



**CHAMBERS
IRELAND**
IN BUSINESS FOR BUSINESS

Chambers Ireland would like to thank all of the kind sponsors for their involvement in the 2017 Excellence in Local Government Awards.



Welcome from Chambers Ireland



Welcome to the 2017 Excellence in Local Government Awards. Chambers Ireland is the country's largest business network with affiliated Chambers in every major town and region. Through our Chambers, we have a unique understanding of the important role played by local authorities in their communities across Ireland.

The Chamber Network has for many years been interacting and engaging constructively with local authorities on projects with a shared aim of delivering an environment that is both good for business and good for the community. The challenge of supporting and driving local economic development is not an easy one, but through collaboration and innovation local authorities and Chambers will play a vital role in enhancing the lives and society of people across Ireland.

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 authorities.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with local authorities in the coming years, particularly in order to cooperate in promoting economic development and ensuring that communities throughout Ireland can thrive.

Ian Talbot

Chief Executive
Chambers Ireland

Welcome from Vodafone



Welcome to the 2017 Excellence in Local Government Awards.

Vodafone is delighted to sponsor this year's event and is proud to work alongside Chambers Ireland and The Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in recognising and rewarding the excellent work that takes place within local government and authorities that can so often go unrecognised.

As Ireland's leading total communications provider, Vodafone's work crosses the urban rural divide. Our services support government, local government, consumers and all types of businesses all over the country.

Our Gigabit Hubs initiative is sparking digital transformation in towns across Ireland by providing Gigabit connectivity to qualifying hubs free of charge for two years. The possibilities and benefits of digital connectivity for towns across Ireland are endless. Having access to high-speed broadband internet connectivity will mean that employees and businesses can now be based in any location, retain local skills, knowledge and talent and compete on a level playing field with larger cities.

These types of initiatives would not be possible without the hard work and support of local authorities in these areas and their commitment to finding new ways of ensuring communities and business across the country strengthen and continue to grow. Vodafone has made significant investment to expand its technology offering within the public sector, supporting them to adapt to the technology revolution, and will continue to do so.

We look forward to continuing to work closely with local authorities and finding new ways of partnering to stimulate local economic growth and regeneration across the country.

John Clancy

Head of Public Sector Business, Vodafone Ireland

Judging Panel 2017

Round One

- Seán Ó Riordáin, *Chairman, Public Policy Advisors Network*
- Alex Connolly, *Head of Communications, Fáilte Ireland*
- Fiona Douglas, *Regional Development Officer, Northern Ireland Local Government Association*
- Geraldine Tallon, *Former Secretary General, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government*
- Diarmuid O'Leary, *Principal Officer, Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government*

Round Two

- Seán Ó Riordáin, *Chairman, Public Policy Advisors Network*
- Jack Keyes, *Consultant and Former County Council Chief Executive, Cavan*
- Tony O'Brien, *Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council and Principal at TOB Associates*
- Martin Tobin, *CEO, European Recycling Platform (ERP) Ireland*
- John Clancy, *Head of Public Sector Business, Vodafone Ireland*

Local Government Policy Council

- Tony O'Brien, *Chair, Chambers Ireland Local Government Policy Council and Principal at TOB Associates*
- Sarah Foley, *Policy & Research Executive, Cork Chamber*
- Thomas McHugh, *Director of Policy & External Relations*
- Fergus Sharpe, *Policy Executive Dublin Chamber*
- Andrea Carroll, *Sustainable Business Programme Manager, South Dublin Chamber*
- Hilary Haydon, *Joint Managing Partner, Hilary Haydon & Company*
- Joe Allan, *Former PO, Department of Environment, Community & Local Government*
- Barry Doyle, *Director, County Carlow Chamber*
- Allan Shine, *Chief Executive, North Kildare Chamber*
- Brian O'Donnell, *Policy Research Analyst, Limerick Chamber*

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Clare County Council

Clare County Council International “One Tree Per Child” Initiative



“One Tree Per Child” is an international tree planting initiative which was founded by Olivia Newton-John and Jon Dee in June 2015. The aim of the initiative is that every child plants one tree as part of an official school activity, delivering the benefits of both environmental enhancement and education. It aims to foster more engagement between students and the environment. In March 2017, Active Kilrush (part of the Sport & Recreation unit of Clare County Council) became participants in this scheme together with the two local primary schools and Kilrush Tidy Towns. Kilrush is the first town in Ireland to join the “One Tree Per Child” initiative.

Cork County Council

Dunmanway Community Garden – By the Community, for the Community, in the Heart of the Community



The aim of Dunmanway Community Garden was to design, build, maintain and use a shared community garden space. The garden is located on an acre site which is being leased from Cork County Council on an initial licence agreement for 5 years, which commenced in 2013. The garden is maintained by a dedicated group of volunteers and the space is open for everyone to enjoy. In less than twelve months, this group turned a waste ground into a beautiful community shared space. Produce is shared among those who contribute to the garden through volunteering, donations of plants, seeds, baking, Meals on Wheels, Community Lunch and celebrations such as Street Feast.

Fingal County Council

Design a Book Project



“Design a Book Project” is a collaborative project between Fingal County Council, (Libraries Division) the Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and community partners the Sacred Heart School, Huntstown, Dublin 15, to deliver books to support the development of children’s personal, social and emotional development. The project is undertaken through a Civic Engagement approach; a process where people join together to deliver something of value to the community and for the benefit of all involved. In 2016, 33 4th year students enrolled on the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Degree programme ‘Early Childhood Care and Education’ (ECCE) and were tasked with designing and developing a story book for children from 3-6 years of age that would support children’s personal, social and emotional development. One book “Sonas and Daithí” was selected for publication by Fingal, by a judging panel at interactive showcase events with children from Sacred Heart School, Huntstown, on ITB campus.

Kildare County Council

Purple Flag Maynooth



Purple Flag is the international accreditation for town centres in the evening and at night between the hours of 5pm and 5am. Like a blue flag for beaches, towns that achieve the required standards can fly the flag. Purple Flag towns distinguish themselves as being vibrant and well managed, with a diverse offering. Both Kildare County Council and County Kildare Chamber worked collaboratively in putting Maynooth town forward for this Purple Flag initiative in January 2016. After 11 months of hard work and commitment by both the Council and the Chamber, Maynooth was recently awarded the accreditation for the town in January 2017. The flag is now flying proudly throughout the town.

