in Cahersiveen for over 10 years. During his 20 year career and in particular over the last 10 years since he opened his restaurant, Rory has been taking note of the growth in the artisan food sector. Over the years he has attained a particular notoriety for the calibre of fresh produce and the in-house selection of dressings, chutneys, marinades and glazes that he uses in his dishes, with customers begging for him to share the family recipes.

Sensing an opportunity and knowing better than to share the family secrets, he set about creating a commercial premium product line to cater for the growing consumer desire for products and brands that have real, authentic and honest origins. These products went on to become extremely popular in the local communities, and to win a number of highly coveted awards at Blás na hÉireann and the Listowel food fair in 2017, 2018 & 2019 and were ambassadors for Taste Kerry in 2019.

Rory identified the need to undertake a comprehensive marketing drive to market his products and with the help of Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding he has completed this over the past 12 months. 'LEADER has been instrumental in helping me to get Camo's Artisan Foods Ltd to

**SUB-THEME: FOOD**



grow as a business both locally and nationally. It has allowed me to greatly improve our marketing efforts, especially digitally to grow our brand awareness, which has impacted in a direct increase in sales'.

Rory has a passion for high quality food and local produce in particular. He is very encouraging of other local businesses in the area and is anxious to keep his business operations in South Kerry. 'LEADER has helped me to keep my business operations in South Kerry and to support other independent businesses in the locality which is something that is an integral part of the brand' Rory added.

## PORTMAGEE COMMUNITY CENTRE MINOR REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO COMMUNITY CENTRE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

Built in 1963, the Portmagee Community Centre is wholly owned by the community and is an amenity of huge importance. It is the only community facility in Portmagee where groups and clubs can meet and serves as the heart of the village catering to socially diverse groups and members of the wider community.

The value of Portmagee Community Centre to the village and surrounding communities cannot be overstated. 'It is integral in maintaining the social fabric and culture of our area and without the community centre, we would have no central venue for events which would have a huge negative impact on our rural community' said Mary Grandfield, Secretary of the Centre. 'Our aim is to ensure the continued viability of the centre and in so doing ensure the continuation of the important services we operate from here' she said.

The Portmagee Community Centre are very grateful for the financial and administration support provided to them under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme. 'Without it we

**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOWNS**



could not continue to maintain and upkeep this fantastic facility in this rural area without going into debt or having to do huge fundraising' Mary added. 'With your financial support we are able to keep the centre updated to a very high standard'. With the help of LEADER funding the group were able to upgrade their kitchen facilities, replace flooring, insulate walls, replace fire exit doors and emergency exit lights and carry out painting and timber work.

## IRD FOILMORE-KELLS CLG ESTABLISHMENT OF BROADBAND CONNECTION POINT

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

A total of 12 Broadband Connection Points (BCP's) which are public locations selected to receive high-speed connectivity in the first year of the National Broadband Plan are being developed in rural areas in Kerry as part of the National Broadband Plan. 10 of these BCP's are located in the South Kerry area and IRD Foilmore Kells Ltd has been selected by Kerry County Council as one of these.

To enable IRD Foilmore-Kells to offer this service to the

**SUB-THEME: BROADBAND**

community they sought and received Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding towards the purchase of IT and networking equipment (PC's, Photocopier/Printer/Scanner, Software and Interactive White Board) and the purchase of tables and chairs.

'Investment in quality furniture and IT equipment was made possible by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG under the current LEADER Programme 2014 – 2020' said Pat

Kavanagh, Manager of IRD Foilmore-Kells. 'This has been instrumental in delivering a quality service to the local community in a matter of months at a time when COVID -19 focussed minds on how important and necessary the opportunity to work remotely has become' he said.

This quality service has only begun to open other opportunities for the organisation and currently an evaluation is underway to maximise the space and equipment to the maximum over the coming years. To address this, an outdoor Wi-Fi hot spot has been installed where opportunities to connect in the great outdoors can be realised. Space is available to all at regular office hours and at other times by appointment. All ages are welcome and assistance can be provided to service users as necessary.



