



**CHAMBERS
IRELAND**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2013



Comhshaol, Pobal agus Rialtas Áitiúil
Environment, Community and Local Government

Welcome



Chambers Ireland is unique among business organisations in that we have a presence in every major town in Ireland. It's for this reason that we understand the work done by Local Authorities and appreciate the vital role they play in all aspects of community. Whether it's through sport, shopping, culture or business, the Local Authority has an important role to play at some point in all of our lives.

This is a time of flux for Local Government in Ireland. Recent reforms, including the Local Government Bill, show a clear desire to create a system that is fit for purpose in the modern era.

While many of the changes are welcome, there will be challenges for those former Town Council areas where the commercial rates were lower than those in the surrounding county. It is vitally important that the transition to a common rate takes place over a 10 year period. Furthermore, the new Municipalities need help in enabling them to modify their car parking charges to support local businesses. We will work to secure the most favourable outcomes in these and other areas in the future.

However, change is an opportunity as well as a challenge. In future awards I have no doubt that we will see Local Authorities rising to that challenge and providing even more for their residents, visitors, businesses and other stakeholders.

Both Chambers Ireland and the Chamber Network have a strong relationship with Local Authorities. In partnership with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government, these awards are our way of showing appreciation for the skills, efforts and enthusiasm that so often goes unrecognised.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Talbot'.

Ian Talbot,
Chief Executive,
Chambers Ireland

Ratepayers and Local Government Policy Council

- Tony O'Brien, *Consultant, TOB Associates (Chair of Policy Council)*
- Alma Murnane, *Policy and Research Manager, Cork Chamber*
- Hilary Haydon, *Joint Managing Partner, Hilary Haydon & Company*
- Joe Allen, *Former PO, Department of Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Maria Brosnan, *Senior Policy and Communications Executive, Dublin Chamber*
- Orlaith Borthwick, *Economist, Limerick Chamber*
- Rita McNerney, *Chief Executive, Ennis Chamber*
- Tony Lambert, *Chief Executive, Fingal Chamber*

Excellence in Local Government Awards Judging Panel

Preliminary Panel

- Deirdre Garvey, *CEO, The Wheel*
- Donal Enright, *Principal Officer, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Jim Miley, *Project Director, The Gathering Ireland 2013*
- Sean Ó'Riordáin, *Public Policy Advisors Network*
- William Batt, *Partner, Indecon Economic Consultants*

Main Panel

- Dónall Curtin, *President, Chambers Ireland (Chair of Judging Panel)*
- Donal Enright, *Principal Officer, Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government*
- Pat McLoughlin, *Chief Executive, Irish Payment Services Organisation*
- Paul McSweeney, *Chief Executive Officer, Local Government Management Agency*
- Tony O'Brien, *Chair Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council*

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Environment, Community and Local Government

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Carlow County Council

Panchaea: In Search of an Equal Utopia and a Willing Suspension of Disbelief



Panchaea is an ambitious socially engaged art project developed to enable the local community in County Carlow to address the loss of sense of self, social stigma and isolation that occurs for people living with mental health issues. Commissioned by Carlow Local Authorities in partnership with the HSE, this project produced an exemplary model for engagement, and has had a transformative effect on people living with mental illness. The project involved artists working directly alongside HSE staff with people with Bi-Polar Disorder and Psychosis. Bringing the project into a social civic space such as VISUAL broke new ground for the art centre, with a visiting public witnessing the creation of artwork in the studio gallery by members of the community who experience mental health issues.



Cavan Town Council

Trans-art Cavan 2012



Trans-art Cavan 2012 was an exhibition of contemporary art. It was an extensive series of performances, workshops, talks, installations, film, graffiti art and exhibitions. Trans-art Cavan was a project-based initiative established to support and promote contemporary art in Cavan, using strategic partnerships involving business, civil society and local authorities working together for the arts provision in Cavan. The project aimed to bring art and public together; provide a variety of contemporary multidisciplinary practices in public and accessible spaces; show local, national and international artists in rural county town during Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann and generate a positive social energy. Trans-art Cavan was the biggest contemporary art event in Cavan, involving 40 volunteers and drawing huge crowds.

Monaghan Town Council

Garage Theatre, Monaghan



The Garage Theatre was established in 1993 in a disused ward on the grounds of St. Davnets Psychiatric Hospital, Old Armagh Road, Monaghan. The Theatre takes its name from a reference in local writer Pat McCabe's book "The Butcher Boy" (Francie's mother has a breakdown and he says she has gone into the Garage to get it fixed). The seating capacity was extended by 20% in 2000. In March 2013 the Garage Theatre, costing €6m relocated to a state-of-the-art building as part of Monaghan Education Campus. It accommodates an audience of 300 patrons and an 80 seat studio/rehearsal space. The theatre seating is retractable so that the main auditorium space can double up for set design and film production. In addition there is a film screen, large rehearsal space, lighting control room, changing rooms, box office, administrative offices and a bar. The total area is 1,940m². As with all other buildings on the campus it is fully accessible by less able-bodied patrons.



South Dublin County Council

Tenderfoot



In its seventh year, TENDERFOOT is an annual access theatre programme for 40 young people aged 15 and 16 that is based on the concept of apprenticeship. It was originally conceived & implemented by South Dublin County Council Arts Office & The Civic Theatre in 2007 and involves the participation of transition year students from eight different schools in the County. Tenderfoot participants work as an artistic ensemble to write, design, stage-manage and perform their own original work. TENDERFOOT is based on an apprenticeship model and provides young people with an opportunity to learn about theatre in a hands-on way. They learn by doing and by working alongside experts in their field. Tenderfoot is a gateway programme that sustains the arts through building new audiences and makers for theatre. 15–25 year olds are the demographic most absent in theatre attendance.

Westmeath Local Authorities

Luan Gallery



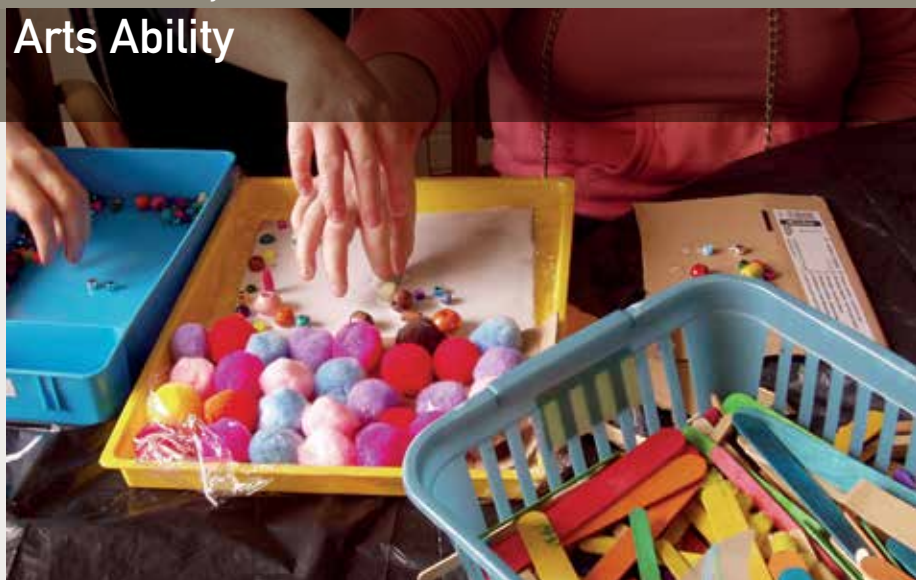
Luan Gallery, established in 2012, is Athlone's municipal visual art gallery, the first of its kind in the midlands region. Dedicated to showcasing and celebrating visual arts practice from the midlands and beyond; Luan Gallery plays host to a varied programme of exhibitions, events, courses and workshops.

