

Annual Report 2020

Connected Strategies for Sustainable Communities



Welcome to the Kilkenny LEADER Partnership Annual Report 2020



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Address by the Chairman



Denis Drennan
Chairman of the Board

The year 2020 will be remembered clearly in future as one of illness, stress, sadness and loss to the world. But it has also been one of hope, resilience, and appreciation of what we have. Kilkenny, like most of the world had to face the huge health, and socio-economic challenge of Covid 19 and the necessary restrictions that were enacted to deal with it. The Board of Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (KLP) was proud of the Company's response to the crisis that resulted from the pandemic.

KLP was designated as an "essential business/ service" under the Covid guidelines, which meant that it was asked to continue its work in delivering development and support programmes. This we did, while changing our way of working to optimise the health and safety of staff and clients alike. As explained elsewhere in this report, some elements of our operations changed their work to directly face the Covid challenge. We very much thank all our staff for their efforts to both meet the new challenges of Covid and to continue to deliver successfully, despite all the challenges, on the various programmes.

I would like to extend my gratitude to my colleagues on the Board and committees, who adapted quickly to the changes of 'social distancing' and teleconferencing. What was strange and novel to us all in March of 2020, is all too familiar now. The work required of directors, evaluation committee members and staff was all switched 'online' and while it would be untrue to say that it made absolutely no difference to the task of delivering the work, it was indeed accomplished, and to an excellent standard.

The year happened to be one that occurs every three, where the company's membership has the opportunity to elect new members, and partner organisations to nominate new or existing directors to the Board. This too was complicated by Covid restrictions. But by the virtual (of course) Annual General Meeting, elections had taken place and a renomination process completed with three new Directors joining the continuing directors on the Board. We welcome Mary Molloy, Claire McInerney-Brown and Councillor John Brennan. We haven't all met in the flesh yet, but we already feel the worth of their involvement.

Equally we will all want to note the valuable contribution of retiring directors, Marion Acreman and Mags Whelan. And, in a year of many sad departures, I would like to take the opportunity to celebrate a happier one. Councillor Malcolm Noonan had been a long-term Director on the KLP Board. Malcolm was an active and interested supporter of the Company's development work, right across the social, economic, cultural- as well as the environmental spectrum. He represented the interests of the elected members of the local authority very well and fairly in that period. We were delighted to see his election in early 2020 as a Teachta Dála (TD) to Dáil Éireann.

The election required Malcolm's resignation from his County Councillor position and therefore from the KLP Board. We were sad to lose him to KLP, but delighted to see his eventual appointment as Minister for Heritage & Electoral Reform. We wish Minister Noonan the very best in his new role; KLP's loss is the Country's gain.

As we emerge from the lockdowns and distancing and start to wind up towards the application processes for the new programmes in LEADER, SICAP and potentially others of benefit to individuals, communities and businesses, we look forward to meeting you all again.

Denis Drennan
Chairman of the Board

Photos
Clockwise
1. AR Project - Lingaun Valley
2. Signs: Barrow Valley Hub
3. Cycle Project
4. Barrow Valley Hub: Training

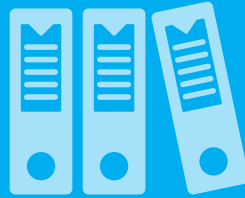
2020 KLP PROJECT SNAPSHOT

23

Referrals in 2020 to the New KLP Social Prescribing Service!
(72 referrals to date)

111

New LEADER Projects and Initiatives



1,496

individuals supported by the KLP/SICAP team



30

families supported by KLP staff. (shopping, prescription and pension collections during 2020 COVID first lockdown)



200

migrants received support through the NewStart programme



70

individuals in work placement through the Tús Programme



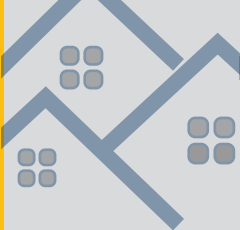
5

Social Enterprises Supported by the SICAP Programme



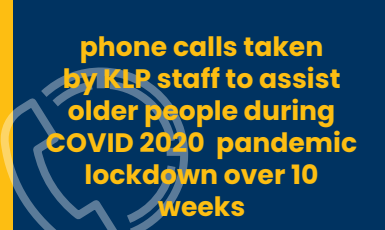
200+

Kilkenny Men have become members of a Men's Shed



983

phone calls taken by KLP staff to assist older people during COVID 2020 pandemic lockdown over 10 weeks



192

members of the Traveller Community supported by the Traveller Primary Health team



19

Kilkenny farm families supported by the Rural Social Scheme



€579,837.53

The amount of funding support received through 2020 to date from

Tomar Trust

to support Kilkenny communities



34

Training Courses given in 2020



16

Youth Projects delivered across County Kilkenny



A Word from the CEO



Declan Rice
CEO

I don't think there will be too many arguments when I say that 2020 was a unique and peculiar year for all of us; still less that we are happy to see it behind us! But in that Covid-focused period KLP was happy to make a real contribution to the quality of people's lives in the county in the crisis. The Company was defined as an "essential service" under the government's Covid 19 guidelines, and while we have no illusions of our position of importance in comparison to other front line and critical workers, KLP took to its designated role with enthusiasm across its several programmes and initiatives.

The pivot to engage and support people challenged by Covid, was partly one of technique and, obviously technology, but also of empathy to the fact that the virus and its affects had on people's priorities and focus. The SICAP, TÚS and RSS teams by their nature were the first to be faced with the need to adapt in the provision of services to clients. The programmes were to the fore in supporting isolated people and vulnerable groups in the early months of the crisis and continued that aid throughout the period. The SICAP team deserve mention for making their original key performance indicator targets at a time when other counties were been granted concessions on their targets. The Traveller Primary Healthcare programme team worked intensely with that community in the pandemic.

The LEADER team too managed to retain their momentum on the delivery of the programme and work with small businesses and community groups to develop project applications, have those applications approved in the stressful and difficult year. The team also delivered on the key flagship projects in the LEADER Local Development Strategy (LDS), such as The Nore Vision, the Kilkenny Integrated Transport Evolution (KITE), The Lingaun Valley Augmented Reality (AR) smartphone app, and the Callan Town of Energy initiative among other strategic projects.

In addition to the major development programmes initiatives, smaller programmes such as the Rural Recreation Officer (RRO) programme and Rural Social Scheme (RSS) walks trail maintenance teams supported people availing of badly needed outdoor exercise. While the newly established Social Prescribing Initiative provided non pharmaceutical assistance to people with physical and mental well-being issues.

So, it was a very busy year, with that creativity, industry and performed largely away from the main office base through the now all-to-familiar means of teleconferences, email, phone call, etc.- but very few meetings. While the staff, board, subcommittees and all performed admirably by those means, all would agree that we miss the personal face-to-face contact of meeting each other, and particularly, with other people. We look forward eagerly to when we can do that again safely.

The very welcome decision of the new government to institute an Interim programme to bridge the gap between the 2014-'20 and the forthcoming new LEADER programme in 2023, will be applauded by communities and businesses as a valuable assistance in the emergence from the Covid Crisis and will allow KLP and the people of the county to start to plan for the new programme, which we expect will open for applications from aspirant "Local Action Groups" (LAGs), of which KLP intends to compete again for the position it has held since the dawn of LEADER 30 years ago. We will be consulting in a thorough and meaningful manner, and asking the support again of communities and businesses in that process.

The power of people and communities was seen very clearly in mid-August of 2020, when KLP was able to take advantage of the opportunity that the then lull in the pandemic presented to hold a very well-attended (to strict Covid guideline regulations) initial 'Smart Village' event in Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre. The maximum of 200 people attended a genuinely inspiring afternoon and evening of workshops and presentations on the moves evolving EU initiative to encourage communities to strategically plan for their future.

The true 'smart community' appreciates that just as we have accepted that human intelligence there are several types of that quality, so with 'Smart Villages/ Towns/ Parishes' we need to think beyond the narrow focus of just

As the Covid crisis lessens, I look forward to meeting some of you at events over 2021; we have big plans for the future!

Declan Rice
CEO



Photos:
Smart Villages Event

SMART VILLAGES

Looking to the future

The Smart Villages initiative is the epitome of KLP's focus to explore innovative ways to develop new opportunities which would improve the economic, social, and cultural quality of life for the people, communities and small enterprises in the county.

This "smart living" drive is an all inclusive planning approach for Kilkenny involving technology, communications infrastructure, environmental issues, social inclusion, culture, and transportation. The concept for this progressive initiative emerged from the EU's efforts to ensure that rural areas get the same focus in terms of the implementation of innovation as do cities and large towns.

Planning

The initial Smart Villages event was a carefully planned outdoor event in the Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre. COVID guidelines and regulations were a priority at all times, for the fully booked event. KLP members from all parts of the county attended to participate in the strategic planning for a "smarter" community. The event was attended by Special Guest Minister of State for Heritage and Electoral Reform, Malcolm Noonan TD.

"NATURE AND NURTURE"

A number of themes play a part in planning for smarter villages in Co Kilkenny. The NATURE AND NURTURE theme explored how we can develop our community's rivers, streams and waterways in an environmentally friendly and biodiverse way. Participants suggested that the approach has to be locally led through a core committee. How it is led is important and it was agreed that a holistic, community, collaborative route should be taken. The approach must make the incentive clear to everyone in the community, particularly with respect to farmers, so that the new opportunities are balanced with the existing needs. Discussion also focused on raising awareness of our rivers and the potential of developing education programmes.

"FOOD FOR THE SOUL"

The FOOD FOR THE SOUL theme focused on Culture, Heritage and the Arts. Participants spoke about how these elements can flourish and support rural communities. Culture and the arts have a significant offering to Smart initiatives. Plenty of potential was seen in craft

culture, sports, festivals, food, history and heritage activities. Discussions addressed how these activities could boost positive senses of community in small towns.

"OUR TOWN"

OUR TOWN was another theme addressed at the event which would contribute to achieving a sustainable future for our rural towns and villages. Discussion focused on space, both indoor and outdoor, for socialising. The closure of churches, pubs and GAA pitches during Covid highlighted the need for socialising outside of these outlets. Participants also cited the different needs of different generations: young people need job opportunities while older people need activities to do. The need to invite and welcome new members to communities was also discussed, as new immigrants bring valuable new culture to small towns. Finally, participants addressed the issues of finding new ways to spend money locally. Focusing on history and heritage and rivers was suggested as beneficial. Finally, linking with schools to get young people to think about smart towns would add an intergenerational element to initiatives.

ACCESS ALL AREAS

The final theme was ACCESS ALL AREAS. This theme focused on Transport, Energy and Broadband and how these elements can be used to optimise our access to services. This theme sparked an in-depth discussion about gaps in services and how this situation causes major issues for rural communities. There is a need for public transport routes as bus services are scarce or non-existent. These patchy services greatly affect those most in need of them: young people have difficulty getting to school / activities and older people who are often isolated. Participants at this workshop highlighted the need to keep people in the area and suggested that small work hubs would make remote working possible.

The convivial atmosphere at the beautiful venue of Ballykeeffe made it possible for members to enjoy themselves, participate in workshops, learn about Smart Village initiatives, network and socialise all while safely adhering to Covid-19 guidelines. Future events will continue to focus on community themes that will further explore how to improve the quality of life for the people of Kilkenny.



The Rural Development Programme

LEADER





Rural Development Programme (LEADER)

Despite the setback of the pandemic, the LEADER Programme performed well, rolling out a number of ambitious initiatives.

