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Forbairt Iarthar Luimní  
West Limerick Resources CLG

2022  
*Annual Report*





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# Administrative Details

## Registered Office

West Limerick Resources CLG  
St. Mary's Road  
Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick  
V42AN22

## Auditors

PCB Accountants Ltd.  
t/a Byrne and Company Chartered Accountants  
and Registered Auditors,  
Church Street,  
Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick

## Bankers

Bank of Ireland  
The Square  
Newcastle West  
Co. Limerick.

## Solicitors

Robert Cussen & Co.  
North Quay,  
Newcastle West,  
Co. Limerick.

## Company Number

206973

## CHY No.

CHY11712

## Charities Regulatory Authority Number

20032746



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# Foreword

*2022 marked another significant year of activity for West Limerick Resources. As we thankfully started to see the constraints of the pandemic recede, the ongoing impact both organisationally and within the wider community remained evident.*

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The pandemic has impacted on so many and in so many different ways that it will take time to fully appreciate its significance. Communities have been greatly impacted and we have placed particular focus over the course of 2022 on trying to support those involved in community groups and organisations to rebuild and in some instances form new groups to respond to identified needs. Internally, like every organisation, consideration of the best approaches to workplace practices, space usage and remote working continued through the year. Given the nature of the organisation and the work we do, the continued flexibility and co-operation across the organisation must be acknowledged.

## **Board & Staff Changes**

At both Board and Staff level we saw a lot of change over the course of 2022. At the AGM, the following members retired from the Board: Frank Dennison, Community Representative for the Feale Area, Statutory Agency Representatives: Lorraine O'Donnell Fisheries Ireland, Alberta McWalter An Garda Siochana, Social Issue Youth Representative Richie Bowens Foróige, Helen Harnett Disadvantaged Communities, Social Partners Representatives Dan Aherne ICTU and John Cremin ICMSA. We would like to take this opportunity to express our sincere appreciation to all of these, many of whom served their full two three-year terms, contributing on a voluntary basis to our organisation.

### **At a staff level, we saw changes across the Company:**

- We were sorry to see Tom Wilmoth Rural Social Scheme (RSS) & TUS Co-ordinator retire during 2022 who joined the Company in 2006 when the RSS was in its infancy. Bringing with him a wealth of experience, Tom made an invaluable contribution to the RSS and to the subsequent establishment of the TUS Programme in 2010. Demonstrating dedication and commitment to the role at all times, Tom built up a great working relationship with scheme participants and colleagues alike. We wish Tom the very best in his retirement.
- Niamh Keating, Primary Health Programme for Travellers Co-ordinator, left the Company in 2022 to take up a new role in the HSE. Niamh's enthusiasm and commitment to delivering the best possible health outcomes with the Primary Healthcare Team was appreciated by everyone who worked with her both internally within WLR and by external Agencies. We wish Niamh well in her future endeavours.





- Damien Ahern SICAP Community Development Officer also left us at year end to take up a new role with the HSE. Damien had built up a great working relationship with Community Groups and organisations across West Limerick and his creativity and interest in all things community will be greatly missed. We wish Damien well in his future career.

As an organisation we have been very fortunate to have great people working with us who go to great lengths to deliver the best supports and services to community groups, businesses, social enterprises, individuals, children and families across West Limerick. As with many sectors recruitment presents challenges when staff leave to take up new employment opportunities. We continue to engage with our funders to try to secure much needed additional resources to keep pace with salary expectations and trends in the jobs market. However, these pressures look set to continue for the immediate future.

## Collaboration

Across every programme we administer, the requirement for close collaboration with key stakeholders across Community, Statutory Bodies, Agencies and service providers is increasing and expected. This is something that WLR has committed to since its establishment and has been central to our ability to deliver the high level of activity across the Company each year. This collaboration happens in different forms including:

- joint delivery of projects and initiatives at a local level
- leveraging of resources funds, training
- representation on committees and various structures

As you will see throughout this report, 2022 saw this collaboration continue and expand. The rural nature of our West Limerick community means that we continue to compete for much needed services, which are pre-dominantly city based and or overstretched for service delivery, out into the county.

Taking just one particular area of focus, given the absence of a Family Resource Centre anywhere in West Limerick and considering the level of need in towns such as Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West, Askeaton and Rathkeale. Consequently, a lot of effort is put into targeting and securing services for these communities from a wide range of Agencies and Service Providers.

Special mention must go to Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP), Local Link Limerick Clare, Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) and Limerick Enterprise Office (LEO) who we work very closely with across many of our Programmes to support the delivery of a wide range of services at local level.

## Strategic Planning

In early 2022, we engaged in the process of developing a Strategic Plan for the Company. With inputs from a wide range of stakeholders including our Board and Staff,

# 2022



the Strategic Plan was finalised over the course of the year. With the process involving an extensive review of what we do as an organisation and how we do it, the Strategic Plan focused on three primary goals with two cross cutting goals as follows:

### Primary Goals

- Community Capacity & Wellbeing
- Enhancing Social Cohesion
- Accelerating Economic Development & Employment Opportunities.

### Cross Cutting Goals

- Building Collaboration
- Strengthening Our Organisation

This plan now sets out a framework for the strategic direction of the Company for the coming years. Board and staff engagement in the implementation of this strategic plan will become a focus of attention over the coming period.

## Overview of 2022

This report provides a brief overview of the activities undertaken across the various programmes administered by West Limerick Resources. Each programme is distinct in its own right and part of our challenge as an organisation is to ensure that each individual, social enterprise, business or community group gets the best service or support that they require. Each programme has its own specific requirements, objectives and targets which must be observed, and this requires constant monitoring and oversight both administratively and financially. A key feature of a lot of our work is the planning and development of innovative response to needs at local level. 2022 saw this aspect of our work continue with new approaches adopted across all our programmes but particularly in responding to communities returning to activity after the pandemic and in pivoting to the needs of the Ukrainian Community as they arrived to West Limerick.

## Supporting Ukrainians in West Limerick

The outbreak of the war in Ukraine in February had a major impact on our work plans across a number of our programmes particularly our Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP). West Limerick, like everywhere across the country, saw the arrival of large numbers of Ukrainians fleeing the war in their home country. We began, as a community, to welcome the Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection from March and April. Cahermoyle House, just outside Ardagh, was one of the first accommodation centres to open and almost immediately our help was called upon to assist with the provision of supports and services both to the local Community and arriving Ukrainians.

As part of the wider Limerick response, a Ukraine Response Forum was established under the remit of Limerick City & County Council (LCCC) with representatives

# 2022



from all the key agencies including WLR. As events unfolded and more centres opened to meet the demand for accommodation there was a need for local Co-ordination Groups to be established. It was agreed in Limerick that the three Local Development Companies, WLR in West Limerick, PAUL Partnership in the City and Ballyhoura Development in East Limerick would lead these Co-ordination Teams, chaired by SICAP staff. This intensive work supported the co-ordination and delivery of a wide range of services which included medical care, school place provision, transportation and clothes donation. As numbers increased and other centres opened it quickly became obvious that this was not going to be a short-term issue. Additional resources were made available to enable WLR, through its SICAP programme, to recruit Ukrainian Support Workers and we welcomed Kseniia Arnautova a Ukrainian National and Monika Ceran from Poland who joined us in September.

This response required flexibility and co-operation both from our own staff and a wide range of other agencies and communities and the effort that followed must be acknowledged. It must be stressed that every effort has been made to ensure continuity of delivery of existing supports and services to the existing communities and individuals, that we work with, and we believe that balance was achieved over the course of the year.

## *Programme Delivery*

Our two core programmes, Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and the LEADER Rural Development Programme, 2022 entered their final phase of delivery with both programmes up for Tender in 2023. After almost 20 years of operation the Jobclub was wound down with the end of the contract in August 2022. We were fortunate to have been party to the successful bid by PAUL Partnership for the Jobclub successor programme in conjunction with a number of other Local Development Companies across the Midwest. There had been a lot of concern about this transition however it was great to be able to continue to provide such an important service locally and the new Local Area Employment Service formally commenced on September 1st 2022. With the continued strength of the jobs market, numbers of referrals to TUS remained low throughout 2022 and the demand for placements far exceeds the numbers of participants available. While the Rural Social Scheme (RSS) continues to deliver valuable placements to communities with existing placements, there are an increasing number of vacancies remaining unfilled. Given the RSS has been in operation since 2006 it would be timely that a review be undertaken of the Scheme to identify how best to improve and make it more attractive to prospective participants. The Primary Health Care Programme for Travellers saw a lot of change over the course of the year with the Co-ordinator Niamh Keating departing. Credit must be given to the Community Healthcare Workers who continued to provide the wide range of supports and services in the interim period while recruitment was undertaken. The Volunteer Centre continued to provide support to Volunteer Involving Organisations and to

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volunteers and was part of the Ukraine response also. Social Farming has continued to expand and develop with a growing recognition of the value of this approach and practice, in supporting individuals, increase self-esteem and skills through time spent on family farms. It is great to see the demand for this service now being driven by participants, their families and increasingly service providers who have experienced the benefits that can be derived from participation in Social Farming. Rathkeale Together has continued to work closely with the community in Rathkeale to identify opportunities for greater social cohesion.

