

A collage of various community events and activities. It includes a man holding a book titled 'Ireland's Kümmenstraßen', a group of people on a bench, a person on a bicycle, and a person on a trampoline. Other images show people at a festival, a group of people on a bench, and a person on a bicycle.



Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors for their involvement in the 2019 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



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Welcome

to the 2019 Excellence in Local Government Awards

Local Government and its dedication to serve our communities doesn't always receive the attention it deserves, yet its ceaseless efforts extend across Irish urban and rural life and are crucial for the delivery of fundamental services which we benefit from regularly.

Through our Chamber network's engagement with Local Authorities, Chambers Ireland recognises the sometimes underexposed yet meaningful projects with the Excellence in Local Government Awards.

The calibre of the projects shortlisted for this year's Awards once again reveal how inventive thinking and energetic application is in no shortage at local level across the country. It's truly remarkable to see these new ideas being developed for the public benefit across different communities.

The Excellence in Local Government Awards are held in partnership with the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government, taking place as an annual celebration of the value of the continuous work and effort happening locally.

This celebration of local projects and the Local Authorities behind them is part of a broader partnership between businesses and government nationwide, which continues to evolve to support further our local communities.



Siobhan Kinsella
President
Chambers Ireland



Ian Talbot
Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland



Excellence in Local Government Awards 2019

Judging Panel



ANDY JOHNSON

DIRECTOR OF LGIU IRELAND

This year I was impressed by the innovation being shown by the entrants, in particular, the connections between economic development, place shaping and culture.



TONY O'BRIEN

CHAIR, ELG JUDGING

PRINCIPAL, TOB ASSOCIATES

There is a huge amount of work involved in judging the large and diverse numbers of entries that we receive every year. What impresses us greatly are the levels of innovation shown by staff in Councils that may not have the same level of resources as larger Councils. A particular objective of ours is to seek to adjudicate on a "level playing field" basis. While some will be disappointed that they did not win this year, I trust they appreciate that the standard of entry has been consistently high.



DIARMUID O'LEARY

PRINCIPAL OFFICER,

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT GOVERNANCE AND
ELECTED MEMBERS**

It was a great privilege to be part of the Chambers Ireland ELG judging process again this year. These awards are a really important opportunity for local authorities to showcase the excellent and vitally important, but also hugely innovative, work they are doing in communities across the country. Immense credit is due to those involved in the projects recognised this year - congratulations all!



DR. SEÁN O'RIORDÁIN

CHAIRMAN, PUBLIC POLICY ADVISORS NETWORK

One of the great things about the Excellence in Local Government Awards is that they demonstrate, independently, the on-going improvement in local services that are provided by our local authorities. The level of innovation demonstrated across a range of themes stands up to best practice scrutiny, not just in Ireland but also at international level. Chambers Ireland are to be congratulated for organising the Local Government Awards, demonstrating the importance of local government to all of our lives.



LOUISE PURCELL

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING,
PLANNING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT**

The variety and diversity of applications this year is remarkable. The engagement that local authorities now have with local communities is particularly prominent, and through this engagement, our communities are becoming vastly enhanced – a better place to work, live and enjoy.



KAREN SMYTH

HEAD OF POLICY AND GOVERNANCE, NILGA

It is always a privilege to participate in the judging panels for the Excellence in Local Government Awards. It is inspiring to see so much talent, aspiration and successful delivery in a thriving local government sector in Ireland, and I have to confess that I have an ulterior motive, in that I use the information gained through judging to share these best practice examples with colleagues in the 11 district councils in Northern Ireland and further afield. It's not uncommon for Excellence in Local Government Award winners to be approached to participate in a NILGA conference the following year!



MARTIN TOBIN **CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, EUROPEAN RECYCLING PLATFORM**

This year's entrants were of a very high standard. The work been done throughout the country highlights the importance and benefit of these initiatives in the local communities and further afield. It really has a positive impact on social, cultural and environmental aspects of society and I highly commend all applicants for their efforts and good work.



Contents

SUPPORTING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES



Cork City Council	6
Cork County Council	7
Leitrim County Council	8
South Dublin County Council	9
Tipperary County Council	10

BEST PRACTICE IN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT



Carlow County Council	11
Cavan County Council	12
Cork City Council	13
Fingal County Council	14
Monaghan County Council	15

HEALTH & WELLBEING



Carlow County Council	16
Cork City Council	17
Cork County Council	18
Fingal County Council	19
Limerick City & County Council	20

SUPPORTING TOURISM



Clare County Council	21
Cork City Council	22
Fingal County Council	23
Kerry County Council	24
Monaghan County Council	25
South Dublin County Council	26

PROMOTING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Cork County Council	27
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	28
Kildare County Council	29
Limerick City & County Council	30
South Dublin County Council	31

LOCAL AUTHORITY INNOVATION



Cork City Council	32
Dublin City Council	33
Dún Laoghaire Rathdown Co. Council	34
Fingal County Council	35
Kildare County Council	36
Limerick City & County Council	37
Monaghan County Council	38

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT



Clare County Council	39
Cork County Council	40
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	41
Fingal County Council	42
Limerick City & County Council	43

BEST LIBRARY SERVICE



Cork City Council	44
Cork County Council	45
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	46
Fingal County Council	47
Limerick City & County Council	48
Meath County Council	49
Waterford City & County Council	50



SUSTAINING THE ARTS



Carlow County Council	51
Cork City Council	52
Cork County Council	53
Limerick City & County Council	54
Wexford County Council	55

DISABILITY SERVICES PROVISION



Clare County Council	56
Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	57
Fingal County Council	58
Meath County Council	59
Monaghan County Council	60
South Dublin County Council	61
Tipperary County Council	62

FESTIVAL OF THE YEAR



Fáilte Ireland
National Tourism Development Authority

Cork City Council	63
Fingal County Council	64
Kerry County Council	65
Limerick City & County Council	66

OUTSTANDING INITIATIVE THROUGH THE MUNICIPAL DISTRICTS



Cork County Council	67
Donegal County Council	68
Limerick City & County Council	69
Monaghan County Council	70

ENHANCING THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	71
Fingal County Council	72
Limerick City & County Council	73
South Dublin County Council	74

HERITAGE & BUILT ENVIRONMENT



Cork City Council	75
Fingal County Council	76
Limerick City & County Council	77
Monaghan County Council	78

COMMEMORATIONS & CENTENARIES



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Co. Council	79
Limerick City & County Council	80
Sligo County Council	81
Tipperary County Council	82

AGE FRIENDLY INITIATIVE



Cavan County Council	83
Clare County Council	84
Cork City Council	85
Fingal County Council, Limerick City & County Council and Meath County Council	86
Kilkenny County Council	87
Mayo County Council	88
Monaghan County Council	89



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork Learning City

Cork Learning City supports communities through promoting and celebrating their involvement in both lifelong and 'life-wide' learning.

The initiative is an award-winning multi-sector partnership located in Cork city. The project involves Cork City Council, Cork Education and Training Board, University College Cork and Cork Institute of Technology. Together they work with strategic partners and the city communities to develop Cork as a world leading UNESCO Learning City.

Strategic partners include the HSE, The National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals and the project working group includes the Library Service, Central Statistics Office, Cork Opera House, Foróige, Cork Healthy Cities and the Cork Environmental Forum.

The project led UNESCO to select Cork as the host of their third International Learning Cities Conference in 2017, following previous conferences in Beijing and Mexico.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Blackwater and Creativity in County Cork

The Creative Ireland Programme in County Cork mobilises communities to undertake cultural and creative projects which make their localities better places to live and work.

As part of the County Cork Pop-up Shop Scheme, the Blackwater Makers – a collective of craftspeople in North Cork – collaborated with Cork County Council to develop a successful pop-up shop in the town of Fermoy.

With the support of Cork County Council, a disused building at one of the most prominent locations in the town has been given a new lease of life, becoming an integral part of the town's active community.

The initiative has increased awareness of art, craft, culture and design; has improved the overall feel-good factor within the town and has encouraged people to shop local. By valuing culture, the project is valuing Cork's communities also.



LEITRIM COUNTY COUNCIL

Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN) Defibrillator Mapping

The Leitrim Defibrillator Mapping Project sought to provide a comprehensive publicly accessible defibrillator location map for the county and registered the available defibrillators with the National Ambulance Service.

The project was carried out by the Leitrim Public Participation Network (PPN) in collaboration with the Leitrim Volunteering Information Service (LVIS) under the auspices of the Leitrim Development Company.

Leitrim PPN and the Leitrim Development Company promoted the project's launch which received coverage in the Leitrim Observer and RTÉ Radio 1. The PPN was ideally placed to connect community groups across the area and from every sector of interest, helping them gather the information.

The project has mapped the defibrillator locations, but an unintended outcome has been the positive links created between the groups across Co. Leitrim, the local Gardaí and the National Ambulance Service.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Five Year PlaySpace Programme

The Five Year PlaySpace Programme is aimed at addressing the deficiency of play opportunities in the immediate environment of children's homes. It is an innovative programme based on encouraging imaginative, constructive and social play. The play spaces are designed to adapt to the particular place where they are implemented.

They provide a space and a setting for play, rather than merely equipment for children to play with, are located where children live, with the emphasis on natural play spaces, and focus on the type of play that is most important to early childhood development.