Partnerships and Collaborations

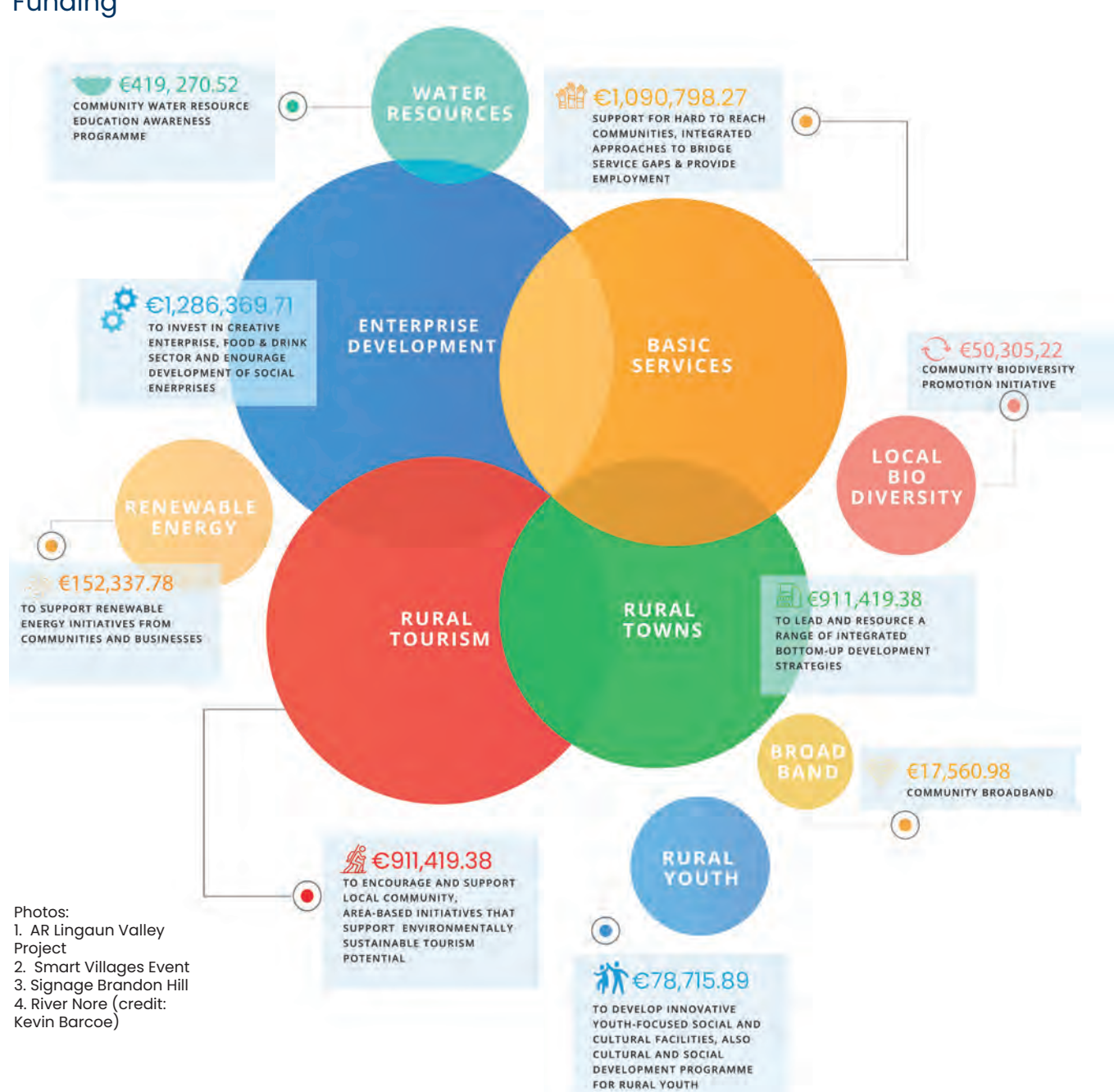
The program continued its work through projects with strategically important partnerships. These partnerships includes LEADER local action groups (LAGs), local development companies in other parts of the country notably with our neighbours in Laois, Tipperary, Offaly and Carlow as well as other EU states on transport, cycling and tourism,

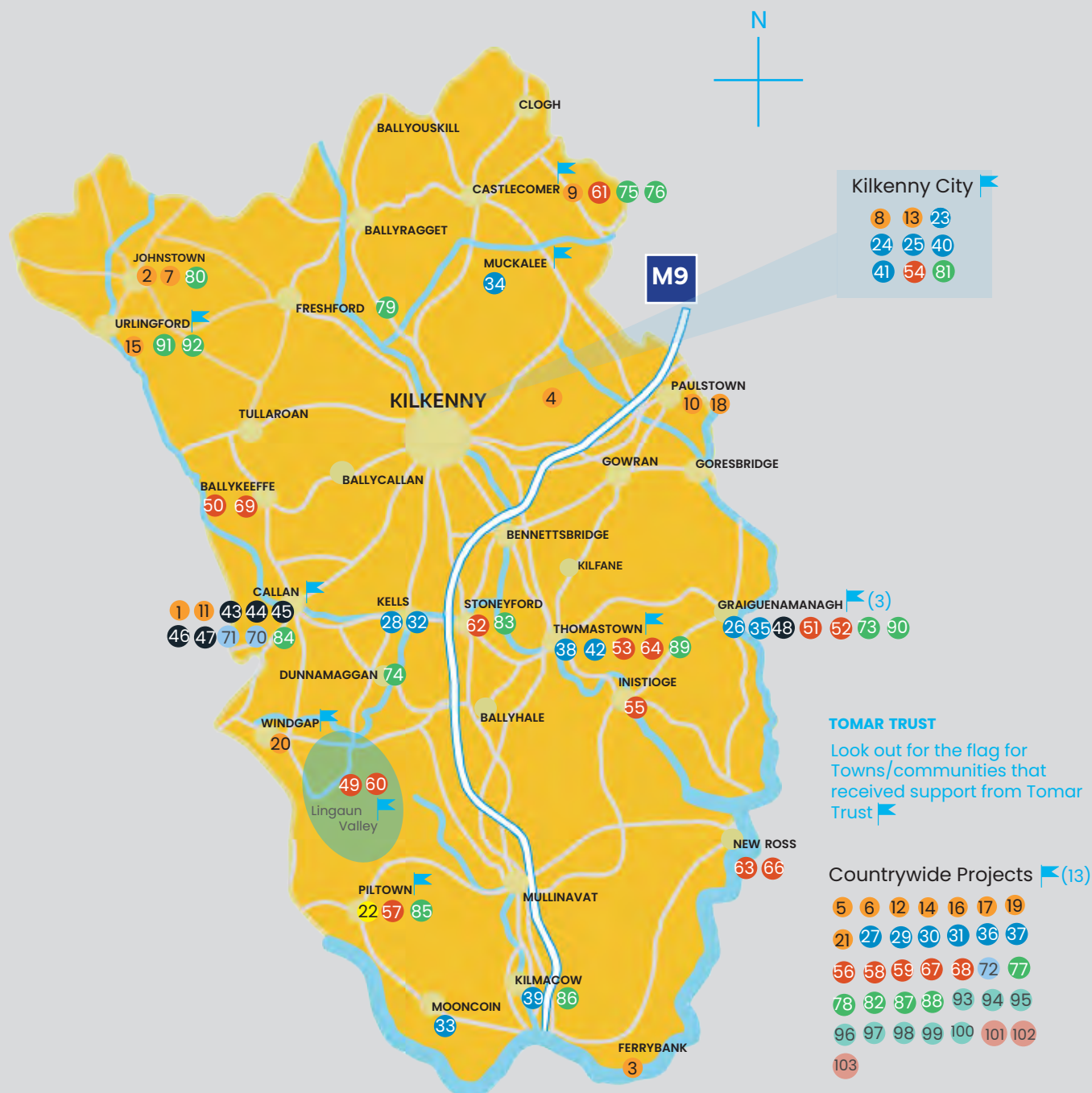
environment, community services and recreation. The major addition of Tomar Trust as a partner was a massive boost in 2020 in assisting KLP's ambitions for the county in the current and future round of programmes. Tomar continues to work with KLP in the interest of Kilkenny residents.

Targets met

The LEADER staff team adapted quickly to the changes brought forward by the pandemic and remained resilient to meet goals and achieve targets for the year.

LEADER Project Funding





Projects LEADER Overview

Basic Services

1. Analysis and Development Roadmap for Ownership of Community/Charitable Assets
2. Crosspatrick Community Hall Project
3. Ferrybank Community Allotment Project
4. Fox and Goose Community Shop and Tea Rooms A & D
5. Inclusive Environment of People with Disabilities – pre development co-operation
6. Inclusive Food Programmes
7. Johnstown Community Playground and Sensory Garden
8. Kilkenny Multimedia IT Suite
9. Kilquane Players Coon Drama
10. Kitchen and function room upgrade
11. Mill Race Gallery: Callan incubation and presentation space
12. Moving People into Sustainable Jobs
13. Newpark Multimedia Upgrade
14. Personal Ongoing Development Programme (POD)
15. Smart Portable Ticketing System
16. Sustainable Mobility and Bicycle Tourism Co-operation Project
17. Sustainable Mobility and Bicycle Tourism Technical Study Co-operation Project
18. The Lifeline
19. Training & Development Programmes for Isolated Groups
20. Windgap Community Centre – Facilities Enhancement
21. Youth Engagement Training Initiative Programme (YETI)

Broadband

22. Better Broadband for Piltown

Enterprise Development

23. Abbey Business Centre Refurbishment
24. Castle Snackfoods Warehouse Expansion
25. Food Culture and Skills Training Programmes
26. Graiguenamanagh Men's Shed – Workshop Accommodation Provision
27. Jewellery and Goldsmithing Centre of Excellence
28. Kells Dried Pasta Production Project
29. Kilkenney Food Strategy – Training
30. Kilkenney Food Strategy Branding
31. Kilkenney Food Strategy Verification Study
32. Mill Modernisation
33. Mooncoin Beetroot Production Unit
34. Muckalee Community Cafe and Shop
35. Professional costs for A and D Graiguenamanagh Hub and Rural Environment
36. Project Sewing Enterprise Training
37. Rural Community Bicycle Hire Service
38. School of Food – A & D
39. Secure Data Destruction Facility
40. Studio Upgrade
41. Upgrade of projection facility to DCP (Digital Cinema Projector) at Watergate Theatre
42. Work Together Now

Energy

43. Analysis and Development of Community Energy Trading Platform
44. Caherleske Coolagh Group Water Society Limited Solar Panels
45. Callan Community Energy Animator + Capital
46. Callan Community Energy Education and Training Programme
47. CM Community Sport Energy Efficient Lighting
48. Graiguenamanagh Energy Town (G.E.T. GREEN)

Tourism

49. Augmented Reality Tourism Cooperation Project
50. Ballykeeffe 2025 Feasibility Study
51. Barrow Valley Activities Hub Entrance
52. Design Options Report for 2 Pedestrian/ cyclist Bridges over the River Barrow in Graigue/Tinnahinch
53. Development of Thomastown Recreational Area
54. Dig! Archaeology A&D
55. Inistioge Website Redesign and Upgrade
56. IROUTE Mobility Conference
57. Iverk Show, Office, Storage and Electrical Build
58. Kilkenney Festivals Joint Marketing Campaign
59. Kilkenney Watersports Equipment
60. Lingaun Slate Quarries – High-level Study A and D
61. Low Ropes Development Castlecomer Discovery Park
62. Malzards Pub & Hurling Experience Short Stay Accommodation Project
63. New Ross Boatyard – Greenway

Development

64. Repair of Stone Walls
65. Riverboat Adventures
66. South East Greenway Linkage Project: Community Consultation and Technical Services Research
67. Trail Kilkenney – Outdoor Adventure Video
68. Trail Kilkenney – Trail Football Counters
69. Upgrading Ballykeeffe Amphitheatre

Youth

70. Phase Two Club Upgrade
71. Upgrade to Callan Handball and Racquet Ball Club
72. Youth Film and Photography Training Cooperation Project

Tourism

73. Abbey Hall Community Recreational Area
74. Analysis and Development of Dunnamaggin Village
75. Castlecomer Court House Study
76. Community Café and Shop
77. Community Laptop Loan Project
78. County Kilkenney Grid Capacity Study
79. Freshford Digital – Analysis & Development Study
80. Johnstown – Community Hall Improvements
81. Kilkenney Festive Lights
82. Kilkenney Integrated Multi Modes Initiative (KIMMI)
83. Kingsriver A&D
84. Old Co-op, Green Street
85. Pil River Park
86. Rosedale Community Garden
87. SEROI+ SMART Villages Pre-Development Co-operation Project
88. SMART Villages Look to the Future Training Programme
89. Thomastown Scout Hall Upgrade
90. Trail Kilkenney Silaire Wood Trail Signage & Improvements
91. Urlingford Community Walk Way
92. Urlingford Festival Lights

Water

93. Kilkenney Media for Nore Vision Projects
94. Natural Flood Defence – LEADER Co-operation Project
95. Nore Vision Co-operation Project – Coordination
96. Nore Vision Co-operation Project – Governance
97. Nore Vision Co-operation Project – Training
98. Waterways College Capital Co-operation Project – Branding
99. Waterways College Capital Co-operation Project – Training
100. Works to address Invasive Species

Biodiversity

101. Butler Gallery Youth Art Training Programme
102. Take Action to Protect Kilkenney's Outdoors Programme
103. Waterways College Capital Co-operation Project – Development of Training Curriculum

LEADER Projects

Sample of 2020 Projects

THE NORE VISION



The Nore Vision is one of the most ambitious and potentially strategically important initiatives that KLP has ever developed. The project is sometimes said to be, “long, wide and deep” in scope and concept.