Monaghan County Council

A Guide to Age Friendly Communication



Monaghan County Council Age Friendly County Programme aims to make Monaghan a better place in which to grow old through the delivery of Monaghan Age Friendly Strategy. Access to information and services was one of the key issues raised by older people in Monaghan. Many older people highlighted the barriers, difficulties and challenges they experience daily when trying to access services, information or supports of Monaghan County Council and other public services. Many of these difficulties arise from a lack of awareness of the older customer. . They hope the tips and information contained in the booklet will bring the concerns of the older people of Monaghan to the wider community in relation to accessing services and information. A guide to Age Friendly Communication is available on www.monaghan.ie

South Dublin County Council

South Dublin County 55 plus Daily Active Planner



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The South Dublin County 55plus Daily Activity Planner is a directory detailing in one single complete, easy to use document, the vast range of activities, services and things to do for those residents in the South Dublin County aged 55 and over. It was produced by the Community Development Team in South Dublin County Council responding to local discussions, feedback and information highlighting the huge lack of knowledge some local residents had as to the range of activities and services available for people aged 55plus. The Activity Planner is essentially a resource to help older people find out 'what's going on every day in their local areas' and helps empower and facilitate them to lead more active, healthy lives within their own communities. The Planner is freely available both online via the Council's website or as a hardcopy booklet and has been widely distributed right across the County.

Dublin City Council

Dublin City Intercultural Language Service



The Dublin City Intercultural Language Service (DCILS) is an innovative thrice-weekly English language drop-in centre, focussing on 'natural' learning, i.e. developing real-world communicative skills. The scope of the centre is to bring learners to a level where they are able to survive and thrive in the social, vocational and civic domains of the City. The core purpose of this centre is to provide English language, integration, vocational and social orientation, intercultural and active citizenship training to those in need, to the marginalised or to struggling non-Irish born cohort in the North Inner City area. At the same time, the centre serves as a site of community building between the newcomer population and the local community through social and cultural events which promote intercultural awareness. The centre also acts as a clearing house and connective hub for other entities and organisations that are providing similar services in this area of the city and beyond.

Fingal County Council

The Pathway to Participation



The Pathway to Participation program is an initiative of Fingal County Council's Community Development Office, targeting all citizens of Fingal, regardless of their age or level of ability, to promote and encourage community engagement. It supports the progression of individuals to actively engage in their community. This process includes developing the capacity of local leaders, supporting training opportunities, mentoring local organisations and partnering with key agencies to develop innovative projects.

Kerry County Council

Development of a Milltown Community & Chamber Alliance

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Best Practice in Citizen Engagement

This project was initiated to address the absence of a representative community and business structure in Milltown. The town had experienced rapid expansion, the pace and scale of the change unprecedented among towns and villages in Co Kerry. Between 2006 and 2016 the town's population increased by 112%. Its central location and the availability of land propelled this rapid change. Infrastructure had been developed, retrospectively, to meet some needs of the growing young population. The absence of a strategic response to the social change was evident. The community was not cohesive with some historic divisions. Despite the growth there was little growth of the economic base, diversification of economy or services development. With community agreement, a socio-economic profile was undertaken by Mary Immaculate College, UL, as a first step to enable the identification of challenges and priorities by the community leading to the development of Milltown Community and Chamber Alliance.

Monaghan County Council

Breaking Down Stereotypes Intergenerational Project



In 2016 Monaghan Comhairle na nÓg participated in an intergenerational project with Monaghan Older peoples network on stereotyping. Together they produced a DVD which looked at the different stereotypes experienced by both younger and older people in society. Stereotypes are with us everywhere in life. They are on the television, on the programmes we watch, in our newspapers, our magazines and in advertisements everywhere we go. These stereotypes shouldn't put us off having interests and pastimes that a young or old person shouldn't have. This project looked at this issue and the DVD addressed this issue in a fun and creative way.



South Dublin County Council

€300K – Have Your Say!



Participatory Budgeting is a local democratic process which facilitates citizens in a local community to directly decide how to spend a portion of a public budget in their area. It gives people direct power to determine spending priorities to improve their community. For 2017, South Dublin County Council in their Annual Budget allocated an additional €300,000 for one electoral area. The Lucan Electoral Area was chosen by a substantial amount of people at a public meeting. Through a combination of locally facilitated workshops and an online consultation portal, <http://www.sdcc.ie/haveyoursay>, residents were invited to submit their ideas and spending priorities for this budget. Residents were then able to vote for their priorities through a digital/ paper ballot, up to the value of €300,000.

Cork County Council

Physical Activity and Wellbeing Office



Cork County Council recognises that there is an untapped potential for local authorities to play a stronger role in promoting physical health and wellbeing. The Council already has an enviable track record in creating an environment for wellbeing. This is done through the provision of recreational and amenity infrastructure and facilities, e.g. parks, playgrounds, beaches, walking trails etc. By promoting the hugely positive association between physical activity and all aspects of health and wellbeing, Cork County Council recognises an opportunity to perform a preventative role in providing for the psycho-social wellbeing of the people of Cork and also for the 2,200 staff working in the Council. A key objective of the Cork County Local Economic & Community Plan is to promote physical activity and wellbeing. The establishment of this unique initiative has already played a hugely important part in enabling both staff and the public the opportunity to lead happier and healthier lives into the future.



Fingal County Council

MarathonKids – Children's Marathon running programme



The aim of the programme is to inspire children to run their first Marathon of 26.2 miles and to encourage all students to embrace healthy pastimes and active lifestyles. Each participating student and teacher received a 28 page workbook containing a child friendly daily training plan. It is packed with information about the Marathon, helpful running tips, the importance of hydration and nutrition. In addition, there are sections covering the benefits of exercise under the headings, physical, mental, social, educational and community, which are broken down into 5-10 minute daily conversational sub-topics for the entire class to discuss. The Teacher's version also includes comprehensive notes including suggestions for warm up/cool down and movement activities in addition to fun games to ensure the students enjoy their entire training experience.

Mayo County Council

Men on the Move



Men on the Move “The Best Move You will Ever Make” is an initiative which aims to increase the level of physical activity amongst men over 30 years of age. In 2013, more than 150 men all aged 30 plus from communities across Mayo engaged in this unique physical activity programme. In 2015, the programme rolled out in 12 locations around the county including Achill, Belmullet, Ballyhaunis, Ballinrobe, Ballaghderreen, Ballina, Charlestown, Castlebar, Claremorris, Crossmolina, Swinford and Westport. “Men on the Move” is now part of a national research programme into men’s health co-ordinated by Waterford IT and funded by the HSE. Eight counties are part of this initiative, four for intervention (Donegal, Galway, Mayo and Waterford) and four for comparison (Cork, Dublin, Kilkenny, Limerick).



South Dublin County Council

It's not just a Race



South Dublin delivers an athletics series that encourages participation for 9 -12 year olds targeting primary school boys & girls between 3rd - 6th class. The series takes place monthly from February to May in local parks, cumulating in a grand Final in May. 3,000 children run weekly as part of this series and thousands more are involved in the training. This programme encourages children to become more active through their PE programme in a fun, challenging and active environment. The length of the series allows for personal fitness improvements, team play and development in personal wellbeing. The Paralympics section has grown due to popular demand for inclusion and recognition of pupils with disabilities within our schools. Teachers bring a team of 50 children from each school, which includes both “sporty and non sporty” children.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council dlr Spring into Heritage



The Spring into Heritage and Summer of Heritage events, are a series of free guided tours run by the Heritage Office of Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (dlr). They are suitable for schools, students, families, community groups, active retired, historic groups and tourists interested in DLR heritage. The tours are a great way of informing and educating people about the true historical value of an area, building, or object. They create interest and build excitement by guiding the visitor through heritage sites including Churches, Burial Grounds, Obelisks, Castles, Museums, Country Houses, Martello Towers and Nature Trails. A Biosphere tour of Dublin Bay 2016 saw a massive increase in visitor numbers, the highest since 2008, with almost 28,000 people attending the events.



