



SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP CLG.

LEADER IN SOUTH KERRY

RURAL DEVELOPMENT (LEADER) PROGRAMME 2014 – 2020



CHAIRPERSONS' FOREWORD



SKDP CHAIRPERSON - CLLR. MICHAEL CAHILL:

As Chairperson of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG I welcome this publication showcasing some of the SKDP Rural Development (LEADER) Programme 2014-2020 projects supported in Mid Kerry & Sliabh Mish areas. 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.

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Chairperson: Cllr. Michael Cahill. Company Secretary: Noel Spillane.

ANNASCAUL ACTIVE PLAYGROUND COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT OF ANNASCAUL PLAYGROUND

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

This project is a wonderful example of what a community can achieve when they work together to deliver vital facilities in a rural area. The committee, made up of circa 30 people in various capacities, worked for a number of years in advance of making their LEADER application to both secure a suitable site for a playground and to engage in fundraising to have the necessary match funding to develop their project. Despite a number of false starts, they finally secured a long-term lease from Kerry County Council on a site and set about making their dream a reality. The playground equipment caters for children of all ages and abilities and provides a central meeting point in the community for the young and growing population in and around Annascaul Village. It has proved tremendously popular with both local children and those visiting the area since it opened in September 2020. Jared Browne on behalf of the committee said they are delighted with the outcome of the project to date. "It has been in use just over a year now and it has already become a focal point in the community, with children from all age groups playing and socialising there. It has

clearly helped many children to develop emotionally and physically, and it has proved an invaluable place for new friendships to form and develop - something which the village has sorely lacked" he said. Jared noted that it has also been a space that has enabled people within the community to interact safely during the Covid period thus bringing about an unexpected additional benefit for Annascaul. "We expect it will be a very positive factor in encouraging new families to locate to Annascaul in the current climate" Jared concluded.



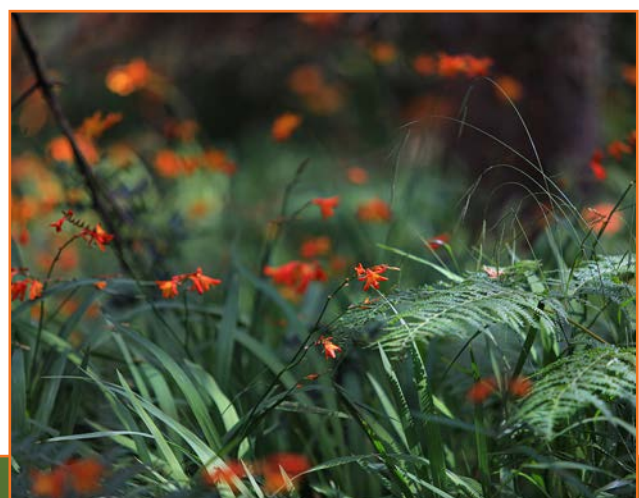
ANNASCAUL RIVER WALK ANNASCAUL WALKS

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM

This project has the wonderful benefit of creating a new accessible walking trail along the banks of the fantastic local natural asset that is Annascaul River. The walkway which, has been designed to be accessible for people with disabilities, consists of more than 1.1 km's of a surfaced walkway adjacent to the river which is accessed via a newly installed bridge over the river that is located at the back of the South Pole Inn. This stretch of the walk then joins up with a local secondary road that enables walkers continue onto Annascaul Lake if they wish.

Local Annascaul resident Mary Ward was the key driver of the project and it was developed with the support of local landowners who provided permission for the project to go through their landholdings. Many locals also contributed to the development of the trail through their voluntary work on the project and they were supported in their efforts by engineer Jack O'Leary. It is hoped that this is just phase one of a project that will see a walking trail established that will link Annascaul village with a walking route that goes over the mountain to the Maca na Bó trail and onto Cloghane/Brandon on the other side of the Dingle Peninsula. More than just being a very positive addition to the available recreational facilities for locals in Annascaul and the surrounding area, it is also likely to prove to be beneficial to the local tourism industry given it opens up the possibility of developing water sport activities on Annascaul Lake. When fully developed, the route is likely to be very attractive to walkers looking for a safe mountain route with breath-taking scenery of both Dingle and Brandon Bays.