Situated in the renovated and extended Fr Mathew Hall, the spectacular Shannon side site offers exquisite views and a tranquil setting in which to enjoy the art works on show. Admission to the gallery is free. Luan Gallery is a social space at the heart of Athlone, guided tours and group workshops are available and community engagement is at the forefront of all activity.



Wexford County Council

Arts Ability



Arts Ability is a person-centered arts programme where individuals who experience mental health issues and/or intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities can engage in arts initiatives of the highest quality so they may achieve their maximum potential. Removing the barriers to arts participation, it delivers a diverse range of high quality arts experiences based on meaningful engagement between participants and professional artists. Artists and participants work together as part of a partnership involving Wexford County Council, the Arts Council, HSE Disability and Mental Health Services and partner venues. The project reached new heights over the last 12 months with the production of a nationally celebrated anthology, an international exhibition and a National Healthcare Award.

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Cavan County Council

Castle Saunderson International Scout Centre



The development of the International Scout Centre has been a partnership between Scouting Ireland, the Northern Ireland Scout Council, Special European Union Programmes Body and Cavan County Council. This Centre can cater for 1,000 people at any one time and has indoor accommodation for 46 people with state of the art modern facilities. The campsite will provide a neutral space in natural surroundings where young people can meet. The programme of outdoor activities designed for young and old will encourage people to develop their creative talents, show initiative and ultimately to show respect for each other. The Centre has achieved international recognition and has been designated a World Peace Centre by the World Scout Foundation, one of only five internationally.



Cavan Town Council

Cavan Town Fit Box



Cavan Town Council recognised the need to provide positive sporting opportunities for young people living in Local Authority estates in the RAPID area, particularly at a time of high youth unemployment. Cavan Sports Partnership strategic plan 'Sport for Life, Sport for all' identified socially and economically disadvantaged communities and the unemployed as key targets for physical activity. Following consultation with the local community by the Town Council, a Beginners Fit Box 2013 programme was carried out in partnership with Cavan Sports Partnership and Cavan Boxing Club in the club's newly located facility in Cavan adjacent to nearby Local Authority Housing Estates over an 8 week period. The programme was predominantly a physical activity intervention but aimed to enhance different aspects of mental health such as confidence, esteem and social skills. In the programme, coaches focused on lifestyle and nutrition in order to inform and educate the participants about body shape and image.

Dublin City Council

Hike It. Bike It. Like It. Drimnagh!



Hike It! Bike It! Like It! Drimnagh! is a partnership project between Dublin City Council, the Drimnagh community and other stakeholders aimed at getting people in Drimnagh to walk, cycle and use public transport more, with an emphasis on shaping a healthier, cleaner and safer community and environment. The project began as a national Smarter Travel Initiative but became about community empowerment, health, society, the local economy and sustainable living. In the absence of capital funding, Dublin City Council in partnership with the Drimnagh community took ownership of and re-branded the smarter travel project, agreed a structure for communication and engagement and developed a plan for going forward. This project is a model of best practice for collaborative action and achieving real changes in travel behaviour through relatively little investment.



Kerry Local Authorities

Building Community Resilience



This project involves an undertaking between the Community and Enterprise Department of Kerry County Council and the Community and Voluntary Forum in Kerry. The project had its origin in the response to the severe weather and the ensuing difficulties encountered during the winter of 2009 into 2010, wherein for quite a period of time in December through to January extensive snow and ice caused difficulties for communities throughout the County. The aims of the project are to ensure that those most in need receive vital information and assistance during severe weather and to ensure that communities are resilient in the face of difficult weather conditions. The objective of the project is to ensure that the community spirit, which has always been a significant part of community life in Kerry, is maintained and that the community resources are harnessed in a way that ensures that the community, with the assistance of the Emergency Services, is able to help itself in these situations. Collaborative action is key to this programme.

South Dublin County Council

South Dublin Traveller Culture Schools Project



South Dublin County Council Traveller Culture School's project was launched during Traveller Pride Week 2012. The project was initiated by the Social Inclusion Unit of South Dublin County Council which seeks to promote positive relationships between Travellers and school children in local schools and seeks to develop the skills and confidence of local Travellers to facilitate conversations on Travellers' way of life and culture. The project was funded by the Department of Justice and involved 11 Travellers, 10 schools and a total of 400 pupils. The project has been ongoing since October 2012. It has been a tremendous success in helping to build understanding between the 2 communities as well as an understanding of different ways of life. Furthermore it has assisted the travelling community to build confidence and for Traveller students to be proud of their way of life.



Dublin City Council

'Science All Around Us' - Dublin City Public Libraries' Science Programme for 2012



In supporting Dublin City of Science 2012, Dublin City Public Libraries organised a co-ordinated programme of events with a scientific dimension, 'Science All Around Us'. The aim of the project, which ran throughout 21 branches of Dublin City Public Libraries, was to make science a more accessible subject. The audience was made up of various age and socio-economic groups with attendance figures totalling 4,550, by the end of the project. 162 events were organised and focused on many key aspects of science including math, astronomy, climatology, ecology, engineering, and sustainable energy. Investment by external stakeholders, who have professional expertise in science disciplines, contributed to the success of a yearlong programme of activities in Dublin City Public Libraries.

Wexford County Council

Wexford County Library – Discover, Imagine, Grow!



Wexford's new County Library has become a central meeting place in Wexford City. Forming part of the Town's new Culture Spine, the new Library is a stunning piece of architecture nestled in the historical heart of Wexford. The Library is a research and discovery zone, which has something interesting for people of all ages. The library has a range of technology available to all including 34 public access PCs, ICT suites & WiFi and access to e-resources. The library also links with VECs and schools on literacy development project and hosts a number of talks, exhibitions and other events. The library also aims to to deepen a sense of belonging and of civic pride through the provision of county wide heritage & current services information.



Carlow Town Council

Carlow Festivals 2013 – Pan Celtic International & Carlow 800



Pan Celtic International was hosted by Carlow Town in 2012 and 2013. This prestigious festival celebrates the richness and diversity of Celtic heritage, culture and language of the participating nations of Scotland, Wales, Cornwall, Isle of Man, Brittany & Ireland. National and International and local media descended on the town and Carlow's profile was raised through this publicity and marketing of the Town.

Carlow 800: 2013 marks a historic occasion in Carlow Town as they celebrate the 800th anniversary of the construction of Carlow Castle. Carlow Town Council partnered with a number of festivals throughout the year who have agreed a Carlow 800 strand within their own programming. The festival hosted workshops, exhibitions, walking tours, concerts and a pop up shop project. The festival took place as part of The Gathering Ireland 2013 and encouraged Carlow natives living at home and abroad to take part in the festival.