Scope and Concept

The initiative is long in that it has a long-term vision of changing things for the better on the River Nore river catchment over a generational or 20-to-25-year period. It is wide in taking in parts of several counties that cover the catchment, Kilkenny, of course, but also Laois and two separate parts of Tipperary. And the Nore Vision is deep in the sense that it covers the full spectrum of those interest and groups- people, plants and animals that live, work, play and appreciate the river and its connected lands, and crucially all these sectors are deeply inter-connected.

Pandemic Delays

The Nore Vision project was a major undertaking and would have been a challenge at the best of times, but to start in March 2020 as the Covid pandemic hit Ireland and the world was a test of a serious magnitude. This was particularly notable in that training and

networking made up a very significant part of the actions of the project. It is to the great credit of the project contractors, Ann-Marie McSorley and the Veri team that it was delivered in time and to such a high standard.

Community Support

However, the communities of locality and interest that spanned the Nore catchment deserve even more praise for their embrace of the project and the fact that the project has continued to evolve and grow following the end of the formal LEADER project. The numbers of volunteers and the quality of their work would be impressive in any context. The reformation of the existing River Nore Catchment Trust non-profit company as a reinvigorated vehicle for the Nore Vision's energy and drive, under Chairperson Michael Starrett has been inspiring.

KLP Support

The new company is independent of KLP, although we are hugely supportive of it and involved in its work. KLP particularly supports the ambition of the Nore Vision to secure longer-term supports from government for its unique work engaging with communities. KLP will be there helping for the long haul.






RIVER BOAT ADVENTURES



 Riverboat Adventures

 riverboatadventures

 085 272 6795

Riverboat Adventures

Riverboat Adventures is a new outdoor activity enterprise providing Graiguenamanagh's first guided boat tours of the River Barrow. The company was set up by Graiguenamanagh native Eoin Bolger to give locals and tourists an opportunity to experience the wealth of beauty and wildlife diversity along the town's riverbank.

KLP Support

After owning and operating boats on the river for many years, Eoin felt it was time to share his expertise and love of boating by providing a tour service to the public. Eoin submitted an application to KLP for start-up cost, including the purchase of a boat and ancillary equipment. KLP was delighted to support this aspiring venture develop into a business opportunity and further develop local river based tourism along the River Barrow.

Scenic Tour

The River Barrow is a stunningly beautiful waterway and while a stroll by a length of the riverbank is a wonderful way to spend an evening there is a vast amount of scenic beauty that is not accessible by foot. Riverboat Adventures has addressed this issue by providing affordable river cruises for parties up to twelve people. Customers can book a tour with Eoin and hop on at the Quay Graiguenamanagh for a 45 minute scenic treat along the River Barrow to upper Tinnahinch and Ballykennan Lock. Bookings.

Book an Adventure

To book your own riverboat adventure give Eoin a call or visit his Facebook and Instagram pages for more information.



Photos:
Left
River Nore (Credit: Kevin Barcoe)
Right
1. & 3. Riverboat Adventures (Credit: Eoin Bolger)
2. Riverboat Adventures (Credit: Hannah O'Gorman)

Mooncoin Beetroot



 mooncoinbeetroot

Beetroot Beginnings

Helen Murphy grew up on a vegetable farm and it is here her knowledge and skill for food and artisan products stemmed. In 2014 from her own kitchen Helen began pickling beetroot in her spare time for friends, family, locals and could not keep up with demand. She decided to pursue this idea in conjunction with her husband Mark who is a chef, while holding another part time job.

In Demand

In 2015 Mooncoin Homegrown Beetroot became a registered company selling top quality products such as pickled red, white beetroot, relish and novel mixed coloured beetroot. These are very popular and much sought after by a number of high-end restaurants. In addition, demand to the catering market is growing rapidly and Mooncoin Homegrown Beetroot supply a number of bulk produce here.

KLP Support

The current home production facilities are close to maximum levels. Mooncoin Homegrown Beetroot approached KLP for support to expand from their current home industry operation into a commercial food production facility including a kitchen, processing, packaging, washroom area and an office. This would allow the business to increase sales, production and upscale daily produce, giving Helen more time on the road to generate additional sales.

KLP approved funding of €61,645.65 towards the production unit under KLP's Local Development Strategy for supporting rural tourism enterprises and enterprise development and to support growth within existing and emerging food enterprises identified in Kilkenny's Food Strategy 2020-2025



Photos:
Mooncoin Beetroot
Photo Credit: Mooncoin
Beetroot

The Little Mill



<https://thelittlemill.ie/>

[thelittlemillcompany](#)

[The_littleMill](#)

[thelittlemillcompany](#)

Little Mill Teamwork

The Little Mill is an Irish family business run by a father and son team Bill and Robert Mosse currently employing 32 people. Expertise and passion from seven generations has ensured survival of what is now a unique family business which continues to mill flour and produce mixes.

Future Growth

The Little Mill are continually seeking opportunities to grow sales and ensure stability of business into the future and identified an opportunity to become the first to supply Irish dried pasta to market. Kells Pasta will not only be manufactured locally it will also

be made from locally grown wheat reducing air miles and adding a new dimension to the suite of good quality food producers in Kilkenny further underpinning Kilkenny as an award-winning foodie destination.

LEADER Funding

KLP approved funding of €37,806.50 towards the purchase of a pasta making unit under KLP's Local Development Strategy for supporting rural tourism enterprises, food, drink and enterprise development and to support growth within existing and emerging food enterprises identified in Kilkenny's Food Strategy 2020-2025



Photos:
Little Mill
Photo Credit: Little Mill

Deanery Park Orchard

Cultural Importance

The significance and cultural importance of St Canice's Cathedral and close lies in its archaeological and historical interest and in particular as the evolutionary kernel of Kilkenny city. Through the years part of the grounds and in particular the Deanery Orchard had become overgrown and in need of urgent renovations. The KLP Board awarded funding to St Canice's Cathedral Select Vestry for Deanery Park constructions and repairs.

Historical significance

According to the 2012 conservation plan conducted by Paul Arnold Architects the part of the close known as Deanery Orchard has served as an orchard and vegetable garden since at least 1758 when it is shown as such by John Rocque on his map of Kilkenny. Some authorities believe it has served this function since medieval times

although there were a number of ecclesiastical residences to the south of the cathedral until the early seventeenth century and some of these may have partially occupied the subject site. The noteworthiness of St Canice's Cathedral and close has been highlighted in numerous reports but more specifically the following: Conservation Plan by Paul Arnold Architects, Archaeological impact Assessment Report by Coilin O Drisceoil in Sept 2016, Ecological Impact Assessment by Mieke Muyllaert in October 2015 and Louise Browne Associates to enhance the visitor Experience at St. Canice's Cathedral. St Canice's Cathedral is pivotal to Kilkenny's medieval experience and a key tourist attraction for Kilkenny.

The Deanery Orchard has received €58,477.62 in funding through the KLP LEADER programme.



Photos:
Deanery Park Orchard

Social Inclusion and Activation Programme

Social Inclusion

SICAP led the KLP response to the pandemic. The team pulled together all their resources from various programmes in the company – Rural Social Scheme, Tús, Community Services Programme, the Traveller Community Health Project, the pilot Social Prescribing Project and funding from the Rural Development Programme to facilitate a broad response to the crisis.

New Experiences

Implementing SICAP through COVID19 brought many new experiences to both staff and participants. The SICAP team quickly adapted to new realities to engage with clients. Adapting to the new normal included safe ways to still reach clients and offer services, such as digital training via Zoom. The online digital platform proved successful in many ways. The Programme 'kitted up' with good quality cameras, Zoom accounts and a suite of laptops that was funded under the Rural Development Programme. The laptops have been key to a significant number of people, allowing access to training and continued involvement in community groups. Many of the individuals who presented to the KLP SICAP team during the pandemic were from the most disadvantaged communities in the county. The team were called upon from people of all economic and social backgrounds that needed support with the change to the new online environment and access to devices that would allow them to access training from KLP and other providers. The organization ensured that individuals and community groups received high quality and current information in terms of health messages and COVID-19 payments through the company website and newsletters.

Caring for the Isolated

During the initial lock down a significant number of individuals came to the SICAP team looking for reassurance. The broad fear experienced by the whole country was felt most acutely by those who lost their jobs, older people, those who had underlying health issues and those who had dependants whose services were withdrawn. As an organization we were very conscious of individuals who were most isolated. Ten KLP staff were deployed part time to the ALONE Helpline from March to June. KLP was able to deliver this service under SICAP Goal 1, Tús and RSS. Working in

two 8-hour shifts per week. The team were able to offer ALONE a constant resource. KLP staff took on clients who had more challenging mental health and/or addiction issues. Staff assisted these individuals by collecting pension/ payments and shopping. Most of these are still getting support through the Rural Social Schemes and Housing Aid (Community Services Programme). KLP's SICAP team took a place on the county response group and worked very closely with those coordinating the work coming from calls to the county help line.

The Traveller Community

KLP has a key focus on the Traveller Community through the Community Health Project. Due to how the families – in the city in particular – organize their lives, the threat of a widespread and rapid infection of the community was particularly high. Very clear health messaging, intense levels of contact with families and the 'social distance' Traveller's live from the wider community kept COVID away from the most vulnerable families until Christmas. Close working arrangements with the Traveller Health Unit (HSE), the housing section of Kilkenny County Council focused on – amongst other things – services such as providing and organising – Meals on Wheels, essential food supplies, assistance with solid fuel for the older generation and sanitising and HSE specific Care packs.

Social Enterprises

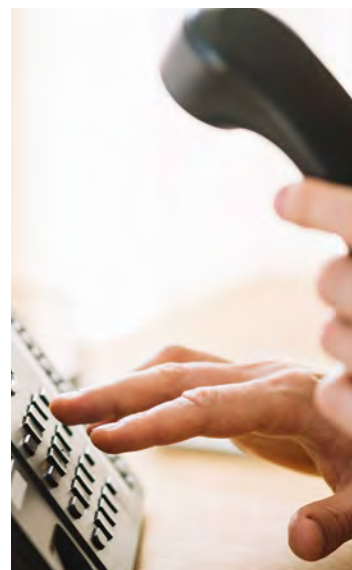
Social Enterprises were affected similarly. County Kilkenny has a healthy number of community owned childcare facilities. KLP worked with Kilkenny County Childcare Committee to support three services to reorganise in the context of the pandemic – this involved the relocation of one and the securing of funding from the DCYA to achieve this. The generous funding programme put in place by the DCYA has secured much of these enterprises moving into a post COVID era. Other enterprises supported by the company such as the Outdoor Hub in Graigenamanagh and the School of Food in Thomastown (TSof), continued to trade when they could. The TSof saw business grow as several micro food business emerged from the pandemic and started using the school's kitchens. COVID19 has had a significant impact on Kindred – a collective of under or unemployed creative young people. KLP has been moving this group

toward the sale of services to local companies and organisations but an inability to meet and work in the same space has undermined this work. The SICAP target group is rapidly changing as those who were what they thought in secure employment, now find themselves unemployed and very unsure of their future. Mental Health issues are becoming very prevalent and indicative to a person's ability to progress along any education, training, or employment without intensive 1-1 supports, advice and guidance.

Non Covid work continued with community organisations in terms of building organisational capacity and the delivery of projects. Beneficiary groups included the KTCM, TransLife, The Men's Sheds, Kilkenny One Parent Community, Falite Isteach & Immigrant Services plus area based focus in Loughboy in the city, Ferrybank and Castlecomer.

Resilience and Adjustments

Although there was clearly a heavy impact from the pandemic and associated restrictions, there are signs of a strong sense of resilience and an ability to adjust throughout the community and services.