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As we continue to deliver a range of services and supports to the wider West Limerick Community, we hope that this report gives an insight into the work of the organisation and many different aspects of what we do. This cannot be achieved without the co-operation of our Board and Staff and the collaboration with so many different organisations and agencies. After much deliberation the new vision set out in our strategic plan is as follows:

“We help to empower vibrant and exciting communities across West Limerick to address local, social, economic and environmental challenges.”

Embracing this vision, we look forward to continuing this work into 2023.

*Pat Brennan*

**Pat Brennan**

*Chairperson*

*Shay Riordan*

**Shay Riordan**

*Manager*



## About Us

*West Limerick Resources originated from a local initiative by individuals and groups in West Limerick to establish a rural resource organisation that would work to address the collective issues, changes and challenges impacting on the community and life of individuals in the area.*

Originally established in 1991, West Limerick Resources set out to attract resources – funding and supports – from national programmes and other sources to support local initiatives and projects for community development in West Limerick. It was established as a limited company in 1993.

Since its establishment, West Limerick Resources has seen significant change as a constant feature of its operating environment.

- Ongoing changes in national policy, regulation and resource availability have all impacted on how the Organisation has evolved and developed since 1991.
- The roles and priorities of many of the key Statutory Agencies including Local Authorities have changed and this has impacted on the relationships and interaction WLR has with them.
- Communities too have experienced significant change in the social, economic and environmental issues that impact on them.

To date, the Organisation has successfully responded to the various challenges presented arising from change. The Organisation has continued to develop its capacity and expanded the range of programmes delivered and services provided to the individuals and communities of West Limerick.

The Board of the Company is based on the partnership model bringing together representatives of the Local Community, Statutory Agencies, Social Partners and Public Representatives.



### **Our Vision**

We help to empower vibrant and exciting communities across West Limerick to address local social, economic and environmental challenges.



### **Company Mission**

We work collaboratively to secure resources that help to improve social and economic conditions and build sustainable and inclusive communities in West Limerick.



# Jobclub / Intreo Partners Local Area Employment Service

LAES	1st November to 31st December
Total number of clients referred to LAES	25
Number of clients who engaged in initial 1-1	20
LAES	31st December
Number of clients returning for second Milestone (PPP)	15
Completed (PPP) Milestones	7

## Job Club



The Job Club was in operation for the first 8 months of this year and finished operating on August 31st, 2022. The Job Club was funded by the Department of Social Protection and provided one-to-one support, group workshops and facilities to assist people in their job search. The service was a free service for unemployed and underemployed individuals.

The Job Club worked with job ready clients giving support and advice on job seeking skills. All participants on Employment Programmes (CE, TÚS & LTI) could avail themselves of the services. During those eight months we dealt with 154 clients and 39 progressed into employment.

## Local Area Employment Service



West Limerick Resources working in conjunction with PAUL Partnership as the lead contractor and the other Local Development Companies Ballyhoura Development, Clare Local Development Company and North Tipperary Development Company were awarded the Tender for the Local Area Employment Service (LAES) for the Mid-West Region. This new contract started on September 1st, 2022. Training was provided in the months of September and October. The first activated clients were sent to us on November 1st, 2022.

The Mid-West Local Area Employment service is a 52-week activation programme. The service will help to improve clients' employment prospects and will give them access to training, upskilling and development opportunities.

Access to the service is via referral by the Department of Social Protection. Clients will primarily include individuals who are long-term unemployed. Clients will have follow-up appointments every 20 days to formally review their Personal Progression Plan.

The Local Area Employment Service also plays a key role in liaising with local employers concerning potential job vacancies and working with jobseekers and employers to match jobseekers with job opportunities that may suit their skills.





# Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers

Project Achievements		
01	Contacts in the Community	2354, 87% females
02	KPI's Met & Achieved	283 individuals receiving type 2 diabetes prevention or management information
		273 receiving cardio-vascular
		191 people benefiting from mental health information.

## *2022 was a year of transition for the West Limerick Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers (PHCP).*

The Co-Ordinator Niamh Keating left the post in February and was replaced in July by Treasa Sheahan. Treasa has brought years of experience and enthusiasm to the role because of her previous positions within the Community Sector. The Community Health Workers greatly appreciated the contribution Niamh made during her period as Co-Ordinator and at the same time welcomed Treasa to the team at West Limerick Resources. The PHCP is funded by the Traveller Health Unit (THU) in the HSE and managed by West Limerick Resources (WLR) CLG. The project employs six qualified and experienced Community Health Workers all members of the Traveller Community and a Project Co-Ordinator. The aim of the project is to improve the health and quality of life of the Traveller Community in the area.



Despite the Co-Ordinator's role being vacant for 5 months the Community Health Workers continued to overachieve on targets providing the community with relevant up to date health information meeting the needs of the Traveller Community in West Limerick.

In 2022, the project collaborated with several stakeholders sharing ideas and working on a new initiative. Within WLR the project worked together with various partners on numerous initiatives, including SICAP- (Social Farming, Family Support, Rural Employment Service & Community Development) and Rathkeale Together. One such Initiative with SICAP secured €20,000 from a once off payment grant from the Traveller Mental Health Department within the HSE. This was used for refurbishing the Community Centre in Askeaton, a shared space with other local agencies as part of interagency co-operation. The team delivered information on several initiatives including Cervical Cancer Awareness, a Bottle-Feeding Initiative which was requested by our community to support young mother's making up formula bottles correctly for their babies, Quit Smoking, Suicide Prevention Information, and our Domestic Violence Campaign to name but a few. Additionally, the projects Facebook page expanded with likes and followers providing an important platform to share health messages through social media.



# Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers

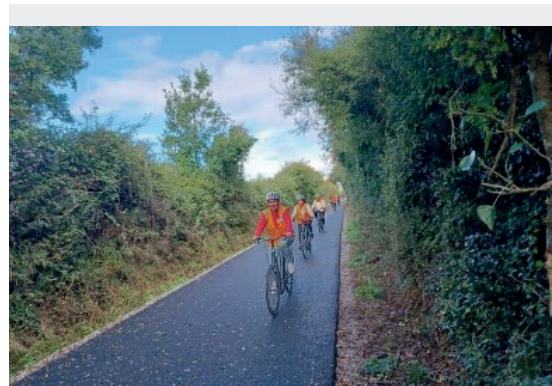
## Case Study of Project Undertaken in 2022

Together with Limerick Sport's Partnership and LiKe Bikes Greenway Cycle hire, the PHCP set up a cycling group that ran from September to November. The project was implemented as a response to a local need and request from the Newcastle West Traveller Community. Findings from the now published *HSE, Baseline Health Study (2020)* outlined a demand for services to prioritise Mental Health. The PHCP was delighted to be able to offer this programme to a group of local Traveller Women who would not have the confidence or self-belief to do this without support. A 6-week plan was developed together. The goal was that by week 6 of the Health and Well-Being Initiative, the group would cycle the entire Greenway in sections, week by week. The project aimed to connect with people through movement and nature and provide a weekly space where people could chat freely and make time for themselves.



Cycling has numerous benefits, including improved joint mobility, cardiovascular benefits, and decreased stress levels, to name a few. It also provided the team with an opportunity to discuss numerous health issues in an informal relaxed environment. It promoted positive mental health and the ladies reported feeling happy and energetic in themselves after the programme ended. When asked how they felt about the programme the ladies reported *"I wouldn't change a thing, brilliant". "I enjoyed it immensely". "I really enjoyed it and would love to see more of it. Exercise is brilliant for the mind and body, and it gets everybody in great form"*.

We hope to run this programme a few times a year in different locations in West Limerick going forward but feel it would be useful to provide informal workshops with relevant professionals who can deliver specific health information workshops. An example of this would be a workshop on Mental Health to





## Primary Healthcare Project for Travellers

maximise our health education whilst enjoying the great outdoors. In conclusion, while this was a pilot project it was an invaluable learning experience for all staff involved. The views of the community and their engagement, and interest in this project were not only rewarding but also exciting. The PHCP project wishes to express gratitude to Limerick Sport's Partnership and LiKe Bikes Greenway Bike Hire for funding and leading this project, to the Community Health Workers and all that took part.