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Cavan Town Council

Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2012



2012 saw the last of three successive Fleadhanna hosted in Cavan. The Fleadh is a competitive event, but also showcases concerts, céilithe, parades, family events, street sessions and attracts visitors from all over the world. The All Ireland Fleadh held in Cavan in 2012 was a great attraction. Cavan hosted a ten-day fleadh – the longest ever – and attracted over 300,000 visitors. The fleadh was green, responsible and inclusive. All visitors, regardless of ability, could participate and enjoy all of the events on offer. The event created massive positive publicity for Cavan and Ireland and gave visitors an experience they will never forget. The Local Authority, Chamber of Commerce and people of Cavan collectively and voluntarily delivered an event to be proud of.



Dublin City Council

Dublin Tall Ships Event 2012



Dublin City was the final host port for the Tall Ships Races 2012 and a festival was held from the 23rd to 26th August. The races comprised over 46 ships representing 17 countries with over 2,000 crew members. The festival, which was attended by an estimated 1.25 million visitors, gave people local to Dublin and those from further afield the opportunity to admire and experience some stunning vessels whilst also sampling the wonderful Irish welcome and hospitality. The festival was designed to create a superb atmosphere and focal point around the Dublin docks and the four days of festivities aimed to attract and entertain all ages. The attractions included: live music, family zone, youth adventure activities, funfairs, exhibitions, workshops, walking tours, street performers, food and craft fairs.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

dlr FUSION Festival



The dlr FUSION Festival was a fun filled weekend for the whole community created to promote issues of Social Inclusion within the County providing a spotlight on the large range of ethnic and cultural diversity which exists within Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown. The festival took place over the weekend of the 28th & 29th of July 2012 and was located in the People's Park, Dún Laoghaire. In total 16,751 people attended dlr FUSION. Highlights of the festival included the music and dance stage, five workshop areas, a youth space and a community space, a food market, pop-up shop, community radio, exhibition space and a sports area. An innovative aspect to this festival was the pre-dlr FUSION Festival workshops which were held with local groups who as a result created a range of activities and acts which were performed as part of the festival including street performances, craft workshops and music and dance acts on the main stage.



Waterford City Council

Winterval



Winterval, Ireland's number one Christmas Festival was launched in Waterford in 2012 and ran from November 30th to December 23rd. Winterval turns Waterford, Ireland's oldest City, into a magical place for both adults and children with a variety of attractions many of which are housed in Waterford's heritage buildings added to their uniqueness and attractiveness. In its inaugural year, Winterval contributed significantly to achieving its aims of creating a vibrant city centre and boosting the local economy. Winterval is organised by a voluntary committee and facilitated by Waterford City Council who provide seed capital for the event. Winterval's success in 2012, which will be built on in 2013, is attributable to the significant voluntary contribution of the committee and also to the other stakeholders who came on board from the public sector, private sector and the community and voluntary sector.

Cavan Town Council

Green Lough Nature Area



The Green Lough Nature Area has been developed as a public park that promotes sustainability, ecology and learning. The Green Lough had become disused, over grown and neglected. Cavan Town Council have created a park that has recaptured this one time popular amenity for the local community while also highlighting and protecting the ecological importance of the Lake and its wetlands. The park enables the visitor to learn about the history and ecology of the lake in an interactive way through the crannog interpretation area, insect hotels and the pike mound. It has also created an area where school children in particular now visit to learn about native flora and fauna and the importance of biodiversity and ecology and the principals of sustainable development. The walk ways in the park are universally accessible and a smart phone app adds to the whole experience.



Clonakilty Town Council

Emmet Square, Clonakilty



Emmet Square is a unique example of Georgian Square. The design reflects best contemporary urban design practice by applying a 'shared surface' approach. The new 4.8m wide entrance of the Park is in an axis with the existing Michael Collins Statue to the north of the park and the Michael Collins House Museum at the south. This attractive entrance invites different users to walk in and use the park. Designed to be safe and accessible, it is ideal for children, cyclists and disabled users, while still offering a high quality recreation amenity to the entire community. New facilities are provided including: a water feature, low grass mounds for children's play, armchairs and space for seasonal markets. The landscaping design, while reflecting the historical proportion of the park, complies with low maintenance practice. New architectural lighting makes the space safe and attractive at any time while engaging in harmony with its historical setting.

Dublin City Council

Fairview Park Improvements Project



The land occupied by Fairview Park was originally a tidal mudflat which was used for landfill in the early 1900's. It was then developed in the late 1920's as a public park. Fairview Park now features a wide range of improvements combining active features such as a children's playground that will keep even the most demanding child entertained for hours. The park includes Dublin City's fourth skateboard park, a woodland walkway, a public performance area and passive features such as seasonal bedding and a social inclusion garden. Fairview Park also has an 'I-Play' area, the first of its kind in the city an active play and fitness area designed to attract those more used to playing computer games. These new facilities improve the park for children, young people and adults in Fairview, East Wall, Marino and the north inner city.



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Red Squirrel Conservation Project



The dlr Red Squirrel Conservation Project commenced in Killiney Hill Park when it became apparent that the small population of Red Squirrels had reached critically low levels. If action was not taken this native animal that is endangered may have been lost to Killiney. This would have been a significant setback as the park is one of the last two urban areas in Dublin where our native Red Squirrels remain, the other being Howth. The project involved the translocation of fifteen Red Squirrels from Wexford to Killiney Hill in August 2012 and, after a transitional period in which the squirrels were held in a specially constructed cage, their release in early September 2012. Due to the high level of public interest, the Council has supported the establishment of the Killiney Hill Red Squirrel Group, which provides an opportunity for local people to get involved.

Cavan County Council

Cavan County Council / Erne Valley Group Water Scheme Partnership



The group scheme movement began with the simple concept of neighbours working together to provide piped water supplies in rural Irish communities. Two schemes, Garty Lough and Bruskey/Killydoon, were formed in mid-70. In time, the need for this drinking water to meet EU standards became imperative. With the encouragement of Cavan County Council the schemes merged as Erne Valley in 2005. In total €7 million in funding was provided via Cavan County Council Rural Water Programme for the provision of a new treatment plant, reservoirs and pipelines. Cavan County Council provided engineering supervision on the project in conjunction with Tobins. These works resulted in the provision of quality drinking water to EU Standards & also a significant reduction of 56% in daily water demand, resulting in significant savings.



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Shanganagh Bray Main Drainage Scheme



The Shanganagh Bray Main Drainage Scheme provides upgraded wastewater treatment for the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown South and Bray areas. The four year project employed up to 140 people and required a capital investment of €98.5 million by central government and the Local Authorities involved. The works undertaken include the upgrading of the existing Shanganagh Wastewater Treatment Works and the laying of a pipeline from Bray Pumping Station to the new Shanganagh plant to bring wastewater for treatment. The project is highly sustainable with gases produced in the treatment process captured and used to generate power for the plant while the rainwater collection system allows water collected from the roof of the treatment plant to be harvested and used in the adjoining community gardens.

Limerick County Council

Kilmallock Water Supply



Limerick County Council has become the first Irish recipient of a prestigious internationally recognised quality standard for the delivery of drinking water. The Council has achieved ISO 24512:2007 certification for its management of the Kilmallock Water Treatment Scheme, which serves 2,500 customers in South County Limerick.