GOAL 1

Local
Community
Group (LCG)



16

engagements to co-develop and implement initiatives addressing social exclusion and inequality



4

Social Enterprises supported by SICAP



26

LCG Annual Action plans



36

engagements to support participation in community planning

GOAL 2

Individuals

36

Progressed into employment

8

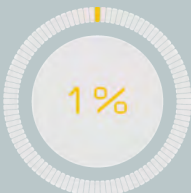
Progressed into State employment scheme

54

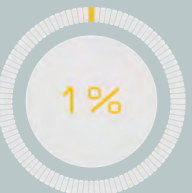
Referred to other services for labour market support

37

Progressed into self employment New Start ups



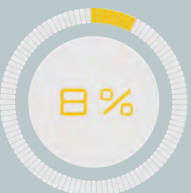
Emerging need: LGBTI community



Roma



Travellers



Lone Parent



People with Disabilities



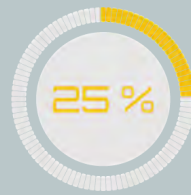
New Communities



Low Income Households



Economically Inactive



Disadvantaged Communities



Disadvantaged Young People



The Unemployed

SICAP Projects

Updates on a Sample of
SICAP projects

GOAL 1

Men's Sheds



A hub to share experiences

The Men's Shed is a community based project, where members can come together share experiences, build solidarity and become involved in joint initiatives.

Since January 2021, members of the shed have participated in several online classes, funded by Kilkenny and Carlow Education Training Board. Participants got training on how to use zoom, smartphones, beginners and advanced computer classes and Heath & Wellbeing sessions.

Overall Progress

Though the impact of Covid-19 restricted the growth of sheds to some extent, there is constant and gradual progress with the support from SICAP and the commitment from the local men sheds to achieve their respective and collective initiatives. Some sheds are in the planning process of redesigning their sheds. Others are refurbishing their workshop spaces, attaining lease for land and applying for funding for new builds. Over the coming months official opening of Danesfort-Cuffsgrange & Kells, Graiguenamanagh, Fen Men Shed will be launched.

Ferrybank Men's Shed

The Ferrybank Men's Shed has over 20 members. With SICAP grant support they have purchased two 45ft steel containers that they have temporarily housed on the Clover Meats builders lock up yard which they are currently renovating to be their club house.

In 2020, a KLP SICAP grant supported the group with a Beehive biodiversity project.

Participant Support

Although 2020 has been a challenging year for Kilkenny's Men Sheds, the enthusiasm and determination of active members has demonstrated the growing confidence that the project has brought to participants and the significance this project has had on communities around the county.

Castlcomer Men's Shed Review

"The members of Castlecomer Mens Shed are indebted to our mentor Yuvi of KLP during these difficult pandemic times. Like so many our shed is closed but thanks to Yuvi we have kept in contact with the regular online group meetings and also the courses organised with Jennifer of Carlow-Kilkenny ETB. Our outdoor activities are mainly with Castlecomer Tidy Towns Group where we assist with weeding, planting etc. All of the above are so important for our wellbeing and general shared knowledge. Thanks to Yuvi for his assistance in securing the legal lease from Castlecomer Enterprise Centre for our new premises together with the Tidy Towns group."

Dick Brennan, Thomas Lynch,
Michael Brennan, Maurice Shortall

Photos:
Fen Men's Shed,
Kilkenny
Photo Credit: Yuvi
Basanth

GOAL 1

One Parent Families

One Parent Families in Kilkenny

KLP's work with the Kilkenny's One Parent Family Community has strengthened the presence of parents in the wider structure built around the Lone Parent work over the past two years.

There are 6,790 one-parent families living in Kilkenny, which equates to 11% of all households. Children in one-parent families make up 18.6% of all children in the county. Studies have also indicated that those parenting alone are at a greater risk of poverty than other demographic.

Giving one parent families a voice

In November 2020, KLP announced the launch of 'Voice and Visibility', a research report examining the experiences of One Parent Families in County Kilkenny.

This report was undertaken by a Local Community Development Committee task group, to map the issuing impacting on One Parent Families through the County, as well as to identify the gaps. Crucially, the report also set out to develop a process to make visible the lived experiences that one parent families are facing in Kilkenny and give a voice to those experiences. The increased challenges that those parenting alone have faced as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic was addressed and widely reported.

Key issues

The report revealed a number of key

issues that needed to be addressed to improve the quality of their lives and their well-being in Kilkenny:

- Access to training and employment
- Access to affordable and flexible childcare
- Barrier to Participation
- Health
- Stigma
- Maintenance
- Transport
- Lack of Information
- Mental Health
- Income Poverty

Progress and Developments

The report resulted in a county wide Action Plan to raise awareness, address stigma and tackle ongoing issues. An interagency Lone Parent Steering Group has been established. A Community Engagement Facilitator has been funded through Healthy Ireland.

The Kilkenny One Parent Community network launched a website: <http://kilkennyoneparentcommunity.ie/>.

The website will function as an information hub and a place for the coming together of One Parent Families in Kilkenny.

This project is a cooperation initiative between County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (lead); Kilkenny Carlow Education and Training Board; the Community section of Kilkenny County Council; TUSLA; the Department of Employment and Social Protection; Kilkenny County Childcare Committee, and the Children and Young Services Committee



Goal 2

KickStart



Job Placement Initiative

Kickstart is the job placement initiative for unemployed people developed by KLP to address the specific employment opportunities in Kilkenny. KickStart matches local employers and interested jobseekers, and has been successful with resounding positive results from both candidates and employers. This programme was developed in partnership with State Street and the Department of Social Protection. Based on consultation and research, Kickstart place participants in sectors that offer real employment prospects and training. It is proposed that the lessons of Kickstart may influence national policy in the area of placements and unemployment.

New 2020 Developments

In March 2020, twelve participants registered with KickStart for work experience placement. Some of the placements had been agreed and arranged with local disability organisation, St Patrick's Centre (SPC), Kilkenny. The placements were of an administrative nature and had to be put on hold due to the 'work from home' policy brought in by government.

Positively, the new collaboration between St Patrick's and the SICAP Development Officer led to discussions around the recruitment of healthcare workers which were identified as an emerging critical need, not only in St Patrick's, but nationally with the 'on call for Ireland' recruitment campaign at the same time. The competition to recruit new local staff was identified as a challenge. KLP Development Officers identified through their database a list

of registered unemployed participants with the relevant Healthcare Level 5 qualification and started to formulate a list of potential candidates to refer and fast track through to interview in St Patrick's. KLP SICAP team were able to offer 1-1 remote supports to individuals, assist them with their application form, update CV's and advise with any concerns expressed.

Success

Following mandatory Garda vetting and emergency fire safety training, a total of nine people were referred. Eight attended for interview and five were successfully appointed in posts with St Patrick's Centre and one person accepted a position in a Nursing Home. SICAP continues to support St Patrick's with 'upskilling' of workers in mandatory training in Manual Handling and Patient Handling. Trainers have been sourced to deliver the practical assessment element of training from behind a glass screen to 36 staff (in groups of 6 at a time) with particular attention paid to health & safety perspectives.

Feedback

"SPC send on their genuine thanks to Kilkenny Leader Partnership. During these stormy times, SPC needed to speed up our recruitment campaign in order to stabilise the workforce, KLP actively reviewed their caseloads to identify potential candidates for the Health Care Sector and referred numerous people directly into the service to apply for vacancies and as a result 5 people are now in employment due to this support" Selina Doyle, CEO of St Patrick's

Goal 2

Training:

Compromised Swallowing

Training

Compromised swallowing may not be a widely discussed subject but it affects 4 -5% of the population in Ireland, with the majority of that number being the elderly, stroke patients and those who has suffered brain injury either physically or pathologically. For people with swallow care issues, dining out can pose many challenges especially when it comes menu options. This can make dining out overwhelming for affected individuals.

The specialised nature of food preparation for people with compromised swallowing requires that it be carried out with supreme care and attention. Unfortunately these necessary skills are not part of the education programmes offered to culinary professionals. The overall objective is to have a number of eateries across Kilkenny that can offer fresh blended meals. This will offer more menu options and a better

dining experience for the people affected by compromised swallowing, while enhancing inclusivity within communities, the food industry and local food producers.

Black Olive Catering

In 2020 KLP funded a training programme in "Food culture". This specialised programme focussed on mainstream eateries including hotels, restaurants and cafés as well as families and carers across the county. With exemplary chefs from Black Olive Catering on board, training was delivered to professional chefs to deconstruct and reconstruct fresh food in a manner that would serve individuals who need blended meals. It also provided workshops for family members and/or carers on suitable food preparation techniques that demonstrates how to provide quality blended meals with an appealing presentation over a broad range of foods.

Photos:
Compromised
Swallowing Training



Goal 2

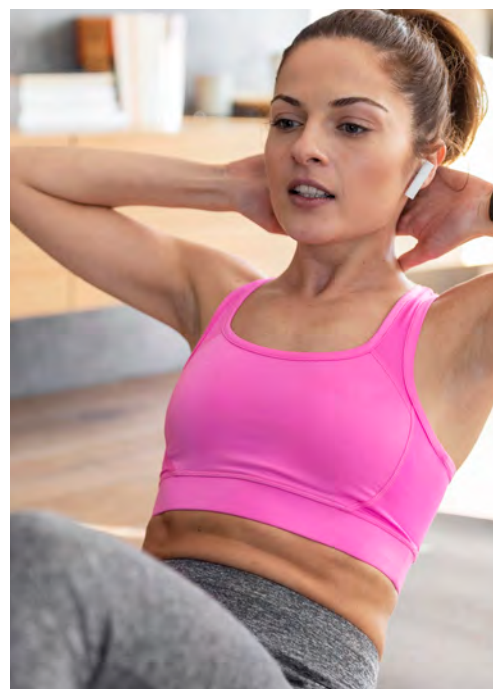
Health & Fitness Through COVID

Staying Fit during COVID

Studies claim that one in three people experienced weight gain during the pandemic lockdown. With daily routines turned upside down, gyms closed and many other challenges such as stress and isolation, the KLP SICAP team funded a Zoom Health and Fitness Programme to encourage a healthy regime while at home.

The programme had a beginners and intermediate levels led by fitness gurus Jamie Cummins and Jean Ryan. KLP staff participated in a series as well to keep their fitness up and burn off extra energy while stuck in lockdown.

The course was a huge success and while some of the exercises challenged our fitness levels it definitely provided motivation and inspiration to keep us all physically and mentally fit.



GOAL 2 Youth



Kilkenny Youth Projects

Kilkenny Youth has always been a key focus for the Social Inclusion Programme. In 2020, SICAP contracted various agencies to deliver a range of programmes which resulted in the delivery of sixteen youth projects across the county over the year. This group of youth project engaged over 1600 children & young people in a number of activities and events.

Segway for Youth

One activity that proved popular, was the Segway for Youth Project. This unique, practical course was delivered by E-Movement. The young people were given in depth Segway training in a fun-filled learning environment. The training also provided an introduction to interpersonal development and team building skills through a range of Segway Games.

To complete the course, the youths were introduced to the world of enterprise. Participants were given the basics of start ups/small micro business from idea and concept to becoming an established enterprise. Overall

the course received an enthusiastic response and KLP may look into similar training in the future.

Outdoor Tourism

KLP developed and ETB funded Foundation Programme in Outdoor Tourism. It was due to run in May 2020 in Castlecomer but was postponed due to COVID, eventually commencing Sept and running to Nov 2020.

The programme included an extensive range of courses from forest therapy and raft building to personal development and career preparation.

The mixed cohort of this group included young people 17 years and up, all with significant support needs. Ten young people started the 8-week course and nine successfully completed. A six month follow up found that all participants have been involved in further personal development training courses offered by KLP. On a further positive note, five of the participants have now found employment (3 of them in the outdoor tourism business).

Photos:
Left: Segway for Youth
Training
Right: Outdoor Tourism
Training



KILKENNY SOCIAL PRESCRIBING

○
31



Social Prescribing has gained much attention locally from both healthcare and community-based professionals alike, and has proved to be accessible, affordable, and inclusive to all. It is an evidence-based approach to self-managing health and creates a fundamental impact on one's confidence, engagement in society and sense of purpose.