KEEL COMMUNITY CENTRE REDEVELOPMENT KEEL COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLG.

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

As is the case with many community centres in rural areas, this centre is located in an old school building that is leased to the local community by St Brendan's Trust. As is also the case with such buildings, they are in various states of disrepair and need considerable upgrading to meet the modern needs of the community. Such was the case with the Keel Community Centre and while the local community council had undertaken work on the facility down through the years, significant investment was needed to bring facilities such as meeting rooms, the kitchen and toilet facilities up to a modern standard that would enable the building function properly as a community centre for all. This project delivered on these needs and, with a view to the future, ensured the work was carried out to a standard so as to "future proof" the building for many years in terms of the levels of insulation etc. utilised. This will also generate significant reductions in running costs for the community council freeing up resources that can be put to use for the benefit of all in the community. "This centre is the focal point for the community in Keel and the surrounding area and is the venue for a wide range of community classes/groups including

drama, dancing, sewing, art etc." according to Keel Community Council representative Tommy Griffin. He noted that it is used by all in the community and regularly hosts meetings of the local groups. "There is significant demand for the facility in the area and the upgrade has provided a state of the art facility for the community" Tommy said, adding that they were delighted to receive the support of the LEADER Programme for the development.



LISTRY COMMUNITY ALL-WEATHER FACILITY LISTRY COMMUNITY COUNCIL CLG

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

Interest in engaging in recreational activities has never been higher and many rural communities in South Kerry are struggling to meet the needs of their residents in terms of facilities. It was with this in mind that Listry Community Council undertook this project to provide an all-weather playing pitch facility for the growing local population. Located on a site behind the local primary school that is leased from St Brendan's Trust, the all-weather pitch surface ensures a safe and secure recreational facility is available for people of all ages in the greater Listry region. The benefit of having parking on the school grounds adds to the attraction of the site. Listry, located as it is close to Killarney town, has seen a strong population growth in recent years with a resultant increase in the numbers of clubs, including the local soccer and GAA clubs, seeking playing facilities locally, particularly for training. The inclusion of lighting facilities as part of the development means it is usable both day and night throughout the year, a huge asset particularly during the winter period. Listry Community Council representative Tony Darmody noted that Listry Community Council has successfully applied for LEADER funding on a number of occasions through South Kerry Development Partnership. "Our latest LEADER funded project was a community all weather pitch which is widely used by our local primary school, all age groups in our local GAA and soccer club and many others groups on a regular basis" Tony said. He added that the all-weather pitch has complemented other sporting and recreational facilities in their community and they are very grateful to LEADER and SKDP for their ongoing proactive support over many years.



NAGLE RICE COMMUNITY CENTRE FACILITIES NAGLE RICE COMMUNITY CENTRE CLG

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

One of the new Community Centres in South Kerry developed under the previous LEADER Programme the Nagle Rice Community Centre located in Milltown has seen demand for its facilities greatly exceed expectations since it opened its doors in 2015. So much so that the group decided the time has come to utilise the space available in the upstairs section of the building to create the much needed additional meeting/recreational spaces. They also noted a strong demand for the centre to host concerts and other non-sporting events in the main hall given there is no other large indoor venue available locally. This was not then possible due to the specialist floor in the sports hall. In order to meet these needs the group applied for LEADER funding to install two fire escapes that were key to enabling the upstairs space be used for activities. They also sought to purchase a removable covering for the wooden floor in the main hall that would protect it while the facility was being used for non-sporting activities as well as a portable stage facility to cater for concert needs. Vice-Chairman of Nagle Rice Community Centre, Michael McCarthy said that “when we initially decided to build a new centre in Milltown, we had the site, we had local contributions from the people of Milltown but we were still short of funding so we approached SKDP and only for SKDP it would not have come

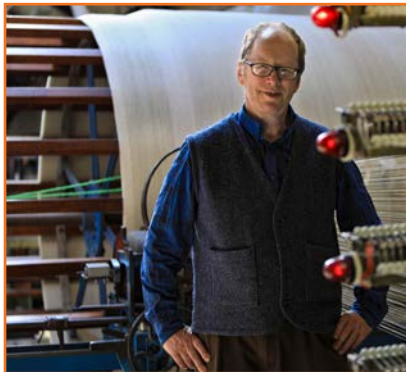
SUB-THEME: RURAL TOWNS



to fruition”. “Demand has greatly exceeded our expectations since we first opened and we urgently needed to undertake this work on the centre to meet this demand” he said. Michael added that they now have a top class facility that can serve the needs of their fast growing community into the future and he again praised the support offered to them through LEADER and SKDP.