"I wouldn't change a thing,  
brilliant"



"I enjoyed it immensely"



"I really enjoyed it and  
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Exercise is brilliant for the  
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everybody in great form"





# LEADER Rural Development Programme

Overview of Delivery 2022				
Subtheme	Number of projects approved	LEADER Grant Amount approved	Number of Claims Processed	Value of Claims Processed
Rural Tourism	4	€204,514.68	3	€33,354.72
Enterprise Development	2	€128,964.04	0	0
Rural Towns	1	€365,486.46	0	0
Broadband	1	€9,409.50	0	0
Basic Services for Hard-to-Reach Communities	3	€704,143.72	3	€531,910.56
Rural Youth	0	0	2	€65,090.166
Water Resources	0	0	2	€6324.78
Local Biodiversity	0	0	3	€27,987.28
Renewable Energy	1	€13,908.57	2	€35,408.57
Cooperation Projects	0	0	7	€182,277.16
LEADER Food	0	0	3	€55,335.44

2022 was a challenging year for the LEADER team with two staff members out on maternity leave and two new administrative staff coming on board to help ease the load. As both the Transition and EURI programmes were due to close in December 2022, it was essential to concentrate on approving all remaining funds while also processing the increasing number of claims coming through the system. In tandem, a large number of internal initiatives were also coming to a close over the course of the year, some taking place in person for the first time since the outbreak of the Covid pandemic. Despite the limitations posed by Covid, these internal initiatives proved to be highly successful and will lay the groundwork for further development during the new programme.

## Internal Projects Delivered in 2022

### Social Enterprise Training Initiative:

The 'Cooperating to Succeed' social enterprise training initiative was delivered throughout 2022 in cooperation with South Tipperary Development CLG and Southwest Mayo Development Company. The project brought together 30 social enterprises, 10 from each region, to work on a bespoke training programme with a mentor.



**Cooperating to Succeed**  
Social Enterprise Development Initiative

Each social enterprise received up to 10 days one-to-one training from business coaches. The programme also included a Community Training initiative which was available to all social enterprises located in each of the partner areas. 10 modules were included in this group training which was delivered online. Three in-person training and networking events were held between 2021/2022 with the final concluding event held in Newcastle West in September.

The event was very well attended by all participating social enterprises from across the three geographic areas and highlighted the incredible importance of social enterprises in society and the need for continued support. Inspirational speakers on the day and the opportunity for networking and publicity meant for a very successful conclusion of the programme.

All 30 social enterprises will finalise their strategic action plans with the trainers and the programme is due to end in February 2023.



# LEADER Rural Development Programme

## West Limerick Food Series Phase 2:

The 'West Limerick Food Series - Phase Two' was run over 15 months from January 2021 to April 2022 with participation by 75 individuals/businesses. The primary goal of this networking and training programme was to nurture collaborative initiatives between small food and food tourism businesses in the West Limerick region, enabling the region to benefit from other local agency initiatives as well as aligning with strategies from national agencies including Fáilte Ireland and Bord Bia. Among the stakeholders targeted to participate were food producers, restaurateurs, hoteliers and other accommodation providers, publicans, chefs and visitor attractions in the region.

### Key achievements and milestones of the programme include:

- Delivery of 12 half-day online training modules.
- Facilitation of 1 to 1 clinics.
- 2 familiarisation field trips.
- 2 high profile successful showcase events.
- A LMS (Learning Management System) online repository with content from all modules available with easy access for all participants during the programme and into the future.
- West Limerick Harvest Festival, designed and delivered by programme participants at various locations in West Limerick in October 2021.
- A sold-out showcase event, Limerick SpringFest, held on April 6th, 2022, at The Barnagh Greenway Hub which attracted almost 400 visitors and received widespread publicity, including a feature on RTE's Nationwide programme.



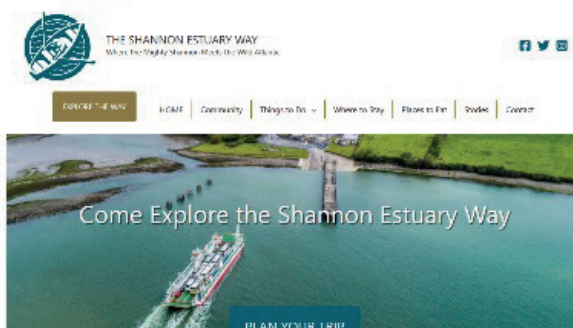
West Limerick  
Food Series



## The Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development

The Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development training programme ran over a 16-month period from March 2021 to June 2022. There were 54 officially registered for the programme and 42 were regular attendees of the full programme. The programme was organised into 5 phases with phases 4 and 5 happening in 2022.

- **Phase 4** January-April 2022 Training Delivery Spring Summer: Photography & Videography Training; Website Development Training & Facilitation; SEW Saleable Experiences 1-2-1 Training
- **Phase 5** May-June 2022 Programme Completion, Reporting and Legacy Measures: SEW Field Trips; Website Training & Facilitation for the Website Steering Committee



### Key programme elements:

- Launch event and symbolic cargo gift exchange
- Online Opening Motivational Training Seminar
- Story Harvesting & Story Exchange Training including partnerships with local media
- Online training incorporating a variety of expert trainers and industry guest speakers
- Networking and Visioning Event at Bunratty Castle and Folk Park, Co. Clare
- Destination Website Development Training
- Website & Season launch event at De Bucket Bar and Restaurant, Kildimo, Co. Clare
- Two Field Trips to the Limerick and Clare sides of the Shannon Estuary Way



# LEADER Rural Development Programme

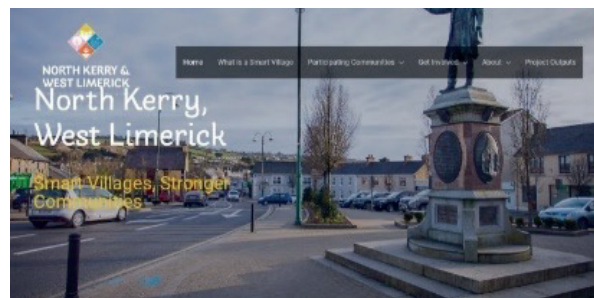
## *Greenway Destination Development*

The Greenway Destination Development training programme was run over a 14-month period from April 2021 to June 2022. The Programme was well attended with participants from West Limerick and North Kerry. The unique delivery through different elements such as Leave no Trace, Greenways Champions and online training via Zoom meant that up to 60 participants were involved for the duration of the programme.

### **The key programme elements were:**

- The Greenway Champions Programme – a self-directed, online resource for use by participants, teams, and community groups
- Programme Opening Seminar
- Town to Trail Engagement Sessions and localised training supports Limerick Kerry Greenway Destination Development Training Programme
- Online training including a variety of expert trainers and industry guest speakers
- A Programme Springboard Event
- A Field Trip to the Waterford Greenway including meetings with representatives of local government, community, commerce and business

## *North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery And Border Areas Initiative*



After the initial project launch in 2021, a range of activities took place in 2022 including a workshop on Social Research Techniques, a survey of local communities, a workshop on Climate Change and a workshop on ICT and Technology which also featured presentations of smart villages developed throughout Europe. Over the summer, 6 'Community Clinics' in total – 3 in Limerick and 3 in Kerry were held to provide a space for people to drop in and share their thoughts on the future development of the region and its towns and villages. In October a Community Meeting was held in Listowel to report back to the community the findings from the data collected from the Community Clinics and to provide an update on the project to date. The session also gathered further information through open discussions to build on the 10 key themes that have emerged through community consultation work. In addition, KPMG have produced a Social Infrastructure Audit across the 25 participating communities which is now available on the project website. A detailed review of the international, national, regional, and local policy context was conducted, and consideration will be given as to how existing policies and initiatives can be used to capitalise on opportunities for development and provide for the sustainable and resilient economic and spatial growth for North Kerry-West Limerick. Project due to complete in early 2023.





# LEADER Rural Development Programme

## Trails Maintenance Training

This bespoke training programme was provided to those maintaining trails in West Limerick.

### Training components included:

1. **Trails Maintenance:** Introduced the theory and techniques which underpin the maintenance of sustainable and 'fit for purpose' trail surfaces. Combined classroom discussions with a visit to a local walking trail (at Ashford) to gain a practical appreciation of issues and potential solutions. The second day was spent on site at the Kantoher Eco Park and Great Southern Trail assessing the existing trails and considering a range of ongoing maintenance and repair including the practical issues which determine which solutions might be most appropriate.
2. **Trail Maintenance and Repair:** A key focus was to introduce the skills and knowledge needed to undertake practical maintenance work on trails, to ensure their sustainability, to ensure safety of users and to consider the development of new routes, or the re-routing of existing routes if needed.
3. **Trail Monitoring:** Reviewed the learnings from the previous maintenance and construction course and considered how this might be applied to monitoring of trails and the implementation of maintenance programmes. Time was spent walking a section of the Greenway and Knockfierna to identify practical examples of issues covered and to evaluate the potential of using the Template documents to record activities.

## River Feale Catchment Animation Project

On Tuesday November 29th, 2022, Gerard Hayes from Malachy Walsh who carried out the River Feale Baseline Study did a presentation to WLR, NEWKD and IRD highlighting some of the findings and data. This report was publicly launched; however, a Summary Report was developed by IRD as part of the project which is now available to the public on the partner websites and copies can be provided to the public.