Fingal County Council

DIT Students in Action



In the 2016/2017 academic year a dedicated team of two hundred students accepted the 'Students in Action' Destination challenge. The aim of the Students in Action Initiative is to engage with businesses throughout the county, both tourism-focused and more broadly; with communities; and with the County Council itself to identify ways to encourage even more local and international visitors to see the whole of Fingal as a choice destination and to keep them coming back. Fingal County Council identified Castleknock/ Blanchardstown, the Fingal Rural Villages and Balbriggan as destinations that are at an earlier stage of development and charged the students with delivering tourism product proposals for each destination.

Galway County Council

Portumna Marina and Camper Van Recreational Park



This is the first local authority managed, dedicated overnight parking area for Camper Vans in Ireland. 18 serviced (electricity and water) parking bays have been developed as part of the refurbishment of Portumna Marina in order to provide an integrated location for overnight stays by Camper Vans and Boats. This offers a fantastic location for visitors to Portumna to engage with the surrounding tourist attractions, all of which are within walking distance of the facility, of Portumna Forest Park, Portumna Castle, Lough Derg and the Shannon, The Irish Workhouse Centre, and Portumna Town itself.

The Camper Van market segment is a rapidly growing one which is poorly serviced throughout Ireland. This market segment offers an opportunity for rural tourism locations with low accommodation bases to attract greater number of overnight stays and increased dwell time. This project increases the attractiveness of Portumna as a key access point to Lough Derg.

Leitrim County Council

Sliabh an Iarainn Visitor Centre

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Supporting Tourism

In the 1980s Leitrim County Council opened a visitor centre in the Library in Drumshanbo. The centre focused on the industrial heritage of the area which was predominately marked by coal production, electricity and jam manufacturing. These industries had a long history in the area and were the main economic drivers for many decades but each one declined and ceased to exist by the early 1990s. Over the passage of time the technology of the Visitor Centre became obsolete. In the late 1980s the Council built the Teach Ceol at Acres Lake, Drumshanbo. The building reflected the strong traditional music scene of the area which has produced many nationally renowned musicians. The opportunity arose to relocate the visitor centre at Teach Ceol and redevelop the visitor experience in its new scenic location. The concept of the New Sliabh An Iarainn Visitor Centre was created. The aim of the centre is to provide visitor information on the heritage, culture and landscape of the area.

Louth County Council

Gateway to the Boyne Valley Exhibition at the Tholsel, Drogheda



The Gateway to the Boyne Valley Exhibition at the Tholsel, Drogheda was launched October 2016 by Mayor of Drogheda, Cllr. Oliver Tully. The exhibition involved a complete upgrade of the ground floor of the 18th century Tholsel building, originally the Municipal Authority, more recently the tourist office. This exhibition aims to motivate the visitor through unique multi touch screens to explore the 33 heritage sites along the Boyne Valley Drive. The 'Our Town Drogheda' exhibition has bright vibrant panels incorporating Ireland's Ancient East complimenting the 18th century room. Display cases incorporate arts, crafts, literature and music of the region into the exhibition to help visitors understand the depth of the cultural offering in the region which is more evident with the successful bid for Fleadh 2018. The Our Town exhibition details the strong arts tradition, in addition to the history of the building reaching its 250th Anniversary in 2020.



Waterford City & County Council

Waterford Greenway



Waterford Greenway is a spectacular 46 km off-road cycling and walking trail along an old railway line from the quays of Ireland's oldest city all the way to Dungarvan. Greenways have a particularly strong appeal to visitors, both domestic and overseas. There is a rise in the popularity of walking and cycling holidays, with emerging consumer trends towards good health, self-improvement and wellbeing.

Officially opened in March this year, it is a beautiful journey through time and nature across three tall viaducts and a long atmospheric tunnel, from the river to the sea. Along this route in Ireland's Ancient East is a Viking settlement, Norman Castles, medieval ruins, an old workhouse, deserted railway stations and a heritage railway train that still runs along part of the tracks.

Kerry County Council

TasteKerry



Kerry County Council has worked with stakeholders to develop the “Taste Kerry” initiative. This vigorous and proactive interaction has led to the formation of “Taste Kerry”.

“Taste Kerry” is a vibrant food promotion group for those involved in food in the county, including producers and the hospitality sector. This has led to an identifiable brand for the entire Kerry food sector including food production, food service and food tourism. Kerry County Council applied for and secured funding through the CEDRA scheme to allow development and expansion of the work. A “Taste Kerry” brand and accompanying logo was designed. A website/social media platform was created to act as a central communication hub for producers, retailers, chefs and consumers. Tangible outputs include the support for new food festivals, development of a dedicated food production facility and the publication of 10,000 copies of a Food and Drink Producer Directory.



Limerick City & County Council

Regeneration Programme: Model of pathways to employment in the hospitality and catering industry



Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) has created an integrated model for pathways to employment providing 150 job placements, with 90 placements gained by regeneration area residents. LCCC's Regeneration Programme is based on an integrated approach centred on three pillars of social, economic and physical development. This project is a market-led skills training and employment programme, integrating economic and social actions and leading directly to job placements for people who otherwise would likely remain unemployed. The strategy involves collaboration between public organisations and the hospitality industry to identify skills shortages in the hospitality sector; design and deliver quality assured skills training, creating a supply of skilled labour; targeting long-term unemployed, early schools leavers, young unemployed; and supporting trainees to access the jobs. The project leverages significant match funding from the key public organisations responsible for training and employment support.

Meath County Council

ECON COMMUTE – Meath Economic Development – A Strategic Approach



Meath County Council's historic record in promoting economic development, while noteworthy in the context of indigenous industry, needed to become more visible, positive and business-like in its interaction with the private sector and state authorities. Therefore, in 2014, the Council set about preparing a robust and resilient economic strategy for the County, which would provide a policy platform to deliver sustainable economic growth. Based on a methodology which combines spatial planning with the delivery of primary economic objectives, the strategy places the Council at the cutting edge of policy development. The implementation of this innovative strategy has also served to invigorate the County, with Meath County Council becoming demonstrably more pro-active in collaborating with stakeholders and leading economic development initiatives countywide.



