



The Forum

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One of the first actions which the Forum Working Group undertook as part of the County Development Board action plans (see page 6) was to undertake a wide ranging assessment of organisations operating within the rural area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. Robertson & Associates, Environmental Consultants were contracted by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on behalf of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Community to carry out this research.

The project team conducted desktop research and field surveys via site visits and telephone calls in order to develop a database of community organisations operating within the rural area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County. The final database now encompasses a total of 100 organisations including detailed specifications regarding their current activities and specific requirements.

The study area was defined by those lands located in the southern-most region of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council borders, delimited to the north and east by the south-western motorway- specifically Cabinteely, Loughlinstown, Glencullen, Shankill-Rathmichael and Tibbradden. These are the areas regarded as rural by Dublin Leader. While this study area related to the rural component of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council, this particular research also went beyond these boundaries to identify any organisations, which still operate or provide some form of service within the study area.

Contact details for each of the 100 organisations were collected and where different, details for the contact person were also noted.

Aside from the establishment of a contact database the opportunity was also taken to gain an insight into the nature, objectives, geographic scope, accessibility, facilities, and requirements of each organisation. 32% of the organisations are actually located outside of the study area, while the clear majority within the study area (33%) are located within the Cabinteely-



John Nolan, Forum Project Manager with researchers Sarah Robertson and Aebhin Cawley

Loughlinstown District Electoral Division (DED). The proportion of organisations seems to bear a direct relationship to the relative population of each DED with the Shankill-Rathmichael DED containing 19% of the organisations and the Glencullen DED containing 16%. Most significantly no organisations whatsoever were identified to be either located, or to be even active within the Tibbradden DED

assistance and so on. From all of these categories the majority of the organisations were involved with sports (20% in total), with 4% involved with soccer, 2% with tennis and 1% each involved with GAA, hockey and rugby. A further 11% of the organisations fell under the heading of "other sports" comprising; badminton, boxing, bingo, bridge, cycling, horse-riding, golf, bowling, and martial arts to name but a few.



A total of thirty-three separate categories were devised in order to characterise the different services and objectives of the organisation operating within and serving the rural component of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. These categories cover such diverse areas as sports, support, community improvement, education, youth organisations, advice, disadvantaged

Following closely behind the next general category was education encompassing 19% of the total organisations. These included youth service centres (4%), adult learning centres (3%), training (4%), and other educational facilities (8%), which were predominantly comprised of disadvantaged skills, life skills and rehabilitation.

Prior to conducting the surveys a number of possible services were identified, which it now transpires are not provided within the study area. As a point of interest these were such areas as; alcohol addiction, school run networks, parental care, family counselling, and homeless shelters.

Lack of alternative transport is often cited as one of the biggest problems with rural communities.

While the relevant community organisations may be in place they may be substantially compromised in their ability to deliver by an inadequate transport infrastructure. The results would seem to contradict this with 45% of the organisations being serviced by more than 8 buses per day. It should be noted however that while this service may seem adequate, it would on average require at least one bus route change for the majority of people to access these organisations, which is not always ideal. 22% of the organisations are accessed by walking and 6% by bicycle; while 15% can be reached by the DART (these latter organisations are obviously located outside of the study area).

The alternative transport provision within the study area is not as efficient as within the urban area of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and it is interesting to note that 6% of organisations noted that they had no means of alternative transport. Indeed anecdotal evidence received from the organisations was that even where alternative modes of transport are available, most people were reliant on private car transport as alternative modes were inconvenient or unreliable.

Specific Organisation Needs:

Each organisation approached was asked to identify any specific requirements which seem to be hampering them in providing their service. A clear majority stated that their meeting venues did not provide adequately for their needs with quite a number of comments calling for a serviced community centre. Surprisingly, nearly 40% of the organisations had no specific needs or requirements!



Johnnie Fox's Pub, Glencullen

Funding for Community Groups.

The report identified a several organisations, which provide structural funds for community organisations. It seems that many of the organisations identified would appear to be eligible for some of the funding schemes but unfortunately there was a notable lack of awareness among

them about the schemes. The report also noted that many organisations would have a better chance of drawing down funds/grants if they applied as geographic/sectoral groups, which developed integrated strategies to pool common resources and serve common needs.