# LEADER Rural Development Programme

## Case Studies Of External Projects Completed In 2022

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT THEME CASE STUDY:

#### Barnagh Greenway Hub Playground



The new playground is part of the ongoing development plan of the Barnagh Greenway Hub which the Promoter is promoting as 'The' destination stop for the Limerick Greenway.

Following the restrictions imposed during the Covid-19 pandemic,

it was clear that families have more leisure time to spend locally and that they needed more activities to take part in. By including a Playground at the Hub, the Promoter has succeeded in attracting another market segment seeking additional activities adjacent to the Greenway. The new Playground has attracted large crowds daily, attracting a diverse clientele, passers-by on the N21, locals and guests using the Greenway. Families composing of three generations are visiting and enjoying a complete experience. The Playground has also created additional business opportunities, Halloween, Christmas and Birthday parties. Four part-time and two full-time jobs have been created.

**LEADER Funding  
Approved:**

**€23,868.11**

### SOCIAL INCLUSION THEME CASE STUDY:

#### Askeaton Ballysteen Tennis Club



The existing tennis court was first developed in the 1950's and has been the focal point of the community for over 40 years. The current committee reformed the club in 2013 and converted an area that had begun attracting anti-social behaviour and an eye sore

into a well-used leisure facility. To improve the facility for the users and to attract more visitors, drainage levelling and resurfacing was essential. The project involved laying an all-weather playing surface to cover an area for one tennis court within the boundary walls of the existing grounds at The Green Askeaton, to replace the current tarmac surface of over 475 meters square.

Askeaton has many settled Irish Travellers. As part of the Town Plan, it highlighted traveller/settled relations as an area for improvement. Promotion of the club should see an increase of membership and usage, encouraging and improving social interactions between settled and traveller community and between younger and older generations.

**LEADER Funding  
Approved:**

**€32,614.97**



# LEADER Rural Development Programme

## RURAL ENVIRONMENT THEME CASE STUDY:

### Ballybrown Community Resource Centre



The Ballybrown Community Resource Centre was opened in 2012 and since then has become a much-used facility by those within the community and surrounding areas. The installation of the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) System on the Community Resource Centre

**LEADER Funding  
Approved:**

**€13,908.57**

is the first of a planned series of investments in Climate Mitigation, Energy Security and Community empowerment actions to be undertaken by the community centre over the coming years. The Solar PV System is visually prominent in the centre of the community and will serve as a beacon and reminder to the entire community of the need to take concrete and tangible steps to reduce the carbon emissions produced in the community. The investment now powers the resource centre and there have been numerous enquiries about home solar systems and their efficacy. With the continuity of green electricity for the future of the community centre, awareness has been raised and the centre itself is more energy self-sufficient. The introduction of the Electrical Vehicle Charging Point will encourage more community members to see the environmental benefits of driving electric vehicles by making it more accessible on a community level.



# Rural Social Scheme

*The Rural Social Scheme has an allocation of 50 places, currently there are 40 participants employed on the scheme (wk.52). 78%. We had a total of four participants retire and one start during 2022. With a total payroll in excess of €630,000 for 2022 the RSS programme continues to make a significant contribution to the local community.*

## Key Statistics For 2022

**50**

Allocated places

**78%**

40 Participants employed on the scheme (wk.52)

**4**

Participants retired during 2022

**1**

One participant started during 2022

**€630,000**

With a total payroll in excess of €630,000 for 2022

## RSS Milestones

- It was a year that saw changes in the Supervisors on the RSS programme. Tom retired during the year and Marie left for another position. This saw two new Supervisors appointed, Kevin and Trevor to the RSS programme. Kevin who has a background in the building industry and Trevor who was a TÚS Supervisor for a number of years before switching programmes.
- Pobal had brought in a maximum 6-year rule for all new RSS participants in 2017. However, they removed this rule again in 2022 and this in effect allows participants to remain on the RSS programme until they reach pension age once they continue to remain eligible.

## RSS Work Being Carried Out

The RSS participants continue to do tremendous work around West Limerick in communities and organisations. The Greenway would not be the facility it currently is without the dedication and attention to detail that the RSS participants and their colleagues from Limerick Co. Council put in week after week. Villages such as Ballyhahill, Glin, Mountcollins and Templeglantine to mention a few look resplendent with the maintenance work carried out by the RSS participants.



*This is work being carried out in Brothers of Charity growing tunnel in Newcastle West. The RSS participants are building raised beds.*



*Verge Maintenance*

## RSS Recruitment

The RSS programme have several retirements coming up in the next few months so if you know of anybody who may be interested in joining the RSS team, please give them our office telephone number 069 – 77752 and speak with either Trevor or Kevin. We can meet them and see if they would be eligible. The person interested does not have to be the name with the herd number. It can be a brother, sister, son, daughter, wife, or husband of the person with the herd number.



# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2022



## SICAP Goals

The programme has two goals that focus on a) supporting communities and b) individuals:



### Goal 1

Aim is to support communities and target groups to engage with relevant stakeholders in identifying and addressing social exclusion and equality issues, developing the capacity of local community groups, and creating more sustainable communities.



### Goal 2

Aim to support disadvantaged individuals to improve the quality of their lives through the provision of lifelong learning and labour market supports.





# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2021 Annual Report

## GOAL 1

### Action – A2201 Community Planning & Capacity Building Newcastle West Women's Shed

#### Background

*This action focuses on supporting new groups to form where needs and interests are identified, existing groups to develop and move along the Community Development Matrix, moving from a*

- 1. Pre-development and group formation stage to*
- 2. Capacity building and empowerment; to*
- 3. Strategic involvement in policy and decision-making processes at a local, regional and/or national level*

#### Needs

In early 2022, the Community Development Worker received a call from several women in the Newcastle West area, who had met and were looking for an opportunity to develop a social club and space for women over 55 years. The need was identified as many felt that Covid-19 has destroyed so many community connections and that so many had and continued to suffer from rural and social isolation. It was felt that it was timely, as the health situation began to improve somewhat and there was a clear view that it was needed as a mechanism for women to participate in community activities, drawing on their skills and interests.

#### Response

A meeting was held between the SICAP Community Development Worker and the working group, and an Annual Plan was agreed which outlined 4 clear pieces of work that would be supported under SICAP.

1. Establish Women's Shed in NCW
2. Assist Group in setting up a committee, including training of elected members & developing club constitution
3. Assist group with securing a rented space/permanent space
4. Assist group with running a 6-week programme

To support this new group and provide them some learning and insight into developing and running a group, they were networked with Adare Women's 2020 Club who had the lived experience and previous development support under SICAP. This



meeting answered queries and questions and proved to be so beneficial for the Newcastle Women's Shed to progress.

At the end of April, an open public meeting was held in the Longcourt Hotel and attracted a large attendance.





# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2021 Annual Report

## GOAL

### 1

#### *Action – A2201*

#### *Community Planning & Capacity Building*

#### *Newcastle West Women's Shed*

SICAP Community Development Officer Damien Ahern gave an excellent presentation on group development and on the supports available from SICAP. Guest speakers on the night included two representatives from the Adare Women's 20/20 Club and one from Mental Health Ireland, highlighting the importance of connection and groups.

All those who attended, filled out a questionnaire documenting their skills and interests, and their availability and willingness to join a committee. All contributions were reviewed by the working group and a draft five-week programme was created for those interested with delivery in June.

### **Outcomes**

The ladies from Newcastle West Women's Shed were supported to commence the five-week programme which started at the end of June at the NCW Community Centre. There was a mix of activities over the five weeks, with programmes delivered by both paid facilitators, and some ladies from the Shed delivering their own programmes, sharing their own skills for the benefit of the group.

The group tried out Tai Chi, Chair Aerobics and danced to Irish Music as part of a Movement Therapy Class. SICAP staff also supported a grant application for the group through Limerick Sports Partnership (LSP) which was successful and provided a selection of health and fitness activities for the group. This type of shared learning and activity has contributed greatly to the forming and cohesion of the group and strengthened the structure, and it has underpinned the development of a sustainable Shed for the town to support women in the area. SICAP has supported the group to access our Family & Community Hub space, until the group can identify an alternative space.

The NCW Women's Shed continued to attract good interest, with over 50 fully paid members and a waiting list. SICAP supported the AGM in October of 2022, a committee was elected, membership fees were collected, and insurance was purchased by the group to cover their planned activities.

One of the greatest outcomes of the work has been the connection formed between the Newcastle West Women's Shed and our Ukrainian Community, when SICAP established the Hub4Hope.

Both were availing of the space provided by SICAP and naturally connected. Members of the Shed invited members of our Hub4Hope to participate in some of their activities and this was reciprocated with the invitation to the Christmas Workshops.



# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2021 Annual Report

## GOAL 1

*Action – A2201  
Community Planning & Capacity Building  
Newcastle West Women's Shed*



A 2-day Christmas Workshop on making Christmas baubles, was facilitated in the Hub4Hope by a Ukrainian craftswoman, supported by SICAP Ukrainian Workers over two days in November. 10 women from the Women's Shed participated, there was very positive feedback, they all enjoyed the crafting sessions and meeting with Ukrainian women. The activity brought up lovely conversations and sharing of words in Ukrainian and Irish, strengthening language and conversation.

These workshops, connections and friendships have developed of their own accord simply formed by using a shared space, and making introductions which SICAP has harnessed and supported, showcasing social inclusion at its best.





# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2021 Annual Report

## GOAL 2

### Action – Self Employment & Enterprise Support

#### Background

*This action is delivered on an annual basis to support those who are considering self-employment as a means of employment. This action supports Individuals seeking to explore the option of becoming self-employed, they receive a number of supports key to their journey towards self-employment.*

#### Response

The Enterprise Officer meets with all individuals on a 1:1 basis and works with the client through the following stages:

##### - Pre-start Up supports:

This work includes assessing the viability of proposed business, preparation of business plan, information, and advice in relation to business specific regulation and legislation adherence, one to one mentoring support. There will also be pre-start-up training as required by the client.

##### - Start Up:

This includes processing and assessments of the viability of Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA) and Short-Term Enterprise Allowance (STEA) applications for clients, where relevant with support from Back to Work Assessment Committee (BAC) and submission to DSP Case Workers. The Enterprise Officer, due to our geographical location engages with the DSP offices in Newcastle West, Listowel and Dominick Street. Support also includes access Start Your Own Business (SYOB) Training, Registration with Revenue and advice and support on accessing finance.

##### - Post Start Up:

This phase focuses on one-to-one support as required by individual clients, with continued access to enterprise networking opportunities, post start-up group training and mentoring opportunities. This work is focussed on supporting the client in their early days in self-employment to navigate any challenges. This type of aftercare support can be the difference to someone succeeding or being overwhelmed by the level of demands in self-employment. All clients engaging with the service are afforded the opportunity to explore self-employment and assess their own capacity through 1:1 work with the SICAP Enterprise Officer. Over the life of the current SICAP programme it is clear for some clients that self-employment will not be the outcome and so the Individuals are supported on a 1:1 basis to explore alternative mainstream opportunities including employment, education training and labour market initiatives. The Enterprise Officer also works across the multi-disciplinary team and can provide the ongoing refocused career plan. Time is also given to





# Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) 2021 Annual Report

## GOAL 2

### Action – Self Employment & Enterprise Support

responding to ad-hoc self-employment information requests to potential caseload and non-caseload clients as a means for promoting SICAP supports. All this intensive and strategic work contributes to our selected Statement of Priorities agreed in 2021, supporting the long term unemployed in our community.

#### Progression and Outcomes

A target of engaging and supporting 25 Individuals was set for this action in 2022, this target was met and exceeded with 34 clients being supported. Each client availed of the 1:1 supports set out, with many engaging in the training supports also provided to increase the level of knowledge of the sector and add value to the respective business plans that clients were working on.

Self-employment focussed training and workshops, include Start Your Business (SYOB) boot-camps, bookkeeping, health & safety with guidelines to prepare a safety statement, tax and filing tax returns, and access to mentoring if required by the clients. Training was run throughout the year,

Bookkeeping Basics for Small Business was delivered in March, one day Start Your Own Business Training Workshop was delivered in April; A Health & Safety and Preparing a Safety Statement training workshop took place in May, along with two social media for Business Start-ups Training. September saw the delivery of How to File your 2021 Tax returns. Equally mentoring is made available to clients as means of strengthening their business plans but also to have the real discussion on the viability of a plan.



SICAP and Limerick Local Enterprise Office (LEO) have a longstanding relationship in delivering shared Enterprise Training Supports to a mutual cohort of individuals about to embark on their self-employment journey. SICAP staff and that of the LEO are in contact to look for opportunities to collaborate for training delivery. One such training programme was a Start Your Own Business training programme; this training took place over two days on September 19th and



## GOAL 2

### Action – Self Employment & Enterprise Support

26th from 10am to 4.30pm each day and was well attended. This training was fully funded by Limerick Local Enterprise Office and organised by SICAP.

Advice and guidance was also provided to a number of people within the Ukrainian community, to provide a clear understanding of what is involved in running a business in Ireland. As part of the support offered to them, a Start Your Own Business Information Session took place in the Longcourt House Hotel in October. This was well attended with 15 people from a combination of the dispersed community (those living in hosted or independently), Mount Trenchard and Cahermoyle House, both accommodation centres. The Information Session was facilitated by Tom O'Leary of O'Leary & Associates with interpretation support, provided by Kseniia Arnautova, the SICAP Ukrainian Support worker. Follow up business advice clinics took place in November which offered a number of these individuals more tailored information specific to their business type.

From the 34 Individuals supported in 2022, eight clients progressed into self-employment and started a new business with support from SICAP. Three clients developed businesses within the construction sector, two clients within health & beauty sector, one client within personal services, one within arts and recreation and one client within the food sector. All the other clients continue their journey with SICAP, as they continue to explore their options, and undertake relevant training and engage with the opportunities provided through the programme.



## Key Statistics For 2022

Actual number of referrals
129
Referred back to DEASP (see reasons below)
78
Number commenced on TÚS
26
Number on panel
25
Reasons to be referred back to DEASP:
No show at interview
Returned to employment
Not living in West Limerick area
Medical issues
No suitable placement – previously dismissed from TÚS or organisations won't engage with candidate for various reasons.
Currently engaging with Jobpath and won't complete both TÚS and Jobpath together
Not financially viable
Childcare issues
Lack of transport
Literacy/language issues
Early leavers
Progressed to Employment
4
Transferred to CE
1
Payroll
The total payroll figure for TÚS for 2022 was €909,428.

*TÚS is a national community-based work placement programme offering short-term working opportunities to those who are unemployed and on the live register.*

These work opportunities are provided by community and voluntary organisations who deliver services that are vital to their own community and locality. TÚS gives those who participate on the programme the opportunity to learn and develop new skills while also networking and gaining confidence to re-join the workforce environment in a part time capacity.

The allocation of participants to West Limerick Resources is 120 participants. At year end there were 53 participants on TÚS and three TÚS supervisors. Recruitment continued to be difficult in 2022 due to the low number of referrals from DEASP. The Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection acknowledged this and in the latter end of the 2021 WLR were informed of another extension to the TÚS participants finishing dates. The earliest compulsory finish date was moved to April 8th, 2022. This extension added approximately 8 weeks to all contracts. In August and November further notices were received from the Department that a six-month contract extension was available for 30% of our scheduled leavers from August to December.

## Training

Training was provided for TÚS participants in Manual Handling, Safepass and Basic First Aid. These training courses are important to provide health and safety knowledge for TÚS participants so that they can work safely. A skin cancer campaign was also introduced for the summer months for all outdoor workers to be aware of the importance of sun protection. Information leaflets on skin cancer from the Irish Cancer Society together with a one-off issue of Factor 50 sun cream was issued to all these outdoor workers.

Two supervisors attended the "Understanding trauma and supporting the needs of people fleeing war and / or persecution training" delivered by HSE Cork Kerry Community Healthcare in conjunction with the HSE National Social Inclusion Office and HSE Mental Health via zoom in April.



## DEASP TÚS Remote Monitoring Inspection

In early March the DSP TÚS Remote Monitoring Inspection took place. Just two weeks notification were received from the department of Social Protection that the TÚS programme had been selected for an inspection as part of its' standard operating procedures. The audit covered the scheme operations of 2021. The feedback was that in overall terms, the existence of policies and procedures was demonstrated and that they were deemed to be in compliance with the TÚS Programme Operating Procedures.

### Referrals from DEASP

142 Referrals from the DEASP in 2022 (please note just 16 of these referrals were received in the Jan to July period, the remainder came in the August to November period). 15 candidates were living outside the WLR area and so this reduced the number of referrals to 129. In addition, a number of these were duplicate referrals or candidates previously referred to DEASP. Also note that whilst there are a significant number of candidates on the panel and not yet placed, they may live in areas where the programme does not have adequate placements i.e., Abbeyfeale / Dooradoyle. Alternatively, there are not sufficient candidates in areas where there are placements i.e., Mountcollins, Athea. There's also a significant number of candidates from the Travelling community and there are challenges in placing these candidates.

## Some good news stories.

There were a few good news stories in 2022:

Overall, there were four participants that progressed to employment.

- One participant started his own soccer coaching business.
- A participant who gained valuable work experience in an admin role in Rathfredagh secured work in an accountancy firm in Abbeyfeale on a 6-month temporary contract. She took unpaid leave to fulfil this contract. When this contract ended, she secured another admin role in Limerick city and decided to leave the TÚS programme then. She had completed 21 weeks on the TÚS programme.
- A participant who had a childcare qualification worked in the Desmond Crèche as a childcare assistant working part time morning hours. She was offered a childcare role in Kilcolman Crèche working part time evening hours. For several months, she worked in both Crèche's. Before the last TÚS extension, she was offered a full-time role in Kilcolman Crèche. She decided to leave the TÚS programme early to pursue this role.
- A participant took up a role in construction as a plasterer in the UK.