Monaghan County Council

Monaghan Town Team: Dedicated to promoting Monaghan



Monaghan Town Team is an example of a project delivered by an innovative and forward thinking Municipal District who are working collaboratively with and value their local business community and stakeholders. The project has been part-funded for three years with a set of key objectives to attract inward investment, increase footfall, reduce economic leakage and promote Monaghan Town.

The Monaghan Town Team has been established to provide a strategic link between Monaghan Municipal District and the business community to improve the prosperity of Monaghan Town & District; enhance the well-being of the community and to create a sustainable & vibrant town centre economy.

The voluntary team undertake projects which are focused on revitalising the Town Centre by supporting the development of a broad mix of community, food, music, leisure and retail events that help to keep the Town Centre vibrant and appealing to residents and visitors alike.

Sligo County Council

An Chroí – South Sligo Enterprise Centre



Following the relocation of the Headquarters of the Aurivo Co-op in 2015, the community and Sligo County Council together provided the opportunity to develop An Chroí - South Sligo Enterprise Centre by means of the Tubbercurry REDZ Programme. This was an extremely welcome development and enabled the creation of c. 7,000 sq. feet of valuable enterprise/ incubation/ training space (much of it easily convertible for other uses as required). This development has created a top quality space for start-ups and small enterprises as well as a state of the art training facility which has benefited from significant levels of use to date.

An Chroí has also become home to a range of community groups and acts as an education and training hub for South Sligo. An Chroí is a prime example of a successful community enterprise and has become the heart of South Sligo.



Cork City Council

Cork City Council Competitive Dialogue Housing Delivery Process



The objective of Cork City Council's innovative housing procurement project was to provide a streamlined solution to the housing delivery issues in a central urban area within the confines of various constraints, ranging from the scarcity of sites available to stakeholders and other concerns. The aim of the project was to deliver several hundred newly constructed social housing units throughout 2017 in addition to other housing provision methods. The innovative Competitive Dialogue Procurement model developed and adapted by Cork City Council has provided a solution to the problem outlined in a central housing hot spot. It is based on the adoption of an EU procurement procedure which is integrated with a local authority planning procedure. Both procedures operate within an overarching competitive dialogue wherein the Procurement Authority engages transparently and proportionally, with all the stakeholders, from land owners and developers, to designers and communities; it has delivered spectacular results.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

dlr Downsizing Initiative



dlr understand that downsizing is an emotional journey with memories of raising families and established communities. There can be a reluctance to move, unless the new property specifically meets the tenants' long-term needs. The dlr Downsizing Initiative is about investing in the design and environment of developments to promote downsizing, thereby facilitating tenants to choose a home suitable to their needs. The advantage to the Council is that larger homes are returned and reallocated to new families on the waiting list. We have a number of schemes at varying stages of development which reflect what we are trying to achieve. Rochestown House is designated for older people with excellent public transport links, social infrastructure and a welcoming public space. The Brambles; a development of 10 homes for older people, extending the adjacent community centre for activities/services for older people and 21 homes and a Community Centre in Ballinteer specifically encouraging older people to downsize.

Leitrim County Council

Lough Rinn Rowing Facility



Leitrim County Council designed and developed an eight lane fixed rowing course on Lough Rinn at Mohill in County Leitrim. The course is located 15 minutes from the N4, within 2 hours of Dublin City Centre. The course offers eight lanes to international standard, providing rowers with excellent opportunity to row 2000ms along with over 1000ms of additional water course available for warm up and cool down areas. The course is also adaptable to a nine lane canoeing course and is also suitable for other water based sports such as kayaking or angling. The course has hosted national regattas, time trials and has served as a training location for many clubs and national teams.

Mayo County Council

Our People, Our Place



Mayo County Council took an innovative approach to engage all of their citizens, both at home and abroad, by producing a short cinematic quality film, intended to create an emotional attachment to the County. The short production was filmed in both Mayo and New York to reflect the dispersion of our people to all corners of the world, highlighting our tenacious and resilient spirit. An innovative Social Media Campaign was implemented resulting in over 1 million views of the film within 48 hours of launch. This phenomenally successful campaign was due to the collaboration between Mayo County Council staff and community groups, businesses, members of the public, essential services employees, local, national and international media and our own diaspora.

Wicklow County Council

The Wicklow County Councillors Gala Function in aid of the Wicklow Hospice Foundation (WHF)



Wicklow County Councillors took a unanimous decision to organise a Gala Dinner, Charity Auction and Raffle fundraising event to help raise much needed funds for the Wicklow Hospice. The reason they picked this project was that the Hospice will provide end of life care to persons throughout County Wicklow. Recognising this need and the great fundraising work already done, the Councillors felt they could help with a major contribution. A fundraising committee was established and to kick start efforts the Councillors pledged €10,000 from each of the five Municipal District Funds of Bray, Arklow, Greystones, Wicklow and Baltinglass, bringing the total amount raised from the event to a fantastic €84,200. This incredible boost in fundraising brought the €1m shortfall within reach and heralded the announcement on the night from Minister for Health Simon Harris that commitment had been secured for the necessary additional €1m from the HSE.

Cork City Council

Greening of Glow



The GLOW family Christmas Festival is based around a Cork city park that is decorated and illuminated in a Christmas theme. The park is surrounded by food markets, street amusements, a Ferris wheel and other Christmas related activities. GLOW runs for four weekends prior to Christmas and attracts approximately 170,000 visitors each year.

The aim of the initiative was to reduce the environmental footprint of the festival. The use of low energy design (LED) illuminations, compostable packaging by all food traders and the introduction of segregated waste bins in parallel with delivery of an environmental message served to deliver a more sustainable festival.

Green Elves were on site at all times and interacted with visitors and assisted them to make the correct bin choice and to discuss environmental matters. The initiative succeeded in diverting approximately 40% of the festival waste from landfill and achieved over 20% of energy savings.

Kerry County Council

MacGillycuddy Reeks Habitat and Trail Repair Project – a Collaborative Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) initiative



This project involved the development of a locally based skilled workforce in upland trail repair, in conjunction with a capital habitat restoration and trail repair works program in the MacGillycuddy Reeks, Co Kerry. The project was very much based on a social enterprise model, with innovation, community strengthening and environmental protection at the fore. It also helped safeguard the local recreational, tourism and agricultural scene for which the Reeks are a valuable underlying resource. The involvement of the Local Development Company (South Kerry Development Partnership), the MacGillycuddy Reeks Mountain Access Forum, landowners and the wider community was key to its success.

Meath County Council

Clean Up Navan Campaign



Meath County Council initiated a new scheme in Navan Town to improve community activity, to strengthen connections and to improve and maintain a strong, healthy, sustainable environment in Navan. The initiative began on April 1st 2016 with a wide section of the community – Chamber of Commerce members, fast food outlets, council staff, a community employment scheme, local pubs and restaurants, residents associations, charities and local individuals coming together for a comprehensive ‘Clean Up’ of the town. The second event took place on April 29th and attracted a larger group of volunteers. The Clean Up events were repeated on the last Friday of each month throughout the year. The number of participants has grown from month to month, with large numbers of secondary school students engaging in the scheme and volunteering to take part. The Council aims to roll this out to other towns in the County, using the Clean Up Navan Campaign model.