The spaces also add to the attractiveness of the areas in which they are placed; they are robust; being made of mostly naturally found material, such as earth mounding and are thus less susceptible to vandalism.

Twenty play spaces have been implemented to date with another six on site due to open this year.



TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

Richard Mulcahy Sensory Playground and Garden

This playground initiative was devised to address a real need from local communities living in the Clonmel area - the project empowered South Tipperary Autism Support Group to manage a playground initiative with the support of Tipperary County Council.

One out of every 166 children born today could be diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Clonmel has two ASD units and four further ASD units within a 20-minute drive.

In addition to a sensory playground and garden, which addresses the need for a therapeutic area for people who suffer from sensory problems, the playground may be used as a calming place and as a gentle way to stimulate the senses. With the playground, the aim is to meet the needs of all Special Needs children and adults. It is important that entire families can play and interact in a safe environment that's fun for all.



CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN) Community Consultation Toolkit

An effective public consultation process is essential if statutory bodies such as the County Council are to hear the voices of local communities, and the Carlow Public Participation Network (Carlow PPN) felt that the public consultation process in Carlow needed to be examined and improved.

Carlow PPN engaged with 'The Wheel', Ireland's national association of community and voluntary organisations, in order to identify gaps between current practice and best practice in community consultation and having identified them, created a plan for bridging these gaps.

This was carried out through extensive consultation with communities and statutory bodies which led to the Community Consultation Toolkit being developed.

This plain English, easy-to-read Toolkit has already been used by the Environment Section of Carlow County Council to carry out improved consultations on their Climate Adaptation Strategy.



CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Voices of the Troubles - An Oral History

Voices of the Troubles is an audio archive featuring contributions from 104 individuals from Cavan and Fermanagh including those of Catholic, Protestant, Nationalist and Unionist backgrounds, detailing their experiences of the conflict in Northern Ireland.

Participants' interviews recounted how their lives and the lives of family members were affected by 30 years of conflict.

The finished tapes will create an audio archive for Cavan County Council, chronicling the lives of a border community, and allowing the public to gain a direct understanding of the period. The interviews were handled sensitively, allowing participants the opportunity to discuss their feelings and emotions without fear of prejudice.

In many instances, interviewees were discussing their experiences for the first time. Participants met three times, in Ballyjamesduff, Belturbet, and Enniskillen. These facilitated discussions were handled sensitively which allowed meaningful and purposeful engagement between people from different religions and political persuasions.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Shape Your City Voter Registration & Information Initiative

Shape Your City is a voter registration and information drive which makes clear concise information and voter registration accessible in community settings, equitably targeting immigrant workers, asylum seekers and refugees in Cork City.

Shape Your City set out to better support the inclusion of people who are new to Cork City allowing them to contribute actively to civic life, so they can influence how the city operates. It helps local, national and multinational businesses to support their non-Irish workforce through offering voter information and registration onsite.

Shape your City came about following an interagency discussion between Cork City Council and interests from the community, business and education sectors.

Cork City Council worked collaboratively with Atlantic Social Lab (Interegg), The Public Participation Network, The Cork City of Sanctuary, An Garda Síochána and Cork Chamber.

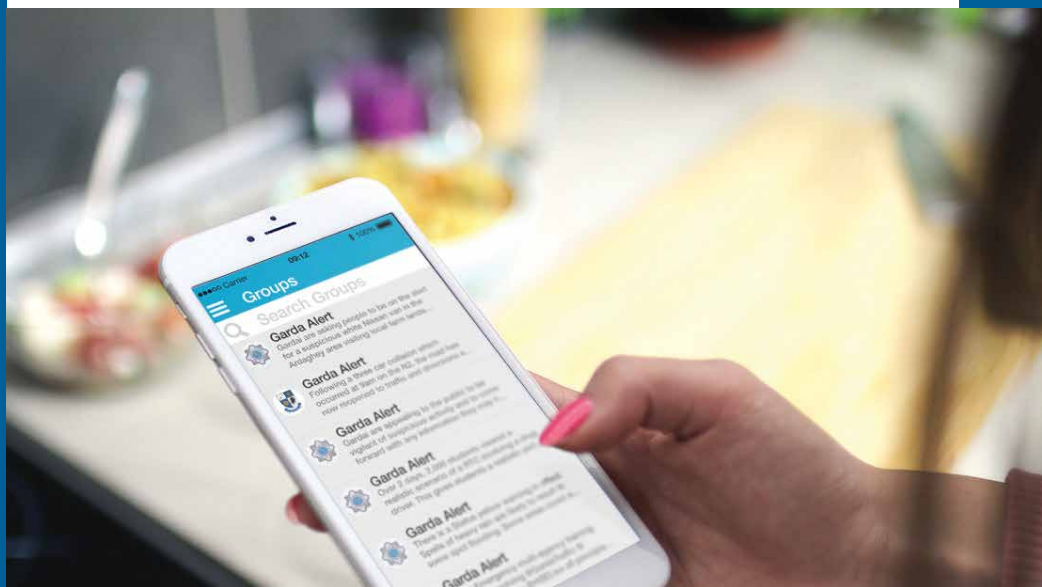


FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Our Balbriggan – Imagine the Possibilities – Get Involved

The future of Balbriggan, the youngest and most diverse large town in Ireland, is set to be transformed thanks to a plan shaped by the town's residents. A Citizen engagement initiative led by Fingal County Council led to 4001 people getting involved and completing a comprehensive survey. If you exclude those 11 or younger, approximately 25% of the town's residents participated.

The Balbriggan Rejuvenation Plan 2019 - 2025 was launched on 09/05/2019. The Independent Chair of the Balbriggan Leadership Group, Professor Brian MacCraith, President of DCU, described Balbriggan as "...an exemplar for people-guided development in Ireland". Local people took centre stage at the event and shared their hopes and ambitions for the town they live in. The event was streamed live on the "Our Balbriggan" Facebook page and was viewed by over 2,000 people in the first 24 hours. Engagement is ongoing with citizens on the plan's implementation.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monaghan Community Alerts

'Monaghan Community Alerts' is Ireland's first county-wide Community Alert service. Using Komeer, a two-way online communication system, Monaghan County Council has designed an initiative which enables messages to be sent out from An Garda Síochána to all 29 local Community Alert groups around the county in one simple message.

People who live in areas which don't have Community Alert coverage can also sign up to the service, giving the county full coverage by Text Alert for the first time.

The database is arranged into communities, and the local groups retain Data Controller status. They can send community messages to their local subscribers, giving them a powerful communication tool to help strengthen local communities.

The Komeer app allows two-way communication with subscribers. This opens up exciting opportunities for Monaghan County Council to engage with the citizens of the county, receiving instant feedback from thousands of citizens across Monaghan.



CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL

Healthy Streets Carlow

Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee (CCYPSC) is an interagency committee chaired by Tusla and vice-chaired by the Carlow County Council which works to improve outcomes for children and young people in Carlow.

The CCYPSC Healthy and Active Subgroup, of which the County Council is a key member, created the radical and much-needed Health Streets Carlow programme with the support of Healthy Ireland funding.

The proposal is a family-centred, skills-based healthy lifestyles programme. It supports the whole family development of positive health behaviours including healthy eating, appropriate food management behaviours, regular physical activity participation and the reduction of screen time.

The project introduced positive, sustainable health behaviours in children and young people which can be carried on through to adulthood and also increased social interaction outside of the family.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Cork Sanctuary Runners

The Sanctuary Runners initiative, which is now nationwide and making international headlines, began in Cork, with Cork City Council supporting it from day one.

The aim of the project is to bring Irish people, permanent residents from elsewhere and those in Direct Provision together through running, breaking down barriers and fostering solidarity, friendship and respect while having a lot of fun along the way.

Sanctuary Runners has resulted in 200 runners participating in the Cork City Marathon through the project, 50 of whom were from Direct Provision.

The initiative has gone Nationwide, with Sanctuary runners now in Dublin, Galway, Limerick, Waterford and many more towns and cities beginning to get involved.

Weekly participation in local park-runs has provided greater promotion of Sanctuary Runners.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Teen Talk with Cork County Council and Healthy Ireland

'Teen Talk' was coordinated by Cork County Council and funded by Healthy Ireland. Three free events were held in Cork for transition year students in schools throughout Cork City & County. The events were held to promote Health & Wellbeing among TY Students, specifically around mental health.

Talks were given by Derval O'Rourke (Olympian & World Champion Hurdler), Pat Divilly (Fitness Expert & Entrepreneur) and Graham McCormack (Former MMA Athlete & Mindfulness Coach).

The speakers informed the students on the topics of nutrition, fitness, personal wellbeing and mental health, giving accounts of their personal experiences and their lives. These events were MC'd by Kathryn Thomas (RTÉ & Operation Transformation) and Anna Geary (Ireland's Fittest Family) who also contributed with their own personal learnings.

Over 1,200 students attended from nearly 40 schools across the three combined events. A follow up program has also been distributed which was devised by Pat Divilly.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Healthy Fingal Learning Portal

The Healthy Fingal Learning Portal is an online “one stop shop” for teachers, coaches and community volunteers to get information about the work, programmes and courses delivered by Fingal County Council.

It is also a learning resource where teachers and coaches can log in to, to obtain lesson plans and watch instructional videos to help supplement ongoing sports programmes in schools, clubs and the community. The site uses the Moodle platform which is used by colleges and universities globally as an online learning resource.