One participant progressed from TÚS to RSS upon completion of his placement.

### Organisations:

- TÚS currently work with 30 community organisations.
- There are vacancies with approx. 49 community organisations at present.
- An example of some works carried out by TÚS. The TÚS participant based in Bally Rovers AFC, who came on the TÚS programme through the self-referral process undertook a refurbishment of the dressing rooms at the Club. The participant completed some plastering to a damaged wall before completing the painting of both dressing rooms. A fantastic job and the committee were greatly impressed and grateful for the excellent job done.



Recently refurbished Dressing Rooms at Bally Rovers AFC, Ballyhahill – (before & after).



TÚS participant tending the flowers in his placement with Ballysteen Carnegie Development Clg

ATÚSSupervisorattendedaneventarrangedbyBallingarry Development Association to celebrate conservation works completed in Ballingarry old graveyard which is in the heart of the village. Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works, Patrick O'Donovan hosted the event. The conservation works were conducted over three years by volunteer groups and funded by the Heritage Council and Limerick City and County Council. The works included undergrowth clearance as well as conservation works to the McCarthy Mausoleum and Monckto Vault. The TÚS programme supported these works with a TÚS participant working solely in the graveyard clearing the undergrowth etc from September 2020 to August 2022. TÚS supervisors attended the "Board/Staff Session" on November 16th in the Woodlands House Hotel where an overview of the TÚS programme was presented to those in attendance. It was a very worthwhile exercise where both staff and board members had the opportunity to meet and engage with each other.

## Retirement

Tom Wilmoth, who was RSS Supervisor and TÚS/RSS Co-ordinator retired in September 2022. We thank him for all his help and assistance over the years and wish him the very best in his retirement. TÚS Supervisor Trevor Howell has transferred over to the RSS programme to fill the vacancy of RSS Supervisor & TÚS/RSS Co-ordinator.

## RIP

It is with regret we also inform you that we sadly lost a participant in 2022. To his family and friends, we offer our sincere condolences and thank them for his work on the TÚS programme. May he Rest In Peace.

## 2022 was another busy year for Social Farming across the region

Social Farming is the practice of offering people who are socially, physically, mentally, or intellectually disadvantaged the opportunity to spend time on a family farm in a healthy, supportive, and inclusive environment.

A person may choose to spend a fixed amount of time on the farm participating in a range of activities they may be interested in such as gardening, animal care or indoor activities such as baking bread or jam making.

Social Farming activity takes place in a safe and supportive environment cognisant of an individual's abilities, skills, and their interests. Focus remains on encouraging participants to socialise, gain confidence, and build relationships and increase their participation in community.

The farms are not specialised treatment farms; they are typical working farms where people in need of support can benefit from relationship building through farm activities in a nonclinical environment. While those participating in Social Farming activities may derive therapeutic benefit from it, this is not the main purpose or aim and the farmers are not playing the role of therapists. Social Farming supports people in living ordinary lives, interacting with their community and environment, developing their potential.

Funding for Social Farming is provided by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) and the CEDRA Fund. Social Farming Ireland is based in Leitrim and led by Leitrim Development Company.

It supports the development of a national Social Farming network in collaboration with fellow Local Development Companies (LDCs), Waterford Leader Partnership and Southwest Mayo Development Company. The Southwest Social Farming Regional Development Officer (RDO), based in West Limerick Resources CLG has a geographical remit which includes Limerick, Clare, North Tipperary, Kerry, and areas of Cork. The work of Social Farming is supported by a number of committees, the National Advisory Committee (NAC) and the National Co-ordination Committee (NCC) and at a regional level, the Social Farming Network, with membership drawn from the Southwest region, services and agencies, facilitated by WLR and chaired by one of the Social Farmers.





## Social Farming Open Days



Our Cork Social Farming Open Day, on July 15th was a huge success, with 35 individuals in attendance, interested to learn about Social Farming and how to get involved. Most attendees were staff, management, or participants from social care services across county Cork.

We started the morning with introductions from Regional Development Officer, Eadaoin O'Connell, followed by some information on Social Farming from Helen Doherty (SOFI National Co-ordinator), and a few words from our host Social Farmer Mary Cooke Connolly on her Social Farming experience. Similarly, we also heard from fellow Cork based Social Farmer Isabelle Sutton on her Social Farming experience to date and activities on her farm. After some questions and answers from the group, we had a walk around the farm and finished up with some tea/coffee and scones. Each attendee went home with information packs and contact details for further planning with their local Regional Development Officer (RDO).



Our Cork Social Farming Open Day was then featured in the Avondhu Press on July 28th after their reporter and photographer attended the event.

This was one of three open days organised by Social Farming in 2022, including another one in County Clare and an additional open day in County Cork for Social Farming Awareness Week.







# Social Farming

## Social Farming feedback

“ He really looked forward to Tuesday’s and spending time on the farm. My Dad really had a spring in his step after a day on the farm. My Dad typically wouldn’t leave the house so for him to make his way there in a taxi just proved to me how much he enjoyed being there.

“ The connection with the farmer, the confidence in communication, the participant leading more in terms of task choices, art and visual stimulation are all hugely beneficial.

“ This experience has been very valuable to M. The farmer knew exactly how to engage with M to get the best from her. M enjoyed the chats with the farmer very much.



## National Social Farming Conference

Our National Social Farming Conference was held on June 1st in Killashee Hotel in County Kildare. Over 150 people attended the Conference either in person or online with multiple contributions from front-line staff and a range of national and international speakers and most importantly, from people who have had the opportunity to experience Social Farming themselves.



**National Social Farming  
Ireland Conference  
June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022**

The theme of mutual benefit was one of the key messages to come out of a major national conference. Minister Frank Feighan opened the conference and we heard from our keynote speaker Joanne O'Riordan on the day. There was also strong agreement that the support to date from the Department of Agriculture Food and the Marine, the huge demand for it from individuals and services, and the increasing availability of Social Farmers opening their farms, needs to be matched by mainstream funding from within core health and social care budgets.



# Limerick Volunteer Centre

*Limerick Volunteer Centre (LVC) had a target of registering 500 new Volunteers and recording 20,000 Volunteer Hours in 2022*

Total new Volunteers Registered by December 31st was **543** or 109% of target.

**18,331** Volunteer hours were recorded which equates to 92% of annual hours target.

We received **€146,000** funding from DRCD but if charged at average industrial wage volunteer hours would represent a contribution of **€352,519** into the local economy.

14 new Organisations registered with LVC in 2022.

66 new Opportunities were created and advertised on [www.volunteerlimerick.ie](http://www.volunteerlimerick.ie)

333 volunteers applied for volunteer roles and engaged with the volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) along with people already registered with LVC they made almost 1000 applications to organisations over the year.

Out of this activity we managed to record 181 placements in 2022.

We resumed physically meeting people from May '22 by appointment after restrictions and the decline of Covid-19 variants.

We also recorded the following: Irish people represented just 51% of our volunteer registrations as opposed to 77% last year. We still registered 42 other nationalities.

## Here are the top 7:

Irish	268
Brazilian	63
Nigerian	29
Indian	24
Ukrainian	20
Zimbabwean	9
Chinese	8

## Garda Vetting

In 2022 LVC provided a Garda Vetting Service to 41 Limerick based organisations. Because of Covid-19 restrictions we continued to suspend fees for small organisations but continued to charge CE Schemes. Garda Vetting was given to nine new Garda Vetting Officers for various organisations.

## Working With Limerick City And County Council

2022 saw us develop our relationship with Limerick's Local Authority. We recruited volunteers on their behalf for Cruinniú na nÓg in May and Culture Night in September. At time of writing, we are planning to recruit up to 60 volunteers for Limerick's St. Patricks Weekend Festivities. This strategic relationship happened directly because of our membership of Limerick Community Forum during the pandemic and of course is further enhanced because of our membership of Limerick's Ukraine Response Forum.

## Covid Volunteers Appreciation Day

In May we took part in a National Pandemic-Volunteer Appreciation Event which was coordinated by Dept. Rural and Community Affairs. We held the event in Istabraq Hall in the City and County Council Offices, and it was addressed by live linkup to Minister Joe O'Brien. Mayor Danial Butler was on hand to present certificates and commemorative badges to our Limerick Volunteers. They were also entertained and provided with finger food and refreshments.





# Limerick Volunteer Centre



Before The Shift Begins.



Minister O'Brien Live From Dublin



Some Of The Recipients Of Special Covid Badges And Certificates.

## Ukraine Response

Ukrainian Volunteers at Cruinniu na Óg Festival, June 11th, 2022.