The standard is awarded by the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), the International Organisation for Standardisation (ISO) member body for the Republic of Ireland. Ireland as a trading nation must compete on the international stage. Businesses competing against international competition must be supported by public services which are equally capable of matching best international practices. Limerick County Council, by being the first local authority to receive certification to ISO 24512, has underlined their commitment to quality services for individuals and businesses and is leading by example.



Ennis Town Council

Friar's Walk Coach Park, Ennis, Co. Clare



The Friar's Walk Coach Park, in Ennis, Co. Clare is centrally located within the town. Only 100 metres from Ennis Town Centre, and close to Glór Theatre, it has 14 serviced spaces, 24 hour CCTV monitoring, passenger drop off and pick up facility with bus shelter, toilet drop and drivers lounge in the Temple Gate Hotel with CCTV and free Wi-Fi. Coach tourism is critically important to the local tourism and hospitality sector. Ennis Town Council had identified through consultation with coach / tour operators, retail and tourism sectors that there was a need to create a first class coach parking facility in the town of Ennis so as to attract additional coach business to the town.

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Enniscorthy Town Council

'Rebellion' @ The National 1798 Rebellion Centre



In 2012, Enniscorthy Town Council received funding to re-interpret and undertake significant re-development of the Centre, and create the 'Rebellion Experience'. Re-launched in May 2013, visitors come face-to-face with the characters of the Rebellion – the dreaded Tom the Devil (a member of the notorious North Cork Militia) and his commander-in-chief, General Gerard Lake. They also meet Anthony Perry and Miles Byrne, of the United Irishmen, and journey with 'The Croppy Boy' as he prepares for the Battle of Vinegar Hill. The Council also organises a Battle of Vinegar Hill re-enactment which sees 70 professional re-enactors travelling from the UK and Ireland, to face over 200 pikemen, in a re-enactment of the most famous battle of the rebellion. The centre also provides a 'living history' experience which allows visiting groups to dress up as rebels or redcoats, handle weaponry from the period - muskets, bayonets and cannonballs, and learn the skills of loading a musket, or unseating a rider from their horse with their pike.



Fingal County Council

Redevelopment of Malahide Castle & Gardens



An enlightened approach taken by Fingal County Council to the redevelopment of Malahide Castle & Gardens sees a commitment to the future of the tourism product at Malahide, ensuring visitors enjoy a first class visitor attraction whilst also experiencing a vibrant and appealing Malahide Village with its narrow streets and lanes. Fingal succeeded in delivering a world class visitor experience and augmenting an already high ranking tourism offering in Dublin and Ireland. The newly rejuvenated experience at Malahide provides a complete experience for both domestic and overseas tourists, gardening and special interest groups. Malahide Castle & Garden now presents itself as the “Jewel in the Crown” for overseas visitors to encounter Irish Culture and Heritage at its best and also plays a vital role in encouraging more Irish people to take a break at home promoting more home holidays, another feature of Dublin’s tourism offering for domestic visitors to explore.

Tralee Town Council

Tralee Wetlands Centre/ Ionad Bogach Bhá Thrá Lí



The Tralee Bay wetlands project was conceived by Tralee Town Council as an innovative and sustainable visitor attraction. It was designed and developed to the highest international standards, aiming to attract up to 50,000 tourists per annum. The project, costing €4.5m to develop, was jointly funded by Tralee Town Council and Fáilte Ireland under the National Development Plan (2007-2013). The project is unique in Ireland and is leading the way in the vastly expanding eco-tourism market in Kerry. It is strategically located on the gateway to the Dingle Peninsula and will greatly enhance the visitor product offering in Tralee. The Wetlands Centre utilises the rich natural heritage of the Tralee Bay area, which is a nature reserve of international importance.



Waterford City Council

Waterford Museum of Treasures

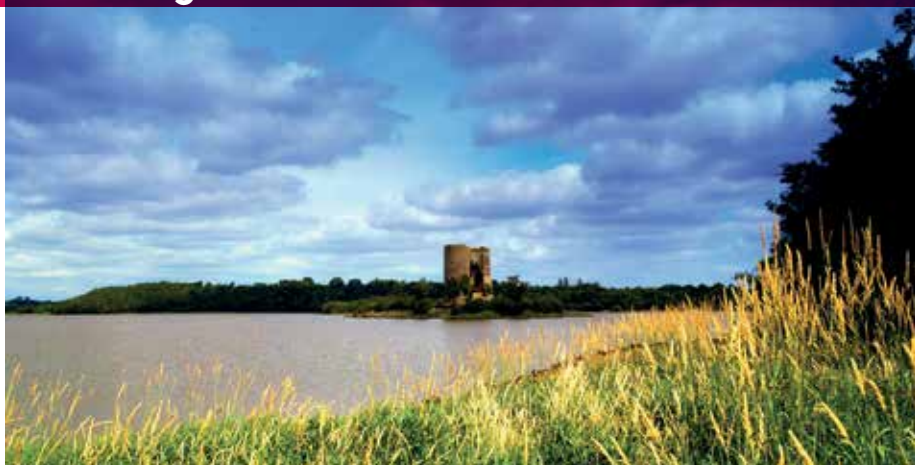


A major urban renewal project in Waterford, Ireland's oldest city, is the Viking Triangle historic quarter which was devised by Waterford Museum of Treasures and driven by the development of three new visitor attractions. Two of the attractions opened in 2011: Reginald's Tower - Treasures of Viking Waterford (in partnership with the Office of Public Works) and Bishop's Palace - Treasures of Georgian Waterford. In March 2013, the trinity was completed when An Taoiseach opened the Medieval Museum - Treasures of Medieval Waterford. The three visitor attractions tell Waterford's story from its beginnings in 850AD right up to the 1960s. Among the many extraordinary artefacts on display are the Waterford Great Charter Roll 1372 shown to Queen Elizabeth on her visit in 2011 and the 15th century cloth-of-gold vestments. The multi-award winning Waterford Museum of Treasures is designated under the National Monuments legislation.

Cavan County Council

THIS IS CAVAN!

Branding Cavan for Tourism Success



This project is about the development of an exciting new brand for County Cavan entitled 'This is Cavan!'. It represents the collection of positive ideas about Cavan County that resides in peoples' hearts and minds. The success of hosting three successful All –Ireland Fleadhannas made Cavan realise that they could compete on an international stage and it was decided to invest in redefining Cavan as a county and change how it was sold to the outside world. The brand aims to build a competitive brand identity for County Cavan, encourage Cavan to be recognised nationally and internationally as a distinct destination for tourism and allow its unique and distinct characteristics to be promoted through a compelling brand.



Ennis Town Council

Purple Flag Designation Accreditation, Ennis, Co. Clare



In 2012, on the recommendation of the Municipal Policy Committee, Ennis Town Council, in conjunction with the Gardaí, the business community and Promote Ennis made a formal application for a specific part of Ennis to be designated with Purple Flag status which was successful. This designation is an accreditation system for town centre management, which combines a unique offering to customers that embraces aspects of urban culture, entertainment, retail, tourism and restaurants etc. Under this accreditation, there is a particular focus on maximising the development of the night-time economy in the town centre. Central to this development is the creation of a safe and secure environment for customers. Under the guidance of a steering committee, which includes all the relevant stakeholders, an action plan is being implemented which will see the enhanced and further development, of a quality night time and evening economy in Ennis by the end of 2013.