Through this learning portal “Train the Trainer” workshops were delivered to 160 Early Years Practitioners by four Fingal County Childcare Committee Development Officers, who in turn trained preschool children.

The additional support of the online training resource led the Development Officers to have confidence in the delivery of these courses.

Access is available to all on <http://learning.fingal.ie/>



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick

The 'We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick' project aims to help improve the health and wellbeing of breastfeeding mothers, babies and their families through the development and promotion of breastfeeding friendly businesses, organisations and communities.

Since the project's inception, over 100 organisations across the sectors of the arts, the voluntary/community sector, healthcare, hospitality and public service sectors have participated in it.

The initiative is aligned with key national strategies, and use existing resources including networks, on-line platforms and work priorities of the partners without creating a dependency on new resources.

Improvements in breastfeeding rates are multifactorial and cannot be attributed to any one initiative but it is anticipated that "We're Breastfeeding Friendly Limerick" will, in addition to the many existing breastfeeding support and promotional projects, contribute to the gradual but steady rise in breastfeeding rates.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Clare Museum - Tourism Support Project

Clare Museum was established in 2000 by Ennis UDC to provide a tourist attraction for the town. It is based in the former Sisters of Mercy Convent which was purchased in 1994.

The tourist office is an integral part of the Museum facility, providing tourists with a wide range of information including an introduction to the history and culture of County Clare. Clare Museum is the only museum in Clare with a collection of artefacts from the county on display. They are on loan from the National Museum of Ireland.

One unique example from Clare's maritime past includes an item from the Spanish Armada. Clare Museum is an accredited museum under MSPI and offers a range of guidebooks in French, Italian, German, Polish and Irish which allow many more visitors to enjoy the rich heritage and culture of the county. Clare Museum approximated 30,000 visits in 2018.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

The Lee Sessions

The Lee Sessions is an initiative of Cork City Council to enhance the tourism offering in the city and deliver a traditional Irish experience, of the highest standard, to tourists – free of charge.

The Lee Sessions is the umbrella term for the extensive programme of traditional Irish music sessions which take place seven nights a week, year-round, in Cork City.

The Lee Sessions offer the highest standard of traditional musicianship in the country. They take place in some of Cork's best pubs – all of which are within walking distance of one another – guaranteeing tourists a truly authentic Irish pub and music experience.

The participating pubs are provided with a nominal subsidy from Cork City Council to encourage them to host a weekly session. This has enabled these pubs to develop as a magnet for tourists seeking a true cultural experience.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The Fingal Events Unit

The Fingal Events Unit integrates events and festivals with businesses and communities across the county. Festivals and events are of great importance to the area, increasing awareness of the local towns and villages, as well as influencing potential visitors to Fingal.

The primary aim of this project is to directly support tourism and businesses across Fingal by programming and hosting a range of events and festivals in the towns and villages of the county. A large portion of the Event Unit's work revolves around collaboration with, and supports from, local communities, tourism development groups, clubs, and associations.

The Fingal Events Unit's annual programme provides and supports high-quality, free/affordable events and festivals across Fingal. The Fingal Events Unit organises and hosts more than 64 events per year across 32 locations, this includes 10 national events, 7 international events and 3 county-wide events.



KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

From Berlin to Kerry

To coincide with the launch of Ryanair's Berlin to Kerry route, Kerry County Council, along with Kerry Airport, and its tourism partners launched a major international marketing campaign in Germany in 2017.

The Kerry region has a natural affinity with the German market, appealing to German visitors for decades, due to the county's heritage, archaeology, history, food and way of life along the Wild Atlantic Way. Germany is one of the world's largest outbound travel markets, ranked third globally after China and the United States, and is an important source market for Irish tourism. This campaign recognised the German market's potential for further growth in terms of both increased revenue generation as well as job creation for the county.

This campaign was a collaborative initiative by Kerry County Council, Kerry Airport, Ryanair, the Irish Hotels Federation, Destination Kerry Tourism Forum, GoKerry, as well as local business alliances and chambers.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Rossmore Forest Park Tourism & Recreational Development

In 2016, Monaghan County Council established a Memorandum of Understanding with Coillte which enabled the council to develop the recreational facilities in the Coillte-owned Rossmore Forest Park.

Monaghan County Council's main aim for Rossmore Forest Park is to create a genuine and unique visitor experience which will attract regional, national and international visitors, as well as to become a must-see attraction under the 'Ireland's Ancient East' destination brand.

The playpark, a €400k investment, has extensive play equipment within a landscaped environment that is appropriate to the forest setting. The Park has begun to be used as an events venue, hosting events such as 'The Haunting of Rossmore' festival – a one-night ticketed event – which attracted 1,500 visitors to Rossmore in 2018, as well as an Easter Egg Hunt, with future plans to run a Christmas Market in the Walled Garden of the Park.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Round Tower Visitor Centre, Clondalkin - Brú Chrónáin

The 7th century Round Tower, located at the heart of Clondalkin Village, is amongst the most well-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 were installed to the front and rear as well as a new central plaza that re-engages the site with its historic core.

The centre is operated in conjunction with 'The Happy Pear' and also houses an interactive exhibition, café and retail area. The aim of the Round Tower Visitor Centre is to become a leading attraction in Dublin, offering visitors a unique cultural, historical and culinary experience.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Bridge to Masschallenge Cork Programme

Bridge to Masschallenge Cork was an accelerator competition aimed at start-ups in the life science sector (which included digital and connected health) in Ireland. It involved Cork County Council forming a strategic partnership with Boston-based Masschallenge (a global network of zero equity start-up accelerators) to deliver a bootcamp both in Cork and in Boston to 20 start-ups.

After an intensely competitive process, 12 start-ups were selected to participate in a one week all expenses paid intensive boot camp in Masschallenge HQ in Boston. Whilst participating in the Boston boot camp the 12 companies were introduced to important clinical advisors, and sales and distribution channels for the US market.

Following the one-week boot camp in Boston, one start-up, Biobind, an R&D company based in the Synbio Centre in University College Cork was selected to complete a 4-month intensive full-scale accelerator in Boston.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Smart Sandyford

Smart Sandyford's portfolio of projects is designed to promote economic development, quality of life and well-being in the Sandyford Business District (SBD). It helps deliver better services to businesses and the people working and living in the area through facilitating and responding to stakeholder and community engagement.

It is a collaborative model made up of key partners from dlr, Sandyford BID, business, employers, citizens, residents, and government agencies, including Enterprise Ireland and the IDA, which work together to achieve the benefits of being smart.

The core objective is to drive economic growth, employment growth and competitiveness in SBD. It also aims to provide innovation opportunities through leveraging new technologies to address challenges in the area and use SBD as a test bed for new and emerging innovations.

Thirty new businesses have invested in the SBD area since 2016, delivering 6,000 new jobs with a €2.5 million uplift in Council rates.



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Mid East Region Innovation Think Spaces

Mid-East Region Innovation Think Spaces (MERITS) are part of a network of purpose built, 'co-working' incubation and accelerator spaces for technology entrepreneurs and innovative businesses.

These MERITS are part of a regional response to changing technologies, where local hubs develop the strengths of their local areas. Naas focuses on technology entrepreneurs and technology businesses. Within the wider network, there are other hubs in development such as Athy Food Hub, an equine tech hub in Kildare town, a clean energy hub and an advanced manufacturing hub.

Beyond Kildare these hubs include Kells Tech and Boyne Valley Food Hub in Meath, along with a content creation hub on Clermont Campus in Rathnew and other tech hubs in Wicklow.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

The Bays – Moyross Training Facility

'The Bays' Moyross Training Facility delivers an integrated service approach to equip unemployed residents of this regeneration area of Limerick City with the skills to secure employment.

The Bays Training Facility is dedicated to providing a specific trades-based approach that focuses on equipping clients with high-demand skills in sectors such as construction and manufacturing. The location of the training unit also enables clients to access the broader range of supports within The Bays Training Centre, creating a more rounded experience for trainees.

Every client progressing through the training programme embarks on a pathway to employment through the established relationships with local private sector actors. Consultation with these groups also allows for the identification of the key skills required to fill existing skills' gaps in the labour force. In addition, further training and education options have emerged as a dividend of these developing partnerships.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

The South Dublin Sustainable Business Programme

The Business Sustainability Programme aims to empower businesses to consider the sustainability and long-term future of their business. This partnership has a strong focus on job creation at the local level achieved through strengthening the local businesses engaging with the programme. This positive response to supporting business development and job creation in the local community is driven through the power of collaboration by the partners involved.

The Business Sustainability Programme is the only programme of its kind in Ireland or the UK. It is unique and innovative in its approach to business problem solving. The program is innovative as it provides a mechanism that allows local government and private business to work closely in a partnership model for the benefit of the local economy, creating new ways of working which allow for synergies to be formed that offer every business a better support service.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Arus Mhuire Rightsizing Housing Project

The Arus Mhuire Rightsizing Housing Project is a unique 30-unit housing scheme addressing the issue of 'empty-nesters'. 'Rightsizing' is an older person's active, positive choice to move home as a means of improving their quality of life. The initiative provides accommodation for older people in their community while simultaneously releasing surplus larger housing to younger families.