## SKELLIG DISTILLERS LIMITED - T/A SKELLIG SIX18 DEVELOPMENT OF GIN DISTILLERY AND VISITOR CENTRE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

**SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**



Skellig Six-18 is a new Irish Spirits Distillery founded in 2018 and housed in the former Wilson's Sock Factory in Cahersiveen. The medium-term goal of the business is the distillation of premium Irish Spirits including Whiskey and Artisan Gin. The promoters applied to SKDP's Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014 – 2020 for the purchase and commission of a gin still as well as fit-out and

development of the Visitor Centre at the facility. It was a complex process because it involved suppliers of equipment from Europe, building contractors, and engineering services suppliers. 'Without the support of SKDP's LEADER Programme this development would not have been possible' said Pat Sugrue, Founder and CFO of Skellig Distillers. 'The availability of the LEADER fund and the professional way that it is administered by SKDP is a very important asset in the South Kerry area' he added. The project was named "Skellig Distillers Gin Division - The TIGIN" and at the core of the Skellig Six-18 branding is the celebration of the culture, scenery, people, and heritage of the Skellig Coast Region.

The distillery is now open to visitors (in line with Covid regulations) who can experience a guided tour of the facility showcasing the production process as well as enjoying a gin and whiskey tasting experience. 'We now utilise our gin still to make our award winning Skellig Six-18 gin. We employ 10 people and have plans to employ many more as we expand our facility into the production of Irish whiskey and the presence of SKDP and LEADER made this happen for us' said Pat.

## IRD WATERVILLE – FRIENDS OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH REFURBISHMENT WORKS TO ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

**SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM**

St. Michael's Church of Ireland Waterville has been leased long-term by IRD Waterville and has been fully restored over the last 10-years with two main aims:

1. To maintain the church as a consecrated village church and
2. Provide an intimate venue for performance and the arts, a conference venue, wedding venue, community facility and as a 7-day pop-up heritage centre celebrating local history and culture.

St. Michael's was developed by local community development organisation IRD Waterville with funds raised locally combined with Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding. 'SKDP offered our community organisation full attention, advice and support in the provision of the capital investment we would have otherwise not been able to achieve' said Albert Walsh, Manager of the Project.

Work undertaken with the help of RDP funding included restoration of the church interior; new electric's, lighting, construction and fit-out of toilet facilities, connection to mains and sewerage, adapt entrance for wheelchair access, water prevention work and new gutters, re-pointing of external stone



wall and rehanging of the fallen bell inside the belfry. 'Without SKDP support we think Waterville would have been left with a derelict village church in the heart of our village' Albert added. On completion St. Michael's Church of Ireland will be fit for purpose to hold ceremonies such as weddings, local events, local workshops and a local heritage centre and of course for weekly Sunday services. It will be a recognised tourist attraction and heritage site in the village for both locals and tourists alike.

## MCGILL'S BREWERY ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW BREWERY BUSINESS

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

**SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**



McGill's Brewery was founded by Joe McGill. Located in the Gaeltacht region of Murreigh, Waterville, it is the first microbrewery on the Iveragh Peninsula. McGill's beers are produced to the highest standard of quality and each beer is unique to the area of South Kerry. The beers produced reflect local heroes, culture, and history. In their small brewery they handcraft their beers with care perfecting traditional Irish beer styles using their state-of-the-art brewery system.

The founder of McGill's Brewery Joe McGill had been home brewing for years and was also educated in the process of starting your own brewery by renowned German brewing company Spiedal. He has also carried out extensive research into the business of Craft Brewing in Ireland and completed a two-part radio documentary entitled 'Cheers to Craft Beers' the story of Irish Craft Beer. Joe has a degree in Business Studies and Marketing in addition to a Masters in Business Management and Entrepreneurship from the University of Limerick. He has significant marketing experience advising small to medium sized businesses.

He also presents two weekly programmes on Radio Kerry called 'In Conversation' and 'The Saturday Supplement'. Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding helped Joe to buy equipment for the establishment of the brewery and to set up a website and acquire signage. "The funding was instrumental to us in the beginning as it allowed us to purchase superior brewery equipment which produces beer to the highest quality standards" says Joe McGill. "Because of this help we will be able to realise our potential and create much needed employment in this region" he added.

## CONLON DESIGNS PURCHASE OF GARMENT PRINTING MACHINE

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

**SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Elizabeth Conlon is a qualified and experienced graphic designer who has owned and run her own graphic design and print business in Cahersiveen for the past 16 years. She has also experience in retail as she also owns and runs a shop in Cahersiveen selling craft and printed products which she opened in 2014.

Elizabeth sought and received Rural Development (LEADER) Programme funding towards the cost of purchasing a specialised piece of printing machinery (Ricoh Ri 100 DTG Printer) that has enabled her to expand her existing print and design business to produce customised printable garments. These include t-shirts, aprons, cushions, tote bags, Santa sacks, baby vests / bibs etc.