Galway County Council

Made in Galway



The Made in Galway initiative promotes the range and quality of produce that is made in Galway and encourages consumers to purchase from these producers in order to generate and sustain employment in the region. It offers a marketing avenue for producers based in Galway at no cost and enables them to engage in a level of online marketing that they would not normally be able to undertake working on their own. By organizing a collective marketing approach, it is possible to engage with a greater range of consumers. The initiative involves online marketing, demonstration at trade events/expos, tourism promotion and a presence at festivals and events. The initiative is focused on having local producers to the fore, showcasing their talent and promoting products that are made in Galway. The objective of this initiative is to generate more sales for local producers in order to sustain/create employment in the Galway region. It also highlights the attractiveness of the Galway region as a food and craft tourism destination.



Cork City Council and Cork County Council Cork innovates



Cork innovates actively promotes the creation of regional economic wealth by enabling job creation, promoting an entrepreneurial eco-system and supporting innovative business practices. This is delivered through communication, collaboration, co-operation between all stakeholders and partner organisations and celebration of Cork's entrepreneurs. By promoting entrepreneurship Cork Innovates aims to position the Cork region as the very best place to locate entrepreneurial business in all its forms, from a local, regional, national and international perspective. In the first year of the project a number of initiatives took place including the InBusinessInCork Showcase, the development of a website, a lecture series, research collaboration and Cork's first Start Up Weekend. The project was jointly delivered by Cork City and Cork County Councils.

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Cork County Council and Cork City Council

The Water Systems & Services Innovation Centre (WSSI)



The key goal of this Project is to create a Regional Innovation Centre to focus upon economic development in water and waste water and achieve the following targets:

- Create a cluster of water industry service providers through leveraging the experience of the CIT in launching new and enhancing existing SMEs and combining this with the test bed opportunities provided by Cork city and county councils water services directorates.
- Create highly targeted collaborations with industry and innovation projects e.g. funded by Enterprise Ireland.
- To develop a portfolio of IP and other knowledge that enhances regional economic development through a project selection process that is applied through an appropriate governance process agreed by the partners.

The SME sector is the main target of this project. The WSSI will provide the necessary environment to allow the SMEs to leverage the expertise of the centre in developing new markets and prototyping new products.



South-East Regional Authority

The “Climatlantic” Project’s Assessment & Demonstration of Measures to Reduce Electricity Consumption by Local Authorities



The aim of this initiative, a collaborative venture between the South-East Regional Authority, Carlow County Council and Carlow Kilkenny Energy Agency, was to identify and demonstrate best in class energy efficiency measures, in each of the Council’s main internal electricity-consuming activities – water supply, wastewater and buildings. The initiative was carried out as part of the Authority’s participation in “Climatlantic” an inter-regional project part-financed by the European Union’s European Regional Development Fund through the INTERREG IVB Atlantic Area Programme. This initiative is an excellent example of intra-regional cooperation between public agencies. The initiatives undertaken in “Climatlantic” have a high level of transferability to other local authorities across Ireland and the EU and would lead to significant energy savings across the EU public sector.



investing in our common future



Waterford City and County Councils

The Waterford Gathering Project 2013



The Waterford Gathering Project is a joint Waterford City and County Council tourism and Diaspora initiative, establishing a Global Waterford Community Database, to connect local authority resources with the Irish Diaspora over-seas, as a sustainable legacy beyond the Gathering 2013. Through the building of a new Waterford portal website, the project achieved significant success as a leading agent of the Gathering project, animating community grass-roots and breaking into international markets. The connections developed over the year will provide a legacy for tourism initiatives in the future and feed into the continued positioning of Waterford as a tourism destination. Though both authorities have collaborated in various ways in the past, this is the single biggest tourism project they have planned and project managed ab initio. The initiative has surpassed expectations in achieving targets to date and has laid the foundations and potential for future economically advantageous collaborations.



Dublin City Council

Pathway Accommodation & Support System



PASS is an exciting and innovative project which provides Local Government, State agencies and the non-governmental sector with a shared client database which facilitates client assessment, support planning and interagency case management of people experiencing homelessness. The project is delivered by the Dublin Regional Homeless Executive (DRHE). Additional to facilitating multi-agency case management and support planning approach, the 24/7 management aspect of emergency homeless accommodation has allowed the DRHE to increase efficiency of bed occupancy to a rate of 99% of capacity, through the sharing of information between all statutory and voluntary homeless services. Over 97,000 placements into emergency accommodation took place in Dublin during 2011 and 2012, between over 30 organisations. The introduction of PASS allows Local Government to effectively manage, co-ordinate and monitor the provision of homeless services in the four Dublin Local Authorities.



South Dublin County Council

SOURCE South Dublin County's Digital Archive



SOURCE both archives and provides access to digitized history and heritage materials relating to South Dublin County. The project was developed to (a) securely archive digital material with appropriate searchable descriptions and (b) make web-friendly surrogates of that archived digital material available to customers 24/7. SOURCE is the world's first linked double digital archiving project based on DSpace Open Source software. It is also the first multi-file type digital archive developed or implemented by an Irish public library service. Customers are invited to contribute digital material online to the archive and to generate metadata for that material. The project has delivered an enhanced online customer service; secure archiving and reduced staff time spent looking for and locating materials for customers.



Carlow Local Authorities

McGrath Park Integrated Community Sports Facility



McGrath Park Integrated Community Sports Facility provides a unique opportunity for “cross pollination” of sporting activities including GAA, Soccer, Tennis, Pitch & Putt and Cricket, who work together to ensure that the people of Muinebheag and Co. Carlow enjoy a wide range of diverse sporting activities in a modern state of the art facility. Participants of one particular discipline have been actively exposed to others and now many participate in a suite of sporting activities. All clubs work in partnership to ensure that the McGrath Park Integrated Community Sports Facility continues to carry out the wishes of the original benefactor Daniel McGrath and guarantee the people of Muinebheag continue to have a safe space in which to continue their strong tradition of sport.

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Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

DLR Waves—Women's Football



DLR Waves provides girls/women's football in partnership with local clubs, and seeks to make this experience affordable and available for all interested participants. This is done through a series of successful community based participation programmes and academy and senior team training within the local community. This provides a complete developmental pathway for girls /womens football , offering participants from 3 years of age to senior women a positive learning and team experience along with the opportunity to create life-long memories. DLR Waves senior team, academy and community developmental programmes are run by highly qualified UEFA licensed coaches who have experience at professional, international, regional and local levels.



Fingal County Council

The Sporting Facts Programme



Sporting Facts is a seven week education and sports programme, delivered in primary schools throughout Fingal. The programme offers a combination of classroom based and physical activity sessions, which improves the pupil's fitness and activity levels and teaches the children the advantages of exercise and healthy lifestyles through the use of child-centered games and puzzles. The programme focuses on 4 main areas; how, when and where to undertake physical activity, the physical benefits, the mental benefits and the social benefits of physical activity. While the physical activity aspect is delivered as Sports Conditioning, which teaches young people the basic motor skills that are central to all sports, the programme also helps teachers' to enhance their skills and ability to deliver the P.E. curriculum.