## Ukraine Crisis 2022

Although not core to the obvious duties of a Volunteer Centre the war in Ukraine and the subsequent flow of refugees to Ireland became a crisis that required “all hands-on deck”. VCs had built up experience during the pandemic in getting involved on a county basis in partnership with many other key agencies. And so it was that DRCD called upon VCs to get once again involved as the County Response Forums which were recalled into service.

On March 19th the Ukraine Refugee Crisis hit us almost without warning. From the outset LVC have assisted the Manager of Cahermoyle House in Ardagh through referrals to various agencies (especially SICAP) to help their displaced Ukrainians and linking in with the local Community.

LVC were invited onto the civic Ukrainian Response team as initiated by Limerick City & County Council. We duly offered our database of 3500 Limerick based volunteers as well as our expertise acquired during the Covid-19 crisis in managing volunteers at Vaccination Centres.

Our ultimate role had yet to be shaped but it became apparent that we would be involved as part of the Forum Team in the solution to this crisis.

Having been allocated over €20,000 throughout 2022





# Limerick Volunteer Centre

for Ukraine Crisis related actions LVC have given half of it to aid in the purchase of school bus services for Ukrainians in West Limerick. We have also set about visiting all the “Ukrainian residencies” across the county and working with our strategic partners on various initiatives to benefit our guests. We did manage to involve West Limerick based Ukrainians in the Cruinniú nan Óg Festival in Limerick city in June in cooperation with LCC Arts Office. (See picture)

## Training

Our training schedule has been immensely curtailed by Covid-19 however in 2022 we did train nine organisations face to face on Garda Vetting.

<i>Financial Impact of LVC in 2022</i>	
Core funding from DRCD.	€146,000
Volunteering hours. contributed into local economy	18,331
Impact in €	€352,149



*Rathkeale Together is a community-based project that promotes Cohesion and Leadership among the people of Rathkeale. The project is an ecumenical activity of the Methodist, Church of Ireland and Catholic Churches and is overseen by West Limerick Resources. We first and foremost listen to the local people to identify local needs and we respond to those needs. Rathkeale Together continues to work with other agencies and organisations also, to bring their professional services to Rathkeale, e.g., Adapt Domestic Abuse Service, Citizens Information Service, Rainbows Ireland, and addiction services NorthStar. We've been responsible for developing children's camps, engaging school's communities in painting murals for local schools, organising meaningful ecumenical events, employing locally talented people on our team and we continue to respond practically and respectfully to local needs and issues.*

## **Women's Group**

In 2022, the Women's Group went from strength to strength. A wider range of activities and classes were provided, including Tai Chi, Art, Chair Yoga, Walking, Women's Health, Knitting, Mindfulness, Make-up, and Zumba, together with several social functions. The Women's Group is facilitated by the Community Arts Officer and provides one of the few opportunities for Rathkeale women from various cultural backgrounds to meet and develop friendships and discuss local issues. During the year, 27 different sessions were organised, with between 7 and 22 participants, and an average of attendance of 12. Most of the sessions were attended by a core group, with the overall number of participants fluctuating depending on the time of year and the type of session. **(27 Sessions – 7-22 participants)**



## **Local Halting Site**

The local halting site has 11 units (bays) and accommodates 25 to 30 residents in all. During the year the group became aware of the very poor standard of the facilities available to the residents of the local halting site. Significant improvements are necessary in relation to toilets and bathing facilities, sanitary plumbing, the supply of clean potable water, drainage, surfaces, and other matters such as storage. The existing facilities pose difficulties for young mothers and some of the older residents. Few if any improvements have been carried out to the site since its initial construction, approximately 40 years ago. The Group has had 2 meetings with representatives (16) of the residents, and in November also hosted a meeting between those residents and the manager of the Traveller Accommodation Unit ('TAU') of Limerick City and County Council. The TAU manager has since visited the site and, prior to Christmas, the Community Development Officer and a small Traveller group visited a site in Cork with a view to inspecting and assessing the suitability (for Rathkeale) of the new bays



being installed there. Seeing this project to completion will be a major focus for the Group in 2023. **(25/30 Residents) (4 residents meetings held)**



## Children's Camps

2 children's camps were held during the year: one from April 11th to 13th (12 attendees) and the other from December 21st to 23rd (15 attendees). Targeted at children between 8 and 12 years of age, and organised by School Fitness Ireland, the activities included boxercise, yoga, football, co-operation exercises and games. **(12 Children)**



## Halloween Party



Our Halloween party was attended by 180 children, accompanied by parents and grandparents. Nearly all the attendees came in costume. The evening included storytelling, awards and music. It is proposed to make this an annual event from now on. **(180 Children)**

## Census 2022

On Census Day (1 April), on our initiative and in conjunction with Census 2022, we provided a help centre to assist people in completing their census forms. 55 people attended – thus impacting 55 (largely Traveller) households. This unique event involved 4 people from Rathkeale Together (2 staff and 2 volunteers) and 2 Census 2022 enumerators and was greatly appreciated by Census 2022. **(50 Families)**

## Art Projects

Our Community Arts Officer, assisted by 6 children from the local Youth Space in Thomas Street, constructed and painted two models of 'butterfly wings', and 4 participants in the Community Employment Scheme helped to mount the wings - which are over 2 metres in height - in a prominent position in the town, where they can be used as a backdrop for 'selfies' while at the same time facilitating the promotion of the work of Rathkeale Together, through social media and other channels. **(6 Children)**

## Mindfulness, Meditation and Reflection

An Advent reflective space was hosted in the local Church of Ireland church in December. There were 6 participants, together with 2 staff from Rathkeale Together. It is hoped to hold further similar sessions - in both the Church of Ireland and Catholic churches - on a regular basis during 2023.





In addition, 5 'reflection hours', providing 'quiet time' for those wishing to attend, were held in the Rathkeale House Hotel. Attendance was poor but, as in the case of the ecumenical remembrance service referred to earlier, an important precedent was set.

## *Visit of Minister for Justice to Rathkeale*



Following the significant anti-social behaviour and violence that occurred in town over the Christmas period, the Minister for Justice, Simon Harris, visited Rathkeale on December 20th, 2022, for a factfinding visit, and met a delegation representing local interests. Rathkeale Together was invited to be part of the delegation, and the Community Arts Officer attended the meeting on our behalf. The fact that we were asked to participate shows that the Group has been recognised as an important player in the community, which adds credibility to our ongoing efforts towards promoting social cohesion. The Group needs to consider - either solely or jointly with others - how best to respond to this complex issue.

## *International participation in St. Patrick's Day parade*

In collaboration with the Community Council and Team Rathkeale, the group played an active role in promoting, supporting this years St. Patricks Day Parade. A unique aspect of this work included encouraging and facilitating the participation of representatives of the 21 different nationalities living in the town in the Parade each carrying their own national Flag.







# Community Outreach

## Annual Facebook Results for 2022






Our website and Facebook page are key tools for sharing information on all community resources and supports, including online training workshops, parenting and mental health supports, our programmes and much more. It allows us to connect with our community and to share updates. The following analysis provides an insight into the level of activity and engagement achieved over the course of the year.

Total	
Posts	425
Reach <i>No. of people who saw any post at least once</i>	82,445
Engagement <i>No. of interactions users have with your page and its posts e.g., likes &amp; comments</i>	4,891
Likes <i>No. of new likes of your Facebook page during the year</i>	287

## Top Posts

Below are our most successful Facebook posts. This is our most attention-grabbing content which drives the most engagement from our followers.

### All content

Recent content ↑↓	Type	Reach ⓘ ↓
 Parenting support workshops Prim... Jun 22, 2022	Post	Boost post 3,815
 Maintaining communication with c... Sep 30, 2022	Post	Boost post 3,732
 Have your say on the future of the ... Jul 4, 2022	Post	Boost post 3,678
 West Limerick Ability Network - Art... Nov 9, 2022	Post	Boost post 3,418
 Fun for all the family at Barnagh Gr... Aug 30, 2022	Post	Boost post 3,225



# Community Outreach

## No.1



Boost post

### Parenting support workshops Primary Care Child and Family Psychology Ser...

June 22, 2022 at 5:05 PM

ID: 5159568280779603

#### Interactions

22 reactions

0 comments

20 shares

#### Performance



## No.2



Boost post

### Maintaining communication with children and teenagers - presentation by Ps...

September 30, 2022 at 1:50 PM

ID: 5434921609910934

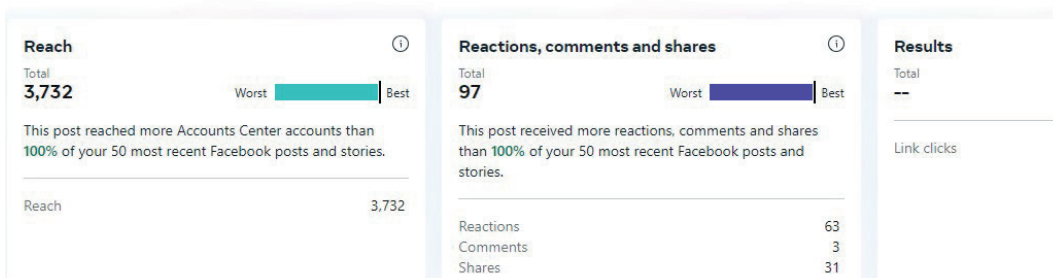
#### Interactions

63 reactions

3 comments

31 shares

#### Performance





# Community Outreach

## No.3

Boost post

Have your say on the future of the North Kerry and West Limerick region..... R...

