



Forbairt Iarthar Luimní
West Limerick Resources CLG

2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Phone: 069-62222



@Westlimerickresources



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



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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
Website:	www.wlr.ie
Email:	info@wlr.ie
Phone:	069-62222
Facebook:	@Westlimerickresources

— Foreword

On behalf of the Board and Staff of West Limerick Resources it gives us great pleasure to present our annual report on the activities of our organisation over the course of 2020.

In what for everyone was an extraordinary year with the onset of the public health pandemic, little did we know how the year was going to unfold. At the start of each year, each individual Programme we administer sets out its annual programme of activities for delivery. While good progress towards implementation of these annual plans was made in the first quarter, by early March it was becoming increasingly evident that significant changes were afoot. With the announcement by Government that the country was going into lockdown, West Limerick Resources, like so many others, had to close our doors to the general public, something which had never happened since we first opened in 1993. In a very short period of time, the whole approach to how we fulfill our role in the community had to be overhauled. Remote working became the new norm and staff adapted to providing supports and services in new ways demonstrating the flexibility and creativity of our organisation. The Board transitioned to meeting online and maintained their commitment to overseeing the activities of the organisation.

Working on the ground

Throughout this report you will see the depth of our activities under individual Programmes with each being impacted differently by the pandemic. As a Local Development Company, our connection with communities right across West Limerick and our commitment to working in partnership with the wide range of stakeholders is key to our delivery model. Never was this so important over the course of 2020.

- With the EU funded LEADER Rural Development Programme coming to a close at the end of 2020, a huge level of activity was maintained throughout the year ensuring the full allocation of funds available was achieved. The full list of projects supported since 2016 is listed inside.
- The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme is mid way through its Programme period and continues to deliver a significant range of projects supporting those in our community most in need. The mapping of Community Response Teams with contact details and updating of our WLR Website proved particularly valuable during the earlier phase of the Pandemic and subsequent mask making initiative could not have been foreseen as being necessary in January.
- TUS and the Rural Social Scheme experienced a particularly challenging year managing the lockdowns and eventual return to work for their participants and ensuring this was done in a safe manner. The increased awareness of the value and appreciation for local amenities, walkways and parks resulted in greater demands on the services provided by TUS and RSS, necessitating ongoing management.
- The Volunteer Centre played its part in supporting local communities prepare their community responses at the height of the pandemic. Throughout West Limerick community volunteers came together to organise food and essential supplies deliveries for those who needed support.
- The Primary Health Care Programme for Travellers saw

the focus of their efforts switch to supporting the provision of COVID 19 related information to Traveller Families across West Limerick. Supports for families with young children home schooling and, in some instances, basic food provision was necessary as the year progressed.

- As a result of the pandemic, the Job Club saw a significant decline in numbers of jobseekers being referred and instead provision of information on new Social Welfare supports became a key activity.

Flexibility

The flexibility demonstrated by so many over the course of the Pandemic must be acknowledged, including that of the staff. While in lockdown the focus remained on those who needed our support most and new ways of doing everything were adopted. We must recognize the flexibility given to us by our funding Departments over the year without which we could not have responded in the ways we did. Much of the work we do is in partnership with other Organisations and Agencies and the strength of our working relationships at local level gave us the flexibility to respond to the various needs identified through out the year. As always, the adaptability and creativity of the wide range of community groups and individuals we work with was a constant source of inspiration and reinforced our belief that bottom-up local development is always the best approach to supporting our local area.

The year ahead

Supporting our communities most impacted by the Pandemic will be crucial in the year ahead. Undoubtedly there will be numerous issues arising from the Pandemic as many community groups and individuals have struggled, several without income streams and no real sense of when a degree of normality will return. The continued delivery of the wide range of supports and services provided by our organisation will be needed in the coming year as much, if not more, than at any time in our past. As a registered charity, West Limerick Resources welcomes the introduction of the Governance Code by the Charities Regulator. The adherence to the provisions of this Code is central to the good governance of our organisation. The year ahead will involve ensuring that we meet our obligations in this regard.

Thanks

We must say thanks to our Board and Staff for their dedication and commitment throughout a most challenging year. Without their efforts, we could not deliver the range of activity highlighted through out this report. A sincere appreciation to our funding Government Departments, Pobal and Limerick City & County Council who enabled us to continue our work through the provision of funding. To the many volunteers and activists involved in community groups and organisations throughout West Limerick we wish to acknowledge your hard work.

West Limerick Resources is Committed to the Community

Mike O'Flynn
Chairperson

Shay Riordan
Manager

— About West Limerick Resources CLG

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.

VISION

A stronger, vibrant and inclusive West Limerick community with enhanced personal and community identity, values, opportunities, structures, services, facilities, health and sustainability.

MISSION

West Limerick Resources is the community development organisation that works to achieve positive change in the lives of people and groups in West Limerick.

Job Club

The Job Club is funded by the Department of Social Protection, it provides one-to-one supports, group workshops and facilities to assist people in their job search. This service is a free service for unemployed and underemployed individuals.

The Job Club works with job ready clients who seek support and advice on job seeking skills. All participants on Employment Programmes (CE, TUS & LTI) can avail of the services. We also help people to prepare for interviews, including hosting mock interviews.

Supports available

- Access to Job Club facilities
- Help with CV preparation, cover letter writing and job applications.
- Development of job seeking skills with either one-to-one tuition or group training sessions.
- We can provide training and support in the individual areas that people feel they require assistance.

Facilities offered

- One-to-one tuition
- Group training courses
- Access to the internet, telephone, photocopier, stationery, and job notice board.
- Assistance with uploading CVs to the internet or job websites
- Outreach to clients who cannot travel to the West Limerick Job Club

Workshop (group) training

- CV and cover letter writing
- Improving your job searching
- Applying for jobs via email
- Interview skills and mock interviews

The past year of 2020 has been very challenging for the Job Club because of Covid-19. The activation services in DSP who refer clients to the Job Club ceased operations in March and therefore we were not getting any referrals and of course the Job Club service was closed to any individuals who normally came by the office (walk-in's). The Job Club was not able to meet our targets set out by DSP for this year.

Actual Targets set out by DSP

Workshops – 126
1-1 clients – 156

Total clients dealt with – 168

Total referrals from DSP – 60

Referral breakdown:

38 1-1 clients,
21 workshop clients and 1 CV prep

Total no of clients supported into employment
50



Primary Health Care Project for Travellers

The project is funded by the Traveller Health Unit (THU) in the Health Service Executive (HSE) and managed by West Limerick Resources CLG. It was developed to address the significant health inequalities that the Traveller Community experience in Ireland. The PHCP seeks to improve the health and wellbeing status of the Traveller Community in West Limerick.

In 2020 the West Limerick Primary Health Care Project (PHCP) for Travellers marked an important milestone, the project's 10- year anniversary. The PHCP project employs qualified and experienced Community Health Workers all members of the Traveller Community and a Project Coordinator.

Key achievements in 2020:

The year 2020 started with great optimism, in the early months the PHCP organised and delivered several events, workshops and programmes, two heart health programmes: an Operation Transformation Programme in Abbeyfeale and Aqua Aerobics classes in Rathkeale & Askeaton. Furthermore, we had commenced a Health and Wellbeing programme in collaboration with partners, for parents in Rathkeale. The announcement of the pandemic in March changed all that for us. It was disappointing to cancel and amend our work plans and the many in-person events we had planned. During this period, we were faced with many challenges and obstacles.