The Council procured and developed a bespoke 30-unit facility specifically suited to 'right-sizing' by interested elderly homeowners and tenants in the City and managed the orderly transfer of occupants from their original homes releasing these additional houses for uptake by younger families – a sustainable and innovative solution and a model for future housing provision. The project required innovation in terms of strategic location, design for lifetime living, proximity to care facilities, services and public transport, complex procurement, planning and project delivery, and stakeholder engagement.



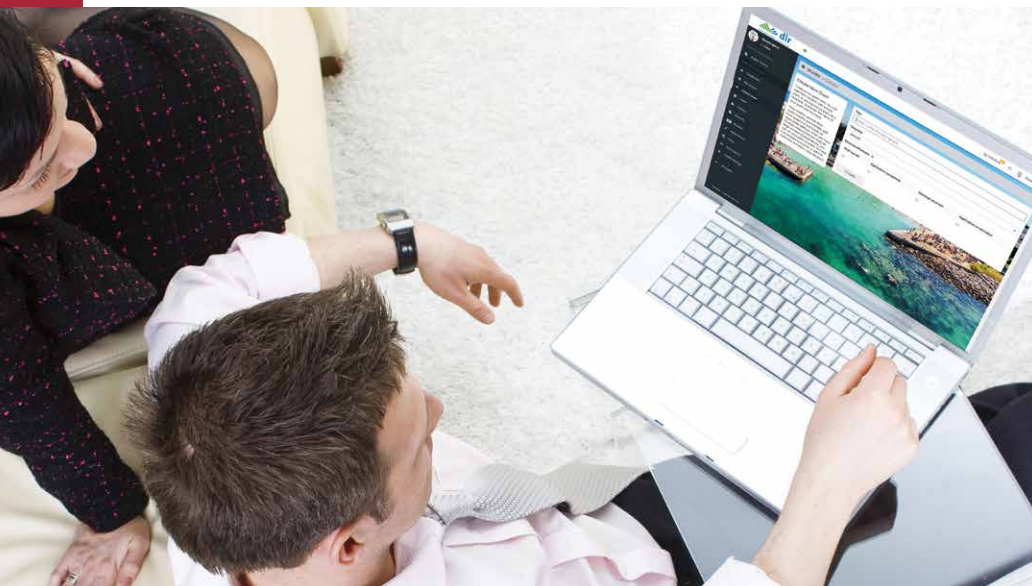
DUBLIN CITY COUNCIL

Litter Bin Tagging Project

Litter bins have been given a unique ID number that can be scanned by using a QR code reader app on a mobile phone. This is an easy to use, three-click process for the general public to report litter bins for the following issues - Full, Damaged, Illegal Dumping and Graffiti. The request is automatically forwarded to local operations teams without the requirement for back office staff.

When bins are tagged, their location and ID numbers are loaded onto a map allowing for remote surveying of bins, which assists in identifying requirements for additional bins and answering queries relating to the locations of bins in areas.

The bin tagging initiative was designed to have the potential to expand the technology in future to include the use of scanners to automatically set up bins on the system and streamline asset management.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

dlr Online Grants Management System

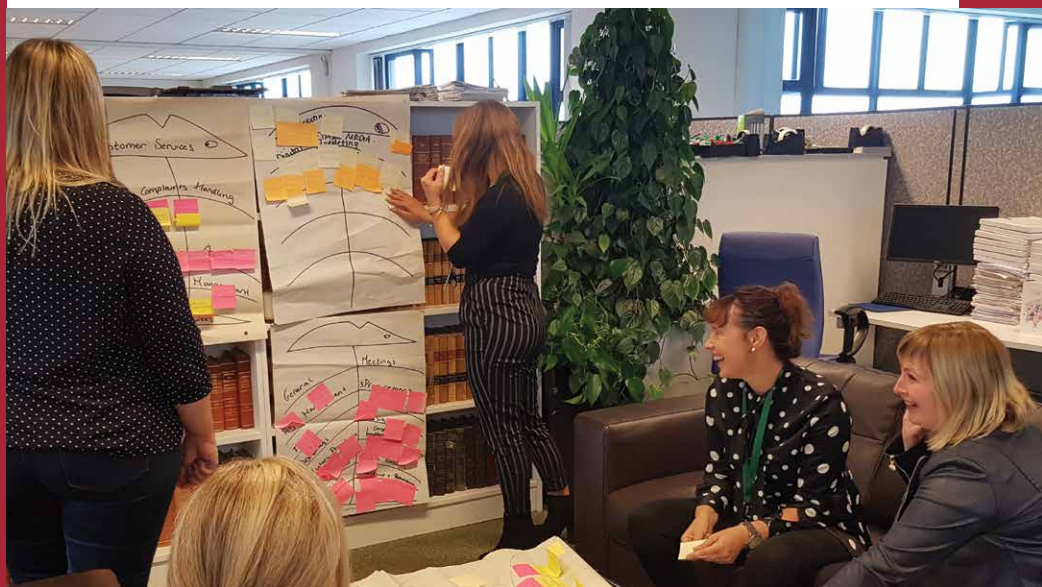
dlr Online Grants Management System is a system to replace the paper-based application process, improve data governance, reduce administrative duplication and to provide online application, assessment and reporting functionality while encouraging 'Transparency, Accountability and Good Governance' among our Grants Applicants.

An extensive programme of Workshops and Information Sessions were carried out throughout the county to provide information on the system, in addition to an extensive advertising campaign which was rolled-out country-wide.

The system went live in September 2018 for Grants Round 1 2019.

Applicants gave feedback saying information around what grant to apply for was clearer and there were fewer 'abandoned applications'.

The overall quality of applications was recorded as improving and as a result of the comprehensive advertising campaign around the project, there was a greater number of 'new applicants' than had previously been the case.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

End to end Mobile Solution for Private Rented Dwelling Inspections

Fingal County Council is required to inspect 20,000 Private Rented Properties over the next 4 years under the Rebuilding Ireland Strategy. As a result, it was necessary for Fingal to develop a software solution to enable these inspections to be dispatched, conducted, tracked and reported on.

Fingal County Council Housing and IT Departments collaborated extensively and developed the solution which enables inspections to be carried out using handheld technology. The system was developed from within the Council's own resources and did not incur any capital cost.

This system is currently being examined by the Local Government Management Authority (LGMA) as the basis for a national private rented inspections system.

To date, 3,937 inspections have been conducted using the system and Fingal County Council is well on track for meeting its targets over the next 4 years.



KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Climate Action Regional Offices

Supported by the Department of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and a legislative framework, four local authorities, Dublin City, Cork, Kildare and Mayo County Councils, were established as Climate Action Regional Offices (CAROs) to implement the objectives of a model of governance on climate action. This model facilitates effective cross sectoral collaboration, good governance, leadership, strategic planning and positive behavioural change to work towards the national objective to transition to a low carbon and climate resilient society.

Climate change is recognised as the greatest challenge globally, requiring comprehensive responses at all levels. Challenges are unprecedented and local authorities are considered essential in determining the success of Ireland's climate change obligations.

Recognising that climate change impacts transcends all boundaries, the four CAROs, Dublin Metropolitan, South Atlantic, Eastern and Midlands and North Atlantic, were established to assist all local authorities in developing competency and consistency on climate action.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

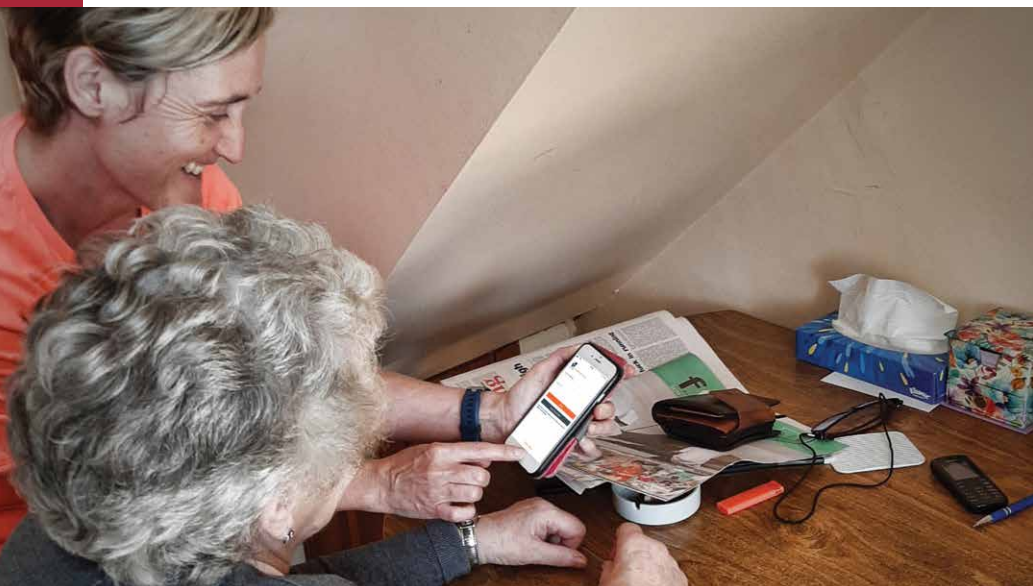
The LITe Programme

The LITe Programme (Limerick Information Transformation e Programme) is a cultural change programme that transforms the way that Limerick City & County Council manages its information. LITe leverages technology and information management to deliver information governance and to bring light to the digital dark age.

Through the initiative, there has been real progress across key KPIs, including the reduction in quantity of unstructured data on personal drives and growth in the number of staff and percentage of department trained in LITe.

