



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

Job Description

MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum – Development Officer (Part Time – 36 Month Fixed Contract Basis)

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum Development Officer shall support the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum.

Background

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum was established in May 2014 by South Kerry Development Partnership CLG in conjunction with the rural recreation section of the then Dept. Of Environment, Community & Local Government.

The Forum was established to provide a representative management structure with the aim of protecting, managing and sustainably developing the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Range. The vision of the Forum is to create an environmentally sustainable upland zone for agricultural, recreational, educational and research activities, including hillwalking, climbing, mountaineering, environmental and cultural heritage- all underpinned by permissive access of the relevant private landowners.

Embracing Ireland's Outdoors, the new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy 2023- 2027 included commitments to expand the Mountain Access Project by the end of 2023. The Strategy also committed to develop and pilot an Upland Recreation Scheme (e.g. path maintenance payments to landowners) to be rolled out through the Mountain Access Project by Q3 2024. In this regard, the Department have extended the funding for a part time officer for a further period of 3 years to support the development and expansion of the Mountain Access Project in the MacGillycuddy Reeks.

Work done to-date

The Forum has been busy since its formal establishment in working through these actions and has progressed issues with regard to signage, Visitor Data Research, Completion of detailed audits of the path network – to assess the extent of erosion and identify remedial works & costings, implementation of a RED'z funded training and upland path repair project, development of a website and various fundraising initiatives including 'Friends of the Reeks; initiative and emplacement of honesty boxes in two carparks serving the Reeks. The Forum has also been proactive in promoting and raising awareness of the aims, objectives and work undertaken by the Forum.

Job Description

i. **Character** - candidates must be of good character.

ii. **Education, Training, Experience, etc.**

Candidates shall, on the latest date for the receipt of completed applications: -

- ❑ Possess a recognised qualification (Diploma/Degree) in Community/Rural Development or Outdoor Recreation or equivalent professional qualification in an allied field of expertise.
- ❑ Possess a knowledge and interest in countryside recreation and trails, trails development, high nature value farming practices.
- ❑ Possess excellent communication, interpersonal & presentation skills
- ❑ Possess an excellent understanding of the needs of farmers and landowners, a good knowledge and understanding of issues facing rural communities and the challenges of upland farming.
- ❑ Experience of communicating and resolving issues with farmers would be desirable.
- ❑ Possess knowledge and interest in the natural and heritage environment
- ❑ Have experience of working in community organisations in a professional or voluntary capacity
- ❑ Possess excellent administrative & organisational skills
- ❑ Have an ability to work effectively with a number of stakeholder organisations
- ❑ Have an ability to work on his/her own initiative and also work in close association with key agencies and individuals
- ❑ Possess excellent I.T skills and be proficient in the use of the Microsoft Office suite of programmes.
- ❑ Excellent report writing skills
- ❑ Experience of developing policy proposals and writing funding applications/proposals.
- ❑ Be able to demonstrate an ability to work as part of a team.
- ❑ A willingness to undertake training in areas relevant to the post
- ❑ A flexible approach to working hours
- ❑ Knowledge of relevant State & EU funding sources

iii. Duties

The Forum Development Officer will support the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum with the delivery of their prioritised aims as follows.

- ❑ Strengthen the organisational structure of the Forum.
- ❑ Commission key works to sustain the Reeks upland recreational infrastructure, with appropriate consents and permits, while using the skills of participating farmers and sourcing local materials where possible.
- ❑ Facilitate and encourage local communities and enterprises to deliver meaningful socio-economic benefits derived from recreational tourism in the Reeks catchment.