Our biggest challenge as a project was maintaining contact, telephone contact with the community. Our delivery method prior to Covid19 was reliant on calling to peoples' homes or through interaction during group work. A very successful method in reaching, engaging, and sharing information. There was no quick fix to this issue. We had never previously collected telephone numbers. The issue of contact numbers remains an ongoing challenge.

Another major obstacle facing the project, the team and the Traveller Community in West Limerick was the digital divide. Many factors impacted this, including but not limited to poor broadband and phone connectivity, limited digital skills and access to IT devices, literacy and numeracy skills and the cost of Wi-Fi connectivity. The team adapted very well to the new challenges of working from home and over the course of 2020 learnt many new IT skills.

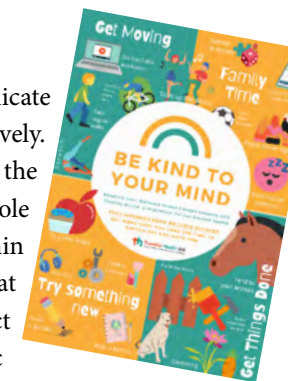
Our Response during the Covid19 pandemic

The PHCP team innovatively and creatively responded to needs as they arose. Health information discussed included ongoing public health advice together with tips on managing chronic health conditions and the importance of staying well. Health topics covered included Asthma, Diabetes, Mental Health, Drug & Alcohol Awareness, Heart Health- staying active and Coping with Stress. Total number of contacts, in 2020 were 1,849, 89% were female. Of the 1,849 contacts made; 258 families received health advice and information.

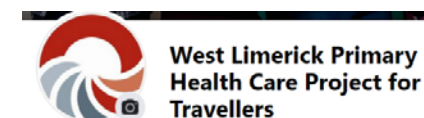


In October 2020 in response to new and emerging needs, the PHCP team set up an Emergency Food Provision to assist Traveller household to self-isolate. Families were identified and referred by the HSE Contact Tracing Team as either a close contact or as being Covid19 positive. The provision supplied families in need with short-term emergency food items assisting families to isolate or restrict movements and to stay at home.

New leaflets were designed, helping to communicate health messages and information visually and creatively. Fortunately, the PHCP project is well-established, the team is professional, experienced, and highly valued role models within the Traveller Community and within Statutory and Voluntary services. Moreover, a great asset was West Limerick Primary Health Care Project Facebook Page. Ongoing marketing and strategic promotion of the page with accurate and reliable health information resulted in an increase in page likes and follows.



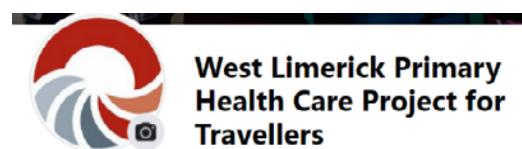
The PHCP worked closely with the THU in the HSE to develop appropriate programmes or responses to support the Traveller Community. Videos were developed to help communicate key public health advice. Collaboration was ongoing with SICAP "Play & Activity Packs" were developed and distributed to school aged children. A "Family Cookery Programme" and a Revisit of the "1, 2, 3, Nursery Rhymes for You and Me" Initiative was planned and developed; delivery, however, is expected in 2021.



1. Like all programmes the West Limerick Primary Health Care Project for Travellers adapted our work during the Covid19 pandemic
2. The biggest obstacle facing our project was remaining in contact with the Traveller Community, remotely. Prior to the pandemic the work of the project entailed cold calling with the team delivering peer health information on a range of health topics at someone's door. A very successful method for reaching, engaging, and sharing knowledge and information with the Traveller Community.

Therefore, with limited contacts and telephone details, the team, while working remotely, did their best using social media and other platforms, to reach families. Many asked their own relatives and friends, for permission, to share their mobile number with the project so that we could stay in contact and have connection with all areas; Abbeyfeale, Newcastle West, Rathkeale, Patrickswell & Askeaton. Coupled with this challenge was the regular change of telephone numbers. Additionally, while many Travellers live in West Limerick, it was difficult to reach and connect with everyone, by the end of 2020, we had secured telephone numbers and had regular contact with 70 individuals, about 50 families. The community were gracious, and many were happy to hear from the team, to check in, to chat, to talk about the Covid19 updates & other health messages. Understandably saturation set in towards the later end of 2020, a barrier that would need consideration, in 2021.

3. Another challenge facing the project and the team was the digital divide that was being felt and experienced by Travellers in West Limerick, the rural aspect coupled with poor broadband, limited literacy, and numeracy skills and many having no access to devices- i.e. smartphones & tablets. Furthermore, children were home from school and the team had to balance home and work life in the one environment. The team adapted very well to the new challenges of working from home and over the course of 2020 learnt new skills including using email for the first time, sending, and receiving emails, attaching documents and pictures to emails to share their weekly work with the coordinator. Moreover, the team learnt to use Outlook emails, Zoom, Teams, WhatsApp, Facebook, voice messenger & the use of video to deliver health information and messages.
4. The PHCP project in October 2020 set up an Emergency Food Provision service for Travellers to respond to new and emerging needs, assisting families with isolating due to the Covid19 pandemic. Families identified by the HSE as either a close contact or as having a Covid19 positive case in the household and with no social support were given food items to help them to isolate at home. To respond to needs as they emerged, many at short notice, due to the nature of Covid19, a pantry of non- perishable food items was established in the Boardroom of West Limerick Resources offices and food box were assembled; when calls and requests were processed, non-perishable food items were purchased. Together these boxes of food items were organised & delivered safely to families in need. WLPHP acknowledges with thanks the offer off help from wider WLR staff with this project.



**West Limerick Primary
Health Care Project for
Travellers**

LEADER Rural Development Programme

The EU funded LEADER Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 aims to improve the quality of life in rural areas and to encourage diversification of the rural economy. All funding available was awarded to local projects under the three Programme Themes.

OVERVIEW OF DELIVERY 2020

Subtheme	Number of projects approved	Value of projects approved	Number of Claims Processed	Value pf Claims Processed
Rural Tourism	7	€300,360.66	5	€88,843.21
Enterprise Development	5	€140,825.59	2	€99,797.51
Rural Towns	3	€204,813.86	3	€117,879.85
Broadband	5	€50,084.36	0	€0
Basic Services for Hard to Reach Communities	1	€32,734.80	3	€30,259.93
Rural Youth	2	€68,910.56	6	€68,543.44
Water Resources	2	€6324.78	0	€0
Local Biodiversity	2	€30,025.97	2	€95,952.58
Renewable Energy	3	€74,587	4	€52,525.06
Cooperation Projects	7	€433,852.71	0	€0
LEADER Food	3	€356,722.50	2	€29,976

INTERNAL PROJECTS APPROVED IN 2020

West Limerick Resources secures funding for internal projects to target specific priority areas for development. These projects require significant development work prior to submission of application to secure project partners where appropriate, finalise terms of reference for work required as well as undertake the relevant procurement process. Over the course of 2020, a high priority was given to developing and processing these proposals with the intention that they would run in the interim period between the close RDP 2014-2020 programme and the start of the new. West Limerick Resources was very fortunate that all applications were successful. As well as increasing our ability to deliver on strategic objectives, additional administration budget accompanies projects approved under the Cooperation and LEADER Food measures.

