

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2018



An Roinn Tithíochta,
Pleanála agus Rialtais Áitiúil
Department of Housing,
Planning and Local Government



**Chambers
Ireland**
Advancing business together



Welcome to the Excellence in Local Government Awards 2018



Local Authorities are at the centre of our communities nationwide and are an integral part of Irish life throughout the country, across our rural regions and urban centres.

Being the country's largest business network with affiliated Chambers in every major town and region Chambers Ireland is proud to work with these local authorities and to develop our mutual understanding of the roles business and government can play across different communities.

The projects shortlisted for this years' awards capture the essence of what local authority staff contribute day in, day out and underline the fundamental value that local authorities bring to their communities.

Local Government is a key actor in the development of Irish society, which is why it's crucial that the Chamber Network continues to engage with local authorities and facilitate the work consistently being done to promote a culture of growth for both businesses and the community together.

In partnership with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, the Excellence in Local Government Awards are an annual celebration recognising the commitment, hard work, dedication and innovation within local government.

Our future prosperity is an objective in which both the Chamber Network and Local Authorities have a shared stake. Through the Excellence in Local Government Awards, we are delighted to showcase the work and ingenuity of the local authorities with whom we cooperate to meet this goal.

Ian Talbot

Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland

Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors for their involvement in the 2018 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



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TEKENABLE
digital transformation



Judging Panel 2018

Round One

- Seán Ó Riordáin, Chairman, Public Policy Advisors Network
- Alex Connolly, Head of Communications, Fáilte Ireland
- Tony O'Brien, Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council and Principal at TOB Associates

Round Two

- Seán Ó Riordáin, Chairman, Public Policy Advisors Network
- Karen Smyth, Head of Policy & Governance, Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA)
- Diarmuid O'Leary, Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government
- Andy Johnson, Director, LGiU Ireland
- Jack Keyes, Consultant and Former County Council Chief Executive, Cavan
- Martin Tobin, CEO, European Recycling Platform (ERP) Ireland

Local Government Policy Council

- Tony O'Brien, Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council & Principal at TOB Associates
- Allan Shine, Chief Executive, County Kildare Chamber
- Brian O'Farrell, Chief Executive, County Carlow Chamber
- Sarah Foley, Public Affairs Executive, Cork Chamber
- Thomas McHugh, Director of Public Affairs, Cork Chamber
- Fergus Sharpe, Senior Public Affairs Executive, Dublin Chamber
- Joe Allen, Former PO, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government
- Derry Maher, Managing Director, Maher Property Advisors



Contents

SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES



Cavan County Council	6
Clare County Council	7
Fingal County Council	8
Kerry County Council	9
Limerick City & County Council	10
Monaghan County Council	11

BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



Clare County Council	12
Cork City Council	13
Kerry County Council	14
Leitrim County Council	15
Limerick City & County Council	16

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Cavan County Council	17
Fingal County Council	18
Limerick City & County Council	19
Mayo County Council	20
Monaghan County Council	21
South Dublin County Council	22

SUPPORTING TOURISM



Cork County Council	23
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	24
Fingal County Council	25
Galway County Council	26
Mayo County Council	27
Monaghan County Council	28
Waterford City & County Council	29

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Clare County Council	30
Galway County Council	31
Limerick City & County Council	32
Meath County Council	33
Monaghan County Council	34

LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

TEKENABLE

Clare County Council	35
Cork City Council	36
Dublin City Council	37
Kerry County Council	38
Monaghan County Council	39
South Dublin County Council	40

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



Clare County Council	41
Cork City Council	42
Limerick City & County Council	43
Monaghan County Council	44
South Dublin County Council	45

BEST LIBRARY SERVICE



Donegal County Council	46
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown County Council	47
Kildare County Council	48
Limerick City & County Council	49
South Dublin County Council	50
Wexford County Council	51



SUSTAINING THE ARTS



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	52
Leitrim County Council	53
Limerick City & County Council	54
Longford County Council	55
Mayo County Council	56
Monaghan County Council	57

JOINT LOCAL AUTHORITY INITIATIVE



Clare County Council	58
Longford County Council	59
Monaghan County Council	60

FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR



Clare County Council	61
Cork County Council	62
Fingal County Council	63
Limerick City & County Council	64
Mayo County Council	65
South Dublin County Council	66

OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS



Clare County Council	67
Limerick City & County Council	68
Monaghan County Council	69
Wexford County Council	70
Wicklow County Council	71

ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Clare County Council	72
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	73
Fingal County Council	74
Kildare County Council	75
Wexford County Council	76

HERITAGE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council	77
Fingal County Council	78
Galway County Council	79
Limerick City & County Council	80
South Dublin County Council	81

DISABILITY SERVICES PROVISION



Clare County Council	82
Fingal County Council	83
Kildare County Council	84
Monaghan County Council	85

COMMEMORATIONS & CENTENARIES



Clare County Council	86
Galway County Council	87
Kildare County Council	88
Meath County Council	89
Wexford County Council	90=



SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Cavan Older People's Council Intergenerational Project

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL



Cavan Older People's Council are a Council representing older people. The members are elected on a geographical basis every two years and are joined by sectoral interests including Positive Age, Local Health Office and Breffni Integrated.

The intergenerational project developed as an initiative via an action in the Cavan Age Friendly strategy. This project was co-ordinated by Cavan County Council and involved members from Cavan Older People's Council and TY students in the secondary schools in the county.

Activities included the students interviewing the older people on the past and looking at old memorabilia. Both groups participated in art, home economics, history and other classes and activities together.

This initiative was a huge success, with 60 older people and 170 students from 5 secondary schools participating in 2018. This project has broken down the stereotypes between both parties. Relationships were formed between the older people and the students.

Clare Library Outreach Service to Kilmaley Daycare and Health Centre Clare

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



Clare County Library is involved in the continuous provision of services on site at the HSE's Health and Daycare Centre at Kilmaley in County Clare.

The objective of this initiative is to bring local library services to community groups that they may otherwise not be aware of or have access to, and to provide those services at a convenient time.

Library engagement at the centre is two-fold, through monthly mobile library visits to senior citizen residents and day visitors, and library staff who also visit the Centre at the same location to provide talks to parents of babies and pre-school children on the importance of oral language development and introducing babies to books.

This initiative has been running successfully for 3 years already. Not only do the library sessions inform those attending about the service but the visits have a wider impact on all family members young and old.



SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Fingal Kaleidoscope Intergenerational Project (Seniors & Four Year Olds)

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



The aim of the Fingal Kaleidoscope Intergenerational Project was to support older people to tackle loneliness, grief and depression while also providing preschool children with an opportunity to learn about older people.

Fingal County Council's research showed project benefits including opportunities to increase better mental health, to develop a more positive attitude to life, opportunities to get out of the house and have social outings and to have a feeling of greater personal contentment.

A review of the programme after its completion was conducted with focus groups of older people and children who participated. The data from the focus groups showed five main themes of learning among participants – reciprocal learning, development of relationships, novel experiences and learning between young and old, accompanying emotions mutually felt by seniors and children and a change of pace. The success of this project has seen it extended across the country.

The development of 'Community and Business Alliance Structures'

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



Following the restructuring and amalgamation of the former Town Councils, Kerry County Council proactively worked with local community and business organisations to continue to enhance the level of services.

The Council developed new responses and approaches to ensure that existing partnerships and new relationships were fostered and supported at a local government level. Municipal District Officers were specifically appointed across the four Municipal District areas in Kerry and over the past three years they have established an additional seven new community and business alliances across the County.

These alliances are dedicated to promoting social and economic growth and are particularly focused on making areas more attractive places to live, work and do business. Kerry County Council is committed to working with these structures as it has proved to be a dynamic, mutually beneficial partnership.



SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Balance Bike Initiative

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Limerick Smarter Travel (LST) carried out a Balance Bike Initiative supported by the Healthy Ireland Fund. LST collaborated with the Limerick Childcare Committee and the Healthy Ireland Smart Start Program.

It was decided that Early Years Services in Limerick which encourages healthy lifestyle behaviours in early childhood, would be invited to participate in the initiative. Once signed up participants underwent a one-day Sprocket Rocket Training class with a Cycling Ireland instructor. 16 Early Years Services participated in the training and on completion each was presented with at least five balance bikes and helmets.

Balance bikes are pedal-less bikes that allow children to develop solid cycling skills and transition more seamlessly to pedal bikes. The initiative aims to increase future uptake and appreciation of cycling as a means of transport into the future.

Know ME not the Stereotype

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



A unique and captivating campaign incorporating a booklet and public exhibition explores the challenges of discrimination and social exclusion in today's society through the voices of those who experience it. This campaign was developed to educate and inform people in the community about inequality, what it really means for someone, and how equality can be achieved.

This campaign reflects on how people can often make a judgement about someone solely on how they look and the stereotypes associated with them. This lack of awareness can lead to discrimination and inequality in society. This campaign invites the public to get to know the people in the local community, and to 'Know Me, not the Stereotype'. 5000 copies of the 'Know Me' booklet have been circulated across County Monaghan and throughout Ireland. The booklet was so successful that Monaghan County Council developed it into a public exhibition in the county museum.



BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Community Mobilisation Unit: Rural & Community Development Officer

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



A six-month consultation process was undertaken where the views and recommendations of rural communities in decline were sought. The resulting analysis indicated that much of rural decline could be attributed to the failure of communities to act collectively; to ensure on-going relevance; to achieve leadership succession; to ensure medium-term financial sustainability and more.

A deficit in 'citizen' and 'community' engagement was seen as the root cause of such failures. A unique approach to address this deficit was undertaken by Clare County Council's initiative of establishing a 10-person Community Mobilisation Unit.

Gaps in the Unit's skills repertoire were addressed by the competitive recruitment of four Rural and Community Development Officers (RCDOs), with the support of the Department of Rural and Community Development.

The Community Mobilisation Unit initiative delivered a number of interventions that engaged growing numbers of citizens and members of the public.

The Lord Mayor's Civic and Community and Voluntary Awards

CORK CITY COUNCIL



The Lord Mayor of Cork annually hosts an evening attended by over 600 invited guests where two groups of people are recognised. The first is the Lord Mayor's Civic Award Recipients, where six individuals with local, national or international reputation whose work has enriched the quality of life of the citizens of the city, country or internationally are selected. They can be anything from unsung local heroes to those who have excelled in their field, but predominantly in a manner that has gone unnoticed or unrecognised elsewhere.

The second group is the Lord Mayor's Community and Voluntary Awards.

Held annually since 2004, these Awards recognise voluntary and community groups across Cork for their invaluable contribution to life in the city. The awards are presented to one overall winner and to five category winners.

The public is invited to nominate the groups they would like to see recognised for their efforts.



Access for All: Disability awareness workshop

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



The Kerry Public Participation Network, an independent organisation representing the community and voluntary sector in County Kerry, agreed to host a pilot 'Access for All' workshop in Killarney and to use the learnings from this workshop as a template that could be replicated throughout the county.

A broad range of individuals with disabilities, support agencies, Kerry PPN Representatives, as well as representatives from several departments in Kerry County Council (KCC attended and fully contributed to the discussions. The round-table, thematic format, facilitated people to actively participate and covered all Strategic Policy Committee (SPC) themes.

The workshop provided substantial feedback, which highlighted how good design from designers and planners is crucial for the built environments around us, to allow greater 'universal access', for all regardless of age, size or disability.

Many of the proposed solutions are being presently implemented within the Killarney MD area.

Use Your Brain Not Your Fists

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL



'Use Your Brain Not Your Fists' is a video initiative which is the brainchild of Leitrim Comhairle na nÓg and has been developed by young people for young people, reflecting the consequences of momentary senseless madness, often as a result of alcohol and/or substance abuse. The video's content is thought-provoking and has been inspired and motivated by the death of Andrew Dolan from Carrick and the injuries suffered by Shane Grogan from Tuam, following unprovoked attacks. Andrew's mother, Rosie Dolan, and Shane and his parents, Joe and Joan Grogan, feature in the video and share their experiences following their sons' attacks.

The video has been shown to over 1000 students in the 12-18 age category and a further aim is to roll the video out nationwide.

The initiative is supported by Leitrim County Council, North Connaught Youth Service, North West Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Creative Ireland.



BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT

Limerick Clothing Factory

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



In 2016, Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) began constructing a regeneration project that includes 81 local authority houses, retail units and community space on the site of the former Tait Clothing Factory, Limerick City, which closed in 1974.

This former factory is recognised as a structure of significant industrial heritage and the site of innovative production methods which played a large part in the social life of Limerick City.

To acknowledge this, a series of very successful collaborative events were organised by LCCC to record the experiences and memories of former Tait Clothing Factory employees in order to showcase this important site, culminating in the publication of a book entitled 'A Stitch in Time - A History of Limerick Clothing Factory'.

The project would not have been possible without the contribution of the local community and former employees. Its success demonstrates the depth of engagement that took place.

Cavan Rainbow Youth: An LGBT Youth Support Service in County Cavan

CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL



Cavan County Council worked with Cavan Children and Young People's Services Committee (CYPSC) to develop a new LGBTI+ support service for County Cavan, using Healthy Ireland Funding. The service is hosted locally by Focus Family Resource Centre who were key to initiating this new support. It is managed by a subgroup of the CYPSC that involves partners from the statutory and community sectors.

The service is an important development in supporting the health and well-being of young LGBTI+ people in a rural county. Prior to the introduction of this service, young LGBTI+ people needed to travel to Dundalk Outcomers. The Cavan service is accessible to young people throughout Cavan as the Development Worker provides one-to-one support and a number of drop-in centres are also operating for group support. The Development Worker also supports services such as schools and youth groups to be inclusive of young people from the LGBTI+ community.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Fingal Athletics League

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



The Fingal Athletics League is a participation-focused primary school running league for students from 3rd-6th class, which is attended by 53 Fingal schools. Schools can bring a maximum on 50 students on race day with every student who runs (be they first or last) scoring points for their school. A finals day is held in Morton Stadium which brings all the schools together in one venue and gives students the opportunity to run on a world class athletics tracks, participate in other non-competitive sports/athletics events on the day, receive their participation medal and find out if their school has won an overall award.

Initiated in 2006, the programme has grown extensively in the last 12 years. Despite the increase in numbers its purpose and the basic premise remains the same while the impact is bigger than ever.

Healthy Limerick

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Healthy Limerick aims to promote a comprehensive and whole system approach to planning for health and wellbeing. It is aligned with the WHO's international Healthy Cities/Communities initiative through Limerick City and County Council's active membership of the National Healthy Cities and Counties Network.

Healthy Limerick aims to improve health, positive wellbeing and quality of life through enabling agencies and stakeholders of the Limerick Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP) to find collaborative ways to further the health, wellbeing and quality of life goals as part of the LECP and associated plans.

Following its launch in September 2017, Healthy Limerick has supported 14 Healthy Ireland-funded actions across the city and county which primarily promoted physical activity, as well as acting as a collaborator on the University of Limerick-led research initiative to Increase Physical Activity Levels in Adults Over 50 Years of Age in Ireland.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

Its for Girls

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



'Its for Girls' is an overarching initiative devised by Mayo Sports Partnership in collaboration with their stakeholders, that encompasses many strands of its programmes for girls in County Mayo. The initiative commenced in response to research showing that there is a growing need to get teenage girls more active in sport/recreation. By promoting sustainable community led participation programmes and utilising high-profile female sports personalities a successful 'Its for Girls' brand has evolved. Its impact is such that recent research by Sport Ireland has shown that Mayo and Sligo are the only two counties in Ireland where there are more females participating in sport on a weekly basis (49%) than males (47%).

In 2018 the Its for Girls Mini Marathon initiative attracted 10 second level schools in the county to enter participants and take part in the lead in programme not withstanding individual entries the following comments point to its impact.

Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg committee approached Bodywhys, the national organisation that provides support, training and advice on the topic of eating disorders and body image to see if they would work with them on a project. The group wished to address the inconsistencies on how the topic of body image was discussed in Secondary Schools across the County. They developed a suite of resources including 4 week lesson plans, powerpoints and student handouts which would be a useful tool for secondary school teachers and aid them in discussing the topic in the classroom.

Training was made available on the resource pack and access to a dedicated training portal on the Bodywhys website was made available to access additional resources. A second element of the project involved extending an invitation to all TY students in each of the secondary schools to enter a short film competition which provided additional engagement.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

MedEx Health Programme

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

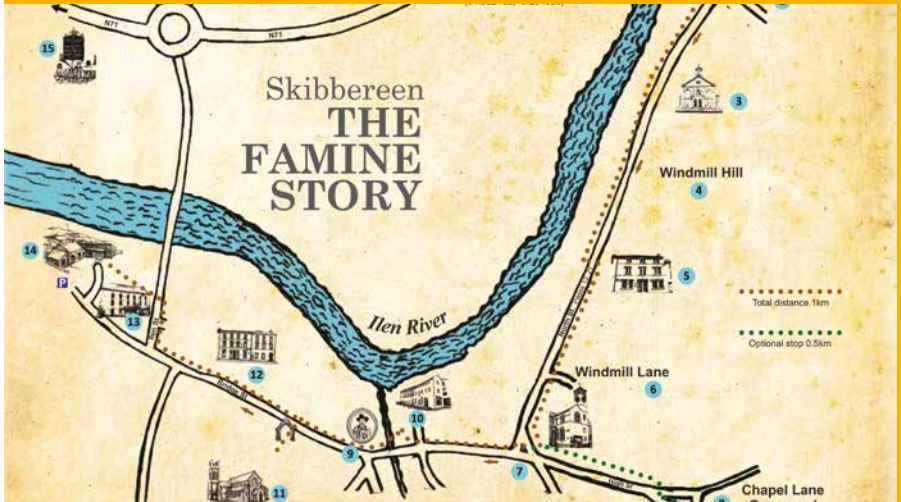


MedEx Health Programme is a community based chronic illness rehabilitation programme. It offers structured and supervised exercise classes to enable people with a diverse range of illnesses to exercise in a safe environment to maintain or gain fitness during or after treatment. Patients with chronic diseases such as heart disease, lung disease, diabetes, cancer and other chronic diseases can avail of the programme, with new programmes commencing for those with chronic pain, heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, cystic fibrosis and for renal failure patients on dialysis. The programme is clinically evaluated and proven and referrals are by consultants who are supportive of the programme for relevant patients in Tallaght Hospital.