Social Prescriber Recruited

In 2020, KLP was delighted to recruit Leanne Sweeny as Kilkenny's Social Prescriber. The service has supported the health and wellbeing of Kilkenny by linking participants to community-based activities and services, such as walking groups, education and training, mental health supports, and volunteering. The programme offers a formal route to access many community-led services on their own doorstep. The pilot has to date achieved several important outcomes and is building upon the excellent partnerships held in existence between KLP and neighbouring communities:

Creating Partnership

Since July, the Social Prescribing Service has become an integrated component within a number of interagency platforms in Kilkenny. This includes Social Prescribing becoming an active member of the Kilkenny Lifelink Committee, it's Crisis Café subgroup

and the Kilkenny Mental Health Forum. Such platforms work to bring together key stakeholders in the HSE Mental Health Services and those working in Community and Voluntary Services to enhance the existing collaborative work between all.

ROCK

The Kilkenny Social Prescribing Service rolled out a pilot programme called ROCK (Reach Out- Connect- Kilkenny) Programme. This programme focused on personal development and the results and reviews resounded positivity and progress. Participants spoke of an increased sense of confidence, a space to explore barriers to community engagement and identified their strengths and goals in a peer-led environment. Rock was facilitated by Leighann Ryan-Culleton: Development and training officer with the HSE Regional Suicide Resource Office (South East) and who also is a Happiness and Wellbeing Researcher in her own time.

Covid-19 Adaptation

As with many community services and supports provided by KLP, adjustments were made to meet the needs of clients during these times. It was noted that the social isolation and loneliness exasperated by the restrictions in place during Covid-19 made a service like Social Prescribing more important than ever.

65%
of referrals live alone



36%
of referrals came
from a community
organisation



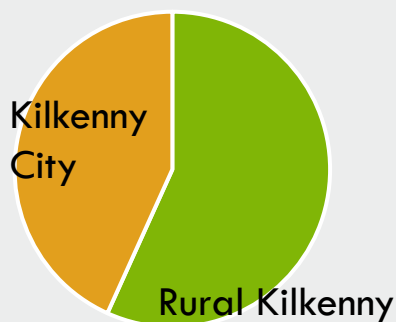
54% of referrals came
from a healthcare
professional



92%
of referrals
identified as
lonely or socially
isolated



over
50% of referrals came
from rural Kilkenny



54%
did not have adequate digital
infrastructure e.g. broadband,
smartphone, tablet etc

30%
of referrals were of
retirement age



56%
male

44%
female



SICAP Q & A with Kilkenny Start-Ups

The Inspirations and the Challenges







 www.thehappypottery.com

 085 216 0050

 thehappypottery

 thehappypottery

Tell me a little about yourself and your background?

My name is Zsófi Szommer. I am from Hungary and moved to Kilkenny, Ireland with my two beautiful daughters and my Irish husband over 3 years ago.

I studied Economics, Business and Marketing Communication. I worked in the advertising industry for over 20 years. I am a natural communicator and love meeting people, exchanging thoughts and ideas. I also have a passion for arts and crafts.

I've always had a dream to create an inclusive space for people where they can freely enjoy creating, being recharged and be able to socialise. As a result of my planning and developing my own business I founded The Happy Pottery. We deliver hands on creative experience in a form of pottery painting for everyone. The studio was opened in the first week of lockdown 2020. Since then, I had to close the doors several times, but I am trying to operate online, although I believe it is a different experience.

When did you start creating things?

Since I was a toddler I've always had a pencil, clay, or a piece of paper in my hand. I like creating things from scratch. Later in school we had less time for free crafting. I believe creativity appears in all areas of our lives. Problem solving needs creative thinking as well. I worked in an industry that needed new ideas every hour, every day. I spent so much time creating solutions. Later when my kids arrived I got back to the art and craft activities. After a few years I was back on track and started spending more time painting, working with clay, making beads creations, sewing, knitting, and lots more.

What were early influences that have influenced your work thus far?

As a child I was so lucky to be surrounded with books including art. I also regularly visited many galleries, cultic ancient places, travelled and met various cultures since I was a child. When I moved to Ireland all this creative energy just boosted.

New life. New plans. I was so lucky to get involved with Open Circle- An Initiative from the Local Art Office. For 18 months we had the chance to spend time exploring new techniques in art. It also made me consider new directions in my life as well.

I also need to mention my entrepreneurial intentions which drove me to create a business that adds something new, something creative to its community.

How did you start your studio The Happy Pottery?

About 12 years ago I visited a pottery painting studio called "Made by You" that has just opened its doors in Budapest. I went there for a series of workshops and it felt just right. 10 years later I thought this would be a great plan to open a similar studio in Kilkenny, the heart of craft and arts in Ireland. The idea met my entrepreneurial plans as well. I started developing my business plan and went to study the craft in England, Hungary and in Kilkenny. Later I accomplished Art teaching Courses from MOMa for children. Meanwhile I have finished my Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Marketing. This was also very helpful when you start your own business. Since then I kept on painting and learning new techniques in ceramic decoration and clay work. I also just finished a drawing course and I am about to finish a professional illustration course. I also have a kind of entrepreneurial skill. I was always inspired by my granddad and my father who were always creating something new, something innovative.

I learnt so much about how to listen and communicate with all types of people from my Mum and Grandmother who dedicated their lives to helping people. I am a member of Network Ireland Kilkenny branch. The organisation is empowering women in their chosen career path. I enjoy the benefits of the organisation. I am also an advocate for gaining a louder voice and therefore a greater attention towards women's ambitions.

After I moved to Kilkenny, I realised that I need to build a new network of people. I have been advised by one of the Mum's in school to contact KLP for helping me to establish my new personal and professional life. Then I met Tom McDonald who patiently and kindly directed me into various directions for developing my new life. He offered me the services of KLP from paperwork, to self-development courses. I have completed my Postgraduate Diploma in Digital Marketing supported by Springboard courses. Tom helped me on the way as well.

Photos:
The Happy Pottery
Photo Credit: The
Happy Pottery

Once I had prepared my business plan for my new enterprise I turned to KLP and I received their great support again.

What makes The Happy Pottery unique?

The experience: I believe it is a place that invigorates people's creativity. I also know that pottery painting would result in a beautiful piece of creation, that makes people so proud of themselves. This helps boost their confidence. Pottery painting is also a mindful activity. You will feel relaxed and recharged after. In the studio there is no judgment, no expectation, there is no right or wrong way to move your brush:) For now The Happy Pottery offers Takeaway Painting Kits. It brings back a touch of enjoyment that this activity provides.

How has Quarantine affected your business? Have you adapted or begun offering a different product or service?

I just opened my studio when lockdown happened last year. I was ready to roll, but I couldn't. That was very hard on me personally. I was full of energy and plans and I could do nothing, but wait until quarantine was over.

Over the last year I have developed and upgraded my website with an online shop. I was lucky to receive an LEO online voucher grant for making it happen. I am also a member of Network Ireland Kilkenny branch. I also tried various forms of Takeaway painting kits. By now there is a huge selection of items people can choose from. I also edited the second edition of How to paint your pottery at home guide, that can be found in the kits as well as paints/glazes and brushes.

What advice would you give to a person starting out in their own business?

Dream Big. Plan well. Network. Build relations. Don't be afraid. You will make mistakes. Stick to your core values, skills, but be open to being able to extend it. Agile planning and building: Start your business on a small scale and see what works and what doesn't. Re-think through the way and implement new ideas for testing. Be patient. I still need to practice this one!)

Dream Big. Plan well. Network.
Build relations. Don't be afraid.
You will make mistakes. Stick
to your core values, skills.....



Photos:
The Happy Pottery
Photo Credit: The
Happy Pottery



ANDREW RYAN MILLINERY

✉ andrewryanmillinery@gmail.com

📷 andrewryan_millinery

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your background?

I was born creative. That creativity was stifled as a child. I have since been searching for my path. I studied design and ceramic sculpture in NCAD. I wanted to do fashion. I thought fashion too gay. An absurd thought. Until recently I regretted not going that route. Not anymore.

When did you create your first artwork/ piece and what inspired you to do that?

I guess the most important pieces I created were those that ignited the passion and the drive that have directed me to where I am today. That question! 'What is your passion?' This was it. I remember so clearly driving to Ardmore Studios, music playing, sipping my coffee, and crying. Tears of joy. I had never really felt this before. I got the incredible opportunity to work with the truly truly amazing Joan Bergin in 2016. I was brought on board as a costume accessories maker, my first intro to

the business. Very quickly accessories maker became ceremonial headdress maker for the North African prehistoric Akkanakki cannibal tribe. What! Terrifying but right up my street. Completely mad, I sourced a horse's tail, I'll spare you the details but worked this into the headdress of the tribe leader along with foam cast antlers, tiger's skull and other fantastical finds and creations. A couple of headdresses turned into a dozen. Everything I felt passion for was colliding in this one incredible expressive moment. A fire had igniting within me.

What were early influences that what has influenced your work thus far?

I was taught by my French and Drama Teacher, Victor Martin, to look up. He said nobody ever looks up. I am always looking. He also told my mother at a parent teacher meeting that I was like a flower that would one day grow and blossom into something wonderful. I never forget that and hold it with me.

Photos:
Millinery Designs by
Andrew Ryan
Photo Credit: Andrew
Ryan Millinery

And I'll be forever grateful to my mother for telling me though I was mortified at the time. I am constantly looking and draw inspiration from all around. I am particularly interested in spiritual growth. That's why working with the head is so poignant. Religious iconography also has to fall into this realm. I find the whole thing fascinating. Our potential. I'm working with a London based performer, Virgin X. He fascinates me. He was a suggested follow on Instagram. I followed him and he followed me straight back. Commented 'stunning' to my gold bone (rubber) headdress. I'll message him. Maybe not. I'll play Spotify. 'Like A Virgin' played. First time ever. He now has that headdress. A gift from me to him. It is now out there.

What makes your product unique?

My pieces are for the most part bespoke. With my training in sculpture this is the mindset with which I design and create and see my work more as sculptural creations. In making I use a vast array of techniques and materials. I have recently begun to work in 3D printing. This is an astonishing tool where the only limit to what can be created is your imagination. It is truly astounding. I am also fascinated by taxidermy. I like to use birds in my pieces, I like the symbolism of flight, always roadkill let me add. I will not limit myself to a set number of techniques or materials. I am constantly exploring and expanding my range. It's exciting. It is growth.

Collaboration is key. If there are any taxidermists out there who are interested in collaborating please drop me a message.

Where can customers find your product? How do you market your art?

Instagram! Instagram has been an amazing gift for showcasing my work. Even with the small portfolio of work I currently have on the platform I have connected with performers and individuals from beyond these shores. I no longer limit my mindset to possibilities solely within Ireland. There is a whole world out there. I do have plans for a website. I am working on a pink flocked 3D printed headdress for the homepage and I will in time produce a range of accessories as part of an online store.

A lot of people say you must post regularly on Instagram. Pressure! I allowed that to get to me but not anymore. I post when I am ready to post and it works for me.

Pick up the phone, send emails, network. Your product may be spectacular but if nobody knows about you, or it, nothing will happen.

How has Quarantine affected your business? Have you adapted or begun offering a different product or service?

Early in 2020 I got the opportunity to work on a very significant production. As a freelance maker this was quite the coup, the break I had been yearning for, the promise of something very exciting. With lockdown everything, slam, wallop, came to a halt. Quarantine had me question my choice but each and every time I did I would find myself back where I began. Lockdown has cemented my determination to forge forward. It has given me the gift of time in which I have begun to explore new techniques and seek opportunities to collaborate. It has also thought me that I do not need to be expert in all techniques. It is not necessary that I do absolutely everything myself. There is a world of knowledge, assistance and individuals out there who are willing to roll in. I have learnt to ask. It was by asking that I learnt of a company who specialise in 3D printing. And they are here. They are in Thomastown. Ask! On a more personal level I haven't twirled my moustache in over a year!

What advice would you give to a person starting out in their own business?

Top tip! 'Money's Too Tight to Mention' must be banned from your playlist. Step by step. It may just all fall into place and then again it may not. Give it time, allow it to unfold, allow it to grow. Sometimes a project can seem overwhelming. I keep hearing the phrase 'you can't eat an elephant in one sitting' and you can't and nor should you.

As creatives, we have been given a gift, and this has value. Learn to value this. Learn to value your time and your product. If you find yourself in uncertainty I suggest you read 'The Artist's Way' by Julia Cameron.

Most importantly, do not give up! Believe in your product, believe in yourself, if you believe you can do it, you can. Allow yourself to ask. There is a wealth of wisdom and opportunity out there. It may just be on your door step. Do not give into your fears. Step forward. Put yourself out there.

'Money's Too Tight to Mention'
must be banned from your
playlist.....Give it time, allow it to
unfold, allow it to grow.