Project Title	Measure	Type	Amount
Social Enterprise Training Initiative	Cooperation	Training	€59,381.00
Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Analysis and Development)	Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€25,469.73
Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Training)	Cooperation	Training	€174,013.12
Greenway Destination Development Training Programme	Cooperation	Training	€37,650.00
Destination Development Training Programme - Shannon Estuary Way	Cooperation	Training	€60,000.00
North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative (Analysis)	Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€28,183.36
North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative (Training)	Cooperation	Training	€49,155.50
West Limerick Food Series Phase 2	LEADER Food	Training	€74,216.00
Trails Maintenance Training	Biodiversity	Training	€8722.59
West Limerick Digital Marketing Training Programme	Broadband	Training	€17,788.84
Feasibility Study on "Deel Recycling" Social Enterprise	Enterprise Development	Analysis and Development	€18,357.75

— Internal Projects Delivered in 2020

River Feale Catchment Management Initiative:

A Baseline study of the upper Feale Catchment was undertaken during 2019 and 2020. This cooperation project between North East West Kerry Development (NEWKD), IRD Duhallow and West Limerick Resources (Project lead) aimed to report on the key factor impacting on the upper catchment and main stem of the River Feale as far as Listowel. The contractor completed a desktop study and a catchment survey which in turn produced a substantial report with varying results and recommendations for actions. This report will inform all future actions on the River Feale.



Biodiversity Leaders Training Initiative:

This Training programme aimed to equip community groups, tour guides, youth groups etc to integrate biodiversity awareness into their activities. It was necessary to adapt the planned hands on training to an on-line programme which commenced in September 2020. Three trainers delivered the course through 11 webinars- Frances Giaquinto a botanist and chartered environmentalist, Sarah Thompson a creative artist and herbalist and Linda Gilsenan a vegetable and flower gardener. The 34 participants came from a variety of backgrounds including Tidy Towns, community development organisations, green schools, walking trails and West Limerick Tourism. Participants found the training enjoyable, informative, and inspiring and a request for further training has been sought by the majority of participants. This programme will now feed into the Wildwork initiative due to start later in 2021.

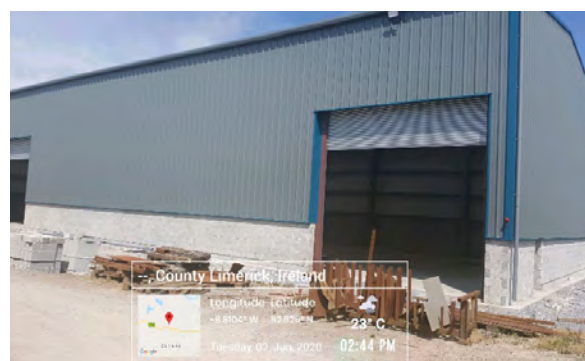


— Case Studies Of External Projects Completed In 2020.

OCE PHASE 2 EXPANSION PLAN

OCE was established by John O'Connor in 2001 initially carrying out agricultural machinery repairs and modifications. Building on this foundation of dealing directly with the end user and their machines, it developed into the manufacture of agricultural machinery products, exporting to Europe, New Zealand, Canada, Ukraine and Argentina. As their business has increased significantly, the current plant no longer had the production capacity for big orders that were in the pipeline. Their objective was to meet all customer orders and to achieve a turnover goal of €4million by 2019, creating more jobs and bringing more economic value to the local community. A new manufacturing facility was necessary to enable the promoter to produce more products efficiently and to a higher standard in terms of produce finish. This would, in turn, enable the promoter to price products cost effectively.

The promoter sought to build a new 800sq/m facility on the existing 3.5 hectare site in Kildimo. It will incorporate a manufacturing area, paint line, assembly area, canteen and offices. Due to having more space and the capacity to handle large projects the promoter is now able to complete two to three large jobs simultaneously rather than waiting for one job to be completed before starting another. This allows them to increase their production rate which in turn will increase turnover and grow the business, leading to the creation of more local employment. LEADER funding Approved: €104,662.50

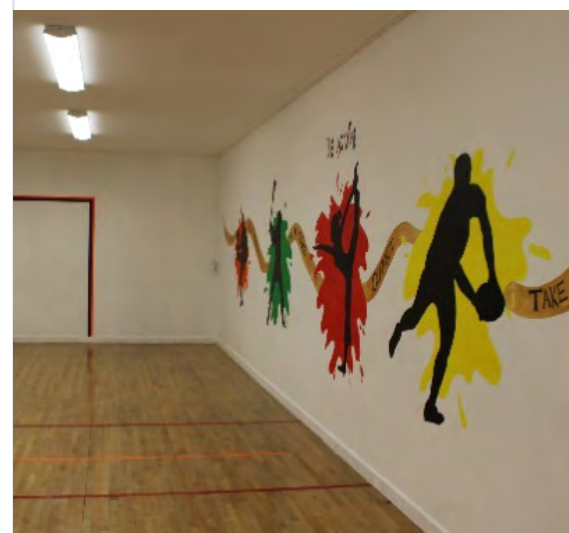


Social Inclusion Theme Case Study:

REFURBISHMENT OF RATHKEALE YOUTH SPACE

Rathkeale Community Council recognised the growing demand amongst the youth for a dedicated 'space' where the youth can meet, feel safe, be heard and listened to, interact with young people from all social backgrounds and learn, grow and develop in a fun environment. Having carried out a series of meetings and consultations with various groups and through Limerick Youth Service's knowledge of the area, the promoter wished to further develop the Youth Space. This would benefit not only the young people in Rathkeale but also the wider West Limerick area.

They applied for funding to redevelop the handball court in Rathkeale Youth Space. This building is owned by Rathkeale Community Council and is leased by Limerick Youth Service (LYS) who are the longstanding lease holders and currently on a five year rolling lease. The redevelopment of the handball court would expand access to disability groups and the wider community and would pose a great opportunity for the staff of LYS to facilitate various collaborate pieces of work with many youth focussed agencies and services in West Limerick



The work involved constructing a floor above the handball court to create a larger office space for staff and support personnel of LYS and fitting out the office space for use by LYS. The project also involves the provision of a second room, a multi-activity space, for use as a meeting/training area and for games and activities. The promoter also installed a lift to access the upper-level offices.

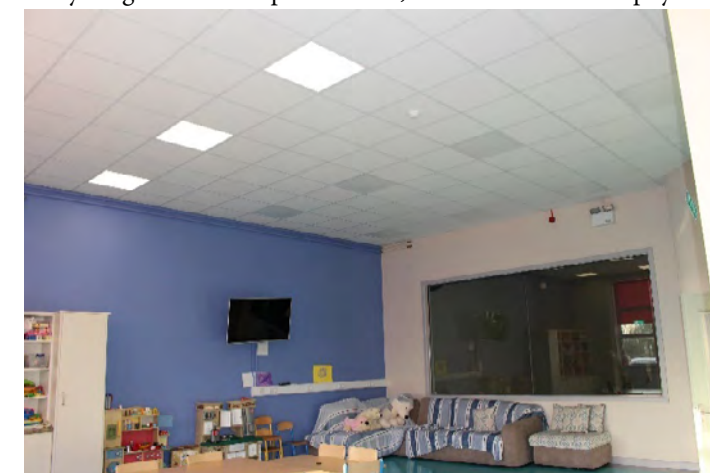
The space is now welcoming and accessible to all young people in the area and the surrounding townlands. Rathkeale is a unique place in that it has a large population of the Traveller community living in the town for the majority of the year. The promoter advised that work has been undertaken to achieve a level of integration and cooperation in the community. The Youth is the key to this development. Rathkeale Youth Space operates an open – door policy and both communities meet, play, interact, learn, grow, develop and have fun together. LEADER funding Approved: €62,129.66

Rural Environment theme Case Study:

UPGRADE OF INTERNAL STRUCTURE OF THE BUTTERFLY CLUB

The Butterfly Club is a social club for children and young adults with special needs, both intellectual and physical. It caters from ages 3 to 22 years and is a voluntary run club established in 2004. The Butterfly Club unit is now based in Rathkeale Industrial Estate where children and young adults attend the club once a month. The groups are made up depending on age and ability of the child/young adult.