PINE FOREST ART CENTRE

The Pine Forest Art Centre must be one of the more remote of the organisations working in the County. It is tucked away at the foot of the Two Rock Mountain beside the Glencullen River and just north of the Wicklow border. It is a mile or so west of that well-known South Dublin landmark – Fox's pub. The centre runs a series of Art and Crafts Courses each summer for Junior (5 – 12), senior (13-16) and portfolio preparation course (16 – 19). Each course is for two weeks and there are usually five courses each summer. There are also day trips from schools during normal school terms



The Pine Forest Arts Centre

The Centre was founded by Mary Carroll over 30 years ago. After a spell of teaching in London and Edinburgh, she returned to Ireland with her sculptor husband and settled where the Art Centre is now located. Initially the centre was based in a large tent erected for each summer season but now it is housed in a number of wooden chalets and a large barn.



Cross Country

While still maintaining a close interest in the Centre, Mary has now handed over the day-to-day running and administration to Katie Long. Mary points out that while the main focus of the centre is on art, she is very anxious to give the youngsters some appreciation of the natural environment, which is less likely to be experienced by those with an urban upbringing. She has planted a good part of the land around the centre with a selection of native Irish trees such as oak, larch and beech. She is also able to show to visitors the traces of a range of wild animals such as deer, badgers, foxes and rabbits. Indeed, it has been necessary to fence off a section of the centre to keep at bay the ravages of the local deer population. Each group visiting the centre is taken on a cross country trip to highlight as many of these environmental issues as possible.

More information is available on www.pineforestartcentre.com

Rural Seminar

As a follow on to the research, in cooperation with Dublin Leader, the Forum will be organising a Seminar for all organisations in the rural part of the county to look at their needs.

This will take place in early 2005 – more details later.

Rural Dublin Leader Company Ltd

Rural Dublin Leader Company Ltd has been established to deliver a number of national and EU programmes in the rural areas of greater Dublin and grants are available for appropriate projects. Leader intends to offer a special programme of "Web Development and Training for Community Groups" in early 2005 for groups based in the rural part of the county only.

For more information, contact

Phil Donovan, Development Officer, Dublin Rural Leader Company
11 Parnell Square, Dublin 1
Phone 01, 8780564

More information about funding possibilities for Voluntary and Community groups is also available on the Comhairle website. www.comhairle.ie and go to "Resources- Grants and funding for Voluntary organisations"

KILTERNAN COUNTRY MARKETS



Michael Ward Chairman

Kilternan Country Market is a community based country market which owns and runs its indoor market on the outskirts of Kilternan village. It was set up in 1964 and celebrated its 40th anniversary in June this year. It operates every Saturday from 10 00 to 12 00 – every Saturday of the year except when the Saturday falls close to Christmas Day. The core of the market is a group of about 50 producers who supply the produce and run the stalls. The group elect the committee each year at the Spring AGM and officers serve for one year with a possible extension for two more. Present Chairman is Michael Ward.

The produce on offer ranges from bread and cakes, eggs, jams and marmalades, flowers, poultry etc. Pricing of items is set by reference to prices of similar items on offer elsewhere. To oversee this process, the committee elects two “Controllers” who have the unenviable job of keeping an eye on outside prices and ensuring that producers keep their own prices in line. To help pay for the upkeep of the premises etc the producer pays 11 percent of the income.

Each producer offering items at the market will be at one of the stalls but not necessarily the one with their own produce. Michael explained that this arrangement was arrived at based on experience over the years.

Since its foundation, over 300 producers have been involved in the operation and the continued success of the market over the years is a tribute to the dedication and commitment of the committee and the active producer members.

The market is one of a network of country



Kilternan Country Market

markets throughout Ireland collectively organised under the title of Country Markets Ltd. Country Markets Ltd has been a co-operative business for over 55 years. It is a national organisation with branch markets in most counties in the country. They mainly open one day a week to market the shareholders fresh farm, garden and home produce and handicrafts. All goods are preservative free.

Country Markets provide the opportunity for the small producer to market their goods co-operatively and the customer gets fresh Irish produced goods.

Country Markets Ltd in turn is a member of **ICOS- Irish Co-operative Organisation Society.**

As the co-ordinating organisation for co-operatives in Ireland, ICOS provides a range of services to its member co-operatives and represents them on national and international organisations. ICOS has been party to all of the National Programmes since the Programme for National Recovery in 1987.



More information on the ICOS website at

www.icos.ie

AGM APRIL 2004

The AGM of the Community Forum took place in Kilmacud Crokes Football Club, Glenalbyn on 22nd April.

Outgoing Chairman Maurice Bryan reported on the work accomplished by the Working Group in the last year. Outgoing Treasures Robert Thompson gave the Financial Report. While there is sufficient funding available to carry out work immediately in hand, a big concern for the rest of the year was availability of funding for a full time 'Development Officer' which was felt to be essential to enable the Group to carry out its part of the County Development Board Action Plan for 2004/2005.