For Limerick City & County Council staff, the LITe system greatly benefits institutional memory and staff changes have minimal impact on departments as the record system supports rapid induction and learning.

The LITe Programme is being rolled out throughout 2019 and user uptake has been excellent with staff citing ease of use as the key factor.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Monaghan County Council Rents App

Monaghan County Council has rolled out a specially developed Rents App service to all Rents and Rental Accommodation Scheme (RAS) customers. The Rents app is accessible through mobile phone, tablet and desktop pc. The Rents App provides tenants with quick and easy access to their rent account 24/7. The Rents App is an exciting new initiative enhancing Monaghan County Council's customer service for our tenants. This service is another step in improving the relationship between the Council and tenants. The Rents app is widely available from Apple/Google app stores and is similar to existing apps, it is intuitive with a responsive design for mobile phone, tablet and desktop pc. It is informative and functional. The Rents App has been developed in line with industry best practice.

In the short period of time since the roll out of the Rents App, over 300 tenants have registered for the service.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Banner Beekeepers Association Apiary at Doora, Ennis

Clare Council Council facilitated the Banner Beekeepers establishing an apiary with an outreach and education programme to engage the public in Beekeeping and Pollinators. It meets the objectives of Clare Biodiversity Action Plan and County Clare Heritage Plan to promote Clare as an important refuge for native pollinators and meets the objectives in the All Ireland Pollinator Plan 2015-2020. Banner Beekeepers promotes the craft of beekeeping through training, guidance and mentoring which is delivered to their membership and to the public. This initiative provides them with a bespoke facility on public property with safe access and parking where training can be delivered on the practical skills necessary to undertake the craft after which mentoring of the novice beekeeper can continue in mastering the skills/confidence to continue the craft at other locations, spreading beekeeping knowledge and activity countywide.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Avoncore Estate Regeneration Project

Avoncore is an old Social housing estate in Midleton that needed modernisation. This initiative combined updating the energy and heating needs of the tenants with maintaining and modernising the architectural façade of the estate. Through the innovative use of technologies and modern energy efficient insulation combined with the latest architectural advances, this scheme preserved the original architectural intent and significantly enhanced the built environment in the estate. The sustainable nature of the technologies used will ensure that tenants and residents will benefit in their energy usage and significantly decrease their carbon footprints now and into the future.

The immediate impact of the initiative was to improve the energy efficiency of the houses in this estate, bringing properties from an E1 rating to a B2 rating. The benefit of this would be a significant reduction in energy costs for the tenants.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Electric Dreams

This initiative places Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council to the forefront of Electric Vehicle (EV) adoption, positioning the Council as exemplars of best practice in terms of fleet management, developing EV charging infrastructure locally within our community to assist citizens to mitigate against the harmful effects of Climate Change by facilitating the uptake of EVs by members of the public, living, working and visiting our area.

Six EV cars and six EV vans have been procured and made available to staff for the commencement of their offsite duties. Currently in excess of 100 members of staff have completed the necessary training, giving them access to these vehicles.

In order to facilitate the take-up of electric vehicle use by the public, a series of free public charging points were made available, enabling all, but especially those without access to off street charging facilities, to switch to electric vehicles.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Pollinator Friendly Free Tree Initiative

The largest Pollinator Friendly public outreach event held in Ardgillan in 2019 was our Pollinator Tree Initiative for National Tree Week 2019. The scheme achieved huge social media and news coverage, which included being featured on the RTÉ News website. The project's head gardener at Ardgillan Castle and gardens, Dominica McKeivitt initiated this scheme and a total of almost 7000 young trees (*Crataegus Monagyna* and *Sorbus aucuparia*) were distributed over a three-week period.

The initiative was initially intended to attract approximately 1000 homeowners. However, the response was so overwhelming that a total of 7000 trees were distributed following a three week time frame, resulting in approximately 3500 households receiving a valuable pollinator native tree.

It caught the attention of the residents of Fingal and surrounding counties and it was an overwhelming success.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Reuse not Single Use

Reuse not "Single Use" is about challenging convenience culture and moving up the waste hierarchy by finding ways to promote the use of reusable items and not simply purchasing and discarding "single use" items that cause so much damage to the environment.

The 'Reuse not Single Use' aimed to raise awareness of the issues around "single use" items, reducing the numbers of single use items used.

Different initiatives took place through the project, which resulted in outcomes such as 600-700 "single use" plastic bottles being prevented from going to recycling during the Limerick Urban Run, the distribution of 100 reusable cups to prevent disposable coffee cup use and a ban on the use of single use plastic bottles in dance studios used by the Limerick Dance Academy.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

A Journey Called Home

Cork City Council invited people who have moved to Cork to tell us about their experiences of living in the city through poetry, fiction, and prose. These stories and poems were put together in a collection called 'A Journey Called Home'. Cork has been transformed in the past decade by the number of people who have come to live in the city from every corner of the world. This is especially true of the city centre. This diverse and intriguing anthology is a selection of what people wrote in response to that invitation. It is, for the most part, bi-lingual - in the writers' original languages, and in an English translation. The title comes from a story by an Italian couple which describes the diversity which is now a feature of the city. The anthology was published in November 2018.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

"A Sound Initiative" at Cork County Library

Cork County Library offers a unique opportunity for its customers to try a variety of instruments free of charge. Anyone can borrow from the collection, which includes violins and guitars of various sizes, keyboards, mandolins and banjos and keep them for a minimum of three weeks. The range of instruments is advertised on the library's website, where they can also be requested and easily collected from the local branch library. The high demand for instruments, totalling over one hundred issues by April 2019, illustrates that Cork County Library has identified a previously unfulfilled need. The achievements of the programme include giving people who previously had little opportunity to explore musical creativity a chance to access a variety of musical instruments.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

My Open Library at Deansgrange Library

My Open Library is an initiative which offers an improved and expanded public library service through an extension of the library opening hours. In addition to regular hours, the programme provides library access to members from 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. The staffed hours combined with the extended My Open Library service enables library members to access the library at times that suit them.

The My Open Library service is not staffed, and members access the library using a specially modified library card. They have full use of computer, WiFi and printing services, study facilities, and may borrow and return items by using self-service kiosks.

To date there are 843 registered members at Deansgrange Library and up to 3 April 2019 there have been 2,364 visits altogether to My Open Library.

**FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL****STEAM through Fingal**

Fingal County Council Libraries established a fun and interactive year-long STEAM programme across the library network and in council venues during 2018. Combining STEM with creativity and the Arts to form a STEAM programme, the aim is to make STEAM less mysterious and more accessible by encouraging people of all ages and from all walks of life to engage so that they are informed, inspired and involved in STEAM on an ongoing basis.

Project highlights included four STEAM Saturdays-family open days in various Council venues, the extension of our 3D printing service to Blanchardstown Library, an extensive training package rolled out to staff and public in relation to 3D printing technologies as well as an extensive community education programme for all ages including coding, lego, robotics, engineering and other science related workshops rolled out across the network of 10 library branches.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Watch House Cross Community Library Autism Friendly Resource

Watch House Cross Community Library based in Moyross, Limerick, provides an inclusive space that encourages a love of reading, lifelong learning and promotes literacy. Over the last two years, Watch House Cross Community Library has recognised the need to provide resources, support and an inclusive space to meet the needs of children, young people and adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Our library branch has been a welcoming space for ASD patrons and it is through our interaction with ASD library users that we have developed a greater awareness of the need to provide resources to support these users to engage with our services. In line with the aims of our Corporate Plan, we see this as contributing to the promotion of a safe, healthy, inclusive and citizen centred Limerick.

**MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

Ashbourne Library Music Appreciation Club

Ashbourne Library Music Appreciation Club provides a welcoming, friendly and inclusive social outlet for some of our community's most vulnerable residents, giving them an opportunity to meet, chat, enjoy the music and socialise. The club aims to introduce attendees to the full range of events and activities the library has to offer, tying-in with wider initiatives and agencies such as Healthy Ireland, Arts Office, Bealtaine, Creative Ireland, Centenary Commemorations, Local History, Age Action and a wide range of other library activities and services. Benefits include: Providing a fun, welcoming space for people to engage with new topics, artists and themes, the Club is a place people can discuss their interests and form friendships. By bringing together people who otherwise would be unlikely to meet, the Club is an informal, inclusive forum where all are treated as equals with dignity and respect.



WATERFORD CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Towers & Tales Lismore Story Festival Schools Programme

The Towers & Tales Lismore Story Festival is celebration of children's books, illustration and storytelling in all its forms. Waterford City & County Council Library Service has been a partner of the festival since its inception in 2015. Through the Schools Outreach Programme Waterford Libraries bring Towers & Tales authors to libraries, schools and various venues across Waterford. This enables students from classes in different schools to experience literature, art & creativity.

The immediate impact has been the positive feedback from the teachers involved, which focused on the enjoyment they experienced.

An earlier survey on the project identified increased interest in author visits and a surge in requests for library books.

**CARLOW COUNTY COUNCIL****Take A Part Carlow**

Take A Part Carlow is an arts initiative working in the Tullow Road area of Carlow town. Take A Part Carlow is led by an Arts Action Group, a group made up of community representatives along with agency partners. This group works to plan, commission and develop socially engaged arts initiatives for their community. Take A Part Carlow is nationally recognised as a new model of engaging communities through the arts. Their core values include collaborative decision making, high quality arts engagement, access, inclusion and relevance to a local area. The project's objectives include exposing opportunities for social exchanges and creating opportunities to engage with the Arts for, by and with the Tullow Road community.