The ceiling in the centre, which is approximately 30 years old, consisted of ceiling tiles and old light fixtures. The ceilings were not insulated making the space extremely difficult to heat and



leading to large energy costs. The ceiling tiles were also very loose making them unsafe in the dedicated play areas. The project involved the removal of the internal ceiling, a new frame to be constructed, insulation installed above the ceiling and the lighting and fire prevention fittings to be integrated into the new ceiling.

After the completion of the works, there has been a dramatic improvement in the heat retention as well as from a health and safety point of view. The 57 children attending the club monthly are all in a warmer, safer and more inviting environment. They are able to play football without the concern of hitting the ceiling and the old large structural tile being dislocated from the frame. LEADER funding Approved: **€14,471.25**

LEO FUNDED ENTERPRISE TRAINING 2020

West Limerick Resources secured funding of €13,000 from the Local Enterprise Office in 2020 to carry out Enterprise training targeting the West Limerick Area. A total of 196 places were taken up across the following courses, the majority of which were adapted to be delivered on line due to Covid 19:

- Bookkeeping Basics for Small Business Start Ups
- Branding and Marketing for Small Businesses
- Search Engine Optimisation
- Start Your Own Business
- Developing Videos to Market Your Business
- Delivering Excellent Customer Service to Increase Sales – Part 1 – Customer Service Excellence
- Delivering Excellent Customer Service to Increase Sales - Part 2 - Selling Skills
- Re-opening of Hair & Beauty Salons (two sessions)
- Facebook for Beginners
- Pricing for Profitability: Costing and Pricing Methods for Small Business
- Selling Online – Moving Your Business Online
- Digital Marketing for the Tourism Sector
- Employment Law
- Promoting Your Business Through Social Media
- Health and Safety Legislation & Guidelines to Preparing a Safety Statement



LEADER PROGRAMME 2014-2020 - TOTAL PROJECT APPROVALS WEST LIMERICK				
Project Name	Promoter Name	Sub-Theme	Project Type	LEADER Grant Amount
Cara Motorhomes Business Expansion	Cara Motorhomes Ltd	Enterprise Development	Capital	€20,320.00
Continuous improvement programme to increase efficiencies, growth and expansion in Cahill's Farm Che	Cahill's Farm Cheese Limited	Enterprise Development	Capital	€85,875.00
Co-Working Hub - West Limerick	D & G Purpose Giving Foundation	Enterprise Development	Capital	€46,173.40
Feasibility Study on "Deel Recycling" Social Enterprise	West Limerick Resources CLG	Enterprise Development	Analysis and Development	€18,357.75
Glorach Facility Upgrade	Abbeyfeale Folk CLG (t/a Glorach)	Enterprise Development	Capital	€54,426.39
Kilmeedy Community Cafe and Shop	Kilmeedy Community Development Group CLG	Enterprise Development	Capital	€90,346.71
OCE phase 2 expansion plan	O'Connor Mechanical Innovation Ltd t/a OCE	Enterprise Development	Capital	€104,662.50
Caher Bakery Ltd Bakery Extension	Caher Bakery Ltd	Enterprise Development - LEADER Food	Capital	€200,000.00
Glin Castle Food Fair	Madam Olda Fitzgerald t/a Glin Castle	Enterprise Development - LEADER Food	Capital	€6,483.00
Kearney's Home Baking Business Expansion	Kearneys Home Baking Ltd	Enterprise Development - LEADER Food	Capital	€82,506.50
Limerick Food Trail and Verification System	Limerick Food Group CLG	Enterprise Development - LEADER Food	Marketing	€15,385.05
West Limerick Food Series	West Limerick Resources CLG	Enterprise Development - LEADER Food	Training	€29,976.00
Social Enterprise Training Initiative	West Limerick Resources CLG	Enterprise Development - Cooperation	Training	€59,381.00
Barnagh Greenway Hub Playground	Olive Sheehan	Rural Tourism	Capital	€16,699.72
Barnagh: Greenway Hub	Olive Sheehan	Rural Tourism	Capital	€44,457.91
Beagh Castle Cottages	Beagh Castle Developments Ltd	Rural Tourism	Capital	€150,000.00
Curraghchase Garden Centre Expansion Project	Ray & Joy Conway t/a Curraghchase Garden Centre	Rural Tourism	Capital	€30,417.17
Expansion of Mary Leonard Riding School	Mary Leonards Riding School	Rural Tourism	Capital	€56,062.97
Glin Playground Extension and Enhancement	Glin Development Association CLG	Rural Tourism	Capital	€41,237.40
Great Southern Greenway Bike Hire	Spin Doctor Bike Repair Ltd	Rural Tourism	Capital	€19,791.46
Harnett Reunion International	Abbeyfeale Community Council C.L.G.	Rural Tourism	Marketing	€8,761.70
Ilen Marine School	The A.K. Ilen Company CLG	Rural Tourism	Training	€18,800.00
Ilen Marine School	The A.K. Ilen Company CLG	Rural Tourism	Capital	€6,244.62
Improvements to ground works and promotion of the trails	Mullaghareirk Walking Trails	Rural Tourism	Capital	€5,218.31
Tourism Accommodation - Templeglantine	Rachel O'Keeffe	Rural Tourism	Capital	€30,649.50
West Limerick Culture and Heritage Tourism Action Plan	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism	Analysis and Development	€4,948.29
Destination Development Training Programme - Shannon Estuary Way	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism - Cooperation	Training	€60,000.00
Greenway Destination Development Training Programme	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism - Cooperation	Training	€37,650.00