- ❑ Support the Forum to offer enhanced recreational access to the Reeks, while building awareness of the objectives of the Forum through effective public education and communication.
- ❑ The Forum Project Development Officer will also support the Forum to address other priority actions such as:
 - ❑ Expansion of its Erosion Management Work – preparing and submitting planning applications for further works, building on the findings from the detailed assessments of the Path network and the lessons learned from the successful REDZ’s training and Upland Trail restoration projects.
 - ❑ Explore and make applications for core and capital funding from European sources as well as Irish bodies- e.g. Heritage Council, Fáilte Ireland, Local Authority etc.
 - ❑ Continue its visitor management work - monitoring and acting upon data from the people counters, event forms and visitor surveys. This will ensure the proper and sustainable management of visitor numbers to the Reeks.
 - ❑ Expand and develop the ‘Friends of the Reeks’ Initiative - The forum plan to expand this initiative. This will require even greater promotion of the work and achievements of the Forum and the existence of this fundraising initiative to support its work.
 - ❑ Continue to raise awareness, promote the work of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Project and contribute to the national discussion and policy development with regard to the sustainable management of our uplands.
 - ❑ Attend and participate at relevant conferences- Irish Uplands Partnership, Comhairle na Tuaithe, Municipal District meetings, Chamber of Tourism etc.
 - ❑ Proactively promote the Forum, its work using its website, social media and print media channels and will attend and present at conferences and events.
 - ❑ Continue to develop and built upon the strategic relationships established with key stakeholders in the Forum – landowners, Mountaineering Ireland, Failte Ireland, NPWS, Kerry County Council and local businesses
 - ❑ Build Alliances with other Upland Areas through the Uplands Partnership Network, administered through the Heritage Council and Irish Uplands Forum, with upland areas across the island of Ireland to promote the principles of integrated mountain partnerships for permissive access and sustainable uplands management.
 - ❑ Manage the rollout, administration and supervision of the any future Uplands Scheme, or other grants measures if successful.
 - ❑ Build on the previous investment through the Mountain Access Programme.
 - ❑ Work in collaboration with the Kerry Biosphere Reserve Officer on key projects as required
 - ❑ Feed into policy development as necessary at a National level in respect of outdoor recreation in the uplands It is expected that the development officer will feed into the implementation of *Embracing Irelands Outdoors*, the new National Outdoor Recreation Strategy, as necessary and also assist the Dept., as appropriate, in the development of a pilot Uplands Recreation Scheme.
 - ❑ Facilitate meetings of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum, providing administrative, secretarial support to the Chairperson.

- Any other duties as assigned by the CEO of SKDP/ACRES CP Project Manager/Chairperson of the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum.

Post Location

The post will be work-based at the South Kerry Development Partnership's Office at The Old Barracks, Beaufort Village, Co. Kerry. The successful candidate may apply for a Hybrid method of working upon successful completion of the probationary period.

Employment Administration and Responsibility

The payment of salary, travel & subsistence, and other matters relating to the financial administration of the post will be the responsibility of the South Kerry Development Partnership CLG.

Reporting To

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum Project Development Officer will report to the ACRES CP Project Manager and the Chief Executive Officer of SKDP.

Particulars of Employment

The MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Project Development Officer will be employed by South Kerry Development Partnership Ltd on a part time, 3 days per week (22.5 Hours Per Week) fixed term contract basis. The contract period will run from April 1st 2024 to March 31st 2027, with the possibility of renewal subject to further funding

Salary: - The Salary scale for this position will be €25,952 - €29,404 per annum for a 22.5 - hour week, with entry point dependent on qualifications & experience.

Travelling & Subsistence Expenses: - Any travel undertaken by the Reeks Project Development Officer will be paid at approved Partnership rates.

Selection

- i. Selection shall be by means of competition based upon interview.
- ii. A panel will be formed on the basis of such interview.
- iii. Candidates may be short-listed on the basis of relevant qualifications and experience as set out in their application. The candidates short-listed will be invited to attend for interview. South Kerry Development Partnership CLG will not be responsible for any expenses incurred by candidates in attending for interview.
- iv. The Board of South Kerry Development Partnership CLG shall require persons to whom appointments are offered to take up such appointment within a period of not more than one month.
- v. Appointment to the role is subject to the candidate's eligibility to work in Ireland.

South Kerry Development Partnership CLG is an equal opportunities employer which welcomes applications from any individuals with the relevant skills and abilities to help make its diverse workforce more effective.

The South Kerry Development Partnership CLG acknowledges the assistance of the Dept. of Rural & Community Development in supporting this post.