Monaghan County Council

Working closely with the hospitality sector in County Monaghan to reduce food waste



The project involved Monaghan County Council's Environment section working closely with a number of hotels and restaurants in the county with the aim of reducing food waste in the hospitality sector. The project was carried out under the guidance and direction of the Council's Environmental Awareness Officer (EAO) and with the assistance of local company Profitwatch. The project involved carrying out a series of food waste audits at a number of well known hotel and restaurant establishments in the county with the aim of identifying the origins of the food waste and to determine the most effective ways of reducing food waste. Apart from the environmental benefits associated with the reduction of food waste, a major attraction to the businesses that participated in the project was the opportunity to make significant cost savings which has proved to be the case.

Donegal County Council

Wainfest Arts and Book Festival for Children



Wainfest is an arts and book festival for children held each year in October in libraries and other cultural services locations throughout Donegal. Each year the festival strives to increase children's engagement with reading, culture, language, arts and heritage by offering the very best in performance for children aged between four and twelve years of age. The festival programme includes author visits, storytelling, rhyme time, puppet shows, science and digital workshops, exhibitions, creative writing and art workshops, theatre productions, farming events and music. The festival is primarily aimed at schools but over the last number of years they have introduced a successful family programme. The 2016 programme comprised 79 school events and 17 family events attracting 3445 children to libraries, museums and theatres throughout Donegal. Wainfest is a vibrant growing festival providing entertainment, enjoyment, fun, magic and laughter to thousands of children for almost 21 years.



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council dlr Caterpillar Commissions



Following the adoption of the Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council (dlr) Library Development Plan in April 2016 dlr Lexicon commenced Sunday opening from 12.00 - 4.00pm on a pilot basis with the key objective of increasing accessibility to the library. On a Sunday, facilities open to the public include the Central Library, the Municipal Gallery, the Car Park and Brambles Café. The building is staffed by facilities management. Usage is different on a Sunday with no library staff on duty. With the use of self service technology the public avail of the following: returning & borrowing stock, public internet PCs and WiFi, Sunday newspapers, study spaces and social meeting place. Sunday usage has grown significantly with some 1,300 people visiting the building each weekend. dlr Lexicon is the first public library in Ireland to open on a Sunday.

Kildare County Council

Support to Secondary Schools Programme



Kildare Library Service Support to Secondary Schools Programme is an annual programme of events, workshops and classes aimed at supporting the school curriculum as well as career and personal development for students in secondary schools in Kildare. The programme has separate tailored events aimed at the three stages, Junior Cycle, Senior Cycle and Transition Year students. The programme provides opportunities for young people to learn in a fun, interactive way outside of the classroom setting. The majority of the programmed events take place in the community library, thereby also encouraging young people who participate to become familiar with the library space and the free services that are available. The programme also encourages and develops stronger links between Kildare Library Service and local secondary schools by providing a comprehensive programme that complements the school curriculum while promoting the free supports and services that are available to teachers.

South Dublin County Council

Digital Technologies – STEAM in South Dublin Libraries



South Dublin Libraries are cornerstones of their communities, providing access to the world of ideas and information. The way information is created, used and accessed has changed and new technology is no longer new –digitally native is the new norm. From the outset SD Libraries have been involved with ICT classes, digital resources, literacy support packages; service-led demands and they now include SMART device training, e-resource showcases, byte-sized training and initiatives which come under the STEAM heading. All branch libraries have participated in delivery of the project. Alongside this has come a commitment to STEAM activities. STEAM disciplines play a key role in the sustained growth/stability of the economy. In April 2017 a celebration of TECHWEEK included a month long Technorama event which encouraged adults of all ages to become involved with technology in easy and short sessions. It included sessions on South Dublin's online resources, online learning with open education and a Smartphone and tablet clinic.

Waterford City and County Council Carrickphierish Library



Carrickphierish Library in partnership with Carrickphierish Campus; a partnership approach to a multi-use campus incorporating the new library, sports hall and two primary schools in the North West suburbs of Waterford City. As a landmark public building, it expresses the confidence of Waterford City & County Council in the growth potential of the area. It is a statement about the confidence Waterford City & County Council has in the ability of its public library service to lead as an enabler for the new and growing population in the area. The Library service brings a combination of trusted values, exciting innovative technologies and a collaborative, positive approach to community development which will continue to develop in time.



Cork County Council

The Living Space Project Mallow



“The Living Space Project” is an initiative aimed at enlivening public spaces through a series of free, fun, summer arts events. Street circus, aerial shows, theatre, music of all genres, puppet shows all converged on Mallow Town and events culminated in a “Picnic in the Castle” in the newly refurbished grounds of Mallow Castle. Over 53 different acts/artists took part on three Saturdays and one Sunday during July and August. The Project showcased a wide range of arts activity in Mallow to local and wider audiences and brought together local arts groups, businesses and the Council. It confirmed that working together could bring about very positive results growing cultural, social, economic and tourism benefits.

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council

dlr Caterpillar Commissions



Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council recognises the importance of life-long learning and the positive impact that early intervention has in addressing education inequality. dlr Caterpillar Commissions were developed in response to the need for better access to cultural activities for very young children within their own locality. These funded opportunities to create new art works are based in community childcare facilities within our County. These facilities provide support for parents in low paid employment and training or education by enabling qualifying parents to avail of reduced childcare costs. We have commissioned four projects to date, each are inspired by and developed with the children and the early years educators. This approach allows the artists to reflect on and develop the artistic work with their target audience from the start.



Kerry County Council

Welcoming The Stranger



Choreographer Catherine Young spent the summer of 2016 researching and developing a new thirty-minute dance piece with 21 dancers and 6 musicians as part of 'Feile Failte' that took place on Banna Beach July 23rd as part of the 2016 centenary celebrations. The cast included migrants and refugees from Iraq, Africa, Syria and Gaza and was aimed to foster integration between the migrant community in Tralee and locals. Ages ranged from 7 to 52 with equal male/female participation. The arts project actively engaged over 30 people in research workshops and rehearsals. The work formed part of Catherine's residency with Kerry County Council, co funded by The Arts Council. It was a co-production between the KCC Dancer in residence programme, Siamsa Tire and Fearghus O'Conchuir's 'The Casement Project'.