Shannon Estuary Way Destination Development	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism - Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€5,996.25
The Shannon-Erne Pilgrim Way Baseline Study	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism – Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€5,537.39
West Limerick Food Series Phase 2	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Tourism – LEADER Food	Training	€74,216.00
Ardagh District Community Walkway	Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company Limited By Guarantee	Rural Towns	Capital	€85,118.19
Development of the derelict Carnegie Library building	Ballysteen Carnegie Development Company Limited by guarantee	Rural Towns	Large Scale Infrastructure	€7,884.75
Kantoher - Parish Plan	Kantoher Development Group CLG	Rural Towns	Analysis and Development	€5,092.00
Refurbishment of Mountcollins Community Centre	Mountcollins Community Centre	Rural Towns	Capital	€20,001.64
Renovation of Ashford Tavern	Kantoher Development Group CLG	Rural Towns	Capital	€183,997.68
Strategic Plan for Adare	Adare Community Trust	Rural Towns	Analysis and Development	€5,000.00
Upgrade of Car Park in Capt Tim Madigan Park	Shanagolden Community Council	Rural Towns	Capital	€111,810.92
North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative (Analysis)	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Towns - Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€28,183.36
North Kerry/West Limerick Periphery and Border Areas Initiative (Training)	West Limerick Resources CLG	Rural Towns - Cooperation	Training	€49,155.50
Upgrade to Newcastle West Community Centre	Newcastle West and District Community Centre Limited	Rural Towns	Capital	€49,627.87
Newcastle West Community Centre Broadband Upgrade	Newcastle West and District Community Centre Limited	Broadband	Capital	€2,484.02
Promoting Abbeyfeale via Broadband Technologies	Abbeyfeale Community Council C.L.G.	Broadband	Capital	€8,972.17
Remote access and operation of lighting, CCTV and generator in Manor Fields, Adare.	Adare Recreation & Community Complex Company Limited by Guarantee	Broadband	Capital	€8,154.12
Rural Transport Programme for County Limerick and County Clare	County Limerick and North Cork Transport Group CLG	Broadband	Capital	€12,685.21
West Limerick Digital Marketing Training Programme	West Limerick Resources CLG	Broadband	Training	€17,788.84
Community Hall Upgrade	Cappagh Community Council	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€22,305.61
Community Sport and Leisure Astro Turf Facility	Ardagh District Recreational and Sporting Company Limited By Guarantee	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Large Scale Infrastructure	€357,632.97
Development and Construction of Pavilion Building	Adare Recreation & Community Complex Company Limited by Guarantee	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Large Scale Infrastructure	€500,000.00
Extension of Day Care Centre Space	The Desmond Ability Resource Complex Company Limited by Guarantee	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€98,477.15
Fit out of sensory room	The Butterfly Club CLG	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€12,597.41
Kildimo Community Resource Centre	Kildimo Community Council CLG	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Large Scale Infrastructure	€464,060.73
Lift Installation in Community Resource Centre	Ballybrown Clarina Community Council	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€32,734.80
Mountcollins upgrade of heating & balcony	Mountcollins Community Centre	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€20,788.43

Refurbishment of Toilet Facilities in Parish Hall	Killeedy Hall Management Committee	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€13,410.45
Repairs and refurbishment of Kilcornan Community Centre	Kilcornan Community Council	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Capital	€52,883.05
Social Enterprise Potential in West Limerick Study	West Limerick Resources CLG	Basic Services for hard to reach communities	Analysis and Development	€4,986.00
Askeaton Ballysteen Tennis Club	Askeaton Ballysteen Tennis Club	Rural Youth	Capital	€32,614.97
Cappagh GAA Community Walkway	Cappagh GAA Club	Rural Youth	Capital	€32,773.12
Carrigkerry Playground Development	Athea/Carrigkerry/Old Mil Development Association	Rural Youth	Capital	€120,877.67
Construction of Concrete Yard	Tournafulla Development Association	Rural Youth	Capital	€21,900.00
Development of Walkway	Creora Manister GAA Club	Rural Youth	Capital	€36,295.59
Foynes Yacht Club Community Youth Sail Training	Foynes Yacht Club	Rural Youth	Capital	€37,964.35
General Purpose Sports Area	Foynes & District Community Council Company Limited by Guarantee	Rural Youth	Capital	€28,129.47
Refurbishment of Rathkeale Youth Space	Rathkeale Community Council	Rural Youth	Capital	€62,129.66
Provide new roof to office and stores at Bleach Lough	Bleach Lough Anglers CLG	Water Resources	Capital	€2,553.75
Purchase and installation of water butts in Glin	Glin Development Association CLG	Water Resources	Capital	€3,771.03
River Feale Catchment Management Animation Project	West Limerick Resources CLG	Water Resources - Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€9,774.90
All Inclusive Parish Park	Abha Bhan Parish Park CLG	Local Biodiversity	Capital	€88,839.27
Broadford Wildlife Arboretum	Broadford Community Development CLG	Local Biodiversity	Capital	€28,116.89
Dromcollogher Community Park	Dromcollogher Community Council CLG	Local Biodiversity	Capital	€106,853.70
Landscaping, walkway and signage of Abbeyfeale Biodiversity Park	Abbeyfeale Community Council C.L.G.	Local Biodiversity	Capital	€21,303.38
Trails maintenance training	West Limerick Resources CLG	Local Biodiversity	Training	€8,722.59
West Limerick Biodiversity Conservation Plan	West Limerick Resources CLG	Local Biodiversity	Analysis and Development	€4,860.00
West Limerick Biodiversity Leadership Training initiative	West Limerick Resources CLG	Local Biodiversity	Training	€8,613.00
Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Analysis and Development)	West Limerick Resources CLG	Local Biodiversity - Cooperation	Analysis and Development	€25,469.73
Wild Work Co-operation Project Inter-territorial (Training)	West Limerick Resources CLG	Local Biodiversity - Cooperation	Training	€174,013.12
Athea Community Walkway Lighting	Athea GAA	Renewable Energy	Capital	€33,245.56
Expansion of Wood Processing Business	Edward Liston	Renewable Energy	Capital	€32,500.00
Kantoher Renewable Energy Feasibility Study	Kantoher Development Group CLG	Renewable Energy	Analysis and Development	€22,140.00
Natural External Wall Insulation System	Woulins Ltd t/a Cosyfill Insulation	Renewable Energy	Analysis and Development	€19,947.00
Upgrade of Con Colbert Hall to increase energy efficiency	Con Colbert Community Hall Ltd	Renewable Energy	Capital	€19,674.75
Upgrade of Internal Structure of The Butterfly Club	The Butterfly Club CLG	Renewable Energy	Capital	€14,471.25

- - Rural Social Scheme

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) provides financial support offering part time employment to low income farmers who are on a long term social welfare payment. Scheme participants provide assistance in their local communities by working 19.5 hours each week in projects such as (though not limited to) walking / cycle trails, village enhancement , community / sports centres, care for the elderly and not for profit organisations. The scheme is administered by West Limerick Resources CLG for the greater West Limerick area; in 2020 53 participants were supported on the scheme.

The type of work carried out by RSS participants

- maintaining & enhancing waymarked ways /agreed walks
- village & countryside enhancement projects
- social care & care of the elderly, community care for both pre-school and after-school
- environmental maintenance work – maintenance and caretaking of graveyards, community and sporting facilities
- projects relating to not for profit cultural and heritage centres
- community administration/clerical duties
- any other appropriate community project identified during the course of the scheme

KEY STATISTICS FOR 2020



53 Participants engaged on the RSS **↑** 6% v 2019.

€738,693.00 WLR RSS payroll for 2020

27 Community Organisations availed of regular RSS assistance **↑** 23% v 2019

12 Community Organisations received assistance with one – off projects such as stone wall repair, grass cutting, trails maintenance, transport.

- - One – Off Projects

Radharc Na Feile, Abbeyfeale:

Repairing of old stone wall at entrance to Radharc na Feile housing estate in Abbeyfeale involving repairs to top of the wall and both inside and outside. A joint effort between Limerick City and County Council and West Limerick Resources through SICAP and RSS. A tremendous week's work done by the participants with the job complete in one week, much to the satisfaction of all interested parties, not least the local residents who had been trying for years to get the work done.

Ballyhahill – housing estate entrance.

Repairs to stone wall to prevent further deterioration. Stone already in place and materials provided by local community council – another satisfactory outcome.

Broadford walking Trail

In early July the RSS office received a request from a member of the committee of the Broadford Walking Trails for assistance with some grass cutting and trimming back briars and branches protruding onto the walkway. Three RSS participants were deployed to this one – off project .



Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP)



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.