REPLACE HYDRO TURBINE & INSTALL HEAT PUMP ROBERT EADIE & SONS LTD. (KERRY WOOLLEN MILLS)

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION



This can truly be described as a project that will serve generations to come, not just in a business sense but in an environmental sense as well. The core of the project involved installing a hydro turbine to replace the existing turbine on the site

which dates back to 1928. The promoter also took the opportunity to install a surface based (from water) heat pump. The combined output of these two energy sources should be sufficient to meet the energy demands of the production process in Kerry Woollen Mills. The project has been connected to the national electricity grid so excess power can be exported. The project will also be a very important factor in helping to ensure the long term security of the business as it provides them with significant control of their future energy costs. The business was initially set up some 300 years ago and has always had water turbines in place at the site. The new turbine has an output capacity of 45kW. The business currently employs just short of twenty staff and this project will help secure their employment into the future. Project promoter Andrew Eadie said that Kerry Woollen Mills is located next to the Gweestin River whose

SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

power it has harnessed for several hundred years to run the mill. He said a plan to replace the existing water turbine has been in preparation for over 10 years however, without external support the required funds couldn't be raised. “The support of the LEADER fund has been critical in giving us the confidence to go ahead with this investment” Andrew said, adding that the purpose of renewing the turbine is to better harness the available hydro power using 21st century technology. “We also took the opportunity to install a heat pump drawing its heat source from the river” Andrew noted. “The combined effect is to provide up to 55 kW of energy which both lowers the energy costs of the business and lowers the carbon footprint significantly” Andrew concluded.



ASBESTOS ROOF REPLACEMENT KCYMS MANAGEMENT CLG

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

Used for activities as diverse as basketball to the staging of the Christmas Panto, the KCYMS building in Killorglin can really be described as being at the heart of the Killorglin Community. The facility also acts as HQ for Puck Fair in August. Since opening in 1954, the building has developed, to now be in a position to offer a seating capacity of almost 340 people in the main hall for concerts/plays as well as being adaptable to host a wide range of sporting activities. The facility also provides a number of meeting rooms to cater for groups of all sizes. However, the centre's ability to host all of this activity was being put in danger due to the existence of an asbestos roof on the building which had begun to leak. Apart from the potential damage to the building from water ingress, the dangers posed by the asbestos in the roof were also significant. Thus, the management company applied for LEADER support to replace it. This was a specialist job that requires a licenced contractor to ensure the safe removal of the old asbestos roofing material. The new roof also contains modern insulation helping to reduce the heating costs of the building, something that is vital for a community supported facility. Chairperson of KCYMS Management CLG Pat Healy said that the replacement of the roof was very necessary given the problems with it and the cost for them, as a voluntary

SUB-THEME: RURAL TOWNS

organisation and registered charity, would have been prohibitive. He said they were delighted to receive the support from LEADER for the Roof Replacement project. "We undertook a major upgrade of the hall in 2013 and all of this work was in danger of being undone due to the asbestos roof" Pat said. "The facility is run totally on a voluntary basis with more than 30 people involved in running it and it is therefore a fantastic support to be able to secure the LEADER grant for this vital work which will sustain the building for years to come" Pat concluded.



CRONIN'S YARD FACILITIES EXPANSION ESTHER & JOHN CRONIN

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

This project is a wonderful example of the vision and experience of the promoters being used to create a successful enterprise in a very rural area. Located at the base of Carrauntoohill, Cronin's Yard is now recognised by most visitors to the Reeks as being the main base from which to explore the mountains and climb Currauntoohill in particular. Established some 15 years ago by John & Esther with the aim of generating additional farm income, Cronin's Yard provides a range of facilities to visitors including parking, tea rooms, showers and small meeting room facilities for visiting groups. It has also become a central location for the mountain rescue team who hold their meetings in the premises and use it as a headquarters when they are carrying out some search & rescue operations on the mountain. Its success meant that the initial development was no longer sufficient to cater for the expanding needs of visitors to the Reeks and thus the promoters decided to apply for LEADER funding to expand its facilities to include increasing the size of the tea rooms/kitchen area, enlarge the meeting room and provide additional toilet facilities on the site. This will ensure it can meet the increased and growing demands of visitors for a wider range of refreshments and services while helping to secure the circa 5 jobs it helps to support. John Cronin said that they would not be where they are today without the LEADER funding that we received for the original tea room in 2006 and then for the extension in 2019. "Thousands of people access Carrauntoohill through our property each year and with the support we received from SKDP through LEADER we are providing key facilities for them" he said. "We have increased our employment