Meath County Council

BORN/BEIRTHE by Deirdre Kinahan, Primary Schools Theatre Project



BORN/BEIRTHE- Primary Schools Theatre Project is an exciting new play by Meath award winning playwright Deirdre Kinahan and accompanying workshop programme by Theatre Director and Actor Padraic McIntyre. It depicts the events of Easter Week 1916 and is written entirely for children to perform. Translated into Irish by playwright/facilitator Ciarán Gray, the English & Irish language versions were 'gifted' to all primary secondary schools in the county – 109 schools in total including 11 Gaelscoileana. The accompanying workshop programme was delivered in three schools in the county over a six month period culminating in performances for fellow students, families and friends. Shortlisted by the Bord Gais Student Theatre Awards for best overall play, BORN/BEIRTHE provided over 300 primary students with the opportunity to explore a new work by one of Ireland's leading contemporary playwrights facilitated by a professional Theatre Director.

Wexford County Council

Living Arts – Arts in Education



The Living Arts Project was established in 2013 as a long term visual arts scheme designed for primary schools in Wexford and run as a partnership between the Arts Department of Wexford County Council and the Wexford Arts Centre. Central to this project is the joined belief in engaging with and furthering the understanding of the fundamentals of contemporary visual art practices and making this even more attainable and accessible for local audiences. Visual artists residing in Wexford and working in all manner of visual arts disciplines and practices, along with interested Primary Schools, are invited to apply to participate in the project annually. Based on the expressions of interest received from each school, artists are shortlisted and selection is determined by the schools needs. Four schools partake in the project for up to 15 weeks each academic year.

Dublin City Council

Dublin Economic Monitor



The Dublin Economic Monitor (DEM) is a joint initiative of the four Dublin local authorities that provides reliable tracking of the economic performance of the Dublin region. It is published quarterly both in print and online (www.dublineconomy.ie). The DEM contains in-depth statistics and analysis of areas such as employment, commercial property, residential property, port and airport activity etc. It also contains the Markit PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) for Dublin, making it only the third city in the world to develop a bespoke Markit PMI and allowing the city to track the performance of the services, manufacturing and construction sectors. The project has also built Dublin's first consumer sentiment index in partnership with KBC Bank and ESRI. The DEM tracks Dublin's comparative performance in international benchmarks in areas such as competitiveness, innovation and quality of living. Finally, each issue contains a number of specially commissioned articles dealing with topics relevant to the economy of the Dublin region.

Limerick City & County Council

Housing Assistance Payment Shared Services Centre



Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017

Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) is a key part of the Government's Rebuilding Ireland: Action Plan for Housing and Homelessness and provides a more integrated system of housing supports. It is the largest non-capital element of Government housing support. The HAP Shared Services Centre in Limerick is the national customer contact and financial transaction centre for HAP, and is responsible for managing all HAP financial transactions for the 31 Local Authorities and Dublin Regional Homeless Executive. In addition to a range of transactional services, HAP SSC is also the data management and analytics hub for HAP stakeholders. By 2021, the HAP SSC will have 111 new jobs (42 to date) and will manage 84,000 tenancies with a financial turnover in excess of €600m pa. HAP SSC staff are recruited from private sector and local authority backgrounds, with expertise in high volume transactions and local authority programme delivery.

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Joint Local Authority Initiative



Monaghan County Council

Cavan and Monaghan Science Festival



This week long festival took place from 13th-20th November 2016 during National Science Week, in venues all over the counties Monaghan and Cavan. The festival attracted approximately 8,500 attendees and consisted of over 140 events including: a programme of Public Science Events, a large scale Family Fun Day in each County and a comprehensive Schools and Community Programme. The festival was allocated grant funding of €35,000 by Science Foundation Ireland and was supported through additional funding from both County Councils and Cavan/Monaghan ETB. The festival has its own dedicated website www.cavanmonaghansciencefestival.ie. The festival showcased some of the best national and international scientists, researchers and speakers, demonstrating and discussing a broad range of subjects. The festival programme was designed to stimulate interest, excitement and debate about STEM through accessible and entertaining interactions with the public.

Donegal County Council

SEA SESSIONS Surf and Music Festival



Sea Sessions is one of Ireland's most highly respected small festivals and is widely recognised as being the country's premier music, camping and surfing lifestyle event. The Festival sells out to capacity crowds each year and continues to grow in popularity. In 2016 the festival sold out over 3 weeks in advance. Sea Sessions has played host to such luminaries as Paul Weller, Tinie Tempah, Bastille, Seasick Steve, Example and Gavin James to name but a few. Sea Sessions is a celebration of Ireland's unique surf and outdoors lifestyle as lived along the Wild Atlantic Way. Situated right on the beach in the Capital of Irish Surfing, Bundoran, the festival has become an iconic gathering of surfers and festival fans from across Ireland, England, Europe and beyond.



Limerick City & County Council

Riverfest Limerick



Celebrating Limerick's riverine heritage, Riverfest takes place annually over the May Bank Holiday weekend. As Ireland's only city located on the River Shannon, Limerick leads the way with a spectacular civic festival on the banks and waters of this great natural resource. Taking Limerick's reputation as an 'edgy city', Riverfest harnesses that concept bringing to the fore the city's energy and excitement: from the spray of jet-boarders to the speed of zip-wires, to the explosion of spectacular fireworks and the base tones of international acts in concert. Riverfest brings together local communities, audiences and participants from home and abroad, to enthuse, enjoy and engage with the river. The result is a festival of international standard which promotes Limerick as place of natural and built heritage, energy, culture and community. A living city where the river is its stage.

Louth County Council

The Irish Maritime Festival 2016



The Irish Maritime Festival is a Louth County Council initiative - in partnership with Drogheda Port Company - which delivers Ireland's largest maritime, food and family festival in the historic town of Drogheda on the banks of the river Boyne. Through engagement with the local businesses and strong links with community and voluntary groups, the Irish Maritime Festival has helped foster a true community spirit in the town, while also delivering an economic return to the local economy of Drogheda. It delivers an all encompassing family festival for both locals and tourists to the region and enhances Drogheda's profile on the tourist stage. From its inception in 2013, both the popularity and size of the festival has grown, creating a buzz for all involved and a lasting memory for all who visit.



Monaghan County Council

Monaghan Country Music Festival



Monaghan Country Music festival commenced in July 2013 attracting in excess of 20,000 attendees to Monaghan over four successive evenings. Organised by a voluntary committee and donating all proceeds to local charities, the family based festival attracts country music enthusiasts from all over the nation to an open air concert arena set in the town's Diamond. Such is the scale and the unique character of the music festival, that it has continually attracted the largest acts in the business and featured on TV programmes and music videos. Monaghan County Council provides full and free support services to the event including traffic control, sanitary facilities and security fencing, cementing a close relationship with the local organisers and businesses.

Wicklow County Council

Bray Air Display



Bray Air Display is a multi-faceted event that provides something that is both cultural and artistic. Bray Air Display is unique in terms of scale and organisation. The event started in 2005 following interest from an aviation enthusiast, Captain Sé Pardy of Aer Lingus and owner of SIMTECH aviation. Back then, a crowd of approximately 20,000 spectators turned up to the seafront in Bray. More than 10 years on, the Air Display of 2016 attracted an estimated crowd of 140,000 - more than a full-house on an All-Ireland Sunday in Croke Park! The event is held in July and is organised by in excess of 100 volunteers. These volunteers consist of highly skilled aviation personnel and ground-based personnel with significant experience in the event industry and media relations. The volunteers also comprise of local community members who work tirelessly and give their time throughout the year and during the event to ensure that it runs like clockwork.