GOAL 1 ACTION SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Background

Defined by the Government, in their National Social Enterprise Policy, 2019, ‘Social Enterprises are businesses whose core objective is to achieve a social, societal or environmental impact’. A Social Enterprise is best described as ‘a marriage of purpose and profit’.

Staff worked with new, developing and established Social Enterprises in West Limerick.

Response

The lean on Social Enterprises due to Covid19 became very evident, as their engagement increased, and the level of support sought increasing too. With facilities closed, activities all suspended, the SE margins of profit and ability to operate began to come under severe pressure. Many of the SE are staffed through activation programmes such as Community Services Programme (CSP), Tus, Community Employment (CE) which were all stood down or reduced as Covid19 advanced and health guidelines were implemented. Local SEs include community shops, Community Halls, Low-cost Maintenance for Older people, Daycare centres and Meals on Wheels (MOW).

With the pressures of Covid19, increased support was given to ensure that those delivering essential services

particularly Meals on Wheels could cope and continue to function. The main need coming from the SEs included PPE gear, hand sanitizer, masks, signage but also support to plan out re-opening of services and understanding the demands being made on facilities and services to have Covid19 procedures and protocols in place and adhered to. A wider range of resources were purchased in bulk and distributed to the Social Enterprises followed by webinars on ‘How to Safely Re-open your Facility’ and ‘Information for Designated Covid19 Compliance Officers’.



SICAP Webinars and resources

In addition, a collaboration between one of the MOW providers and Local Link Limerick Clare was initiated to deliver meals thus reducing the pressure on the volunteer drivers who needed to cocoon. 5 jobs were created through Community Services Programme (CSP) which was secured for St Ita’s Voluntary Housing in Abbeyfeale supported by SICAP staff, and outside the normal call from the Department. This funding and positions are instrumental in copper fastening the future of the centre and the work of the Board of Management and the service they provide. All the MOW services continued to provide the valuable support to their communities and continued to work with SICAP.

SE Development

Discussions were held internally across Leader and Primary Health Care Project For Travellers (PHCP) on the potential for the development of a new Social Enterprise under SICAP with a particular focus on recruitment from the Traveller population. Social Enterprise Bounce Back a recycling company in Galway, was identified for a potential site visit, which was unfortunately put on hold.

Outcomes

13 Social Enterprises across the West Limerick area had received advice, guidance, resources, with access to free training and valuable support to navigate the challenges that presented and under pin their model of operation.

GOAL 1 ACTION SOCIAL INCLUSION & INTEGRATION

Close Knit Community – A Story about Community Resilience and Strength

SICAP team members worked with members a number of Local Community Groups (LCGs) in Abbeyfeale including the Wednesday Club, Feale Crafters and Abbeyfeale Crafty Corner to participate and to knit and crochet squares for a Close Knit Community Christmas Tree which went on display in Abbeyfeale during the Christmas period. Our hope was to create a beautiful festive tree to bring a smile to people’s faces, in spite of Covid19. The objectives at the

heart of this very simple project was to create and deliver a craft based support to overcome social and rural isolation compounded by Covid19 by keeping people connected with common project goals.

Participants were issued with a pack consisting of project instructions, guidance and knitting or crochet materials. Our colleague R.S.S worker Nora Collins who normally works in our Abbeyfeale Family & Community Hub who knows and normally supports the groups when they used to meet, assisted with the weekly engagement over the phone with all the participants of the project.



Members of the groups crocheted a total of 365 Granny Squares, knitted 202 red squares and made 104 pom poms for the 'Close-Knit Community Project' over the 4 weeks. These squares were sewn together then by SICAP staff to make up the shape for our locally made wooden Christmas Tree frame and Christmas Presents resulting in a colourful festive window display for the town of Abbeyfeale during Christmas whilst demonstrating the strength, talents and determination of the LCGs involved in the project. Leen's Hotel, Main Street, Abbeyfeale kindly gave us access to a window for the display, for the duration of the festive period.



GOAL 2 ACTION
RURAL EMPLOYMENT SERVICE (RES)

Background

The RES is a key action of the SICAP plan, offering one to one developmental support to Individual clients as they work with Staff to set out a Personal Action Plan (PAP) which strives to set out a pathway of progression. The SMART approach is used, working with clients to achieve something that is Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time related. Through the process, any potential barriers can be identified or gaps in either education, training or employment. Time is given to addressing any deficits, strengthening skills base, building confidence and ability and

supporting the client to access relevant training or voluntary experience if needed to increase their job readiness. Referral sources include DSP, Family/ Friends, Other agencies, Publicity, a Local Community Group. There were very few referrals from DSP in 2020, which impacted directly on our caseload numbers. The continued presence of Job Path in our area, which is being serviced through its contract by DSP continued to receive referrals.

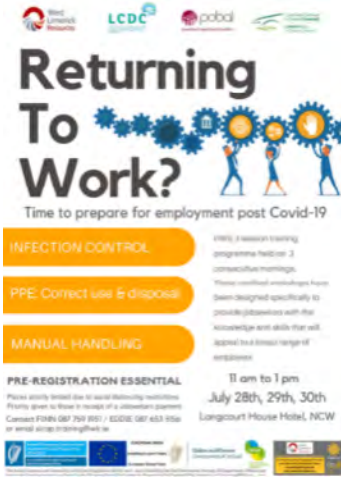
A similar service is offered to a young cohort aged 15 – 24 years through the Youth Employment Service (YES).

Response

RES staff provided one to one support to 97 Individuals, in person from January to early March and then using online platforms namely Zoom, Teams, or WhatsApp or using emails, phone and post. To support clients onto an online platform, a quick how to guide for clients who could get online was created. Moving online presented challenges too; whereby not all clients had the IT skill, hardware, broadband access or motivation. Staff provided support with a listening ear and signposted to relevant supports as they were needed.

Training and Development

During the month of July, the RES and YES focused on promoting the Return-to-Work Training through Facebook, print media and on the Community radio. The course ran on three consecutive mornings in July, observing all Covid-19 social distancing protocols. All participants were given a safety pack inclusive of masks, wipes and necessary stationery for the workshops. In all, 17 clients completed the training over the three mornings and received accredited certification in



SICAP promotional material

CORE TRAINING	WITH ANCILLARY SUPPORT ON
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Infection Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• CV creation/update
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• PPE: Correct use and disposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Online interview skills
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Manual Handling	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mock interview support

The training was designed for people planning to enter or return to the jobs market and had been created specifically to provide jobseekers with knowledge and skills that will appeal to a broad range of employers, particularly in relation to Covid19, protocols and practices.

Additional work included increased promotion of the service, the Jobseekers Newsletter format was reviewed and changed into an e-zine, for easier access and viewing by clients. This made it easier for non-English speaking clients to access with the added benefit of being able to use google language translate and click on active links straight to the online job advertisement. The RES Facebook page continued to grow with numbers increasing across the board and increased employer engagement <https://www.facebook.com/RES-144618922850869/>

Progression and Outcomes

The RES staff supported 97 clients under this action, creating 97 Personal Action Plans for clients to work on, setting realistic short term and long terms goals. Even through this very difficult year, staff worked to support 26 clients into employment; 2 clients progressed into labour activation schemes including WLR based Tus. 24 clients progressed into mainstream employment within a wide range of sectoral areas as shown below, reflecting the quality of the work and supports being delivered in the face of many barriers and challenges.