A recently completed three-year HSE funded evaluation of MedEx demonstrated the positive effects exercise had on patients' psychological wellness and cognition. The evaluation also highlighted the positive impact the programme has on strength, blood pressure and other areas of health.

Skibbereen: The Famine Story

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL



'Skibbereen: The Famine Story' is a tourism service based in Skibbereen, West Cork, a town that became synonymous with the Great Irish Famine.

The Famine Story exhibition uses audio and visual presentations, tactile and artefact exhibits as well as information panels and three-dimensional models to tell the story of the Great Famine in Skibbereen.

The Famine Story walking trail app uses the voices of the era (portrayed by local actors including Jeremy Irons) to guide the walker around the many Famine sites in Skibbereen.

The 'Skibbereen: The Famine Story' book offers a more in-depth examination of the events of the Great Famine in the Skibbereen area comprising 112 pages of 'Famine Stories'.

The Famine Story is a popular visitor attraction in West Cork which serves the needs of a variety of tourists and attracts visitors to Skibbereen, which benefits the area economically.



SUPPORTING TOURISM

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown: A Tourism Destination for All

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL



The Accessible Tourism Market is recognised as the largest ‘undiscovered’ tourism market. Businesses and destinations ignore it at their peril. One in five tourists have certain types of access needs, and if these needs are not catered for then they will go elsewhere.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (DLRCC) is one of the first Local Authorities in Ireland to lead on the creation of an Accessible Tourism Destination. In collaboration with the DLR Chamber, Dún Laoghaire Business Improvement District and Tourism Businesses, DLRCC has developed a programme of supports to engage and explore the idea of Accessible Tourism Destinations.

This programme consists of a tailored package of training, accessibility audits of public spaces and transport routes, public conferences and advertising and promotion campaigns. The project seeks to enhance the level of collaboration between the local authority and tourism business providers and establish Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown as a Tourism Destination for All.

The Fingal Tourism Development Office

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



As tourism returns to strong growth and plays a hugely influential role in Fingal's economic success, Fingal County Council's Tourism Strategy 2017 - 2022 provides the "definitive pathway to tourism development in Fingal". The objective is the development of tourism with support and buy-in of relevant public, private and community tourism stakeholders. Stemming from this strategy a Fingal Tourism Development Office was established. This new office harnesses the combined resources of Fingal Tourism and Fingal County Council and acts as the focal point for tourism-related enabling and provides a 'one-stop shop' for the industry. This arrangement has the advantage of closer collaboration, maximising external support funding opportunities, while establishing an effective public-private sector partnership and embedding local participation.

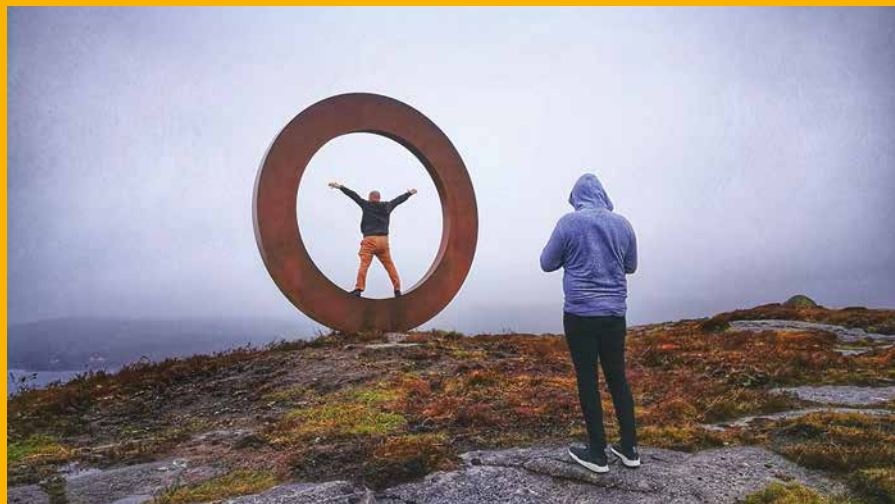
Tourism expenditure for the Greater Dublin area is expected to rise to €2.5 billion by 2020 and almost 20,000 new jobs are expected to be created.



SUPPORTING TOURISM

Connemara - Wild At Heart

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Connemara Wild at Heart is a tourism initiative which has delivered on a clear vision to enhance the visitor experience in Connemara as well as instilling a stronger sense of place and sustainability among local communities. It has focused on reinforcing and extending this internationally renowned region's distinctiveness, landscape, heritage and cultural interest.

Connemara Wild at Heart has provided physical tourism infrastructure along distinctive driving routes - Mountain, Sea and Lakes - including welcome Gateways, engaging information boards and memorable sculptural pieces along the way. This tourism initiative sets the scene for future public and private and local investment in the region by providing the vital link between existing tourism hotspots and struggling rural communities. It thus creates a more sustainable tourism proposition for the region which encourages the visitor to stay longer and experience more of what the area has to offer.

Wild Mayo Tourism Brand Development and Marketing Campaign

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



The Wild Mayo Tourism Brand Development and Marketing Campaign is an innovative and unique initiative to differentiate Mayo as a high-end adventure and sports tourism destination.

This is captured through a series of three short videos that follow the life journey of Irish & French athletes and their relationship to the landscape and people of County Mayo as they tell their story of how County Mayo has shaped their lives. Showcasing personalised tourism experiences and breath-taking scenery, this pioneering cross sector project captured the imagination of potential visitors to Ireland. Wild Mayo communicates the wildness of the county, the distinctively warm nature of Mayo people and the outstanding activities on offer.

Communities have reported increased visitor levels, with greater numbers making trips to key tourist sites like Croagh Patrick, Downpatrick Head and Keem Bay. Tourist spending is benefitting ancillary services such as shops and restaurants, and the overall local economies.



SUPPORTING TOURISM

Refurbishment of the Carrickmacross Market House Building

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



The central apex of the historic Market House building in Carrickmacross, located in the town centre, has been sensitively restored by Monaghan County Council (MCC). It now has two purpose-built units to be used as craft centres/outlets and the building will be a flagship tourism attraction for County Monaghan.

The Carrickmacross Lace Co-Op (a community-run group previously situated in a small unit) has relocated to one of the two refurbished units which is substantially larger in size and this will enable them to increase their level of activity in terms of workshops, classes and further activities. Most importantly, they will be able to accommodate Tour buses and a significant increase in visitor numbers is envisaged.

The second unit will open later in 2018 and will operate as a 'Made in Monaghan' craft outlet. This will build on MCC's previous success of organising craft 'pop-up' shops.

King of the Vikings - the World's First Viking Virtual Reality Adventure

WATERFORD CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



King of the Vikings, the world's first Viking Virtual Reality Adventure, has taken Irish tourism by storm. With its daily 90% occupancy and rave reviews on social media this attraction with its costumed re-enactor guides, authentic atmosphere and ground-breaking virtual reality technology is hailed as the future of tourism. Its capacity to deliver in a number of languages gives it huge appeal to a broad international audience including non-traditional museum-goers.

Its epic story has brought the Vikings out of the mists of time and quite literally up close and personal with the visitor. Many visitors want to rebook on completing the Adventure. Word of mouth and online reviews have ensured the phenomenal success of this tourism experience.

'King of the Vikings' has galvanized Waterford Council's plan to promote and sell Waterford in tourism terms as Ireland's premier Viking destination.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Addressing the Rural Development Challenge

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Rural Development challenge is reflected in the intractable stagnation and decline in the population of many rural communities. There has been a long history of efforts to address this challenge. Clare County Council has developed a first-in-Ireland local authority Rural Development initiative. In the context of developing its Rural Development Strategy, it achieved close working relationships between the community, private and public sectors. The development of a shared Strategy provided a roadmap for the development of rural communities in the County and provided an example of best practice in the area of community-driven rural development.

The impact of the initiative is reflected in increased morale among rural communities. Furthermore, the focused provision of enterprise supports, facilities and funding provides certainty for employers and workers and the provision of public social, educational and training supports has begun to impact on people's quality of life.

Galway & West of Ireland, European Region of Gastronomy

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Galway and West of Ireland have been designated a European Region of Gastronomy for the year of 2018, the first region in Ireland and the UK to attain this award.

Galway County Council is the lead partner on this initiative and acquiring this designation took significant time but is strategically important for the economic development of the county. Galway's food industry is engrained in every inch of Galway's landscape and culture and is the one sole industry that can bring economic benefits to every corner of the county, whether that is the islands, the Slieve Aughty Mountains or in the fields of Athenry.

The region boasts over 12,000 farms, 689km of coastline, 52 islands and over 350 restaurants.

The marketing and PR of the designation for the region received substantial increases in engagement across the social media accounts used to promote the region; Facebook +329%, Instagram +435% and Twitter +53%.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ENGINE

LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL



ENGINE is a co-work, hot-desk and training space located in Limerick City Centre and provides a ready-made ecosystem to businesses who wish to scale in a city centre location. Limerick City & County Council's engagement across all agencies, public and private sectors and entrepreneurs means that the team at ENGINE can facilitate and encourage stakeholder interaction across all levels.