Cork County Council Your Council.ie

Excellence in Local Government Awards 2017



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Outstanding Customer Service

Cork County Council launched Ireland's first online services portal in January 2017. Its aim is to create a better customer services experience for citizens. The facility was developed through active engagement with citizens, service users, staff, elected members and other stakeholders. Users may register to use the portal or may opt to use it as a guest. A registered user has the advantage of receiving regular updates to service requests, can monitor and track the progress of their request etc. The portal enables a citizen to report an issue, apply for specific services, ask a question / raise a query, or make a payment.

Limerick City & County Council

Limerick.ie



Limerick.ie is a ground-breaking digital platform that acts as a one-stop shop for information on living, working, visiting and doing business in Limerick. It is the most advanced and largest digital platform of its kind developed by any Irish local authority integrating over 15 sites in one comprehensive location. With its economic renaissance already anchoring the Mid-West as Ireland's fastest growing region, Limerick.ie is a dynamic window to all key information about life in Limerick. The new platform is designed around its customers changing the way that local government presents content to citizens in order to meet their specific needs. The site is based across three easily navigable pillars, Discover, Business and Council and features more than 2000 attractions, services and community groups.



Kildare County Council

Kilcock Royal Canal Greenway & Square Enhancement Works 2015 – 2017



The project involved the redevelopment of the village square along with the enhancement of the harbour, which facilitates the Royal Canal Greenway through the village. The village square is the focal point of any urban environment and the square in Kilcock had become tired and dilapidated over the years. The aim of the project was to provide a more pleasant urban environment as well as achieving a vital link for the Royal Canal Greenway through the village of Kilcock. The objective for the square was to provide a focal point for the village that promoted a more sustainable approach placing people first, improving accessibility and connectivity along with greater integration of cycling, public transport and traffic. The aim of the harbour enhancement works was to improve the physical environment but also to connect the social transport network by providing a real alternative to car journeys, namely walking, cycling and public transport.

Limerick City & County Council

Limerick Smarter Travel Green Way



Limerick Smarter Travel's Green Way serves as a multi-purpose amenity for the City, Castletroy, Rhebogue and Corbally inclusive to all levels of mobility providing a safe, well-lit and attractive commuting resource. The infrastructure project allows for a direct, safe and enjoyable walking and cycling link for communities, students and employees. This project involved the upgrade of an existing pathway, 5.89km in length and includes part of an existing pathway along the old towpath adjacent to the River Shannon, in existence for over 200 years. It is a long established right-of-way however the deteriorated condition of sections of the path restricted its use to its full potential. The green way improves connectivity across our study area to employment, goods and services and is a way of linking communities together in a sustainable manner enabling smarter travel options to be considered for every day trips, be it commuting or social journeys.



Offaly County Council

Revitalising Birr by improving the way its public realm functions



The historic town of Birr was sensitively and sustainably enhanced through the provision of a high quality public realm. This improved the attractiveness and functionality of Birr and positioned its role as a centre for tourism, retail and commerce, as well as an excellent place in which to live. The principle urban space, Emmet Square, along with four access routes to the town core, nine kilometres of cycle way and two car parks were reconfigured and enhanced to provide greater priority for pedestrians, cyclists and public transport. These measures improved the attractiveness of the town, the safety of all and the visibility of the square as a civic space and hub for the town. The scheme was a multi phase development, informed by a shared vision and master plan and progressed in collaboration with many partners and sponsors.

South Dublin County Council

Ballyowen Equine Centre, Ballyowen Park, Lucan, Co. Dublin



Ballyowen Equine Centre is an urban equine facility which provides a welcoming community and learning space for young horse owners from the urban environs of North and South West Clondalkin. The facility was developed by South Dublin County Council in collaboration with the Department of Agriculture Fisheries and the Marine and Clondalkin Equine Club in order to address the keeping of horses in an unregulated and uncontrolled manner resulting in serious animal welfare and public safety issues. The facility provides opportunities for adult volunteers from Clondalkin Equine Club committee to engage with young horse owners in an informal environment, resulting in the development of positive relationships for these young people with the committee volunteers. The key objectives of the project are to improve the quality of life for communities of Clondalkin, to decrease the number of unregulated horses and to improve animal welfare. In addition, the project aims to improve the employment prospects for young participants and reduce the number of horses seized and euthanized with reduced financial costs.



Cork County Council

Spike Island, Cork Harbour



Fortress Spike Island is an exciting project that is transforming Spike Island into the go-to destination in Ireland by sensitively restoring the former island prison and fortress and retelling its rich history through considered interpretation. Cork County Council's vision for this project was to develop Spike Island as part of an interlinked set of projects spanning Cork City and Harbour, and to transform Spike Island into an accessible and unique cultural heritage destination that can be enjoyed by all ages and backgrounds. Opening up the story to all and fostering a love for and appreciation of the heritage site was a key objective of the project which has been successfully achieved to date.

Louth County Council

Bringing new life to Drogheda's Old Abbey Lane



This project involved the conservation of a very prominent and large ruin in Drogheda to prevent stones falling from its five storey tower and to prevent the whole tower from falling down. The project also highlighted the importance of the town's built heritage and to position built heritage as a key driver of economic regeneration in the historic town centre (the 'heritage quarter'). This laneway, and this area of the town more generally, has been run down for many years. The laneway now has the prospect of a recovery, with the construction of the new courthouse immediately adjacent to it and the proposal to create a major nightclub opening out onto it. Drogheda will also need open-air public performance spaces for the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann in 2018 and we hope that this will be a great and atmospheric one.

Wicklow County Council

Commemorating the 100th birthday and birthplace of artist George Campbell RHA (1917 – 1979)



Arklow Municipal District (AMD) was contacted by Hugh Campbell who was trying to locate the house where his uncle George was born on the 29th July 1917. Research was carried out with the Heritage Officer & Archivist of Wicklow County Council along with local historians which resulted in the identification of 3 St. Patrick's Terrace (formerly King's Terrace) Arklow as being the birthplace of George. AMD commemorated his 100th birthday & birthplace by unveiling a plaque at the location. Some of George's notable achievements include: creating stained glass windows for Galway Cathedral, winning the Douglas Hyde Gold Medal in 1966 and receiving the Knight Commander of Spain title from the Spanish government in 1978. There is a square in Malaga dedicated to George's memory, Glorieta Jorge Campbell and The University of Malaga founded a prize to encourage study between Ireland & Spain. George died in Dublin in 1979 and is buried in Laragh, Glendalough, Co Wicklow.