SUB-THEME: RURAL TOURISM

levels and we get to make a living ourselves doing what we enjoy and look forward to having a sixth generation of the family running an economically viable business here in Beaufort" John noted. He also pointed out that the facility also forms an important part of the Reeks tourism initiative by helping attract and retain visitors to the area.



FACILITIES IMPROVEMENTS IN GLENBEIGH SPORTS HALL GLENBEIGH SPORTS HALL COMMITTEE

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES



This is another facility that caters for a broad range of activities by groups of all ages in this rural community. From bowling to basketball, drama to bingo, this centre, located in the GAA pitch facility in the village, is hugely important for the community in Glenbeigh. It is run on a voluntary basis by the committee members whose skills and experience have ensured it has operated

successfully since it was set up in 2004. Current facilities in the hall had been in place since the start and had become dated as well as no longer being suitable to meet the health and safety regulations that have been introduced. Demand from the community to host larger events in the centre also meant that seating requirements were no longer able to meet this need. The committee applied for LEADER funding to provide seating in the hall to increase the numbers able to view events taking place, to install proper stage curtains to facilitate concerts and plays as well as providing removable safety barriers for the front of the stage to help prevent falls etc. A representative of the Glenbeigh Sports Hall Committee Patricia Griffin said that without LEADER funding, the project would not have been possible. "Financially, it would have been beyond our community" she said, noting that the sports hall is used by many members of the community and by people of all ages and ability. Patricia also praised SKDP for their help and support in delivering the LEADER project for Glenbeigh Sports Hall.

NEW BAND EQUIPMENT FOR YOUTH MEMBERS KILLORGLIN & DISTRICT PIPE BAND

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: RURAL YOUTH

This LEADER project strikes a musical note with the provision of band equipment suitable for younger members in a bid to support and develop the activities of younger members of the Killorglin & District Pipe Band Group. The band performs at approximately 35 events each year across Kerry and beyond including festival, sporting and charity events. This project is aimed at supporting the work they are doing in conjunction with local schools to teach young people key piping and drumming skills to enable them become full band members. Ensuring member succession is a key aim of current band members and this project provides them with the equipment they need to enable them teach these key skills to potential new members. The Killorglin & District Pipe Band reformed in recent years but many of its key members have years of experience, going back to the early 1960's in some cases, playing in a number of pipe bands. They are to the fore in providing the lessons to younger band members. The initiative will provide a new musical outlet for the youth of the area to take part in, particularly in the winter months. Chairperson of the Killorglin & District Pipe Band Pat Pigott said that the LEADER funding was a key factor in helping them start up their youth recruitment programme. "We were able to buy



the chanters and drum pads to teach the young people the main initial piping and drumming skills and we then have the instruments for them to progress onto once they are ready" he said. "We had around 6 pipers and 10 drummers learning the skills with us each week" Pat noted. While the Covid crisis has had a significant impact on the band's activities, they are now back up and running and are hopeful of restarting the youth initiative again once the schools are open, Pat said.

PURCHASE OF EDGE BANDING MACHINE GALLAGHER JOINERY & KITCHENS LTD.