Through this initiative, over 22 artistic projects have been commissioned and are currently being delivered.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Live at the library: Music for the community!

'Live at the library: Music for the community!' aims to reinvigorate links between the library and its community, working with all ages from the very young to its senior citizens.

Through working with local agencies, such as the HSE, Music Generation and Barnardos in organising the running of events, the library can be shown to be an integral component in an active community.

Through the roll out of events and new music clubs with the aid of consultation with the public, teachers and staff from the local agencies in the area, the project provides a welcoming environment where people can meet, maintain old friendships and foster new ones.

As a result of the project, the number of people visiting the library has increased by 24%, while events have increased from 158 in 2016 to 435 in 2018, an increase of 275%.

**CORK COUNTY COUNCIL**

The West Cork Fit-Ups Theatre Festival

The Fit-Ups project is designed to provide a season of theatre productions that are suited to small rural venues in the West Cork area. The Summer season runs for four weeks during the high tourist season of July and August.

The plays chosen for the programme are full scale professional theatre productions that can be transferred from large theatres to small rural venues without compromising production standards.

The response from local promoters and audiences since the programme began 10 years ago has been enthusiastic. In most cases, this programme delivers the only professional theatrical production that will visit these communities in the course of the year.

The audience for the shows has grown consistently to the point where most shows are guaranteed to sell-out before the performance.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

The Autonomy Project

The Autonomy Project was a youth engagement project focusing on activism and exploring our autonomy in society. It involved four parts; Integrated workshops for young people, a weeklong installation-performance in two venues in Limerick City, a symposium at Irish World Academy exploring Art and Autonomy and a research report

Limerick Youth Theatre, Dance Limerick, Music Generation Limerick City and GOSHH (Gender, Orientation, Sexual Health, HIV) were brought together as partners in the project and were led by dance artist Lisa McLoughlin. Members of the four youth groups created original works that were presented at Dance Limerick. Five professional artists were commissioned to make original works for an installation performance in the Sailors Home and a further two performance pieces were chosen from an open call.

The Art and Autonomy conference was held in the Irish World Academy of Music and Dance, UL.



WEXFORD COUNTY COUNCIL

Arts Ability Programme

Running since 2003, Arts Ability is an exemplar arts programme led by the Arts Department of Wexford County Council in partnership with the Arts Council, HSE Disability and Mental Health Services and partner venues. The programme involves Visual Art, Literature and now also includes Music. Arts Ability is an inclusive, person-centered arts programme which celebrates the artistic and creative imagination of people who experience mental health problems and or intellectual, physical or sensory disabilities. The programme delivers high quality arts experiences based on meaningful engagement between participant artists and professional artists.

The reaction from the participating artists reflected how much the exhibition meant to the participating artists, their families and friends as they had put so much work and time into their artwork.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

The Vision Symphony

Clare Arts Office is at the forefront of arts and disability programming nationally with the Embrace - Arts and Disability Programme. They have commissioned 'The Vision Symphony' which will be performed by visually impaired musicians in Glór in October, along with the Irish Memory Orchestra (IMO). Visually impaired musicians will be mentored by the IMO lead musicians and will learn the music through a specially designed accessible website. Working in partnership with the National Council for the Blind of Ireland (NCBI), this project offers visually impaired musicians valuable work opportunities and a platform for the musicians to exhibit their talents and offers them professional development opportunities with the Orchestra. It also further develops Clare Arts Office's capacity for the integration of people with disabilities into mainstream professional opportunities in the arts.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Changing Places

dlr County Council supports the provision of fully inclusive bathroom facilities and is committed to the installation of 'Changing Places' in new public buildings throughout the County where feasible. There are only a few facilities of this kind in Ireland.

In many instances people cannot leave their homes as there are no suitable public bathroom facilities for their needs and this prevents them from fully engaging in society. For people with significant disabilities and their carers this is a life changing initiative.

The aim is to spread these specialised bathroom facilities throughout our county. In this way not only can people enjoy the events and facilities provided by dlr but it allows them to fully participate in life as they choose rather than by the limitations of services available to them set by others.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Irish Aphasia Theatre

The Irish Aphasia Theatre is a theatre model design developed as a complementary and alternative approach to the health and wellbeing of those affected with the condition Aphasia. Aphasia is a condition that effects an individual's verbal communication and can be caused by brain injury or stroke at any stage of life.

Through a model of facilitated workshops which include acting, voice and movement Aphasia Theatre seeks to empower those affected with the condition to find ways to communicate their stories and thoughts and be part of a collective community who can identify and support each other through theatre.

The open evening for the project included collective and individual performances by each participant to an audience of health professionals and representatives from the arts and health sector.



MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL

Improvement of Changing Facilities at Kells Swimming Pool to improve accessibility for disabled pool users

This initiative was to facilitate the Kells Special Hands Group to provide disability access and facilities at Kells Swimming Pool in order to allow greater use of the pool by people with disabilities. The works consisted of an extension to the changing facilities to provide new ladies and family changing areas and an extension to men's changing area. It also includes a new building entrance, staff areas, fire safety and disability access upgrade works, new flat roof coverings and minor alterations to external works. A dedicated disabled changing and shower area was also developed to comply with Building Regulations Technical Guidance. Part of the design included low level hand and hair dryers, accessible reception counter and ramped access to part of the spectator viewing area.

Disabled persons can now use the facility with increased comfort and privacy.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Your Vote Your Voice

Your Vote Your Voice is an innovative approach to supporting voter participation among people with disabilities. The information booklet sets out clear and easy to read information on all aspects of the voting process in Ireland.

The booklet includes information on several key areas including the government structures in Ireland and the elections that take place, the constitution, voting in a referendum, information on registering to vote, the accessibility of polling stations, filling out a ballot paper and more.

This initiative has the support of many people in county Monaghan to register to vote and vote in an election for the first time.

2000 hard copies of the booklet have been circulated across the county, with many more copies requested electronically or downloaded from the project's website.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Sensory Pig Sty in Tymon Park

This project was an extension to a recently completed playground at Tymon Park. The playground was designed under natural play principles and had received a large amount of positive feedback from children, disability service providers, and parents with disabilities for its universal play provision and its appealing design and numerous play opportunities.

The project's natural play philosophy encourages direct contact with nature. As with all of the council's playground projects the initial concept about creating a space for children with disabilities ended up with a play space which has universal appeal. Sensory play is not only important for children with sensory issues but is fun for all children.

The use of mud for free play has been universally welcomed and council staff are frequently told how welcome it is in the park generally.



TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

Sign of The Times

“Sign of the Times” aims to promote Irish Sign Language, (ISL). The primary partners are HSE Disability Gold Star, Tipperary County Council, members of the Deaf community and Gold Star volunteers. Supporting partners include Chime, Trinity Centre for Deaf Studies, Tipperary ETB, Abbey Secondary School, St Anne’s Secondary School and St Ailbe’s Secondary School Tipperary Town. The project aim is to create an introduction to ISL video based training resource tool and encouraging the broader community to try it, helping it to grow in the process, while participants learn more sign language every day.

The TY students from the Abbey School have been fantastic ambassadors for the project, having worked with first years in their own school, demonstrating what they have learnt and being champions for learning ISL with their own peers.

**CORK CITY COUNCIL**

Cork Lifelong Learning Festival 2019

Cork Lifelong Learning Festival is a city-wide week-long festival that promotes and celebrates formal and informal learning, across all age groups and interests. A key factor in transforming many individuals' lives through (re) discovering a love of learning, the festival was instrumental in the selection of Cork City as the venue for the Global Conference of Learning Cities in 2017.

Public support for the festival is demonstrated by the continued growth in the number of events on offer and annual growing attendances. This year's festival ran from Sunday 7th to Sunday 14th April 2019, with 560 events taking place across the 8 days.

Over 12,000 people discovered the benefits of lifelong learning at the 16th Cork Lifelong Learning Festival. Learning promotes integration and inclusiveness while challenging ideas and beliefs, boosting confidence and self-esteem. Lifelong learning makes us more adaptable to change and helps individuals achieve a more satisfying personal life.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Dublin Bay Prawn Festival

The Dublin Bay Prawn Festival is the ultimate celebration of Irish Seafood and has grown into one of Ireland's largest food festivals.

The Dublin Bay Prawn Festival is a gastronomic experience offering delicious food and craft beer, wine tastings as well as live cooking demos and street entertainment in the heart of the idyllic fishing village of Howth. The village's finest restaurants, bars and cafés host a variety of amazing events at the Harbour Festival Village, serving the freshest, most delicious seafood, cooked in every way imaginable, including a selection of special Dublin Bay Prawn dishes.

The festive atmosphere continues into the evening with Howth Yacht Club hosting live music and food in its lovely scenic location. It's not just the culinary offerings that make the festival so memorable, the Dublin Bay Prawn Festival is also famous for music & entertainment, walks, talks, vintage funfair and seaside activities.



KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL

Listowel Writers' Week

Listowel Writers' Week is Ireland's longest running literary & arts festival. Founded in 1970, Writers' Week transforms the beautiful Kerry heritage town of Listowel into the centre of the literary universe!

The festival has succeeded in making Listowel a place where writers, book-lovers, literary enthusiasts and those wishing to sample creative writing can gather and enjoy a celebration of literature and imagination.