ENGINE provides a meeting point for multinationals to engage with enterprise solutions providers, entrepreneurs and individuals and is home to the Innovate Limerick team which includes Film in Limerick, the Mid West Action Plan for Jobs Manager, Regional Technology Manager, Food Strategy Co-Ordinator and the Regional Skills Co-ordinator providing a one stop shop for employment, training and skills solutions across all sectors.

The facilities at ENGINE include business hub space with fixed desks, high spec training room and meeting rooms. The building is also home to tech company WPEngine.

Kells Tech - The Kells International Technology Hub 2017 and beyond

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL



The Kells Tech Hub is a world class regional enterprise development facility that will, through collaboration, clustering and creative thinking, help to support, promote and develop a culture of entrepreneurship in Kells, throughout Meath and across the wider region.

The Kells Tech Hub offers high quality, modern, fully serviced and affordable accommodation to start-ups and SME's such as offices, co-working spaces, hot desks and meeting rooms to help them to start, scale and go global. The Kells Tech Hub also boasts a mini conference and expo centre and several flexible training spaces to support entrepreneurship and business training and development at all levels.

Eight new businesses have been created at the centre, with four additional businesses expected to start shortly.



PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Monaghan Town Voucher

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



The Monaghan Town Voucher is an example of a project that helps to promote local independent stores whilst increasing retention of economic spending. The project has been part funded with a set of key objectives including increasing footfall into local stores, reducing economic leakage and promoting Monaghan town. The Town Team behind the project have promoted the Monaghan Town Voucher through a variety of platforms including traditional print and radio, social media, business newsletters, videos, vignettes, roadside signage, in-store point of sale, billboards and banners. This social media campaign is supported by a dedicated website with all participants listed on www.monaghanhasit.ie.

Over €870,000 of vouchers have been sold in the first 18 months of the vouchers' rollout. In year 2 the team had set a target for a 10% increase in sales and a target of €400,000, which was exceeded through a 30% sales increase, making €485,000 for Christmas 2017.

Clare County Council's Digital Hub Programme

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



Clare County Council's Digital Hub Programme not only provides communities with access to broadband but it also provides the facilities to enable communities to exploit the potential of this level of internet access. Identified as a critical element through the county's Rural Development Strategy and its Digital strategy three digital hubs have now been established throughout the County - Kilrush, Miltown and Feakle. The services provided include hot desks, meeting rooms, full audio-visual facilities etc... with high speed Wi-Fi connectivity.

The overall achievement of this initiative is that it has now established in the facilities of three communities that can be accessed by all members of society, at affordable rates which have addressed the demand gaps by providing fit for purpose facilities with broadband connectivity within the communities of County Clare.



LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

Bishopsgrove Supported Student Accommodation

CORK CITY COUNCIL



Bishopsgrove Supported Student Accommodation was developed as a proactive response to bed blocking and to combat inappropriate referrals to emergency shelters. This multi-agency homelessness initiative aims to redress the educational and support needs of young people from a diverse range of disadvantaged communities including those who are presently using a homeless service, those about to enter into a homeless service and those leaving care without stable accommodation.

Through this initiative, a homeless young person can be appropriately supported and accommodated from starting education at QQI level 3 all the way to University. In its first 10 months, this initiative received 61 applications and accepted 45 young people, with 91% maintaining their education or training course. Six young people have moved on from Bishopsgrove in a planned manner, one due to securing full time employment. Five young people have also secured part time employment to help them financially whilst studying.

Centralised Bus Priority System

DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL



The Dublin City Council (DCC) “Centralised Bus Priority System” brings together two existing centralised systems, the Dublin Bus Automatic Vehicle Location System and the DCC Traffic Control system in a manner which allows 136 million bus passengers per year to benefit from reduced waiting time at Traffic Signals, reduces the amount of time they spend stopped in traffic and allows them to arrive at their destination in a faster and more reliable manner.

The information from each bus is fed to the Centralised bus priority system every 20 seconds and includes information on its position and if its stuck in congestion or not. This information is then analysed in real time to determine if any interventions are required at traffic signals along its route and the changes are then fed to the DCC Traffic control system which can instantly give more green time to the bus.



LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

Plant Hire DPS (Dynamic Purchasing System)

KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL



The LGOPC under the auspices of Kerry County Council established a Dynamic Purchasing System for Plant Hire on behalf of local authorities and the OPW. Plant Hire is a critical part of local authority services with an estimated annual spend of up to €110 million. The Plant Hire DPS is a bespoke fully electronic procurement system that was developed to promote and encourage small/micro business engagement with Local Government and OPW procurement and to minimise the administrative burden for suppliers.

The project has been an extremely positive experience to date for contractors/suppliers. Businesses that are excluded from the DPS in the initial evaluation can re-apply at any time, to be included. This new system has potentially removed the risk to unsuccessful applicants of losing business that could have led to job losses and also, critically, no longer excludes new market entrants as is the case with traditional approaches.

Community Property Marking Scheme

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



Monaghan County Council has purchased a Dot Peen machine and programmed it to print Eircodes. The machine is lent out to community groups, businesses and organisations such as An Garda Síochána, to carry out events in their community, marking property for local residents and businesses. Signage is also available, to warn would-be thieves that the property on this premises is marked, and to deter them from targeting that property.

To support the communities, once they have covered 50 premises in their area, the Council erects four warning notices along the approach roads, to act as a further deterrent to would-be criminals. This initiative is low cost both to set up and to run. Ideally this initiative will succeed in making the Monaghan countryside a less attractive target for travelling criminals and will reduce the fear of crime.



LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION

Creation of the Fourth Generation Dedicated Communications Network

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



In June 2017, South Dublin County Council (SDCC) launched the fourth generation of its dedicated communications network in County Hall, Tallaght. The Council's control centre provides a dedicated communications network to the Council's Traffic / ITS infrastructure and SDCC facilities, parks, depots, playgrounds and other amenities. This is an innovative system that would connect to this network all current and future CCTV systems deployed by the authority utilising South Dublin County Council's Traffic Management Centre as the central data collection point.

The success of South Dublin County Council's model will soon see the Council provide connections to Government Network Communications via South Dublin County Council's dedicated communications network. This initiative's key benefits have been found in the substantial reductions in third-party communications costs, with these costs to the traffic department being reduced from €208,120.22 (2010) to €23,551 in 2017.

The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Burren & Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark programme grew out of a multi-stakeholder project established by Clare County Council in 2007 to seek a collaborative balance between conservation and tourism interests in the Burren Region. Through the multi-stakeholder Geopark programme the Council has made significant contributions to the sustainable environment of the Burren area with a series of initiatives in sustainable tourism, community education and heritage site management.

The Burren and Cliffs of Moher UNESCO Global Geopark has sustainability as a core element of all it does. It maximises its influence by working with all agencies and community bodies and by supporting a sustainable environment through its core 'Code of Practice for Sustainable Businesses'.

The Geopark programme has made its biggest impact in the area of sustainable tourism. The programme was awarded the National Geographic destination Leadership award in 2016 for its multi-stakeholder approach to sustainable tourism development.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

Sustainable Canteen Project

CORK CITY COUNCIL



Cork City Council identified single-use cups as a significant component of its residual waste stream. The use of disposable cups and food packaging is both environmentally and economically unsustainable but is normal practice in many workplaces throughout the country (including other local authorities). The Sustainable Canteen Project involved the replacement of all single-use coffee cups, soup containers and takeaway sandwich and food containers with sustainable reusable alternatives in all canteens and kitchenettes of Cork City Council's main buildings including Cork City Hall, Libraries, Fire Stations and depots.

The project has been a great success. It was communicated to the public and stakeholders via social media and generated a great deal of interest and positive feedback. As a result of its success and positive press coverage, a number of other local authorities and private sector companies are following Cork City Council's example.

Bridge Street Urban Herb Garden

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Limerick City and County Council collaborated with Limerick Civic Trust to revitalise a vacant urban site, isolated behind a harsh facade of palisade fencing, and opened it up to be developed into a well-loved urban garden.

The site is located at one of the busiest thoroughfares in the city with thousands of people daily passing by the site, which is directly across from one of the city's top visitor attractions, the 12th century St. Mary's Cathedral.

On completion, the opening-up of this site to become a new urban garden received a great welcome from the local community and is used by tourists to rest and enjoy the view of St Mary's Cathedral. It also promotes a very positive image of Limerick City and makes strong and imaginative use of a disused site.



SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT

The Derryvalley Catchment Project

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



The initiative was a collaborative project involving Monaghan County Council and the farming community in the Derryvalley catchment of County Monaghan and had an overall objective of improving water quality in the catchment through more sustainable farming practices via nutrient management planning.

Forty-eight farmers took part in the initiative and under the project soil testing was carried out on each farm, with the farmers receiving a farm specific nutrient management plan and being provided with guidance and advice on how to adopt a more sustainable approach to farming. At the core of this more sustainable approach was a better understanding of farm nutrient management, which has the potential to realize water quality improvements and cost savings to the participating farmers.

A post project questionnaire was completed by participating farmers which indicated positive feedback from the participants and a new interest in nutrient management and its potential benefits.

South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020 'Living With Trees'

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



Trees make a major contribution to the character, appearance and well-being of South Dublin County while also enhancing biodiversity and playing a crucial role in mitigating climate change. South Dublin County Council recognises trees as an important living asset that requires ongoing maintenance, renewal and management for their long-term sustainability and community benefit.