Kildare County Council

Community Sports Leaders Programme



The Community Sports Leader Programme (CSLP) is a training initiative provided by Kildare Sports Partnership. The programme is designed to meet the needs of unemployed people who wish to become involved in health/fitness instruction, sports coaching and sports leadership at community level. The Community Sports Leaders Programme offers a combination of sports coaching, lifestyle management, and health/fitness workshops through which participants can partake in sample practical activities, become informed of further education pathways and be introduced to the possible employment opportunities available through their future involvement in sports coaching, leadership and health/fitness activities at local or community level. A survey undertaken following the course indicated that a number of participants had gone on to gain either full or part time employment and would recommend the course to others.



Wexford Borough Council The Rocks, Wexford Town



The area known as the Rocks is a hidden gem within the town of Wexford. A natural park area spread over and through large rock formations and home to a unique mix of biodiversity, informal walking trails and great views of Wexford Harbour, the area was an underutilized natural amenity less than 10 minutes walk from Wexford's main street. Traditionally a hive of activity with locals, the area had grown to become problematic; known locally as a den for illegal drinking, bonfires, dumping and unsafe to use, particularly after dark. In 2006 under the Wexford RAPID programme, the Borough Council began a new approach – to work with the local community to turn a problem park area into a local sports and leisure amenity. Over the past 7 years, the Rocks Project has fostered community ownership and delivered significant on-site facilities through the Borough Council and local community working collaboratively.

Cavan County Council

“What we have to offer” Cavan County Council’s approach to supporting the Green School Programme



Due to the ongoing reduction in resources available to both schools and Local Authorities it is evident that changes were required in terms of the support available as schools strive towards achieving green flags. This led to a “what have we to offer” approach being adopted by Cavan County Council in terms of interacting with schools within the green school programme. Cavan County Council has many “in-house experts” when it comes to the themes within the green school programmes i.e. litter & waste – energy – water – roads/travel – biodiversity. This project aims to increase environmental awareness at a local level. This educational initiative involves the bottom up approach by bringing the message of sustainability and environmental awareness to students throughout all of Cavan and in so doing ensuring long term benefits to the local environment.



Cavan Town Council

Cavan Edible Gardens Project



Cavan Town Council, in partnership with residents groups in its urban area, has established the Edible Gardens Project. The aim of the project is to support residents' groups who wish to promote wildlife and biodiversity interests where they live. Under the Project there is an emphasis on supporting parents and children in becoming involved. The residents benefit by becoming more aware of the wildlife which lives beside them. They also have the chance to build friendships and to celebrate what is unique to their area in terms of flora and fauna. Under the project, street groups work to put in berries, flowering and fruiting plants to provide food for people, animals, birds and insects. In this way, the focus of estate enhancement work is to bring life, as well as colour, to public areas and to educate and promote sustainable development.

Dublin City Council

Tolka Valley Greenway



The project is a complete turnaround in taking the Tolka, a previously polluted urban river in Dublin with an existing landfill but a long cultural heritage, and re-imagining it as a new spine of green infrastructure which connects people and habitats. Extended parklands of a total of nearly 20 hectares have been restored with a variety of native habitats and linked throughout by a 4 km cycle route with potential to go further in future, inland and towards the coast. The project provides sustainable management of the river, allowing flooding while protecting habitats, controlling the quality of water entering the river and developing salmonid fisheries potential. A new bridge connects existing and recent developments to promote social inclusion and improve access. New wetlands treat road run-off and provide an amenity for recreation and biodiversity. The river is the heart of the area once more.



Carlow County Council

Breathe - Carlow Active Town



In 2012-2013, Carlow County Council provided an additional 14.5 km of cycle path throughout the urban centre of Carlow Town. Part of this was the provision of a linear park/cycle path along the full length of the River Burrin in Carlow Town. The project provides high quality on and off road links between communities and places of interest in Carlow Town. The project will help promote sustainable travel and is providing a safe, attractive and healthy alternative to using the private car for shorter trips. The scheme has had a strong emphasis on the quality of finish and features over 250 mature trees and highly landscaped areas. This project will benefit everybody who travels in and around Carlow Town and educate the future populations on the benefits of sustainable travel.



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Cavan Town Council

Cavan Town Smarter Travel Scheme



Cavan Local Authorities are currently implementing the Cavan Town Smarter Travel Scheme which involves the provision of a series of independent Smarter Travel projects borne out of the Cavan Town and Environs Walking and Cycling Strategy. The aim of the strategy is to reduce the current dominance of car based travel within the town and its environs and to encourage the use of more sustainable transport modes. To date the project has included the implementation of 2.5km of footpath, 6km of cycle lanes and an additional 13km of cycle lanes currently under construction, on various approaches to Cavan Town. These facilities are implemented in conjunction with traffic calming measures and the provision of bicycle shelters at strategic locations throughout the town. This scheme will provide significant benefits to the wider community and specifically to the major employers and educational facilities in the town where the greatest impacts can be achieved.

Smarter Travel



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Cycle Network Study



A Cycle Network is defined as a collection of connected routes that follow logical corridors between zones or urban centres. The purpose of generating a cycle network is to connect the main attractors within the County and to provide effective through-movement for cyclists. In short, it is to get cyclists where they want to go along continuous, direct, safe and attractive routes and encourages cycling as a viable travel mode. The purpose of the assessment was to identify what facilities are in existence, identify the quality of these facilities, propose areas where new facilities should be provided (or what gaps in the existing routes needed to be completed) and to generate a prioritisation list of upgrade work based on a combination of statistical analysis and on-site investigations. The Cycle Network will also assist in identifying areas for cycle training, generation of promotional maps and apps and will facilitate the promotion of cycle tourism in the County.

Dublin City Council

Dublin Free WiFi Project



Dublin City's free Wi-Fi service provides free internet access at key destinations within Dublin City. The introduction of this service strengthens Dublin city's reputation as a forward thinking and digitally inclusive city which promotes access to on-line services and information. The project is focused on making internet access more freely available to both the citizens of Dublin City and its visitors. The key aims of the City Council's Wi-Fi project are to:

- Provide free public access to internet services at key destinations in the city centre.
- Introduce Wi-Fi as an aid to foster economic growth, making Dublin city centre a more attractive destination for citizens and visitors.
- Encourage increased diversity and vitality within public open spaces and streets which will serve to complement public realm enhancement schemes.
- Increase public access to on-line services and information.



Kerry County Council Graveyards Project



Graveyards are places apart in the physical and spiritual landscape. Our ancestors are laid to rest here and these places have developed their own history and mythology through the centuries. Graveyards are where we remember and where the separation that exists in the modern world between the living and the dead is bridged. The Graveyard Project has attempted to reintegrate these places of the dead into the lives of the living in a meaningful way through raising awareness, promoting sustainable management and providing accessible information on the long history of many of the graveyards and the life stories buried therein.

South Dublin County Council

Taking steps to be a Literacy— Friendly Local Authority



South Dublin County Council is committed to providing high quality accessible and inclusive services to its customers. With this in mind, the Social Inclusion Unit has initiated a raft of procedures to ensure that SDCC is the first literacy – friendly Local Authority in the country. All websites, application forms, leaflets, signage and public information have been plain-English proofed, while Literacy Awareness training has been arranged for staff, particularly frontline staff. This initiative has been developed with the co-operation and support of the National Adult Literacy Agency and is now embedded within the Council's Customer Service Policy. The entire project is overseen by a steering committee, which ensures that all the action plans are implemented.