Each June bank holiday many distinguished names in contemporary literature from Ireland, and abroad, join travelling storytellers, experimental poets, local songwriters, cutting-edge novelists and readers from all corners of the globe to create a literary mecca in the heart of the Irish countryside. Listowel Writers' Week boasts a programme of masterclasses, workshops, performances, children's workshops, readings, parent & child events and awards which all take place throughout the festival.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

St. Patrick's Festival Limerick 2019

Celebrating Ireland's national holiday, Limerick hosts the second-largest St. Patrick's Day parade after Dublin. The 2km route of the 2019 parade was filled by participants from all parts of Limerick – including schools, sports clubs, industry & new communities which now call Limerick home.

In 2019, Limerick was in the unique position of having the country's only International Band Championship taking place as part of the St. Patrick's Festival, during which 21 bands took part in the Championship, including 8 bands from America.

The theme of the festival was 'One Giant Leap' marking the 50th anniversary of Neil Armstrong's landing on the moon, which included the 'Museum of the Moon' international art installation by artist Luke Jerram, featuring a 40ft panoramic wheel giving 360°- degree views across Limerick's skyline. The 'One Giant Leap' theme reflects the massive & dynamic revitalisation of Limerick over the past number of years.



CORK COUNTY COUNCIL

Community Fund Scheme

Cork County Council is committed to encouraging and assisting local communities in bettering their local area. The Community Fund Scheme is in place to support local communities and clubs by the provision of financial assistance to aid them in undertaking projects or in order to acquire materials to improve the overall wellbeing of their locality.

The proposed projects all come from local communities; this ensures that the Scheme facilitates ventures which meet locally identified needs. The Community Fund Scheme allows Cork County Council to engage in a positive way with citizens, clubs and societies and assist them in providing facilities, or carrying out projects, which have been identified as a necessary requirement to enrich their community.

The Community Fund Scheme is meeting local demand as identified by communities and in 2019, €1.8 million was allocated to groups throughout the county through the scheme.



DONEGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Hosting the DDF Irish Open in Inishowen MD - a place mobilised

Ballyliffin Golf Club, in the Inishowen Municipal District, Co. Donegal hosted the 2018 Dubai Irish Open golf tournament.

This was the most rural setting ever for this event and with an expected influx of over 100,000 visitors, the Golf Club, County Council and Fáilte Ireland reassured the organisers that they could safely manage the event. The County Council established a traffic management plan, and an event implementation team. Working closely with the elected members, local community and agencies, these teams coordinated a local transformation.

In addition, with only 6 months to go to the event, the road and bridge network in the area were devastated - but reinstated in time for the event. These achievements demonstrate outstanding initiative. They have brought a great sense of pride and unity to Inishowen - demonstrating the spirit and grit of the place.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

NewcastleWest.ie

Newcastlewest.ie was launched in December 2018 to showcase the best of County Limerick's largest town.

The Newcastle West Municipal District Councillors embraced the initiative from the outset and, along with local authority officials, worked with the NCW Development Association on delivering the project. This was done by mapping out what was needed for the website in terms of its content but also how the website can continue to be relevant to locals and visitors in the future. The website is hosted on Limerick.ie, a ground-breaking and award-winning digital platform.

NewcastleWest.ie is a space which provides information for locals and visitors on what's going on in the area, with details on where to stay, things to do, food & drink, history & heritage, fashion & retail, sports & recreation, clubs & organisations and how to get there, as well as dedicated content for families.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Refurbishment and Remodelling of Clones Market House, Clones, Co. Monaghan

Clones Market House is a landmark, historic building in Clones. A Conservation Plan drafted in 2012 highlighted the heritage of the building, its status as a protected structure and the significance of the building to its owner, Monaghan County Council (MCC) and to the people of Clones Town.

The refurbishment works by integrating the historic facade, associated architectural detailing and ornamentation of the building with new interventions and sustainable solutions to make this a functional civic office space for MCC. This fusion of design, practicality, functionality and building legacy formed the principal elements of engineering excellence associated with this project, with the future vision of locating the Ballybay-Clones Municipal District Offices within the building.

Works commenced on this project at the end of 2017, with a projected timeline of six months. The works were successfully completed in mid-2018 with the relocation of the Municipal District Offices taking place shortly afterwards.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

Otranto Seaside Gardens

Framed by Scotsman's Bay, Joyce Tower, and Sandycove Beach, Otranto Seaside Garden is one of Dublin's smallest, but locally significant public spaces.

The project emerged as a distinct placemaking initiative, planned, designed and managed by an in-house team of landscape architects, project managers and horticulturists. The aim was to provide a sustainable place to meet the needs of the local community, tourists, and public. The Garden is embedded in county's "Coastal" Corridor, one of six corridors in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown's Green Infrastructure Strategy.

The team applied best placemaking practices to achieve two key objectives; to design a place of beauty, safe and easily accessible for all - a coherent layout was needed to provide for rest and relaxation - and to devise a 'Planting Design' for environmental resilience with a criteria guide for plant selection, which included saltwater tolerance, easy maintenance and to include pollinator species.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

Smart Street Furniture

The Smart Street Furniture initiative is a pilot project developed by Fingal County Council with the support of The Department of Rural and Community Development.

The purpose of this project was to develop Fingal's smart public infrastructure, showcasing Fingal's towns and villages as digital regions. Through the project, 15 smart benches were installed across nine towns and villages in Fingal. This project is the first of its kind in Ireland.

Solar-powered smart street furniture can help towns and communities to increase the attractiveness of public spaces and provide public services, information, and connectivity. The smart benches also enable the collection of valuable data for optimising processes and reducing costs. Fingal's Smart Street Furniture are an innovative digital street asset, providing multiple services to the citizen, including providing information on community news and events as well as phone charging facilities.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Derelict and Vacancy Initiative

A new Department was set up in October 2017 to address dereliction and vacancy throughout Limerick City and County. A dedicated area-based team was set up to identify derelict and vacant public and private properties within Limerick City and in the towns and villages throughout County Limerick, in order to regenerate these areas through positively engaging with owners to re-activate properties across Limerick City and County.

The formation of this new Department sent out a very strong message to property-owners that Limerick City & County Council want them to take action to address vacant and derelict buildings. If properties owners are not willing to engage, Limerick City & County Council will use their powers under the Derelict Site Act 1990 to compulsory acquire these properties and bring them back into use.



SOUTH DUBLIN COUNTY COUNCIL

Clonburris Strategic Development Zone Planning Scheme

Through the Planning Scheme, the Clonburris Strategic Development Zone (SDZ) will become a distinctive new urban community, centred on the provision of a range of high-quality homes, protection and enhancement of green infrastructure and access to a selection of local services and amenities, together with high-quality public transport options.

Clonburris SDZ will be an exemplar in sustainable community and urban environment development through the implementation of best practice in place-making, provision of green infrastructure, sustainable urban drainage and the consideration of energy and climate change mitigation.

The development of the Planning Scheme is expected to deliver a target of 8,437 new homes, two urban centres, an integrated street network, a network of urban spaces and squares, strategic parks, as well as community, retail and employment floorspace.

At the heart of Clonburris' future development are the themes of quality of life, prosperity, sustainability, health and well-being, social inclusion and climate change.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Set in Stone Workshop

Cork City is renowned for its magnificent built heritage, however there is little information on the wealth of skills, artistry and traditions which helped craft these buildings. The aim of this project was to raise awareness of the rich heritage of stone masonry skills found in Cork City in an interactive and practical manner through workshops on dry stone wall construction, carving and lime mortar, as well as providing advice on the care and maintenance of stonework.

The very successful workshop took place in Bessborough, Mahon over two days in April with 70 attendees on both days. It was run by trainers Christian Helling and Julia Gebel, in association with other experts in their field. The attendees were made up of heritage groups and organisations, members of the public, property owners, members of mental health organisations, men's sheds, architects, builders, craftspeople, local authority staff, planners, and other practitioners.



FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL

The conservation, restoration and extension of The Casino building, Malahide

The Malahide Casino is a protected structure dating back to the 19th century, and its history is significant to the village of Malahide.

When Fingal County Council acquired the building in 2014, its condition severely deteriorated and public concerns for its future grew. Fortunately, a Malahide resident granted a large sum of money to Fingal County Council for the specific purpose of acquiring the Casino cottage and the Cyril Fry Model Railway (another beloved Malahide landmark) so that they could be brought together as a visitor attraction.

The first phase, which is now complete, was to restore and refurbish the historic features of the Casino building (including the thatched roof) and to extend the property to enable the installation of the Cyril Fry Model Railway, allowing the Casino Building to be used as a publicly accessible heritage property.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

West Wall Walkway Kilmallock

Kilmallock is a medieval walled town, whose defences date from the late 13th century. The Public Realm Plan and the Conservation & Management Plan for the Town Walls were produced in 2007 and both fed directly into Kilmallock's Local Area Plan. The project was achieved over a 10-year period which received whole-hearted public support.