Elections then took place and the following new members were voted in:

The two Forum places on the County Development Board itself were filled after election by Marian White (Cluster 1 platform) and Tony Bass (cluster 2)

To conclude the meeting, there was a short but interesting presentation by Eithne McManus of the Democracy Commission.

The Democracy Commission is an independent body set up in response to widespread concerns about the capacity of Irish political institutions to be more relevant to the needs and concerns of people in the 21st century and increase involvement from all sections of Irish society. Eithne pointed out that less than 50% of



those under 25 voted in the last General Election and noted that those who don't vote hand over power to those who do vote. The Commission would like to see a number of changes to help improve the situation including

- 1 A space on the ballot paper for 'none of the above' in addition to the usual Nos 1,2 3 etc
- 2 Programmes in schools to prepare pupils for the election process so that when the young people leave they are ready to register for voting and be prepared to actually cast their vote.

More information about the Commission is available on its website at

www.democracycommission.ie.



Out going Committee, Maurice Bryan and Geraldine Graydon (Vice Chair)

Name	Organisation
Tony .Bass (CDB Member)	Cuala GAA Club
Ann Byrne	Meadowlands/ Fitzgerald Park
Gray Cahill (Chair)	Rosemount Resource Centre
Sandra Campbell	Hillview Community Resource Centre
Mary Collins	Eye Contact
Carol Connors	Southside Traveller Action Group
Lorraine Doyle	Mountwood/Fitzgerald Park
Anne-Marie Duffy	Ballally Family Resource
Paul Bankole Iwala	Eigse Laoghaire
William Levers	Schizophrenia Ireland
Patrick Long	Dun Laoghaire Marine Probus Club
John Nolan	P.W.D.I
Damien O Sullivan (Vice Chair)	Scouting Ireland
Tom Richmond	Marley Grange Residents Association
Marian White (CDB Member)	Mountwood/Fitzgerald Park



Counting the votes



Eithne Mac Manus, Democracy Commission

LOCAL INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPORT SERVICES

Lifts Community Project



LiFTS started with one employee and a single bus September 2002, now boasts five employees and three buses with another on the way. The project provides mini-bus services on a hire basis to community, corporate and commercial clients. It also provides mini-bus services to a number of schools.

True to its roots in the local community, through initiatives such as the driver training programme which has helped train six people as mini-bus drivers, L.I.f.T.S is ploughing significant investment back in to local people. Its work with schools helps support children to stay in school longer and has had a noticeable impact on absenteeism.

Support from such organizations as the Southside Partnership who helped with networking and D.L.R.C.C. who were among their earliest clients, shows the extent to which L.I.f.T.S. is accepted as both a professional service provider and a serious player in combating poverty and exclusion. To date the company has been directly responsible for creating five full time jobs in a community suffering high unemployment and for providing a stepping-stone to two other former employees who progressed to other employment through their involvement with the company.

The service is available 24 hours a day and 7 days a week and will travel to any part of the country. A large part of the work relates to schools. However LiFTS has a contract with a large South Dublin hotel and is also involved in work for social and sports clubs. The service is provided at competitive rates. The service is managed by Brian O Sullivan and Karen Tyndall is the receptionist .

Tel **01 2802482**

Mobile **086 392 4571.**



FORUM DEVELOPMENTS

Promotion of Community & Voluntary Organisations Grant Scheme

The Community Forum has set up a limited fund to assist affiliated organisations in promoting their membership and participation activities.

Promotional projects such as the publication of newsletters, information pamphlets and website development come within the scope of the scheme. Only those projects, which will be completed before the end of the year will be eligible for grant aid and a maximum grant of €1,000 will apply.

Applications briefly outlining the promotional project, specifying overall costs and completion date, should be forwarded to:

The Community Forum
C/O Community & Enterprise Department
County Hall
Marine Road
Dun Laoghaire
Co. Dublin

For further information you can contact Kevin Hannafin at 205-4700 Ext 2093 or email khanhafin@dlrcoco.ie

Forum Development Officer

The Forum is now in the process of recruiting a development officer to assist in Working Group. The post is being advertised in the national and local press and it is hoped that the officer will be in place early next year. Among the duties wide ranging duties the Development Officer will

Assist Forum Members including Members of the Working Group, through research and preparation of briefing documents, to effectively represent the Forum on the County Development Board and other relevant bodies

- Facilitate linkages between Forum Members, the wider Community & Voluntary Sector, member organisations of the County Development Board and other Community Fora

- Develop mechanism for the involvement of the Forum in countywide initiatives e.g. Waste Management, Rural Transport.
- Assist in establishing and supporting subgroups of the Forum.
- Develop Community Forum membership at County and Area level.
- Assist the Forum in the implementation of the County Development Board Strategy where appropriate.
- Assist in maintenance of Database of member organisations.
- Assist in the establishment and maintenance of Forum Website.
- Assist in the promotion and development of Forum Newsletter and other promotional material.