Laois County Council

Cold In-Situ Road Recycling for the Restoration of Local & Regional Roads



This project aimed to evaluate and prove the effectiveness of In-Situ Cold Recycling for the restoration of Local and Regional Roads. From 2010 – 2012 Laois County Council Western Area, examined and tested this road restoration process against the existing methods of Wet Mix Macadam and hot macadam overlays. Following this evaluation period which included trials and testing, Laois County Council developed a user/client tender specification based on functional requirements and desired outcomes which leaves room for supplier innovation.

In 2012, the use of the developed tender specification to procure the annual road strengthening program by way of Cold In-Situ Road Recycling brought cost savings of over 40% compared to other solutions and a reduction in CO₂ emissions of 56% to Laois County Council.

Westmeath County Council

Westmeath Local Authorities— Restructuring



In the context of the Local Government Reform Process, the ongoing efficiency agenda in the local government sector and organizational efficiency, Westmeath Local Authorities has completely restructured its service delivery model and the associated management structure over the past 12 months. Prior to the implementation of this project, Westmeath County Council carried out its operations on the basis of four engineering areas, together with a separate operational area for Athlone Town Council, i.e. five operational areas in total. The revised structure now comprises of two operational areas, namely North and South Westmeath, centered on the principal towns of Mullingar and Athlone. The associated senior management restructuring has resulted in a 50% reduction in senior management grades, including Director of Service, and related technical supervisory posts. In addition the former posts of Town Clerk and Town Engineer in Athlone have been replaced by the posts of Senior Executive Engineer and Senior Engineer, covering both town and area duties. The resultant staff and operational savings exceed €2m per annum.



Clare County Council

Celebrate Scattery Island



The event took place over the weekend from 5th & 7th July 2013 and was the idea of the Scattery Island Heritage and Tourism Forum who are a voluntary group founded to promote the history and heritage of Scattery Island. The island is now uninhabited with the last of the families of the river pilots who settled there in the nineteenth century leaving in 1978. The Gathering was an opportunity to invite their descendants and relatives to visit the island and explore the 19th century village where their ancestors lived. It was also a celebration of the older heritage of the island which includes a 6th century monastic settlement, a lighthouse and Napoleonic battery and remains of an Elizabethan castle. The project included a photo exhibition, an historical re-enactment and a lecture on the history of the Vikings and Brian Ború.

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Cork County Council

The Tobin and Coughlan Gatherings



The Tobin and Coughlan Gatherings of Sheepshead and Ballydehob resulted in the acquaintance of over 30 overseas members of each clan, along with upwards of 70 domestic visitors, sharing of family-stories and clan history. This event was a clan gathering organized in two parts, each event putting the focus on one side of the organiser's family. Both gatherings were classic clan gatherings with open invitations to extended family and members of both said clans to attend. The Tobins of Sheepshead gathering took place on the June Bank Holiday weekend (2nd & 3rd of June) with the Coughlans of Ballydehob event taking place on the August Bank Holiday weekend (4th & 5th of June).



Dún Laoghaire - Rathdown County Council

The 'Forgotten Irish'



Friends of the Forgotten Irish have worked over the last number of years to fundraise for, and highlight the thousands of Irish men and women that left their homeland many decades ago. In early 2012, a Plaque was erected on the East Pier in Dún Laoghaire, to commemorate the Forgotten Irish. As part of the Gathering Celebrations, the Friends of the Forgotten Irish organised trips back to Ireland.

The word spread through the Irish community in the UK, and with the help of Councillor Sally Mulready (Hackney Council, London), a member of the Irish Council of State, who had unveiled the Plaque and on behalf of the Irish Diaspora in the UK, coordinated groups who returned home. For many of the visitors this was their first and potentially last trip back to the country of their birth.

Kerry County Council

Stack Clan Gathering, Listowel, Co. Kerry



The Stack Clan Gathering was scheduled from the 19th to 22nd July 2013 and a 4 day programme of welcome, cultural and social events prepared with the proceeds from the various events being donated to Listowel Hospice and the Kerry Parents & Friends Association. Listowel is the heartland of the Stack family and the Kerry Stacks, led by Damian Stack - a 5th generation shop keeper who reached out to the extended Stack family abroad and invited them "home" for The Gathering. Damian was among the first to embrace the concept of The Gathering as a means of reconnecting with the Irish Diaspora and boosting economic growth locally. 85 overseas Stacks accepted the invitation and were joined by Stacks from nine other Irish counties and local people from North Kerry to celebrate their Irish heritage.



Leitrim County Council

The Leitrim Roots Festival



The Leitrim Roots Festival was run by the Leitrim Genealogy Centre and was developed as result of a large number of enquiries from people researching their ancestors. As a result it was decided to run a week long programme in County Leitrim where people with Leitrim ancestry could return to their home county and share experiences with people with similar interests. The festival, which has taken place previously in both 2006 and 2007, had over 80 attendees from such places as New Zealand, Australia, UK, Iceland, USA and Canada. The programme included genealogy workshops, visiting sites of historic interest, towns and villages and a full programme of evening entertainment. The workshops are given on various topics from tracing you ancestors to Leitrim in the 1800s. The group is also taken on daily coach tours to sites of interest around the county from Glencar Waterfall to the Rainbow Ballroom where some of their ancestors would have met.

Meath County Council

The Dunboyne Consort



The Dunboyne Consort was held on 24th to 28th April 2013. The Dunboyne choir teamed with a choir in Nice, France and invited over 60 overseas visitors to attend. The Choeur des Coteaux d'Ázur is a 50 strong French choir based in two small villages near Nice. The Dunboyne choir sang with them in France in 2012 and invited them to Ireland to celebrate the Gathering and sing with them again. Members from the local community travelled to the airport to meet and greet the French choir. They also assisted them on a walking tour of Dublin (taking in all the sights) and also to the Battle of the Boyne, Newgrange, Knowth.



South Tipperary County Council

Return of the Dexter



The Return of the Dexter Gathering brought a whole new breed of visitor to Ireland from eight countries ranging from the northern to southern hemispheres, to share information on the rare and highly regarded Dexter breed of cattle. The delegates were on their first visit to Ireland and came because of their shared interest in Dexter cattle. No overseas delegates had Irish connections. Delegates were able to visit local farms and farm enterprises along with the Tipperary Food & Craft Producers evening market. Locals also painted derelict buildings and put on ancillary events – Dexter Mile Challenge, Plaque unveiling, cycling, musical evenings and other events. As a result of the 2013 Gathering, an international Dexter conference will run bi-annually and an annual rare breeds Irish show annually.

Waterford County Council

Power Clan Gathering



The Power Clan Gathering was held in the county and city of Waterford over 31st May to 4th June 2013. Ninety plus overseas guests visited Waterford originating from Wales, England, Spain, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Newfoundland and Labrador as well as across the US. These visitors wished to participate in the Power Clan Gathering, which had been brought to their attention by the extensive promotional and publicity activities undertaken by the Steering Committee. The festival consisted of 20 individual events over five days that required the extensive involvement of over 100 volunteers. These included those that served on the main committee and on a range of project sub committees from Dunhill, Fenor, Kill, Tramore and Waterford City, many guest artists filling a variety of roles including actors, musicians, dancers, story tellers and singers.