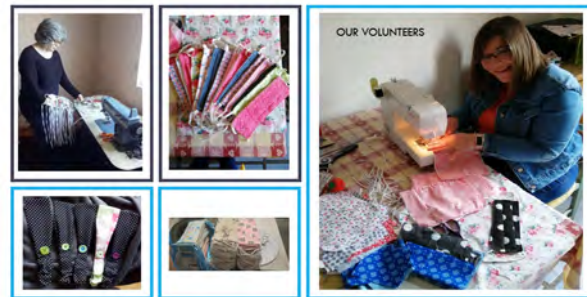
Transport	Meat Factory	Business	Education
Clerical	Retail	Healthcare	Childcare

2020 SICAP Casestudy

Social Fabric - Covid19 West Limerick Mask Making Initiative - The case-study Initiative highlights the primary theme of **Collaboration**. While this initiative is found in Goal 1 under action 5 **Community Networks** and **Strategic Collaborations**, it begins in Goal 2, due to a SICAP client involvement and connection and the supports received under our action 8 **Lifelong Learning Pathways** and action 9 **Rural Employment Service**.

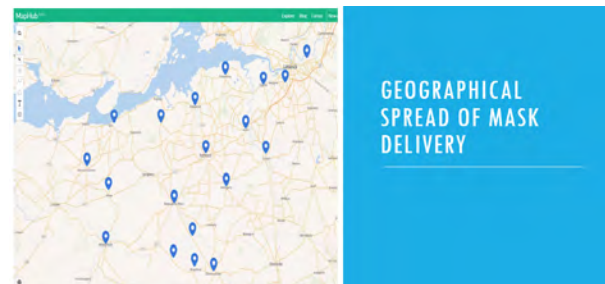
The initiative came about when likeminded and creative people decided to use their talents to help tackle a global issue of a shortage of PPE for frontline workers that was unfolding and began to address it at a local and community level. There was a huge demand for and lack of supply of face masks in the early days of the pandemic so rather than sit and wonder what could be done, they faced down the challenge.

The SICAP client Liz Kavanagh who led out the Initiative with the SICAP Education & Training Co-Ordinator broke the project into two pieces of manageable work, one to be co-ordinated by Liz who by now was growing in her new confidence and clearly saw this as her opportunity to test her skills. Liz while she would put her sewing skills to use would also continue to recruit and co-ordinate the volunteers; her focus would be to manage the supply and demand of materials to them, providing the relevant patterns and templates she was using while acting as the contact and conduit for the project. She would liaise with SICAP and discuss any potential needs or supports required that were raised among the volunteers. The other aspect was co-ordinated by the SICAP Education & Training Co-ordinator and would draw on WLR's SICAP experience in collaboration and leveraging resources from partners and agencies if needed. Within 3 weeks over 50 volunteers and growing from across West Limerick had been connected to the initiative, sewing masks, laundry bags, ear savers and head bands for community groups, community volunteers, carers and frontline workers, based in West Limerick and beyond.



They were organised under Liz's stewardship and though apart, they were quietly working away in homes across the community as a unit. These volunteers were everyday people doing extraordinary things. SICAP sewing machines from our community inventory resources were loaned out for use to volunteers, to aid the progress and increase outputs.

The initiative developed and gathered momentum crossing over individuals, community, social enterprise and business. SICAP's role from March 22nd because of Liz's participation on SICAP enabled us to support and oversee the distribution of over 4,500 masks, 2,000 laundry bags, 5,000 ear savers to 16 Nursing Homes, Hospitals and residential facilities and a number of family carers in the West Limerick Community. A total of 23 community & voluntary groups, comprised of community response teams, social enterprises including the Local Link Limerick Clare drivers and staff of valuable community supports such as Meals on Wheels (MOW) operating under Community Services Programmes (CSP), Community Employment Schemes (CE) were all beneficiaries from across West Limerick and in some instances beyond.



So at a glance, what was involved:

- 10,000 Buttons
- 5,000 Ear Savers
- 4,500 Masks
- 2,000 Laundry Bags
- 1,500 Metres of Elastic
- 500 Metres of Fabric
- 110 Volunteers
- 61 Deliveries
- 23 Community & Voluntary Groups
- 16 Nursing Homes, Hospitals & Residential Facilities
- 5 months
- 1 Woman's perseverance & SICAP

What has been evident is that our programme has this inherent ability to take on challenges and problems and find solutions, drawing on the good will of the people we work with, the community groups we support and the broader community. There is a very good sense of SICAP growing across West Limerick and more so now because of the flexibility of the programme to respond to community needs.

TÚS

TÚS is a community work placement programme that offers short term working opportunities for unemployed people. These work opportunities are provided by Community and Voluntary organisations in assisting with the delivery of services vital to their own locality. TÚS gives participants the opportunity to learn and develop new skills and build confidence whilst re-joining the workforce in a part time capacity.



The allocation of participants to West limerick Resources TÚS programme was 120 places during 2020. Due to the COVID 19 restrictions during the year recruitment was extremely difficult. Telephone interviews and introductory meetings were conducted/arranged with potential starters and host organisations with a view to placement. Unfortunately, some meetings had to be cancelled or postponed due to COVID19 related issues.



Participant training throughout 2020 continued but was limited. Manual Handling and the Safe Use of Small Engine Equipment training was carried out because these are Health and Safety requirements. Other planned training will be held when the guidelines say it is safe to do so.

Collaboration between SICAP and TÚS staff continued where possible when interviewing referrals from the DEASP. If the candidate gives their consent during the interview process, consent forms and contact details of those candidates are sent to the SICAP team who then engage with them and offer them further supports.

It was reported in the September 2020 Company Report that Shirley O'Regan who was on placement at WL Radio 102fm at the time, developed an Irish Programme called

"Gaeilge Bhriste" for the station and it had been shortlisted for the Oireachtas Media Awards 2020 in the category "Irish Language Radio Programme of the Year on Community Radio".

The awards were held online in November and Shirley received the "Bronze Award", for her Irish Programme "Gaeilge Bhriste". WL Radio also won the "Gold Award" in the category "Community/Volunteer Participation" for their programme called "Local Voices, Local History". Shirley was also instrumental in the research, production, and presentation of this programme. Congratulations to Shirley and WL Radio on this wonderful achievement.



Shirley being presented with her award by Chairperson of WL Radio, Pat O'Donovan

Back2New Community Upcycling collaborated with Community Reuse Network Ireland and Rediscovery Centre and put together a tender for the fit-out of the National Waste Collection Permit Office (NWCPO), a division of Offaly County Council. NWCPO were moving premises to a new three storey office building in Tullamore which had two outdoor spaces and their requirement was to have only upcycled items throughout their new premises and outdoor spaces. The West Limerick Resources enterprise were awarded the tender and went on to be shortlisted for the National Procurement Awards in December 2020. From there the project was awarded Best Green Procurement Project of the Year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and lack of suitable space the Back2New Community Upcycling workshop and store unfortunately did not reopen after the first lockdown in early 2020.

Due to the large cohort of candidates from the Travelling community without placements in the Abbeyfeale area a meeting was held with West Limerick Resources supported Community Groups to discuss options and hopefully a plan of action. A pathway to progress was devised to tackle the issue as soon as the pandemic conditions allow.

The retirement of one of the TÚS Supervisors took place in 2020. Ger Meehan was one of the first Supervisors employed when TÚS commenced in the company in 2011 and was instrumental in the development and expansion of the TÚS programme throughout the whole of the West Limerick Resources catchment area.