COUNTY DEVELOPMENT BOARDS & COMMUNITY FORUM

County Development Boards

County Manager Cathaoirleach Social Policy Cctoo Chairs (5)
Venture Point (2) Southside Partnership (2) Rural Dublin Leader (2)
Community & Voluntary (2) Business Farming Trade Union
Dun Laoghaire VEC Dept of Social Comm & Family Affairs IDA FAS Garda Slocana Enterprise Ireland Dublin Tourism Eastern Region Health Authority

County/City Development Boards were established in each county and city in Ireland in early 2000. The CDBs are led by local government and are also representative of local development bodies together with the State agencies and social partners operating locally. For the first time, CDBs brought together the key players at local level to engage in a process of long-term planning for each county or city for the next ten years.

Each CDB has now drawn up an agreed Strategy for Economic, Social and Cultural Development for its county or city. These Strategies will be the template guiding the delivery of public and local development activity over the next ten years.

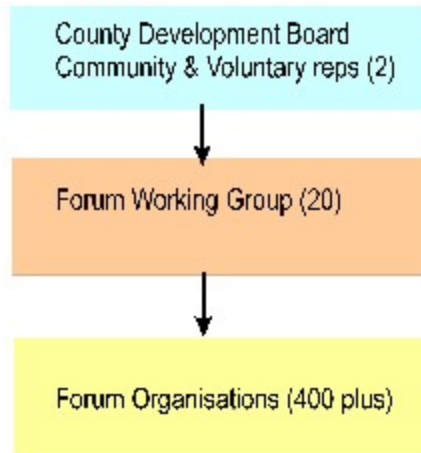
The CDBs will aim to ensure the avoidance of duplication in the delivery of services at local level, as well as filling gaps in meeting the needs of their communities. There is an emphasis by CDBs on counteracting social exclusion as well as on economic and cultural development.

The Strategy for Dun Laoghaire was published in June 2002 and is available at www.dlrcoco.ie/cdb.

There is little point in setting a vision and adopting a strategy if there are no mechanisms for observing its implementation. This requires continuous feedback, on-going evaluation and constant monitoring.

Accordingly, the CDB has produced an extensive list of Action Plans to be implemented by the various agencies involved in producing the Strategy document.

Community Forum



The Community Forum is a coming together of the many community and voluntary organi-

zations working in the County. The Forum elects every 15 months or so twenty members to serve on a Working Group which in turn elects the two Community and Voluntary members of the County Development Board. The Forum was charged with a number of tasks as lead agency and is involved as a support agency in a range of others.

The first task as lead agency- research into rural organizations- was carried out in early 2004 and is reported on pages 1 and 2

The next main tasks facing the Forum as lead agency are:

Conference of Rural Community Organisations

Host a conference of rural community organisations to explore ways of co-operation and providing support

Safety Awareness Raising Programmes

Promote good practice in communicating safety, security and policing measures in order to generate more awareness-raising programmes.

The Forum will also be working as support agency on a wide range of projects including

- 1 Planning recreational facilities in estates
- 2 Improving communication between agencies and residents to secure safer local environments
- 3 Addressing safety, security and policing measures in estates
- 4 Helping to tackle joyriding and abandonment of cars and their root causes
- 5 Helping to provide adequate support services for people with substance abuse problems including alcohol

CONGRATULATIONS TO FORMER WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

Two former members of the Forum Working Group were elected as County Councillors in the June elections.

Lettie Mc Carthy represented the Stepside Area Residents Association on the group and Cormac Devlin represented Dun Laoghaire Town Football Club.

In addition to their normal councillor duties, Lettie is on a range of Committees including Dublin Regional Authority Rural Dublin Leader Southside Partnership and Local Authority Members Committee on Strategic Planning Guidelines for the Greater Dublin Area and Cormac is with the Drugs Task Force.

We wish them every success in their new careers.

More information about your Councillors is available at

www.dlrcoco.ie



We would like to hear from your organisation with a view to carrying details in forthcoming editions.



The Forum can be contacted at

**DUN LAOGHAIRE -RATHDOWN
COMMUNITY FORUM**

C/o Community and Enterprise Department,
County Hall, Marine Road
Dun Laoghaire

Email: ccf@dlrcoco.ie