The Council's Tree Management Policy 2015-2020 'Living With Trees' provides a framework to inform decisions made by the Council on the management and development of a sustainable tree population in the County. The Policy acts as a reference for the public, Councillors, Council staff and professionally interested people to enable informed discussion and to establish a clearer, consistent and structured approach to the issues affecting trees.

A core aim of South Dublin County Council's Tree Management Policy and its 5-Year Action Plan is to protect and increase the county's overall tree canopy cover through pro-active maintenance.



BEST LIBRARY SERVICE

Wainfest Arts and Book Festival

DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children 2017 (21st anniversary) was a week-long festival for children, held from the 7th to the 15th of October. The theme of the festival was 'Unleash the Magic'.

There truly was an air of magic during the festival; be it in the awe of a child meeting their favourite author, learning about the magic of science, taking a trip to a local wildlife habitat or creating something spellbinding in 2D in the mobile Fab Lab. Wainfest 2017 showcased a host of captivating adventures for children, their parents and educators. One hundred and twenty-one events were held in 34 locations across County Donegal with 7,106 adults and children enjoying the mystical magic of Wainfest in 2017.

That is an increase of 104% on the 2016 figures.

Prince, the tail of Prince Charming

DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL



Children from the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (DLR) Travelling Community visited DLR Lexlcon weekly during January-April 2017. They worked with author and illustrator Alan Nolan and artist and facilitator Natascha Fischell. The 10 children, aged 10-13 years, wrote and illustrated this story about a dog named Prince.

This project was instigated and organised by DLR Libraries staff Susan Lynch, Senior Librarian and Shelley Healy, Librarian, as part of their roles in Reader Development and Outreach. They wanted to create an opportunity for young Travellers to both find and showcase their creative potential and become advocates in their own community.

The impact of this initiative was that the children and youth leaders involved were empowered to create their own story in a library setting. This was an opportunity to show young travellers their own creative potential, as such, it created a very positive impact in their lives.



BEST LIBRARY SERVICE

Athy Community Library

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The project involved the redevelopment of the former Church to a modern community library for Athy. The initiative is an excellent example of a change of use which reenergises both the immediate building and the surrounding area.

The library was designed to meet the significant and diverse needs of the citizens of Athy and to act as a hub of educational, cultural information and civic engagement resources. The redevelopment of this building to a Library provides a new use for the building, in turn guaranteeing its long-term viability and maintenance. Services, resources and spaces have been made available for enterprise development support, life-long learning and community participation.

Increased space, accessibility, services and opening hours have been put in place along with a sustainable staffing structure allowing an increased level of service to the community in the long-term.

Read Your Mind Project

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Limerick City & County Library Service in collaboration with Jigsaw Limerick have launched the Read Your Mind Project at Limerick Libraries. Read Your Mind brings together an invaluable collection of over 100 books on mental health and makes them available to borrow for young people, their parents and friends at Libraries across Limerick. Self-help books are now recognised as a vital source of support for people experiencing mental health issues. This project offered Limerick City & County Library the opportunity to collaborate with Jigsaw Limerick and make this excellent collection available to all who need it. The collaboration allows the Library the opportunity to work with Jigsaw in providing resources and support to our young people with their mental health.

This collaboration is ultimately about how we support our local community in how we think about, respond to and support our young people with their mental health.



BEST LIBRARY SERVICE

In My Day – Intergenerational Storytelling Project

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



“In My Day” consisted of a series of workshops over a six-week period at Ballyroan Library, working with a class group of boys from a local school, along with a group of elderly people from the community, some of whom were grandparents of the children. The workshops were facilitated by storyteller Fiona Dowling. Throughout the project, the group were introduced to the art of storytelling through traditional folktales, and the grandparents were encouraged to pass down stories and experiences from their own lives and from older generations.

The project brought together two significant demographics in South Dublin County, namely young people and older people.

This project was a piloted as part of South Dublin Libraries literacy development programme under the Right to Read Action Plan which supports literacy development for individuals, families and children as part of a locally coordinated, sustainable and standard approach across the country.

Work Matters

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



Wexford County Council Public Library Service has established a needs-based service to the business, enterprise and employment sectors as part of the national Work Matters programme. Launched in 2014, Work Matters aims to strengthen the role of the public library in supporting economic initiatives, particularly supporting the information and research needs of locally based entrepreneurs, start-ups and SMEs.

The initiative offers key infrastructure, such as free Wi-Fi access, events including workshops and CV clinics, and expertise from skilled researchers. On a number of dates in April-May 2017, an online customer survey was carried out in Gorey and Wexford Libraries with customers invited to the survey if they were using the library for Work Matters purposes. 95% of customers surveyed responded that the library answered their needs extremely well or very well.



SUSTAINING THE ARTS

Exit 15: Connecting through the Arts

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL



Exit 15 is a collaborative participatory arts programme involving Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council and Voluntary Arts Ireland working with harder to reach and socially marginalised people, living working and based in the Ballyogan area.

Engagement with local people is integral to its approach; involving input from local people from the outset and focusing on designing responsive and interactive cultural programmes. A team from Queens University Belfast is working alongside the partners to develop an understanding about how working with local communities can determine, develop and benefit local arts provision. Various team members and local organisations work with different segments of the community; ranging from the local travelling community to young people from the Family Resource Centre to families linked with Barnardos, Luas drivers, young people from local Crosscare Youth Services and older people from the area.

The programme reflects how the arts can successfully build capacity in local communities.

Creative Frame

LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL



Creative Frame is a user-driven Continuing Professional Development network which responds to the expressed needs of people working in the Creative Sector in Leitrim and the wider region. Creative Frame has now completed its second year. The membership has continued to grow and now has over 200 members who have registered directly through the Creative Frame website and this continues to increase daily. Public member network profiles are constantly being added and there are currently 60 professional profiles published on the site.

In 2017, 307 artists took part in a range of professional development workshops and these members continue to inform and influence the development of future programmes through their evaluations, feedback and recommendations.

The methodology used to measure the impact of this initiative includes a repeated survey of registered members of Creative Frame that captures skill audit, career progress and achievements, national and international reach, earnings and sustainability.



SUSTAINING THE ARTS

Limerick School of Spectacle

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Up to 25 practitioners drawn from across Europe worked together for a week – looking at techniques from mass movement to fire drawing, from design and making for processions to special effects. The training school finished with a responsive event designed to engage local people or tell a story inspired by that place.

The Schools of Spectacle mixes the strengths of artists from eastern Europe and the Mediterranean with the traditions of artists from western Europe to enable cities to build the capacity of their own artistic landscape to benefit from each other. Limerick School of Spectacle in November 2017 was the fourth of five planned European schools.

Over four schools, School of Spectacle delivered a safe and intensive sharing space for 25 international creative practitioners per school, as well as a curated meeting place for creative practitioners from different cultures to build relations through shared experience and achievement.

Longford Schools Photography Programme

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



Take care of your Selfie
Make sure you smile
And stay close to your
friends

Mind Your
Mental Health

Longford Schools Photography Programme is a creative photography educational programme covering all eight secondary schools in Co. Longford and between 400 and 500 students per year. The Programme Facilitator Shelley Corcoran, visits each of the schools on a weekly basis.

Classes are both academic and practical and take place both indoors and outdoors. Technical and artistic aspects of photography are covered. Various exhibitions of students' work take place throughout the year. There is an award winner from each school, an overall winner out of the eight schools and an individual school winner as well as an Anti Drink and Drug Poster photography campaign winner. Various competitions, both local and national, are entered on a yearly basis.

As a result of this initiative, thousands of Longford students have learned a new skill, found a form of self-expression and developed their artistic nature.



SUSTAINING THE ARTS

Hearth - Art for Older People at Home

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



Hearth is a Mayo project that brings art into the homes of older people. Each participant is visited by a skilled and experienced artist weekly. The artist travels to the home of the older person and facilitates a one to one workshop there.

The participants are guided and mentored in the process of making drawings, paintings, looking at art books and looking to nature for ideas and inspiration. This project aims to find ways of enhancing old age and believes that the most powerful antidote to the sense of loneliness and hopelessness that can accompany ageing lies in the life and power of the mind.

The world of the arts can uplift the human spirit at every stage in life but is especially effective for those in old age. The Hearth project has significantly impacted on positive mental health and social inclusion of vulnerable people in the community.

DRUM - Portrait of a Village

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



A significant cultural collaborative initiative in Drum village between the local community, Drum Heritage Group, the Gallery of Photography and the Arts and Heritage offices of Monaghan County Council made a real impact in Dublin, Monaghan and Drum in 2017/2018.

In November 2017, a workshop weekend was held in Drum where people engaged with installations, portraits and discussed representations of identity through photography. Danish photographer Krass Clement and his work DRUM returned to Andersons Pub where it was made in 1991. DRUM was also presented in the Gallery of Photography Dublin.

The project engaged with local people to scan & archive their family photographs. Kevin Fox made new portraits of the village and people to create a record of authentic representation. DRUM - The exhibition of contemporary portraits of people from Drum by Kevin Fox was shown in the Market House Monaghan in February-March 2018.