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

SUB-THEME: ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT



Gallagher Joinery & Kitchens Ltd. based in the Killorglin Business Park, is an excellent example of a rurally based enterprise seeing a gap in the market and expanding to fill it. Founded in 1997, this project enabled the company to purchase a machine that could provide a significant selection of banded boards for both their commercial and private customers. This in turn enabled them to directly replace imported products with locally produced boards. Prior to the purchase of this machine, the business itself was purchasing this type of product from a supplier in Cork, who in turn was importing it from Spain. Therefore, given the demand they were experiencing for

such products, they decided to investigate the opportunity to produce the banded board themselves and identified a machine capable of delivering a wide variety of banded boards in all shapes and sizes. This not only enabled them supply the current needs of their customer base but also to be able to offer them a much wider range of product which was not previously possible given supply restrictions from the Cork supplier. The machine also facilitated the creation of a new full-time position in the business as well as supporting the existing jobs. Business owner Pat Gallagher said LEADER funding has

allowed them to expand their services to their customers and to do so in a faster timeframe. "Therefore we can take on more projects which benefits our business," Pat said adding that they have employed an extra member of staff to meet this demand. "Our trade customers in particular are benefitting as they can get the product they want quicker and more efficiently" he said. "Basically the acquisition of the Edgebender has allowed us to stock certain products which are ready to go whereas in the past this would have been a time consuming and laborious task" Pat concluded.

PURCHASE OF IT EQUIPMENT INCH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

THEME: ECONOMIC DEV, ENTERPRISE DEV & JOB CREATION

The Covid pandemic has really highlighted the need for quality, locally based remote working space to be available for people to enable them to continue to undertake all elements of their jobs remotely. Inch Community Centre have recognised this need and through this project are aiming to facilitate the needs of their local population, along with the many visitors to the area, in providing a range of IT Equipment in the centre that will fully facilitate all the needs of the remote worker. As a designated broadband hub, the centre is ideally placed to service this need and this project, that includes the purchase of computers and related equipment such as chairs & desks, a projector & screen, a printer as well as undertaking some minor electrical work, will ensure it is fully equipped to cater for all needs. In addition to servicing the increasing remote working sector; this project will also enable the centre to offer a range of IT courses and services to other members of the community including internet training for older people and computer programming for younger members of the community. Spokesperson for Inch Community Council, Pádraig Ó Foghlú said that having this remote working facility available will greatly assist those wishing to live in the local community but whose jobs require strong IT infrastructure to

SUB-THEME: BROADBAND



enable them to work remotely. "It will also enhance the popularity of Inch as a tourist destination as visitors to the area can be assured that they have all the facilities available if they do need to deal with a work query" he said. "We have designed this facility to ensure that we can maximise the use of the community centre as it can function as a remote working space during the day and be converted quickly for meetings or class uses in the evening time" Pádraig noted.

UPGRADE OF FLOODLIGHTING AT PITCH BEAUFORT GAA CLUB

THEME: SOCIAL INCLUSION

SUB-THEME: BASIC SERVICES FOR HARD TO REACH COMMUNITIES

The demand for the facilities available at the Beaufort GAA complex has grown significantly in recent years with teams of all ages across both ladies and men's teams competing for training space at the facility. In addition to this, demand has surged for the walking track around the pitches with many local people of all ages taking advantage of the safe facility to get their exercise. The upgrading of the floodlights at the complex will greatly assist the club in catering for these increased demands and will help to ensure that all of the available outdoor space at the complex can be safely utilised throughout the year. While some floodlights exist at the complex, areas of it which have been recently developed are not covered properly by lighting. This project will upgrade these existing lights to maximise their coverage of the grounds as well as putting new, energy efficient LED lights in place so as to minimise running costs and reduce the energy demands of the facility. The enhanced lighting will also ensure that the walking track will be fully available for all in the community to use as a key exercise outlet. This is particularly important given the location of the facility in such a rural location with small and dark local roads making it very dangerous for people to walk on, especially in the dark evenings of the winter. Beaufort GAA is also involved in the Healthy Club initiative and the lighting upgrade will ensure they can maximise their participation in this initiative. Club spokesperson Frank Coffey said that the upgrade of the floodlighting and the addition of the lighting to the walking path will expand the time



available for team training - and allow the perimeter footpath to be now used at night. This added flexibility will help ensure equality amongst all sections within the club when it comes to the provision of training and recreational facilities. "It is vital that a rural club such as ours can cater for the needs of the local community and this project will help ensure that all of our facilities will be open and available for longer periods for everyone" he said. "It will ensure it continues to be the focal point for outdoor activities in the greater Beaufort area and the reduced costs and environmental benefits that will be achieved from the upgraded lighting will help ensure the long term viability of Beaufort GAA club" Frank concluded.