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40



Photos:
Millinery Designs by
Andrew Ryan
Photo Credit: Andrew
Ryan Millinery





 www.michael-holden-ceramic-artist.com

 [michaelholdeninistioge](https://www.facebook.com/michaelholdeninistioge)

Can you tell me a little about yourself and your background?

I was born and raised in Inistioge Co. Kilkenny. My parents were hard working and in bringing up six of us, they did all they could do to make ends meet. My mother was constantly knitting Aran jumpers between rearing us, and my father was a carpenter and also worked on the salmon fisheries for the Woodstock Estate Inistioge, he was a keen watercolourist, and always encouraged us to draw and paint.

Tell us about what inspired you and early influences in pottery.

In 1979 I got a job at Mosses Pottery Bennettsbridge where I learned all aspects of ceramics, production throwing/decoration/glazing/kiln firing. I was head decorator there for 41 years. During the course of my time there I worked with the late Jeremy Williams artist and architect, who worked on commissioned pieces and I prepared the ceramic inks he used when he came in to paint. I was fascinated watching him work, he painted plates using cobalt blue ink washes producing beautiful landscapes and buildings.

I asked him once how could I improve my watercolours and he said "one should take oneself off to the south of France in a yacht and paint the coastline". You can't argue with that! One day he showed me a watercolour by George Miller of the Swiss Cottage Orne Woodstock Inistioge from around 1815 and I was hooked. George Miller worked on the Miller/Robertson Collection consisting of sketches and watercolours dating from c.1805 to c. 1816 of antiquities, houses and landscapes mainly in Co. Kilkenny. I have studied Millers work and went to see his original watercolours in the Royal Society of Antiquaries in Dublin, and I am still amazed by his attention to detail and effect of those paintings.

I left my job at the pottery in August 2020 to set up my own business called Ceramic Landscape Paintings, and now I paint landscapes using ceramic inks onto unglazed tiles, after which I glaze in a transparent glaze and fire to 1100 degrees centigrade in an electric kiln. The first piece I produced in my new business was a painting of Inistioge which I was asked to paint for the Inistioge Tidy Towns fundraiser. I donated this piece and got fantastic publicity from it. I used George Miller as my influence for this piece.

What makes your product unique?

What makes my product unique is the fact that my watercolour paintings are fired to 1100 degrees centigrade, and as they are glazed they can be tiled onto kitchen and bathroom walls as well as outdoor garden and patio walls.

Where can customers find your product? How do you market your art?

My work can be viewed through my website; www.michael-holden-ceramic-artist.com which was grant-aided Kilkenny LEADER Partnership and The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. I have been advertising my work locally and to date I have had tremendous support. It has so far been through word of mouth and since the website launch I have had to take on a whole new way of promoting through Facebook and Instagram, which was very scary at first, but I'm getting there slowly.

How has Quarantine affected your business? Have you adapted or begun offering a different product or service?

It is difficult at the moment as all of the craft shops, art galleries and museums that I would contact are closed, so its just a case of not panicking and getting on with producing works that hopefully can be displayed in these places when Covid is under control and we can move about safely again. Its been difficult setting up a new business in the middle of a pandemic but without the help of Kilkenny Enterprise Board who I had done the start your own business course with, things would not be where they are now. I did this course before the pandemic when we could all be in the one room, and there is nothing like hearing other peoples views where there is plenty of questions flying around generating great debate on a subject. I really enjoyed this course and the knock on support I have got from it since has been enormous.

So far I have been producing landscape scenes on 6"x6" and 8"x4" tiles in a wooden frames, but I am also doing outdoor murals, one I have just completed is of the Thigh family of Woodstock Inistioge Arms of Allegiance crest, which is mounted on a wall just outside the walled garden at Woodstock. I used twenty two 6"x6" tiles and I am thrilled to have my work on display in such a wonderful place. I am also working on creating limited edition non ceramic prints of my original work where I can have a wider price range

Photos:
Artwork by Michael Holden
Photo Credit: Michael Holden

for potential customers. In time I plan to make my own tiles and produce platters myself on the wheel.

What advice would you give to a person starting out in their own business?

The advice I would give to someone thinking of starting your own business is to go for it, after a lot of thinking and planning. What I did not realise is the amount of help there is out there until I

did the business course, this is a must do course, and I am still delving into the many articles of information I received on this course. Also, believe in yourself and your product, things will get tough and stressful but you have to keep going, when sales are not coming in keep producing and improving in difficult times, and believe that the better times will come.

....believe in yourself and your product, things will get tough and stressful but you have to keep going.



Photo:
Artwork by Michael
Holden
Photo Credit: Michael
Holden

KLP INITIATIVES

Programmes
Social Enterprises

RURAL RECREATION

Trail Kilkenny



2020 was an extremely busy year for Trail Kilkenny. COVID restrictions encouraged a significant number of walkers to head for their nearest walking trail. This surge saw huge pressure on the surfaces, increased litter and further maintenance on infrastructure along the trails, however as always the Rural Social Scheme Team and the landowners have maintained the trails to their normal high standards.

New Projects

Trail Kilkenny has delivered on a broad range of projects in 2020. The rejuvenation of the Silaire Wood walk in Graiguenamanagh in partnership with Kilkenny County Council has seen the reinstatement of the Boardwalk and all associated trail furniture. The wood is now fully accessible and a treat for anyone to walk.

Funding was secured for the development of Outdoor Kilkenny, a promotional brand for all outdoor activity in Kilkenny. In partnership with Kilkenny Tourism the brand has blossomed and will shortly include a number of high end promotional videos.

Funding has been secured to implement a widespread upgrade of the Trail Kilkenny Walks portfolio. Kilmacoliver, Brandon Hill, Freshford, Gathabawn Loop

Walks and the Nore Valley Walk will all see works complete mid 2021.

Looking to the future

Trail Kilkenny has continued to look to the future. Engaging consultants to scope out the potential of the Slate Quarries and the surrounding Lingaun Valley as well as facilitating ancillary developments around the soon to be completed South East Greenway.

Rural Recreation

The Rural Recreation Office programme is funded through the Department of Rural & Community Development (DRCD). It facilitates KLP to employ a Rural Recreation Officer (RRO), which with our partners in Kilkenny County Council, supports the continuing management of the walking, cycling and other leisure trails under the Trail Kilkenny company. The Rural Recreation officer oversees over 20 loop and walking trails and 4 cycling trails. There is a trail for all levels of fitness from easy gentle slopes to physically demanding trails with steep climbs.

Trail Kilkenny also promotes a wide range of artisan food and craft producers. Updates on Trail Kilkenny can be found on the Trail Kilkenny Website and Trail Kilkenny Facebook page.



Photo:
Silaire Woods
Boardwalk

TRAVELLER HEALTH PROGRAMME



Throughout 2020, The Traveller Health Project worked as part of a bigger collaboration between many agencies such as: Kilkeny County Council, Tusla, HSE, THU, Local Family Resource Centre's and other SICAP projects under KLP. This allowed for the provision of a cohesive response to the Travelling Community throughout the Covid pandemic of 2020.

Keeping the Message Out

Despite the challenges 2020 posed for The Traveller Health Project, they kept focused on getting important health messages to the community. They transitioned from the normal face to face delivery to online. This was a something completely new for the project. The Traveller Health workers recorded short clips sharing information relevant to Covid 19. Messages were shared on social media and followed up by phone or what's app voice messages. This was important in mitigating the impact of Covid 19 and giving Travellers a point of contact so they could trust the validity of information being shared.

Traveller Well-Being Awareness

The project employed a Traveller Well-being Awareness worker to promote positive Mental Health with a whole Traveller population approach. This post

will focus on building capacity, reducing stigma and supporting Travellers to talk about Mental Health. This position has proved to be very successful

2020 Achievements

- Essential services were provided to the Travelling Community in line with Public Health guidelines. Services such as providing and organising – Meals on Wheels, essential food supplies, assistance with solid fuel for the older generation and sanitising and HSE specific Care packs.
- The Project worked with the Local County Council to ensure families where overcrowding was an issue had access to appropriate toileting facilities or where accommodation needs were not suitable advocacy was provided on behalf of the family.
- New relationships were established with older members of the Travelling Community and many others who self-referred seeking supports.
- Referrals to the Traveller Mental Health Nurse increased mainly due to the outreach and online work by the Traveller Well-being Awareness Worker.
- Key Performance targets were achieved.



Photo:
Kilkeny Traveller
Afterschools
Programme
Photo Credit: Mickey
Flynn

THE SCHOOL OF FOOD



School of Food

The Thomastown School of Food opened in 2015 as the most tangible element of the ambitious Thomastown Town of Food's very bold plan to transform food culture in the town and county. The project transformed a used boys school into a state of the art centre for the training of culinary skills to a range of parties, including job seekers, community groups and new entrepreneurs in the food area. In particular the School of Food became a base for the training of chefs and related culinary staff. The School established a valuable niche of itself in that training area, and over 150 persons qualified from the chef training and most were working productively in the sector.

Pandemic and Plans

In 2020, The Covid 19 crisis obviously hit the hospitality business very hard and the Thomastown School of Food also was heavily impacted as lockdown set. Despite the setback, the School of Food Board continued to work on ambitious plans to extend its role in to the wider food sector. Plans to integrate the produce of the extensive community garden allotments and to reach other to the wider community of the county are part of the new business and operation plans in development.

KLP Support

KLP was happy to support those plans and to see the School of Food become a base for the promotion of Food Culture in the County and region. As a concrete demonstration of that commitment, KLP and Kilkenny Local Enterprise Office (LEO) have agreed to base Ann Cronin, the newly appointed Kilkenny Food Strategy Coordinator in the office of the School. Ann joined KLP in September 2020 as Kilkenny's Food Strategy Co-ordinator to implement key objectives of Kilkenny's Food Vision Strategy 2020-2025.

KLP Partnership

The initiative is a partnership between KLP and Kilkenny Local Enterprise Office (LEO) and Kilkenny Food Steering Committee who are partners in the development process leading a group of wider stakeholders who have an interest in production, processing, promotion and consumption of locally sourced food. The imminent key objective was to develop a operation brand for the proposed development of a Food Trading/Verification Platform which has been completed and will be known as Source Local. The key activity behind the brand will be a Food Trading Platform that will enable all food producers, operators, retailers within the County to trade thus leading in an increase in revenue, reduce waste with a key aim to be operate cost effectively.



Photo:
Thomastown School of
Food
Photo Credit:
Thomastown School of
Food



Work Opportunities

The Tús initiative is a community work placement scheme providing short-term working opportunities for unemployed people. The work opportunities are to benefit the community and are provided by community and voluntary organisations in both urban and rural areas. KLP as well as other Local Development/Partnership Company's were tasked with rolling out the Tús programme in the country. The Kilkenny Tús team consists of four supervisors from various backgrounds. Even though the pandemic had a significant impact on many aspects of the Tús programme, the team had almost seventy participants placed with various organisations across the county by the end of 2020

The Impact of 2020

Tús Supervisor Liam Mooney commented "2020 started no different than previous years but unfortunately it will be remembered for Covid-19. By the end of March, Ireland was placed on full lockdown and participants were instructed to stay at home unless their services were deemed essential. At that time, we thought this would last for a

couple of weeks, but that was not the case. The rest is part of an awful history still in the making. It was to be June before some of our placement providers could reopen, but not all did and some may not reopen at all."

Working within the pandemic parameters proved challenging for all aspects of the programme. Referral interviews had to be revamped by Tús supervisors to adhere to restriction guidelines. Organisations had to adjust to accommodate and provide a safe work environment for participants. The uncertainty that accompanied the lockdown also proved a struggle for participants trying to provide services they were committed to, while at all times bearing in mind the importance of adhering to government guidelines and staying safe.

Looking to the Future

Although 2020 was dominated by the news of how Covid-19 spread across the world, 2021 has so far focused on the ending of the pandemic through the vaccine distribution. We look forward to meeting with clients in the future.



Photo:
Tús programme

Rural Social Scheme

What is the RSS?

The Rural Social Scheme (RSS) is an income support initiative which provides part-time employment opportunities in community and voluntary organisations for farmers or fishers who are in receipt of certain social welfare payments and who are underemployed in their primary occupation. Benefits of the scheme extend far beyond extra income. Participants gain work experience, learn new skills, network, and gain an overall boost in self-confidence and some have described the effects of the scheme as a "new lease of life. Nineteen farm families are received support from the Kilkenny RSS programme in 2020.