Limerick Volunteer Centre

Limerick Volunteer Centre provides an independent and free matching service to encourage more people to become involved in volunteering across the city and county. The aim of the Volunteer Centre is to promote, support and encourage volunteering and good practice in volunteering. The role of the Centre is to provide information and advice to people interested in volunteering and to organisations looking for volunteers.

Limerick Volunteer Centre (LVC) had a target of registering 500 new Volunteers and recording 20,000 Volunteer Hours in 2020
Total new Volunteers Registered by 31 st December was 875 or 175% of target but only 7,760 Volunteer hours were recorded which equates to 38% of hours target.
We received €142,000 funding from DRCD but if charged at average industrial wage volunteer hours would still represent a contribution of €155,200 into the local economy

- Most of our registrations were people who wanted to assist in the effort against Covid 19.
- Only 11 new Organisations registered with LVC in 2020
- 58 new Opportunities were created and advertised on www.volunteerlimerick.ie .
- 396 volunteers applied for volunteer roles and engaged with the volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) In fact between themselves and people already registered with LVC they made over 900 applications in the year.
- We placed 107 volunteers in 2020.
- We only physically met people up to March 13th nevertheless from 2020 registrations we recorded the following statistics:

Irish people represented a whopping 70% of all our Volunteers as opposed to just 55% but we still registered 49 other nationalities. Here are the top 5:	
- Irish	610
- Brazilian	54
- Indian	37
- United Kingdom	15
- Pakistani	10

Garda Vetting

LVC provided a Garda Vetting Service to 41 Limerick based Organisations. Because of Covid 19 restrictions we suspended fees for small organisations but continued to charge CE Schemes, Garda Vetting Training went online to 11 Organisations.

Outreach

Outreach events attended by LVC in 2020 included LIT, Ballyhoura Jobs Club, Libraries in Adare, Newcastle West, Glin, Abbeyfeale, Rathkeale, Kilmallock, Bruff, Cappamore, Moyross and Dooradoyle and Volunteer Centres National Conference. We left flyers and customised bookmarks at all our outreaches. (Prior to March 13th)



Ardagh Hall Meeting March 14th

Pandemic Measures

Limerick Volunteer Centre before “Community Call”
At the very outset of the Covid 19 crisis Limerick Volunteer Centre (LVC) staff anticipated some of the complexities of operating during a lockdown. We assisted in setting up local “Response Teams” to a properly structured formula. It would be beneficial if their method of operation did not immediately require Garda Vetting and if they could be templated in such a way that could be replicated in other parishes across Limerick.

On March 14th “The St. Kieran’s Area Response Team” was founded in West Limerick which has since developed into a group of 88 Volunteer Shoppers. At the same time in the East of the county “The Meanus Area Response Team” was founded and today involves a network of 32 Volunteers. As a result of these groups we are aware that Newcastle West, Ballingarry, Askeaton, & St. Senan’s Area (Shanagolden/Foynes) were assisted by our templated flyers and written procedures along with our HSE recommended safe shopping protocols. We put the message out on Facebook and ended up sending documents and protocols to Castlepollard Development in Westmeath who invited local people to follow our lead. As a result of LVC’s initiative all of the above Limerick based groups were responsibly shopping for cocooners in a safe manner weeks before the launch of Community Call in Limerick in April.

LVC “WhatsApp Group” formed to strengthen Limerick’s Community Call

Limerick’s Community Call was launched in April and directly recruited hundreds of volunteers with its high profile media campaign. Meanwhile in Limerick Volunteer Centre our regular volunteer involving organisations (VIOs) had gone into lockdown and most volunteering opportunities had been taken down. LVC found ourselves with a very large surplus of volunteers and a lack of roles to offer them. An approach was made to the Coordinator of Limerick Covid 19 Response and informed her that we could put together a special “WhatsApp Group” which could be put at their disposal. Formed across the city and county it could be called upon quickly where needed to attend where groups were required to load a truck or change the purpose of a facility by moving furniture etc. (this was something that the HSE had asked LVC to accommodate) We wrote to all our new volunteers and 86 signed up to be part of this rapid response group. We presented this additional resource to the Limerick Covid 19 Community Response on the 14th April.



Training

We were forced to suspend our planned 2020 training schedule however we engaged Carmichael Centre for a series of special workshops entitled “Ready and Able”. These workshops were delivered on the Zoom platform and concentrated on the procedures and protocols that would enable organisations to return to a “normal” work environment. We offered these workshops to all our registered organisations and in the end 34 of them availed of the opportunity. It was our first dip into the water as far as online training was concerned.

In September and November we delivered our “Volunteering while Unemployed” training to Job Club.

FINANCIAL IMPACT OF LVC IN 2020	
Funding from Dept.	€142,000
Volunteering hours. contributed into local economy	7,760
Impact in €	€155,200

GOVERNANCE & COMPLIANCE

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

The Board of Directors who served during 2020 and the sectors they represent are listed as follows.

NAME	REPRESENTING
Noelle Madigan	Community - Estuary
Maeve Martin-Kelly	Community - Rathkeale
Frank Dennison	Community - Abbeyfeale
Pat Brennan	Community - Newcastle West
Helen Harnett	St. Vincent de Paul - Social Issues
Richie Bowens	Foroige - Social Issues
Joe Kelleher	Teagasc - Social Partners
Mike O' Flynn	IFA - Social Partners
Kieran O' Regan	IBEC - Social Partners
Dan Aherne	SIPTU - Social Partners
John Cremin	ICMSA - Social Partners
Josephine Fogarty	HSE - Statutory
Alberta McWalter	An Garda Síochána - Statutory
Lorraine O' Donnell	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 8 times in 2020 with the AGM held via Zoom on 29th July 2020. 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

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Schedule of Income and Expenditure Account 31st December 2020

SCHEDULE OF INCOME	€
DEPARTMENT EMPLOYMENT AFFAIRS & SOCIAL PROTECTION	
Job Club	78,155
Rural Social Scheme	51,126
Tús	109,613
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT	
Limerick Volunteer Centre	115,219
Social Enterprise Grant	32,025
LIMERICK CITY AND COUNTY COUNCIL	
Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme	540,902
LEADER 2014-20	113,563
Rathkeale Pre-Social Cohesion	63,135
Local Agenda 21	2,955
Rural Development Fund	207,748
Covid Fund	4,800
Healthy Ireland Fund	5,400
HSE - PRIMARY HEALTH CARE PROJECT	131,099
DEPTARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FOOD & MARINE - SOCIAL FARMING	44,140
TUSLA CHILD & FAMILY AGENCY - FAMILY SUPPORT PROJECT	31,622
LIMERICK AND CLARE EDUCATION & TRAINING BOARD	30,484
OTHER INCOME	59,996
TOTAL INCOME	1,621,982

Expenditure	€
Project and Admin Staff costs	1,135,526
Project Specific costs	209,636
Admin and Overhead costs	253,376
Total Expenditure	1,598,538
Surplus / (Deficit) for the financial year	23,444

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2020

FIXED ASSETS	€	€
Tangible Assets		59,979
Current Assets		
Debtors	120,530	
Cash at bank and in hand	579,066	
	699,596	
Creditors		
Amounts falling due within one year	(670,984)	
Net Current Assets		28,612
Total Assets less Current Liabilities		88,591
Capital and Reserves		
Revenue Reserves		88,591
Reserves		88,591

— — Notes

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2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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Registered Office:

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



Phone: 069-62222



@Westlimerickresources