JOINT LOCAL AUTHORITY INITIATIVE

Lough Derg Blueway

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

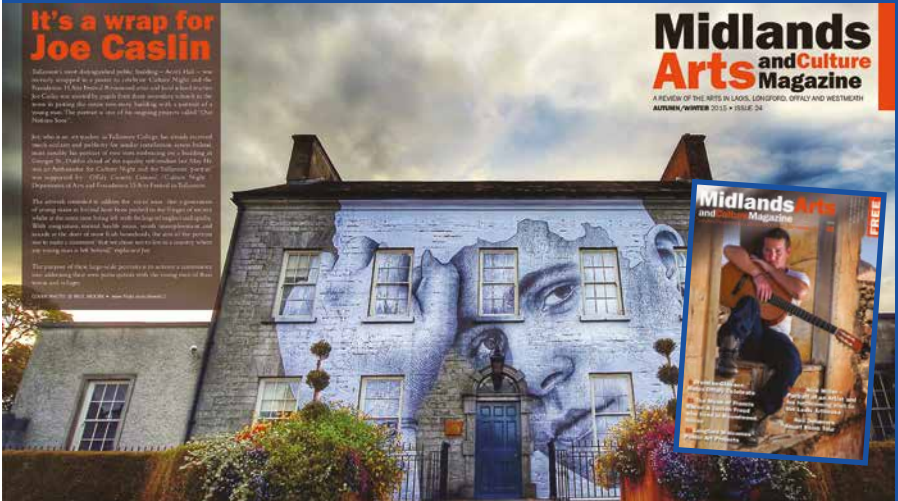


Clare County Council led the implementation of The Lough Derg Blueway project and worked in partnership with Tipperary and Galway County Councils, Waterways Ireland and the tourism trade to realise its potential. The project has worked towards developing the marketing and promotion of the product into a world class experience for visitors and improving economic activity for the benefit of local communities.

The delivery of a Blueway is timely and acts as a catalyst for growth in rural towns and villages around Lough Derg. The project benefits the local economies in the lakeside towns and villages of Clare, Tipperary, Galway. It enhances employment opportunities by fostering entrepreneurship within communities. The Lough Derg Blueway is now a recognised brand which includes a package of quality marketing and promotional collateral.

Midlands Arts & Culture Magazine

LONGFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



The Midlands Arts & Culture Magazine is a free six monthly magazine promoting the arts and creative activity of Midland artists. It was established and is operated as a joint cultural promotional initiative by the four Midland County Council Arts Offices in Longford, Westmeath, Offaly, and Laois.

The magazine aims to counter a broadly held misconception that the Midlands is a 'Green Desert' devoid of any meaningful creative activity, while also providing a 'shop window' for the work of individual artists and thus improve their professional/commercial status. The magazine has been successfully running for the past twelve years.

The magazine has fostered greater interest in cultural events and initiatives in the Midlands, with greater attendance and support for events, increased awareness for local activities and facilities, an increased national and international profile for regional arts practitioners and increased support of major events such as Culture Night.



JOINT LOCAL AUTHORITY INITIATIVE

www.repairmystuff.ie, Ireland's Leading Online Repair Directory

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



This project led by Monaghan County Council is an initiative of the Local Authority Waste Prevention Network (LAPN) and is funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) through the National Waste Prevention Programme.

Local Authorities, through the three Regional Waste Management Plans must support the Circular Economy, particularly repair and reuse initiatives. The website www.repairmystuff.ie aims to fulfil this objective by providing an online link between the repair industry and the consumer. Supported by all members of the LAPN, particularly Environmental Awareness Officers, the project is Ireland's Leading Online Repair Directory.

The website www.repairmystuff.ie is still in an early phase to measure its true impact, however the response from the repair industry has been encouraging with over 200 businesses now listed from every County in the Republic of Ireland. Once the marketing campaign starts we will be able to measure traffic to the website.

BiaFest – Food of the Banner County

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



'BiaFest - Food of the Banner County' is a joint initiative run by the Local Enterprise Office and Ennis Municipal District in Clare County Council, showcasing Clare's artisan food producers at the Ennis Market Building. Up to 20 food producers from across the county participated in this food festival with food stalls, demonstrations, competitions and workshops, family games, music performances and a live airing from Clare's local radio station. Initially established as a one-off food festival, and due to its success has since developed into several high-profile seasonal festivals, ChristmasFest, MarketFest, SpringFest, and SummerFest.

From a sustainability perspective, the festival creates and maintains jobs in Clare, supporting rural based businesses in expanding their reach and encourages the community to eat seasonally, reduce carbon footprint, shop with more eco-friendly food and less transport/energy costs.



FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Youghal Medieval Festival

CORK COUNTY COUNCIL



Cork County Council's Youghal Medieval Festival has built a reputation for delivering one of the largest, most successful free events of its nature in celebrating National Heritage Week. The event takes place in St. Mary's Medieval College Gardens, surrounded by the town's 13th century town walls, in the Raleigh Quarter of Youghal, Co. Cork. Running over a weekend in August each year the festival is now in its 12th year of existence.

The weekend-long series of activities are appropriately themed so as to promote an understanding and appreciation of Youghal's unique heritage & history. This event aims to 'conserve local built heritage', focusing this on the town walls as a wonderful asset, attracting both local, regional and overseas visitors, thereby boosting the tourism industry in the region and maximizing the asset as an economic generator for the local economy.

The Flavours of Fingal County Show

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



The Flavours of Fingal County Show is a two-day event combining the sights and sounds of an agricultural show with an unforgettable food and family fun experience all taking place within the historic grounds of Newbridge House and Farm, in Donabate, County Dublin. In 2017 80,000, largely domestic tourists, visited the event.

The Flavours of Fingal County Show, now in its 7th year, began as an initiative to promote the significant agricultural and horticultural product in North County Dublin and aims to reflect the depth of the local food offering in Fingal and lend credibility to Fingal as a food destination.

The Flavours of Fingal County show has created awareness of local food producers, encouraged visitors to favour locally sourced seasonal food, and it gave the actual food producers the opportunity to interact with potential customers.



FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Riverfest

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



Located in Ireland's western region on the estuary of the River Shannon, Riverfest is when the natural wilderness of the Wild Atlantic Way converges with the energy and convenience of a modern city. Situated amongst stunning natural and built heritage the Riverfest Village provides a natural viewing platform for the river, turning it into a stage.

The Riverfest programme combines interactive activities with audience attractions to create an invigorating programme of active participation and spectacle through sport, water activities, food and fireworks.

Riverfest harnesses Limerick's reputation as an 'edgy city', bringing to the fore the city's energy and excitement: from the first visit to Ireland of the Sea Breacher, to double zip-wires across the river to squealing kids on big wheels, and the explosion of colour from nighttime fireworks overhead to the base tones of late-night concerts. Limerick is switched on during Riverfest and the river is its stage.

Mayo Day: Made of Mayo

MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL



Mayo Day is a day dedicated to the celebration of the arts, culture, vibrant communities, and unquenchable spirit of County Mayo. Mayo Day has garnered international success and recognition as a highly anticipated yearly celebration.

Mayo Day 2018 was a truly memorable day of celebration 'Made of Mayo' in Ballinrobe Racecourse, the centre-point of this year's activities was a resounding success, with a turnout of over 6,000 people and every element of the event attended by a capacity audience.

The Mayo Artists' Exhibition, Literary Lounge, Gaeltachtaí Mhaigh Eo Tent, Music & Food Village, Sports Enclosure, Workshop Hub, and Food & Craft Showcase was brimming with brilliant atmosphere and the bustle of entertainment and activity. The Made of Mayo artists, artisans, craftspeople, writers, sportspeople and musicians involved received great interaction and attention from the crowds with sales of goods and full attendance of the many performances and workshops throughout the day.



FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR

Flavours of South Dublin Food Festival 2017

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



The Flavours of South Dublin Food Festival took place in the grounds of Rathfarnham Castle, which dates from Elizabethan times and is probably the earliest example of what is termed a ‘fortified house’ built in Ireland.

This unique food festival showcased the very best cuisine from the locality and aimed to highlight the diversity and vibrancy of the food culture in the county. The festival featured flavours from around the world, from traditional Irish fare to Asian dishes to the Chinese spice food.

The festival brought together restaurants and eateries in the one area. It was a great opportunity to taste the wide variety of food that the county has to offer. This food and cultural festival showcased the different ethnic and cultural groups living and working within South Dublin County through food, entertainment and a craft village.

Friars Walk Coach Park Ennis – Coach Friendly Destination

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Friar's Walk Coach Park initiative was developed by Ennis Municipal District over the last 3 years and was designated 'Coach Friendly Destination' by the Coach Tourism and Transport Council of Ireland (CTTC) in October 2017. The facilities consist of 14 coach parking spaces, bus shelter, coach washing, waste water disposal facilities, CCTV monitoring, free Wi-Fi internet and a drivers' lounge in the nearby Temple Gate Hotel just 100m from the town centre.

The site formed part of an under-utilised public space in the town centre, adjacent to local hotels and with pedestrian linkages via a laneway to the town centre, County Museum and a range of facilities in Ennis town.

The coach park provides significant amenities and opportunities for recreation, visits, retailing for passengers/ tourists, whilst also generating economic and tourist benefit to Ennis.



OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Traffic Calming Measures for the Town of Rathkeale

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



The primary aim of the initiative is to provide a variety of traffic calming measures around the town of Rathkeale with the objective of controlling and reducing the speed of traffic in the town. It is also envisaged that the measures will encourage more pedestrian activity in the town and reduce the reliance on motor cars for short journeys.

The initiative is a long-term road safety measure that will benefit the local community for the foreseeable future. It promotes a more healthy and sustainable lifestyle, particularly for the younger members of the community by providing safe walking routes to and from schools and also into the Library and town centre. It provides more ownership of the public space to the pedestrian.

It is also hoped that there will be additional footfall in the town at Christmas time when the majority of visitors come to Rathkeale.

Redevelopment of Ballybay Town Park

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



Ballybay Town Park is a large recreational facility on the south side of Ballybay town. The park is situated on the banks of Lough Major, a popular angling spot in the region, and has a large green space in its centre, is surrounded by walkways, a bowling green, an outdoor basketball court and children's playground.

Use of the park had declined in recent times and a number of access and safety issues had been raised with the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District by various individuals and groups in the area. It was decided to develop and deliver a redevelopment master plan for the park to maximise its potential and to create opportunities for all of the community to enjoy the facility. This involved an extensive public consultation process to identify current issues in the park experienced by the community, and to identify opportunities and various funding streams for redeveloping the park.



OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS

Love Gorey.ie

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



The Love Gorey campaign promotes Gorey and North Wexford online as a premium place to shop, stay, eat, live, and play. Its aims include stimulating, promoting and animating tourism and visitors to Gorey and North Wexford.

Through its website and social media channels - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram - it highlights the diverse range of activities, people, and businesses in the area. It fosters community development, helps to build social media marketing capacity, and extends recognition of the wide economic, social and cultural benefits that tourism brings to North Wexford.

It also works closely with Gorey Chamber, North Wexford Tourism Group and the community sector and supports key initiatives in the area, including the Freedom Fit festival in February, the Market House Festival in August, and the Gorey Christmas Lights campaign in November. Across its website and social media channels, it promotes North Wexford to an average 50,000 people monthly.

Arklow Town Team

WICKLOW COUNTY COUNCIL



Following on from the launch of a promotional video 'AMD- Making a Difference' in 2016, Arklow Municipal District established a Town Team for Arklow. The Cathaoirleach and officials, selected a number of people with broad sector experience across many disciplines throughout the town.

The Town Team contributes to the improvement in the quality of life for people living in Arklow and enhance the attractiveness of the Town as a place in which to live, work, visit & invest. Corporate Objectives of the Arklow Town Team are to bring key local interest groups together for the benefit of the Town; to preserve and enhance the traditions, character and identity of the town; to promote Arklow as a clean, safe, welcoming and prosperous town for all; to promote high standard and cost effective services; to work in partnership with others to achieve more for Arklow.



ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

The Aisling Development

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Aisling Development is located approximately 1.5km from the town centre of Ennis. The collapse of the building industry resulted in the second phase of the estate being left in an unfinished, derelict state. Resolving the issues on this development and finishing out the development to a very high standard required the active participation of a number of key stakeholders including NAMA, AIB NAMA, NARPS, Housing Agency and the Receivers, Deloitte & Touche. The Council secured funding under the Special Resolution Fund for unfinished housing developments to facilitate the completion of the estate to a satisfactory standard.

The work involved the demolition of three apartment blocks that were in a derelict and structurally compromised state along with remediation works to 23 housing units for Social Housing which were purchased by NARPS and leased. There was also a community gain with the provision of a children's playground and cycle lane.

Monkstown Village Public Realm Project

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL



Monkstown is a picturesque village and lies within an architectural conservation area, characterised by historic buildings and a unique heritage of nineteenth century houses. The project proposed to enhance the village, maintaining its special identity, and strengthening its economic performance by creating a better public realm for all. This was created through physical improvements and re-purposing of public infrastructure, such as roads, footpaths, lighting etc. This public realm project sought to enhance the well-being of citizens, incorporating corporate objectives, including age friendly design and enhanced accessibility.

Since the completion of the works, there has been a transformative change: traffic-calming measures enhance road safety; improved conditions for pedestrians and cyclists encourage a healthier lifestyle, and better access for mobility and visually impaired persons enhances their social engagement. The volume of pedestrians has doubled, and local businesses are benefitting from the high-quality design.



ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Rock Garden Park Swords

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



The Rock Garden Park, Rathbeale Road, Swords is the result of a co-ordinated project between the Local Authority, Swords Tidy Towns and Swords Historical Society. The area is just under a half acre in size and is the site of a quarry which was worked until the 1940s (hence the name Rock Garden). It fell into disrepair in the 1980's and in 2016 discussions with local stakeholders resulted in a plan to design a modern landscaped neighbourhood park.

The work took approximately 4 months, and key elements to the design and layout of the park include Age-Friendly components (plenty of seating and anti-slip surfacing on the path) and pollinator-friendly planting. Swords is recognised as an historic town, and this neighbourhood park showcases items of local historic and heritage interest, with the park designed to achieve maximum sustainability.

Maynooth Harbour - A Cycling Network Intersection Project

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



In 2018, two separate multi-phase cycle improvement projects were completed at Maynooth Harbour, which have been ongoing and separately under development since 2014. The first project was the Dublin to Galway Greenway Project, on which Kildare County Council worked with various state stakeholders (TII, Westmeath and Meath County Councils and Waterways Ireland) to develop the 38km Greenway which traverses through Kildare. The Greenway Project commenced in Maynooth Harbour and extended 14km westwards. The second project was the Maynooth North South Cycle Corridor to link housing estates and M4 business campus in Maynooth with a high-quality cycle facility to the centre of the town and University.

The two cycleways join in Maynooth Harbour and as cycling and walking are zero-emissions modes of transport, they have ongoing positive benefits on the local community and environment.

The Minister for Transport formally opened the Maynooth Harbour cycleways in July 2018.



ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT

Library Park New Ross - An Clog Mor Amphitheatre

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

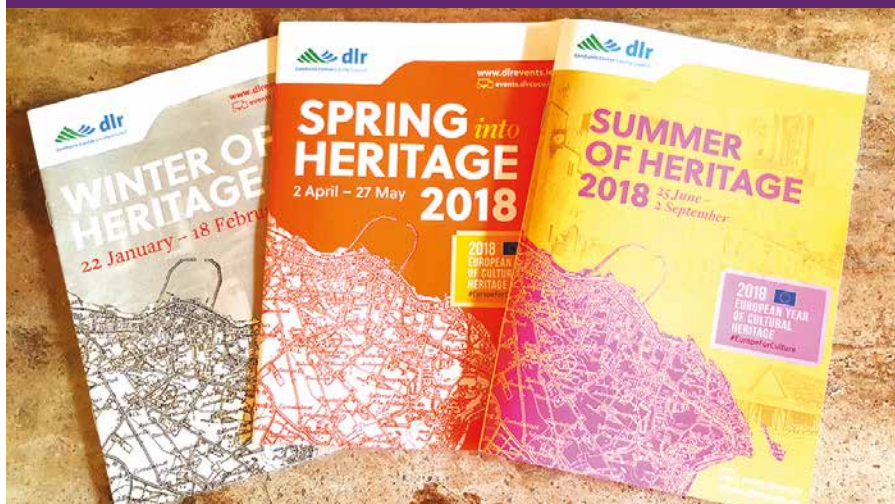


This unique public park combines elements of Irish Mythology, an Ogham pathway, a monastic garden and a magnificent working sundial and public performance space in a sloped amphitheatre setting. The park is designed to be both contemplative and inspiring transformed from an area of urban dereliction into a magnificent example of unique public realm. The park surrounds the ever-popular public library, from which the design of the park drew its themes of writing knowledge, learning and time.

The park made front page headlines in local media with New Ross Echo proclaiming the Library Park as 'Absolutely Stunning'. Arminta Wallace, a feature writer with The Irish Times, visited the park and wrote a glowing tribute. The park has become a mecca for newly married couples for wedding photographs.

Spring into Heritage: A Heritage Trilogy

DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL



The Spring into Heritage programme is a series of free Heritage Guided Tours, run by the Dún Laoghaire Rathdown (dlr) Heritage Office. From the coast, dlr brings you the Seapoint and James Joyce Martello Towers, the majestic drawings of the Oratory and the secrets of Dalkey Castle. Travelling to the mountains, Marlay and Cabinteely House reveal their hidden history. dlr invites the public to take a journey to discover and explore one of dlr's many treasures creating a sense of place and identity.

dlr maximises community involvement in all aspects of local heritage, as well as introducing national and international visitors to dlr's heritage areas. Tours are available which educate people about the historical value of an area, building, or object. Dún Laoghaire Rathdown heritage is for everyone, regardless of age or mobility. They create interest and build excitement by uncovering the fascinating history of Dún Laoghaire Rathdown.



HERITAGE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The Conservation, Management and Promotion of Fingal County Council's Heritage Properties

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



Conserving Fingal's natural heritage by broadening the range of the visitors' experiences across Fingal's heritage properties is a key if we are to be successful in the attracting visitors to the county.