COVID impact

Prior to the COVID pandemic rural isolation was identified as a profound issue affecting many farm households across the county and indeed the country. In normal times, the social aspect within the community was a significant benefit to many participants. The issue of rural isolation was exasperated by COVID regulations and lockdown, therefore taking a relevant toll on the social aspect of the programme.

The New Normal

Participants rose to the challenge, adjusting to the new normal of working and collaborating from home or adapting to work in the community with COVID restrictions. A number of participants assisted with collections and shopping for Kilkenny families that needed support during the pandemic lockdown. Participants in administration positions adjusted to working from home or restricted hours in the office.

Due to the vastly increased numbers of walkers on Trail Kilkenny's walking trails, the RSS Trails Maintenance Team remained busy throughout the lockdown. One participant, who works on the maintenance team for the Trail Kilkenny, has led the training of a traditional building stone skills course under the guidance of Master Stonemason Declan McNamara. The project is focused on the construction of a low wall that will help to section off a growing area next to the walled garden.

Despite the setback of COVID, the programme continues to go from strength to strength with benefits for both communities and participants.



Photo:
1. RSS Trail Kilkenny Team
2. Stone Wall Course
3. Stone Wall Course

Acknowledgements

KLP Governance
Organisation Charts
KLP Board
KLP Evaluation Committee
KLP Staff
KLP Members

KLP GOVERNANCE

Governance

KLP as a company, complies with several different requirements from its various funders, which it has been successful in doing over the last decade. In 2019 it became a registered charity, having previously had charity status, and as such took on board the guidelines, of the new Charities Regulator, seeing it as a way in which the company could become more transparent, to the public, funders, stakeholder etc. 2020 saw the updating and revision of the companies Risk Register, and the completion of the Governance Code Compliance Record for 2020, a tool which we have used as guidance to help the company become more compliant and transparent. The Board will continue to improve its compliance in 2021.

Mission and Core values

KLP's Mission Statement: Kilkenny LEADER Partnership will lead and facilitate the creation of an integrated local development strategy to improve the economic, social, and cultural quality of life of the people, communities and small enterprises of all County Kilkenny. KLP is continuing its work through the Rural Development Programme LEADER, Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme (SICAP) and other supporting programmes in empowering local communities to improve their quality of life. This support comes in variety of ways including grant aid to innovative rural business and communities and development officer support to disadvantaged or marginalised communities and individuals.

KLP's ethos is based on equality, inclusion and being unambiguously community led - the 'bottom-up' development philosophy. The principles

below are central to how we work.

- KLP's work is focused on the communities expressed development needs and wants of our county and region.
- We partner with public bodies and private business to advance local development targets.
- Our ways of working in addressing development challenges are integrated and broadly based across the cultural, economic, environmental, and social development spectrum.
- KLP is committed to, and adept at, using new and innovative approaches.
- We network and learn from other communities in the region, Ireland and overseas.

KLP has worked hard over the last number of years developing policies which inform funders, but also guide the Board and staff as to how things need to be done. These include:

KLP Data Protection Policy*
KLP Policy on Community Engagement and Withdrawal*
KLP Child safeguarding Statement*
KLP Complaints Procedure*
KLP Staff Handbook
KLP Equality and Diversity Policy*
KLP Advocacy Policy*
KLP Working Alone Policy*
KLP Health and safety statement
KLP Procedure Manual
KLP Conflicts of Interest Policy
KLP Board Attendance Policy.

Those policies with a * beside them are available on the KLP website at www.cklp.ie, as are the Annual Accounts, Annual Reports, and other Reports published by the company on specific theme. There are other Policies in place with guide how programmes are delivered, and that are not listed above.



Board

KLP Board is made up of 15 directors, 5 of which were elected at the AGM in 2020 from the company membership these elections take place every three years, or earlier if there is a retirement. 4 of the membership elected directors, represent the community sector, and 1 small businesses. In addition, the board also has 2 Local Authority, 3 Statutory bodies, and 4 Social Partner representatives. Should a member from the Statutory body, or Social Partners resign, or retire, a letter is issued by the CEO, from the Board requesting a nomination to the Board. This leaves one space for KLP to appoint somebody, with a specific skill required, or for gender reasons. KLP aims to ensure gender balance on the Board, which current consists of 40:60 ratio of female to male directors. In 2020 KLP held 15 Board meetings in 2020 to facilitate the approval of RDP grant aid, at which there was an average attendance of 10.8 (72%) individuals in attendance, the minimum requirement under RDP is 50%. KLP has a Board Attendance Policy which directors are expected to adhere to.

The CEO assists in the induction of new directors to the Board, providing them with Annual Reports, Organisation Structure maps and Directors Induction Pack. They will also be asked to complete a Trustees declaration form, register of interest form, conflict of interest declaration and a BI, the first and latter being required for the Charities Regulator Website and the Companies Registration Office, respectively. New directors will also be provided with a copy of KLP Data

Protection Policy.

Should an issue arise at a meeting in which a director has an interest, this will be addressed, in line with KLP Conflict of Interest Policy. Meetings are usually scheduled in January for the year but there can be meetings called at short notice if required, with the Chairpersons approval.

The Board of KLP regularly looks at its specific training needs and do from time to time organise events to address these e.g. in the past they had training events in, Roles and Responsibilities of Directors, Corporate Governance, Data Protection, GDPR regulation and Cyber security. In 2020, for many it was their first-time using Zoom, like the staff they adapted well, and it became the method by which meetings were hosted in 2020

and indeed into 2021. The Directors also take an active part in the evaluation, and strategic planning of the company, via workshops, group meetings at different times. In 2021 they will participate in the Evaluation of the RDP programme.

Committees

KLP has 3 sub-committees of the Board on which the directors participate. The Management Sub-Committee meets bimonthly or as required, to review matters as they arise, prior to the Board meeting. The Finance Sub-Committee also acts as an Audit Sub-Committee meets monthly, the day before the Board meeting, and reviews the finances and audited accounts in detail, prior to presenting at the Board meeting. The HR Sub-Committee meets as the need arises, to discuss specific HR issues. These Sub-Committees while they can make recommendations to the Board the ultimate decision is the Boards. KLP Board directors are voluntary, and as such the only payment they receive is travel expenses, to attend meetings and events on behalf of KLP.

The Evaluation Committee is an additional Committee established from across a broad sector of including, community, enterprise, tourism, environment, and energy with varying skills including financial, enterprise development, community development etc. This committee is a requirement of the RDP programme, and the Evaluation Committee reviews projects in detail, prior to their presentation to the Board. Retired Board members can be offered a place on the Evaluation Committee. The Committee members are volunteers and as such receive no payment at all. They must also adhere to KLP Conflict of Interest Policy and KLP Data Protection Policy.

Operations

The day to day running of the Company is managed by the CEO, with the assistance of the Assistant CEO and Financial Coordinator, as the Management Team. Line management for the staff are as follows:

- CEO is line manager to the Assistant CEO, Financial Coordinator, and the RDP team, he convenes the Management Team meetings, and the LEADER Team meetings, at which planning and progress are both discussed. The CEO also participates in policy development with Irish LEADER Development

Network (ILDN) regarding the programmes that are delivered, as they act as a link with the Dept. He works closely with the RDP team on several key projects, including Transport, Energy, Broadband, Food etc. The CEO is the key contact between KLP and the Tomar Trust who provide KLP with philanthropic funds for key projects.

- Assistant CEO is line manager to the Social Inclusion Programmes teams. He convenes meetings of the SICAP and TÚS teams as required, to discuss progress, identify and issues and work towards a solution. He is responsible for the submission of a number of key applications for additional funding, which will complement, or address specific needs which current programmes cannot address. He also reports on the SICAP programme performance to the LCDC, which is the managing authority for the programme.
- Financial Coordinator, is line manager to the administration team, working across all themes. She convenes the Finance Sub-Committee meetings and consolidates the financial reports for these meetings. She works with the company auditors, to ensure the

accounts are completed on time and arranges their presentation to the Finance Sub-Committee and Board. Provides guidance and trouble shoots and issues among the administration team, reviews, systems, and procedures on a regular basis. Ensures KLP compliance with CRO and Charities requirements, including key role of compliance with Governance Code, and Data Protection requirements. In addition, she works very closely with the RDP team to ensure that it achieves its targets in project approvals and claim payments.

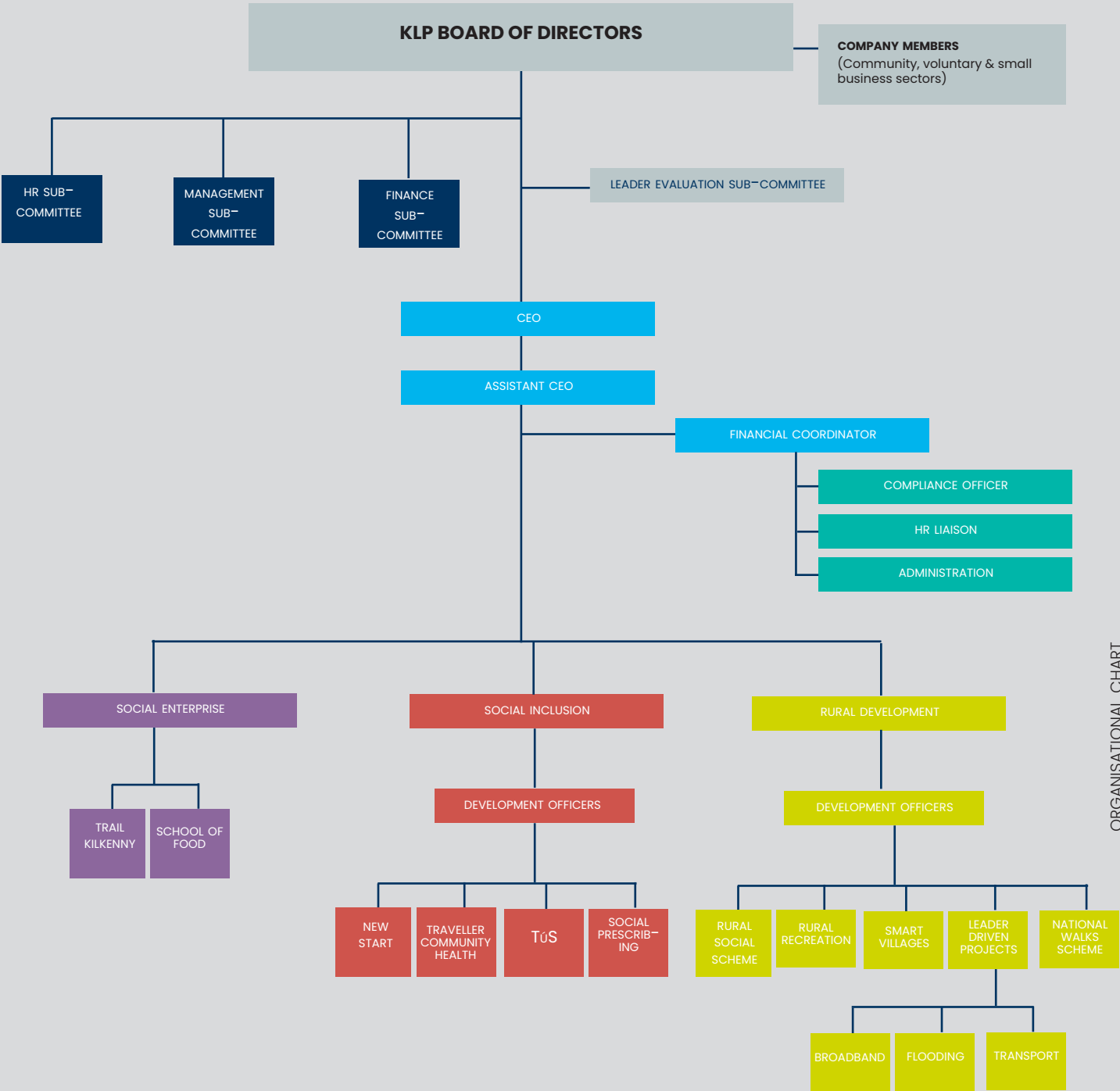
Annual appraisals are held each year with staff, at which both staff member and line manager has an opportunity to review the previous year, set targets and goals, for the new year, as well as identifying training needs.