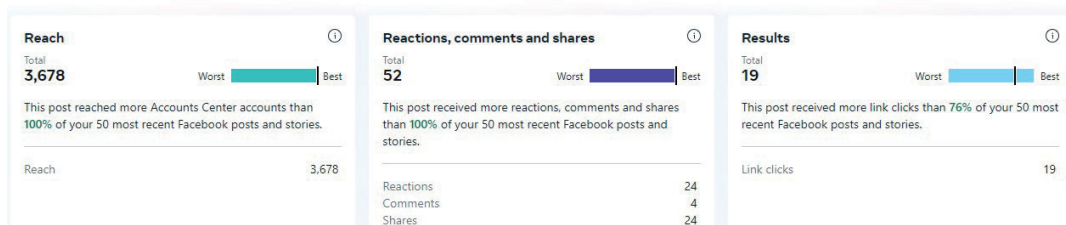
July 4, 2022 at 1:27 PM

ID: 5192382164164881

Interactions

24 reactions 4 comments 24 shares

### Performance



## No.4

Boost post

West Limerick Ability Network - Art Exhibition Launch Sincere thanks to all ...

November 9, 2022 at 1:46 PM

ID: 5550819094987851

Interactions

93 reactions 9 comments 16 shares

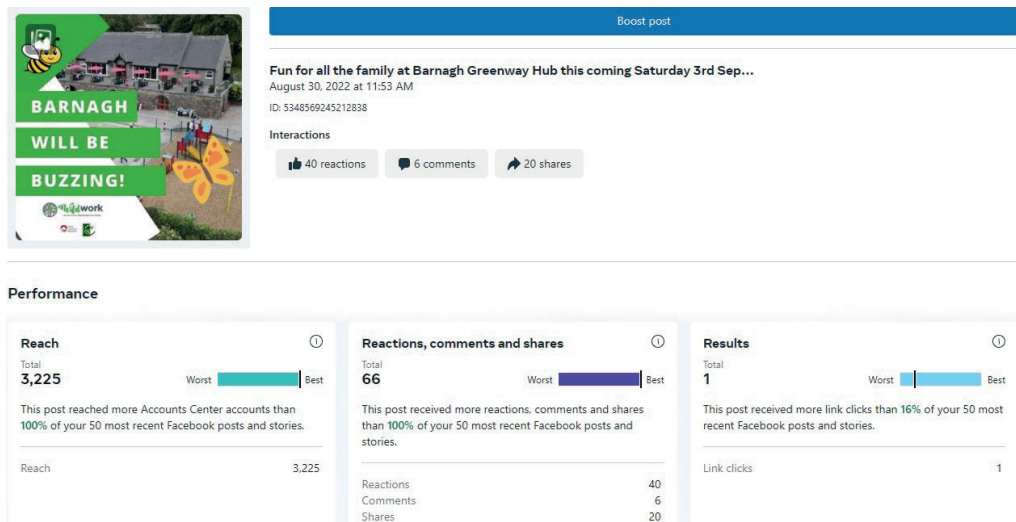
### Performance



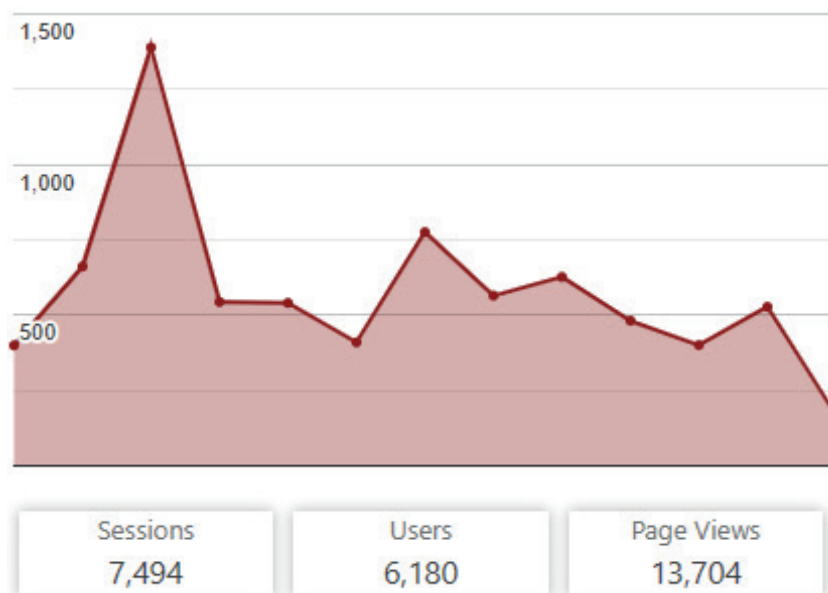


# Community Outreach

## No.5



## Our Website Google Analytics 2022



**Sessions** - Sometimes called a Visit, is the set of interactions, or web requests, made within a given time frame by a single user visiting a specific website.

**Users** - a user is a visitor who has initiated a session on your website.

**Page Views** - A pageview (or pageview hit, page tracking hit) is an instance of a page being loaded (or reloaded) in a browser.





# Governance & Compliance

*West Limerick Resources is a company limited by guarantee with charitable status.*

The Board of Director membership as at 31st December 2022 and the sectors they represent are listed as follows

Name	Representing
Noelle Madigan	Community - Estuary
Maeve Martin-Kelly	Community - Rathkeale
Aoife Keogh	Community - Abbeyfeale
Pat Brennan	Community - Newcastle West
David Browne	Community - Deel Upper
Lisa Quirke	Limerick Youth Service - Social Issues
Kevin Fitzgerald	Teagasc - Social Partners
Sean Lavery	IFA - Social Partners
Rory O'Dwyer	IBEC - Social Partners
Bertie Wall	ICTU - Social Partners
Michael O'Callaghan	ICMSA - Social Partners
Josephine Fogarty	HSE - Statutory
Claire O'Mahony	An Garda Síochána - Statutory
Catherine Hayes	Inland Fisheries Ireland - Statutory
Martin Cournane	Limerick & Clare Education and Training Board - Statutory
Michael Collins	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Elisa O' Donovan	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Bridie Collins	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative
Tom Ruddle	Limerick City & County Council - Elected Representative

Our board of directors met 7 times in 2022 with the AGM held on 15th June 2022. The Board appoints a number of sub-committees to oversee the company's compliance and operational obligations.

**The subcommittees include:**

- Board Executive subcommittee
- Finance & Audit subcommittee



# Governance & Compliance

## Financial Statements

### Schedule of Income and Expenditure Account 31st December 2022

INCOME	€
<b>Department Employment Affairs &amp; Social Protection</b>	
Job Club	52,984
Local Area Employment Service	33,140
Rural Social Scheme	48,553
Tús	102,985
<b>Department of Rural &amp; Community Development</b>	
Limerick Volunteer Centre	133,506
Social Enterprise Grant	3,534
<b>Limerick City and County Council</b>	
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme	626,271
LEADER 2014-20	301,371
Rathkeale Social Cohesion	116,791
Local Agenda 21	2,750
Rural Development Fund	221,556
LCCC Varoius	6,090
Healthy Ireland Fund	15,010
<b>HSE</b>	
Primary Health Care Project	122,836
Social Farming Winter Initiative	32,000
Older Persons Service - Section 39	5,569
<b>Department of Agriculture, Food &amp; Marine - Social Farming</b>	71,197
<b>TUSLA Child &amp; Family Agency - Family Support Project</b>	31,676
<b>LEADER PROJECTS - VARIOUS</b>	143,902
<b>Other Income</b>	65,400
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>2,137,121</b>

EXPENDITURE	€
Project and Admin Staff costs	1,192,224
Project Specific costs	663,507
Admin and Overhead costs	287,321
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>2,143,052</b>
<b>Surplus / (Deficit) for the financial year</b>	<b>(5,931)</b>



# Governance & Compliance

## Financial Statements

### Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2022

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	<b>€</b>	<b>€</b>
Tangible Assets		60,390
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Debtors	356,864	
Cash at bank and in hand	<u>742,844</u>	
	1,099,708	
<b>Creditors</b>		
Amounts falling due within one year	<u>(1,073,196)</u>	
Amounts falling due after one year		
<b>Net Current Assets</b>		26,512
<b>Total Assets less Current Liabilities</b>		<u>86,902</u>
<b>Capital and Reserves</b>		
Revenue Reserves		<u>86,902</u>
<b>Reserves</b>		<u>86,902</u>



Forbairt Iarthar Luimní  
West Limerick Resources CLG