Clare County Council

Disability Services at Active Ennis Leisure Complex



Active Ennis Leisure Complex strive to provide the best in disability services and are recognised by Ireland Active as a leader in this pursuit. To this end, they have the following facilities and services for their disabled clients: disabled toilets, designated disabled parking spaces with signs displaying our telephone number that people can call should they require assistance entering the building, designated lockers at wheelchair height, wheelchair accessible gym equipment, poolside hoist, emergency evacuation chair, changing room hoist, wheelchair height counter at reception desk, wheelchair shower chair, wheelchair located at reception for use if required, alter G anti gravity treadmill, MOTomed motorized movement therapy device, aerobic classes tailored towards the immobile and disabled client.



Cork City Council

Hollyhill Library Services for Children with Autism



In 2016 Hollyhill Library improved services to children with autism by developing a social story and offering private sensory friendly visits. Their social story prepares children with autism or anxiety disorders for what will happen on a library visit, told in a user friendly language and using real photographs. Parents and teachers are encouraged to use the social story in advance of a library visit, downloaded from Hollyhill Library website. This is followed up with a sensory friendly library visit - low lights, low noise, no ssssh - it has helped families and children who might have felt excluded before to feel welcome and to foster a more positive library experience. It is a perfect example of a simple idea that costs nothing, but means a great deal to the families involved. Ask the parents: 'It provided a welcoming social space for them to visit with less stress for all.'



Monaghan County Council

A Minute Matters – Awareness rising YouTube campaign



Monaghan County Council has carried out a significant programme of work to upgrade and increase the availability and accessibility of parking space for people with a Disabled Parking Permit. This was prompted by public consultation which highlighted the ongoing abuse of these parking spaces. As part of their ongoing commitment to social inclusion and accessibility Monaghan County Council carried out a public consultation to identify the priority issues impacting on people with a disability in county Monaghan. One of most common issues identified was the abuse and misuse of accessible parking bays. The consultation highlighted the difficulties that people with disabilities experience when trying to find accessible parking due to the number of people without permits parking in the allocated spaces. The consultation identified a common excuse of “I’ll just be a minute” from people parking in accessible bays without a permit. People with disabilities in Monaghan wanted to emphasise that a minute matters to them.



Carlow County Council

Rediscovering Willibrord



St Willibrord, Patron Saint of Luxembourg, is one of Europe's most important Saints. During 2017 his 7th century connection to Carlow and Luxembourg was celebrated. In June 2017, 60 people travelled from Carlow to Echternach and partook in the UNESCO World Heritage Status annual 'hopping procession' in honour of St. Willibrord. The group was presented with a 'Relic of St Willibrord'. Later that month visitors from Echternach travelled to Carlow and joined a 13km procession walking the "Relic" along the banks of the River Barrow from St Laserian's Cathedral, Old Leighlin to the Cathedral of the Assumption, Carlow. The Carlow County Museum exhibition "Rediscovering Willibrord" portrays his 12 years in Carlow and his enormous impact on Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands. The exhibition features images of Willibrord's hand writing, the oldest datable signature and use of Anno Domini (A.D.) by an English person written in a 7th century Carlow book.

Cavan County Council

Cavan County Museum's Commemoration Education Programme



Cavan County Museum's Commemoration Education Programme explores the issue of commemoration and our need to remember the past. It does this by exploring major events from Ireland 100 years ago. The programme explores this period of history in an innovative and unique way by lifting history off the page and offering groups the opportunity to engage in a sensitively designed learning programme. The programme is strengthened by physically walking through the WWI Trench Experience, replica of the GPO and a recreated Photographer's Studio, a Tenement Sitting Room, old Style Shop and a gallery dedicated to the sixteen executed. These exhibitions located within the Museum's Peace Garden all lead to our 'Reflective Space' allowing visitors to reflect on the common theme of the loss that inevitably accompanies conflict and many of the events we commemorate. In this way it encourages people to engage with commemorations they would not normally encounter.



Cork City Council

Cork City Council's 2016 Commemoration Programme



Cork City Council created a citywide, year-long programme of events for 2016 that commemorated 1916 creating opportunities for the community to come together through a variety of events, exhibitions, gatherings, discussions and reflections. A 2016 working group was established, with council staff from Arts, Libraries, Museums, Archives, Heritage, Architects and Parks and Recreation. All cultural services of Cork City Council came together to work on an agreed programme. External expertise was brought in from UCC History Dept and the Military Museum. The resulting 2016 programme responded to a public consultation and worked in partnership with a huge range of cultural, voluntary and community organisations to ensure a wide and varied programme. Some of the events included a programme of exhibitions, talks, and events with 1916 as inspiration, St Patricks Day Parade themed 1916 The Legacy, State Ceremony in the centre of Cork City, 1916 themed trail for Culture Night 2016.

Cork County Council

Centenary Commemorations in the County of Cork



In 2016 a full programme of events took place in Cork County, organized by Cork County Council and over 200 community groups. From Ireland's only joint Local Authority State Ceremonial Event, to the opening of a State funded AUD exhibition on Spike Island, over 500 centenary events were undertaken, by far the largest programme in Ireland. The men and women of 1916 were honoured through creativity, reflection and ceremony and most importantly through community participation. Cork County Council, in recognition of outstanding community involvement, held a special community 2016 Reflection Night, where each group was acknowledged with a customized certificate and centenary review publication. 2017 in Cork County has seen continued commemorations, particularly through the Creative Ireland Programme. Events have marked the 150th Anniversary of the Fenian Rising and the centenary of the arrival of the US Navy to County Cork in 1917.

Donegal County Council

County Donegal in 1916: From the Edge: Donegal County Council History & Heritage Education Pack



The Education Pack was produced by the Archives Service, Museum, Heritage Office and Library Services (Cultural Services) of Donegal County Council as part of its 1916 Centenary Programme. Aimed at schools, the main objective was to introduce to young people the year 1916, from the perspective of County Donegal. The pack was designed to bring the history of County Donegal in 1916 to life for students; to set the key national events of 1916, in particular the Easter Rising, in the context of their effects on society in the county and to communicate the material culture of County Donegal in 1916 through key archives and artefacts. The illustrated booklet describes the political, social and economic history of the county in 1916 and the facsimiles include photographs, letters, witness statements, maps, reports and other documents. Included are suggested questions for students encouraging them to work as historians.

South Dublin County Council

Our Heroes – Ár Laochra



The renewed interest in Ireland's part in the Great War has increased the demand for information relating to Irish servicemen in the British Army. During the period 1914-1918, the magazine "Irish Life" published a supplement called "Our Heroes" which contained photographs and short biographies of Irish officers and men in the British Army who were either killed in action or were mentioned in despatches for acts of bravery. As part of the Decade of Centenaries 1913-1922, South Dublin Libraries digitised this material, creating an online searchable database that made available the biographical information of 1,700 WWI servicemen for the first time. The site is available at <http://ourheroes.southdublinlibraries.ie/>

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