Fingal County Council is fortunate to have a significant number of Heritage properties within its portfolio. Each one with its own unique characteristics and each one at different stages of development. It is crucial, therefore, that Fingal County Council implements a cohesive and collaborative approach to the management of all of the Heritage properties in order to market the Fingal Heritage "Brand" and to develop Fingal's reputation as being a tourist destination that will not only secure the future of tourism in Fingal, but will assist in the creation of employment, growth of business, and the continued sustainable economic and social growth for Fingal and for Ireland.

Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



Galway Gastronomy Heritage Project documents Galway's rich gastronomic heritage and makes it available online. It forms part of Galway's designation as European Region of Gastronomy for 2018. Over 1000 items ranging from butter making to old recipes and food traditions have been documented and pinpointed on a map.

Galway County Council's Heritage Office and Social Inclusion Unit work with heritage groups, schools and individuals in Galway and the National Museum of Ireland, County Life to document the rich gastronomical heritage of County Galway and to make this information available online. Over 1000 entries have been uploaded onto the website of the initiative: <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/>

Each entry is displayed on an interactive map showing the exact location in the county that the information came from. The format of this information is varied ranging from oral narratives, film, photograph, recipes, written narratives, receipts and shop ledgers.



HERITAGE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Lord Edward Street Housing Development, Limerick City

LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL



In 2016, Limerick City and County Council (LCCC) began the construction of a regeneration project that included the provision of 81 local authority houses, retail / commercial units and a community space on the site of the former Tait Clothing Factory which closed down in 1974.

This former factory site was originally constructed in 1853 and is recognised as a structure of significant industrial heritage and the home of pioneering production methods, including steam-powered sewing machines and the largest single-span roof of its time.

During the enabling works, the redundant infrastructure and relics of this glorious past were uncovered, and the design was revised significantly to retain and incorporate this heritage for future generations to live in and enjoy. This is a 'conservation-through-use' project, and the recent collaboration between LCCC and EVA International further re-positions the former Tait Factory at the centre of Limerick's Social Life.

The Round Tower, Clondalkin – Brú Chrónáin

SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL



The 7th Century Round Tower, located at the heart of Clondalkin village, is among the best-preserved Round Towers in Ireland. The Visitor Centre was conceived by South Dublin County Council in collaboration with the Office of Public Works and the local community to celebrate the Tower and to respond to the origins of the site and its history.

The centre comprises the conservation and refurbishment of five derelict 19th century mill cottages and a modern extension to the rear. New gardens front and rear and a new civic plaza reengage the site with its historic core. The building houses an interactive exhibition, café and retail area.

The aim of the Round Tower Visitor Centre is to become a leading culture and heritage visitor attraction in Dublin offering visitors a unique cultural, heritage and culinary experience.



DISABILITY SERVICES PROVISION

Disability Services at Active Ennis Leisure Complex

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The core goal of Active Ennis Leisure Complex is to provide the best disability services in which they are recognised by Ireland Active as a leader in this pursuit.

The Leisure Complex engages with various disability groups throughout the County on what is required to ensure that their facilities are evolving with the needs of the disabled community. To this end some of the following facilities and services for their disabled clients are provided: designated disabled parking spaces with signs displaying the telephone number of the Complex that people can call should they require assistance entering the building, designated lockers at wheelchair height, emergency evacuation chair, wheelchair located at reception for use if required and more.

The success of the Leisure Complex is measured through the wide range of accessible facilities and services available based on the large volume of clients with disabilities using the Complex.

Rush Community Playground

FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL



The aim of this initiative was to design and construct a children's playground that had a strong 'Universal Access' design approach allowing for exciting and challenging play for all abilities, not segregating children of lesser abilities from their peers and allowing all children to play side by side.

Fingal County Council and Rush Playground group challenged the designers to create a multi play unit central to the whole design that allowed children with lesser mobility issues to access the multi play unit and play equally with their peers. The playground group was not just interested in providing play equipment for specific needs, but more importantly to have a fluid design approach and make every item of the playground accessible.

What was once an empty area of public open space overlooking the historic harbour and North beach Rush is now filled with the happy sounds of children's laughter.



DISABILITY SERVICES PROVISION

Toys, Technology and Training

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Toys, Technology and Training (TTT) Project is a specialist service provided free of charge through the Kildare Library Service since 2007. The project is designed to offer support to children and adults with learning difficulties, disabilities or more significant needs. Based in Athy, Leixlip and Naas Libraries this specialised collection of toys, technology and software can be accessed in any of our library branches or our Mobile Library service throughout the county and can be borrowed or utilised by joining up at any Kildare library.

This collection has been chosen by the staff of Kildare Library Service in partnership with occupational therapists working in the community.

As part of the project since 2012 libraries throughout Kildare have hosted an annual series of free workshops and lectures to promote the collection and to offer further guidance, support and networking opportunities for parents, teachers and healthcare professionals.

Everybody Plays - Inclusive Playground Policy

MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL



To date the design and development of playgrounds in the county incorporated the needs of children with disabilities through the provision of specialised equipment in a dedicated area of a playground. This approach has created further exclusion for children with disabilities and that made it harder for them to join in free play with their families and friends.

Following an in-depth public consultation, Monaghan County Council developed an inclusive playground policy that recognises inclusive play as meeting all children's needs in the same place and in a variety of different ways. Inclusive play is essential for the future of playground design in the country to ensure all the children in the county have access to outdoor play opportunities.

This has been a hugely successful initiative that will make a significant impact on the lives of children with a disability and their families.



COMMEMORATIONS & CENTENARIES

Ennis Peace Park

CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The Ennis Peace Park is a public park (Monastery Park) providing a much welcome open space in the heart of the town, bringing relief and contrast from the adjacent built up area and performing the important function of linking the town centre to Glór Theatre. This space situated next to the grounds of the Poor Clare's Monastery provides an ideal location for a "Peace Park", the green space punctuated by weeping willows providing a peaceful contemplative space where one can take a moment to reflect and remember those who have lost their lives in various conflicts.

The Memorials erected to date include the 22nd Battalion Commemorative Plaque Irish Vietnam Veterans Memorial Project, the First World War memorial and the 1917 Hunger Strike Memorial Plaque. Further proposed memorials will be subject to an overall design concept for the space, so that a peaceful reflective space is maintained for future generations.

Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail

GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL



A bilingual guide book, the Galway County 1916 Rising Heritage Trail: Go Explore the Historic Sites & Memorials illustrates how memory of 1916 persists to this day in a county-wide heritage-scape of historic sites and memorials. Four 1916 heritage trails are documented in the 358-page paperback book, namely: 'The Signatories Trail' (Ballymoe, Tuam, Ros Muc & An Spidéal); 'The Cradle of the Rising Trail' (Athenry); 'The Route of the Rising Trail' (East County Galway); and 'The Liam Mellows Escape Trail' (South County Galway).

The product of extensive fieldwork and archival research, the four trails in this guide book are a valuable resource for local people and visitors to the county. This major public history initiative is aimed at locals and visitors who wish to learn about the heritage of 1916. Descriptions, colour photographs and GPS coordinates are included for each point of interest, as well as fold-out route maps.



COMMEMORATIONS & CENTENARIES

Irish Military Seminar

KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL



The strategy which defined the Co. Kildare Decade of Commemorations Programme involved engagement with the public in a creative and thought-provoking way. In 2017 the first Irish Military Seminar was held in Kildare which ideally will become a focal point for future commemorations. The aim of this annual seminar is to celebrate all aspects of Irish military history and associated social and political aspects of life in various periods. Great episodes in Ireland's history are intermingled with escapades in far-off places.

The weekend of presentations by notable historians also encompasses a book launch, drama/musical performance, veterans' events and a field trip. Kildare County Council aims to provide an eclectic mix to appeal to a broad audience on a national scale. The initiative is now in its second year and has received a great reaction from attendees, especially to the field trip, the veterans' events and re-enactors.

Francis Ledwidge Centenary

MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL



In 2017 Meath County Council led the celebrations of the life of Francis Ledwidge, the remarkably gifted poet, activist and soldier from the village of Slane. The year-long programme was devised and delivered in partnership with local, national and international bodies. The programme was devised to maximise community participation. The programme also ensured that there would be a lasting legacy from the year as funding and support was provided for new artistic, literary and theatrical works.

This event was a collaboration between a number of groups coordinated and managed by Meath County Council. These groups included the Francis Ledwidge Museum Committee, Poetry Ireland, the Solstice Arts Centre, the Tyrone Guthrie Centre, the Department of Culture, Heritage and Gaeltacht Affairs, 19 community groups of County Meath and more.



COMMEMORATIONS & CENTENARIES

Redmond 100 — Centenary of the Death of John Redmond

WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL



John Edward Redmond (1856-1918), a Wexford man, was the leader of the Irish Parliamentary Party after 1900 and a key political figure in the late 19th and early 20th centuries in Ireland. 2018 marks the centenary of Redmond's death: The Borough District of Wexford and Wexford Library Service developed a programme of commemoration including the refurbishment and accessibility works to St. John's Graveyard and mausoleum, interpretative panels installed at St. John Graveyard, a formal commemoration and wreath-laying at the graveyard in April earlier this year, a Redmond Exhibition, a Redmond Schools programme and much more.

The Redmond 100 initiative has shone a spotlight on an important national political figure.

The impact of the initiative has been far reaching. It has raised awareness and created debate on the complex and often conflicted history of County Wexford.

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