Cork City Council and Cork County Council Cork Rebel Week 2013



Cork Rebel Week 2013 is a joint Cork City and County Council initiative taking place between the 14th and the 20th October, 2013. It is a week-long celebration of “all things Cork” with a specific focus on bringing International visitors and family home to Cork County and Cork City throughout the week. The concept surrounding Rebel Week embraces the imagination of Corkonians living locally, nationally and internationally, with the strong potential of Rebel Week becoming a new annual event in the National Events Calendar. Initiatives include a Michael Collins tribute night, a special ‘Cork visa’ with proceeds going to charity and a conference along with a series of talks, exhibitions and concerts.

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Galway County Council

Aer Lingus International Hurling Festival



At the 'International Hurling Festival' 16 teams from all over the world competed in Galway from the 19th to the 21st of September. The teams played preliminary matches in Gort, Loughrea, Ballinasloe and Galway West (Salthill). Aer Lingus and Etihad Airways flew in 16 teams from all over the world to participate in the hurling festival. Teams came from North America, Europe, Argentina, the Middle East and Australia. The initial group stages of the competition took place in four locations around County Galway, before players and supporters converged on Galway City for the exciting final matches. This event reflects the generations of Irish emigrants that have helped spread the game of hurling internationally, most notably to the US.



Kilkenny Local Authorities

Kilkenny Tradfest



This was a new festival event for the local economy where a voluntary committee welcomed people from all over the world back home. The event kicked off March 15th 2013 quite literally by over 500 marching band member of the Purdue All-American' marching band from Indianapolis, followed closely by over 250 members of the Colorado marching band on 16th. A key focus to the Gathering was an international reception in the Parade Tower, reaching out to embassies and mayoralties worldwide, involving twinning with the city of Kilkenny, Minnesota USA and attended by 12 Embassies and Mayors. There was a notable increase in visitor numbers over the holiday weekend while the city was also promoted heavily to the representatives of the foreign embassies who attended, which will hopefully lead to increased overseas exposure for the city and surrounding area.

Limerick City and County Council

Limerick International Fashion & Design Festival



Limerick International Fashion & Design Festival ran from the 29th of October to November the 2nd. The centerpiece event was the International Fashion Student Awards 2013 held on the 31st of October, which took place in the former Franciscan Church, Henry Street, Limerick. The evening consisted of a runway fashion show and awards ceremony showcasing the designs of the competing student designers from colleges and universities from Britain, Ireland and across Europe. Other highlights of the week included a Sybil Connolly Exhibition at the Hunt Museum, 'Limerick Style' a morning coffee fashion presentation promoting Limerick as a desirable shopping destination and 'Fashion Fusion', a gala dinner and fashion show showcasing the best of Irish and International designer collections at the iconic venue of Thomond Park.



Mayo County Council

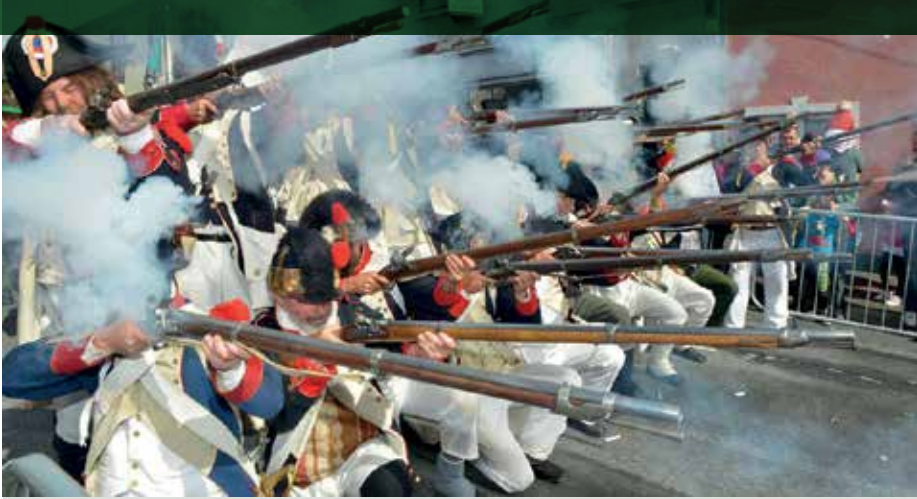
Mayo North Gathering incorporating the Manchester Mayo Gathering



The Mayo North Gathering incorporating the Manchester Mayo Gathering project in North Mayo was a collaboration between the Manchester Mayo Tourism and Business Group and Tourism groups in North Mayo. Jack Charlton, Mary Robinson, Keith Duffy, the Lord of the Dance – James Keegan and UK and Irish government officials all lent their support to the initiative. An estimated 100,000 visitors attended the event which incorporated the Mayo North Gathering and events in rural parishes like Bonnicconlon and Attymass. It generated one million euros worth of business in for the local tourism economy, with some venues reporting a 75% increase in bar profits. A further million euros worth of media exposure was generated in its worldwide press and marketing campaign, with its social media campaign being three times the size of its nearest rival. The Gathering hosted just over 100 events featuring Agriculture, Clan Gatherings, Business, Culture, Dance, Heritage, Music and Sport.

Mayo County Council

IN HUMBERT'S FOOTSTEPS



IN HUMBERT'S FOOTSTEPS was a Gathering for County Mayo: a four day family-centred festival consisting of historical re-enactments/performances on the streets of Killala and Castlebar and in the waters of Killala Bay with events including music, carnival and spectacle. IN HUMBERT'S FOOTSTEPS was about the promotion of Mayo and an important period of Ireland's history along with a revolutionary movement in France that was internationally significant and which has universal and fraternal reach. The Gathering sought to resurrect and elucidate public interest in this part of Mayo history. The re-enactment was the biggest historical re-enactment ever staged in Ireland with international participation.



New Ross Town Council

JFK50—The Homecoming



The Homecoming Event in New Ross on June 22nd 2013 celebrated the 50th anniversary of the visit of President John F. Kennedy to the town of his forefathers. President Kennedy's great grandfather emigrated from the quayside in 1848 to escape the ravages of the Great Famine. The visit in 1963 was a pivotal moment in Irish history. The objective of the day was to produce an event that would be attractive to the national audience and one which would resonate powerfully with the Diaspora. Events included the Homecoming Parade, the lighting of the Emigrant Flame from the Kennedy Torch and a naval salute. The Homecoming was attended by 15,000 people, including An Taoiseach, and broadcast on television in Ireland, the UK and the USA.

Wicklow County Council

The Hollywood Fair



The Hollywood Fair was a Community run festival taking place over 5 days in August. It was themed on pre-1950's rural life in Ireland, when people had to be self-reliant. The objective was to showcase what life in Hollywood was like back in the pre-1950's. Among the highlights were a sheep fair, period food stalls, céilí house and dancing at the crossroads, forge & horse shoeing exhibition, steam engines, craft stalls, history enactments (The Great Famine being enacted in 2013), open air traditional music, sheepdog trials and the cooking of colcannon, to name just a few. The Hollywood Fair is making a significant contribution to the quality of life of the people in the Community as it has increased voluntary activity. It also an increase in business for local pubs, restaurants and hotels.



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