Since 2008, the town's defences have been designated as National Monuments, as they are of national importance. The project included the conservation and consolidation of over 550 metres of medieval town wall, the creation of a 3.5-acre park with amenity space and a 526-metre pathway giving public access to a unique length of medieval town defences. The pathway allows the public to access this wonderful piece of urban heritage and the works to the wall have consolidated them for another century.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Monaghan Spitfire - Life on the Border with a World at War

Monaghan County Museum presents an explosive exhibition: The Monaghan Spitfire – Life on the Border with a World at War. This incendiary display was developed in partnership with numerous organisations both north and south of the border including the Royal Air Force, Queen's University Belfast and the Irish Air Corp, as well as input from the Imperial War Museum in London.

This exhibition explores the deadly experience of a county which existed on the border between two worlds; one tearing itself apart and another, trying desperately to stay out of a global conflict which had almost engulfed it. Using never-before-seen artefacts and images as well as chilling first-hand accounts, this enthralling exhibit takes the viewer on an exciting journey through life and death in the region during the turbulent years of World War II, known in the Republic of Ireland as 'The Emergency'.



DÚN LAOGHAIRE-RATHDOWN COUNTY COUNCIL

The Commemoration of the Centenary of the Sinking of the RMS Leinster

The Commemoration of the Centenary of the Sinking of the RMS Leinster – en route from Dún Laoghaire to Holyhead, in 1918 by German submarine U-123 – marked the loss of 569 civilians, military passengers, postal workers and crew, many from the Dún Laoghaire area.

Comprising of a centenary commemorative day and complementary programme of educational cultural events, this initiative, coordinated by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council with the assistance of the Department of Culture, Heritage & the Gaeltacht, was very much a community effort. A variety of key local historical community groups and family descendants of passengers on the RMS Leinster were centrally involved in the planning of the commemorations from the outset.

The main centenary ceremony and programme of events, aimed to commemorate and recount the previously forgotten story of the RMS Leinster and cultivate a continued public remembrance in today's generation, included a wealth of exhibitions, seminars, talks and performances.



LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL

Decade of Centenaries Commemoration 2019 Limerick

The Decade of Centenaries Commemorative Programme is based on a four-strand approach comprising of a State Ceremonial Strand, a Historical Strand, a Community Strand and a Creative Imagination Strand.

The Community Strand involves a collaborative approach, similar to that adopted for the 1916 centenary commemoration, between the State, Local Authority network and community organisations. The local coordinators will liaise with all stakeholders, including the State elected members of Limerick City & County Council, community groups and historical associations to agree a programme of commemoration for Limerick. This programme, comprising of themes of national and local significance, will then be delivered in Limerick during 2019. The ethos of such commemoration is that it should be inclusive, appropriate and sensitive.

The Decade of Centenaries Programme ends in September 2023 with the centenary of Ireland joining the League of Nations.



SLIGO COUNTY COUNCIL

Sligo Armistice Day 2018

Sligo Armistice Day 2018 was a community-led event undertaken in partnership with Sligo County Council and the Blue Raincoat Theatre Company to commemorate the loss in the Great War 1914-1918 of more than 600 men from County Sligo.

The event was held on the morning of Sunday, 11 November 2018, and marked the centenary of the end of the war. 605 volunteers, dressed in early 20th century-styled civilian clothing, walked in formation silently through the streets of Sligo town. Each of the participants involved in the event represented, by name, one of the 605 men who died in the war. The event commenced with a two-minute period of silence, which was followed by the massed ranks of volunteers proceeding to the Great War memorial where a bugler played 'The Last Post' after a reading of excerpts from letters written home by some of those who had died.



TIPPERARY COUNTY COUNCIL

Solohead Parish Centenary Soloheadbeg 1919

The Solohead Parish Centenary was a community-led event marking the ambush at Soloheadbeg on 21 January 1919, widely believed to have been the first shots fired in the War of Independence in Ireland. The community came together to mark this event in their local history, that also had a national impact, and commemorate the day in a respectful and inclusive way, remembering all who had been at Soloheadbeg on that day.

With the support of the Local Authority and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, a mass was celebrated by the Most Reverend Kieran O'Reilly, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, followed by a procession to the monument at Solohead Cross. There, wreaths were laid and once the names of all those present on the day were read, a minute's silence was held; the proclamation was read, as well as a Flag ceremony which was conducted by the Defence Forces.



CAVAN COUNTY COUNCIL

Cavan Older People's Council Drama Project

This drama project, entitled 'The Best Years of Our Lives Are Yet to Come', was co-written by Cavan Older People's Council and theatre practitioner Maura Williamson, and co-ordinated by Cavan County Council Social Inclusion Unit and Cavan County Council Arts Office.

It captures the richness of older people's experiences and allows the audience to understand the issues they face in negotiating a range of everyday situations. The issues raised were suggested by the participants and the scenarios were created by them.

The 'Age Friendly' social commentary uses humour to portray instances of older people's unique perspective on the world. Drama is one of the most effective vehicles for exploring and raising awareness of issues affecting our society. This project created lots of debate, discussion and fun within the process. It is proof of the enormous contribution that older people are making to our society.



CLARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Clare Cultural Companions

Clare Cultural Companions is an 'Age & Opportunity' initiative comprising of a network of older people interested in arts and culture who attend events together as a group. The project aims to breakdown rural isolation, particularly amongst the older generation, and to provide increased opportunities for older people to engage with Ireland's vibrant arts and cultural scene.

Volunteer members are facilitated by the Clare Age Friendly Programme to draw up a calendar of events to choose from every two months. All Members receive the calendar, posted out by Clare County Council, and independently book and pay for those events they wish to attend. Members meet up prior to each event and attend together, usually with a social get together built in. Most importantly, membership of Clare Cultural Companions is free; the initiative is supported by the Clare Arts Office and Clare Older People's Council.



CORK CITY COUNCIL

Friendly Call Cork

Friendly Call Cork is a free service providing a daily phone call to older people or individuals who may feel lonely, isolated and vulnerable in Cork City, specifically those with chronic illness or who cannot engage in an active way in the community. Over 60 volunteers give their time on a weekly basis to make the service possible. The volunteers currently call over 200 clients per day, Monday to Friday.

Friendly Call Cork also host social events for clients every two months, which includes an Afternoon Tea event hosted by Cork City Council once a year, as well as in other community and private venues. The volunteers attend the Afternoon Tea which gives both clients and volunteers a chance to meet face-to-face. In December 2018, Friendly Call Cork purchased a minibus to allow them to extend services to include getting clients to hospital appointments and to community and social events.



**FINGAL COUNTY COUNCIL, LIMERICK CITY & COUNTY COUNCIL
AND MEATH COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Acorn Project

The Acorn Project is a pilot project involving three local authorities, Fingal, Meath and Limerick City & County Councils, which demonstrates the impact of effective smart technology solutions for improving the health and wellbeing of older persons in urban and rural communities. It also provides an opportunity for older people to have a significant input into the development of an age-friendly tablet.

The initiative allows the local authorities to gain insight on what works when supporting older persons to get online and access the full range of supports on offer under three categories; Social, Commercial and eGovernment.

It involves three linked pilot projects involving up to 90 older persons in three local authorities. The tablet is based around five content and application pillars; Communications, Finance, Health, Intuitive Design, Sustained Independence and Security. The finished product will be an easy-to-use mobile tablet designed by older people for use by older people.



KILKENNY COUNTY COUNCIL

'Welcome to Kilkenny - Please take a Seat'

This initiative is part of a wider nationwide campaign which supports businesses to become more age friendly, in particular to attract customers within this expanding demographic. It encourages businesses to make low cost, practical changes to their businesses, whilst also raising awareness of the older customer, their needs and role in the community.

This was a joint collaboration, championed by Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce, in association with Kilkenny County Council, the Local Enterprise Office, Kilkenny Age Friendly Seniors Forum, the Public Participation Network and local business and tourism interests. Businesses and their designated champions attended a training workshop in February 2019 where participants received the Age Friendly Communication Guide and guidance on the online Dementia training. Participating businesses committed to undertaking online Dementia training, identifying their age friendly champions and identifying a minimum of three age friendly measures for implementation. 61 businesses were recognized as 'Age Friendly Businesses' in March.



MAYO COUNTY COUNCIL

Age Friendly Airport Guidelines

The aim of this project is to develop age friendly guidelines for Ireland West Airport Knock and in so doing develop guidelines that can be used by any airport across the globe. Ireland West Airport Knock expressed a desire to be recognised as an age friendly airport in 2018, which Age Friendly Ireland and Mayo County Council responded to positively and set in motion a process to assist the airport in its preparations and ongoing work.

The project guidelines provide the opportunity to assess airport environments with the intention of addressing any issues that may cause difficulty for passengers, i.e. ensuring signage is clearly visible and easy to read, providing adequate seating, and guaranteeing that customer services are of the highest standard so as to ensure that passenger experience in airports, regardless of age, is as stress-free as possible.



MONAGHAN COUNTY COUNCIL

An Age Friendly Guide to Communication

An in-depth public consultation process with older people in county Monaghan highlighted significant and consistent difficulties in accessing information, services and opportunities. Monaghan County Council's Age Friendly programme responded by developing 'An Age Friendly Guide to Communication.'

This initiative includes an information booklet that highlights the barriers experienced by older people in typical communication methods and how the natural aging process can impact on someone's ability to communicate effectively. The booklet also sets out tips and advice on how service providers can remove these barriers for customers.

The training module provides coaching for customer service staff on the barriers to communication that are experienced by some older people and how organisations can overcome these barriers.

This initiative has been replicated by many other local authorities and was showcased in a conference on aging in the House of Lords in Westminster, UK.

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