Elizabeth was very thankful for the support she received under the LEADER Programme. 'I couldn't have purchased the equipment without the help of LEADER funding and I'm very thankful to South Kerry Development Partnership for their assistance I received' she said.

Like all other retailers the Covid-19 pandemic has impacted



significantly on her business due to being unable to open her shop doors to the public. Elizabeth currently sells her products on-line at pinkbee.ie to keep up with the evolving social media landscape and meet market demand.

## ASPIRE FITNESS ESTABLISHMENT OF A GYM FACILITY IN CAHERSIVEEN

**THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION**

**SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT**

Aspire Fitness is located at Unit 4, Cahersiveen Business Park, Reenrusheen Road in Cahersiveen. Aspire was established by Kieran O'Driscoll who has returned to his native Cahersiveen having worked in the UK for over 5 years. Kieran is a Qualified Personal Trainer, Gym Instructor, Spinning Instructor, Mobility and Flexibility Instructor and First Aider. He also has experience as a Mental Health Awareness Officer from his work in the UK and has worked part-time with many coaches and trainers in the UK over the past number of years. He is passionate about exercise

and has identified a gap in the market in Cahersiveen. Aspire meets the needs of its clients of all ages and abilities by providing exercise classes, personal training and nutrition consulting services. Physical fitness is offered along with diet and nutrition plans for those serious about weight loss, physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing etc. Aspire Fitness works with individuals, community groups, sports teams, schools and retirement groups as well as people with disabilities by maintaining a strong culture through its training methods and



values. Specific tailored training is available for people with disabilities and people with reduced mobility by building goal-based fitness programmes which will help to build stronger bodies and fitter minds. The gym operates on a membership and walk-in basis paid on a monthly or yearly basis and walk-ins pay as you go. Bespoke packages will be tailored to the clients' individual needs and clients will be supported through their fitness journey at all times.

Aspire Fitness was established with the help of funding under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme towards the purchase of gym equipment, fit-out of building and marketing assistance.

## COISTE POBAIL CATHAIR DONALL – CAHERDANIEL PLAYGROUND CONSTRUCTION & DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY PLAYGROUND

**THEME:** SOCIAL INCLUSION

**SUB-THEME:**

**BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES**

The need for a playground in Caherdaniel was identified during a Rural Animation project by the community over a period of five months. Members of the parish, parents and toddlers groups and national school parents and grandparents wanted a local amenity for their children and grandchildren which would be safe to play in. A public consultation on the project resulted in a sub-committee of Coiste Pobail Cathair Donall, the local development organisation for the area, being set up in order to carry out the research and secure funding for the project.

The group undertook a comprehensive fundraising drive locally and coupled with funding under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme the project became a reality. Funding from SKDP was provided towards the entire construction costs of the playground from groundworks to equipment purchase and installation and fencing and pathways. The playground is located adjacent to the church in the village. Access to the playground is



through a tarmac pathway from the church car park and is wheelchair accessible. The playground is maintained by the local community group and is insured under Kerry County Council.

## COISTE POBAIL CATHAIR DONALL DEVELOPMENT OF CONSTRUCTED INTEGRATED WETLANDS PLAN

**THEME:** RURAL ENVIRONMENT

**SUB-THEME:** PROTECTION AND IMPROVEMENT OF LOCAL BIODIVERSITY

The pollution of the Caherdaniel Village Stream and Derrynane Blue Flag Beach which the river flows into has been an on-going problem for the area for some time. The local development group of Coiste Pobail Cathair Donall took an innovative step of contracting the services of an environmental consultancy company to develop a biodiversity plan looking at incorporating an Integrated Constructed Wetland (ICW) and a habitat for the Caherdaniel village.

The plan looked at the ICW approach to deliver a comprehensive treatment system whilst also enhancing the biodiversity and amenity value of the local area. The main aims of the ICW system are:

- Improve surface water quality of the receiving Coomnaha River;
- Provide protection for the downstream blue flag beach;
- Provide a pleasant environment for local inhabitants and visitors;
- Enhance the local biodiversity value of the area;
- Provide education with regard to water management needs and function

Funding was allocated to the project under the Rural Development (LEADER) Programme towards the cost of



developing the plan for the Caherdaniel area. This plan will ultimately result in the promoters Coiste Pobail Cathair Donall having a blue print to work from to address the long term sewage problem in the village. This can be undertaken in an environmental friendly way by creating an Integrated Constructed Wetland area in the village which will not only serve as a habitat but will also provide an educational aid for primary and secondary school children and environmental activists.