Should a staff member have a conflict of interest with a specific piece of work, individual or project, they must declare it and it will be dealt with in line with KLP Conflict of Interest Policy. All staff working on the RDP programme, given the nature of the projects are required to fill in a Register of Interest Form and a Conflict-of-Interest declaration.



KLP Organisational Chart

KLP is a membership-based organisation governed by a Board of fifteen Directors who oversee strategy and make grant aid decisions. It is supported by professional staff that are the presence on the ground of the Company. KLP is ultimately owned by its Members. These Members are primarily community groups and small Kilkenny businesses.



KLP BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Denis Drennan
Chairman/Social Partner



Cllr. Eamon Aylward
Local Authority



Janet Beck
Community Representative



Martha Bolger
Statutory Representative



Cllr. John Brennan
Local Authority



John Burke
Community Representative



Suzanne Campion
Statutory Representative



Liz Dermody
Social Partner



Kevin Mahon
Kilkenny Tourism



Pat McAuley
Community Representative



Claire McInerney-Browne



Mary Molloy
Community Representative



Ger Mullally
Social Partner

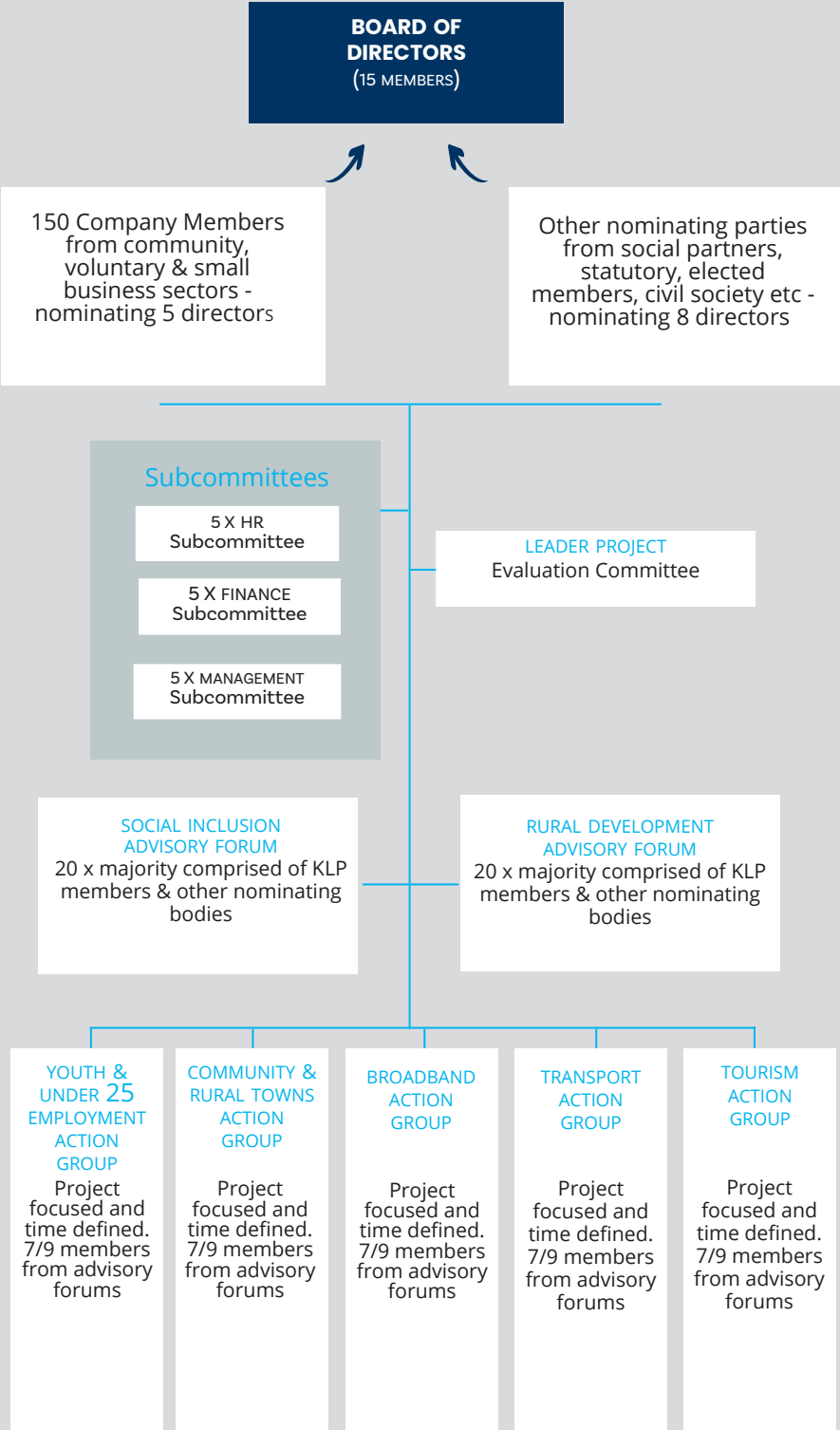


Richie O'Brien
Statutory Representative



Rory Williams
Small Business

BOARD
COMPOSITION



KLP EVALUATION COMMITTEE

Anja Terpstra
Ann Gibbons
Billy Gardiner
Catriona Dowling
Charlie Gaule
Declan McCann
Dick O'Shea
Donal Deering
Fiona Deegan
Grace Kearney
Greta Power
Jimi Conroy
Joan Fitzpatrick

Kevin Higgins
Kevin Murphy
Maura Joyce
Michael Comerford
Mick Power
Nicola Keeshan
Olivia Goodwillie
Paddy Phelan
Robert Dowley
Rosemary Durr
Sarah Drea
Theresa Delahunty
Vincent Grace



Management

Declan Rice:
Chief Executive

Martin Rafter:
Assistant CEO & Social Inclusion
Programmes Manager

Bernie Thorpe:
Financial Controller

Administration

Joan McGrath:
Finance Officer

Mary Breen:
Compliance Officer

Claire Doheny:
LEADER Administrator

Diane Ryan:
LEADER Administrator

Hannah O’Gorman:
LEADER Administrator

Ljiljana Dolenec:
Administration

Sharon Stone:
Graphic Designer/
Communications Officer

Kevin Barcoe:
IT Officer

Social Inclusion (SICAP)

Brian Spratt:
SICAP Monitoring

Moira Duggan:
Development Officer

Alison Iremonger:
Development Officer

Amanda DeBurca:
Development Officer

Yuvi Basanth:
Development Officer

Conor Cleere:
Development Officer

Mags Morrissey:
Development Officer

Therese Curran:
Development Office

Tom McDonald:
NewStart

Leanne Sweeney:
Social Prescribing Officer

Rural Development

Christine Walshe:
Development Officer

Angela Campion:
Development Officer

Fergus Horgan:
Development Officer

Mairead Rohan:
Enterprise Officer

Initiatives and Programmes

Seoirse Butler:
Rural Social Scheme Supervisor

Harry Everard:
Rural Recreation Officer

Declan O’Shea:
Housing Aid

Finbar Phelan:
Housing Aid

Mike Redmond:
Tús Supervisor

David Coughlan:
Tús Supervisor

Seamus Davis:
Tús Supervisor

Liam Mooney:
Tús Supervisor

Catherine Lennon:
Traveller Community Health
Programme Coordinator

Bridget Cash:
Traveller Community Health

Eileen Delaney:
Traveller Community Health

Josie Cash:
Traveller Community Health

Hannah Kirwan:
Traveller Community Health

Hannah Carthy:
Traveller Community Health

Margaret Mary O’Reilly:
Traveller Community Health

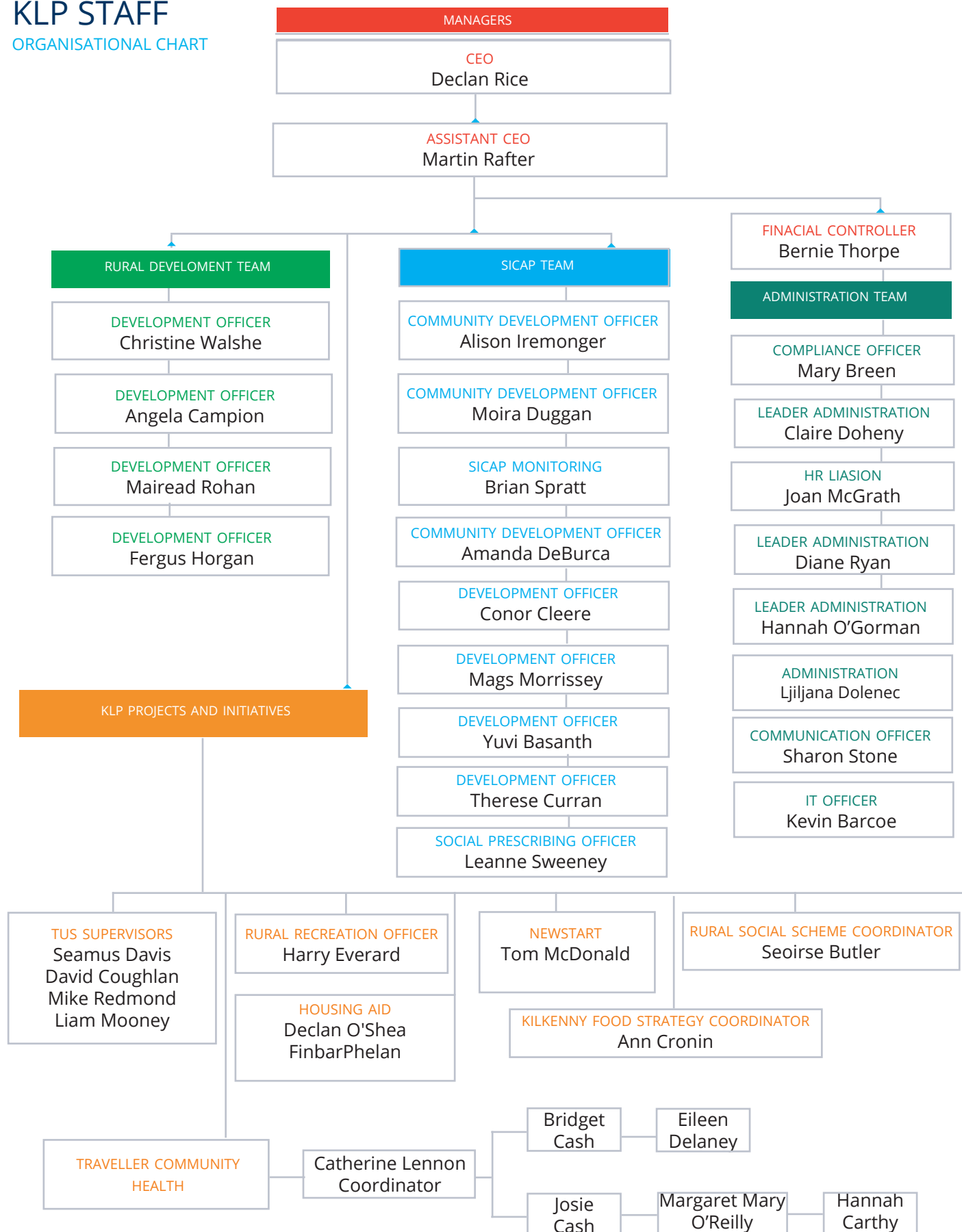
Ann Cronin:
Kilkenny Food Strategy Coordinator

KLP STAFF

ORGANISATIONAL CHART

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KILKENNY LEADER PARTNERSHIP



Many thanks to our Members! Membership of KLP is open to all active and open membership community and voluntary groups that operate in Kilkenny. Small food businesses and organisations with less than five hundred employees are eligible. If your group or business is interested in becoming a KLP member, contact the main KLP office and we will explain what's involved.

Abhainn Ri Festival	Dunamaggean Area Development
An Taisce Kilkenny Association	Dungarvan Development Association
Arts & Crafts Group	Evergreen Football Club
Asylum Productions	Fennelly's of Callan
Back to Education Music	Ferrybank Community Development Residents Group
Ballyragget Development Association	Fiddown Tidy Towns
Barnstorm Theatre Company	Foroige Ferrybank Youth Services
Barrons Sport and Menswear	Freebooters A F C
Barrow Drive School of Motoring	Galmoy GAA Club
Barrow Gaels Ladies Gaelic Football Club	Goresbridge Rural Development
Barrow Valley Community Development Ltd.	Gowran Parish
Bennetsbridge Tidy Towns	Graiguenamanagh District Gun Club
Bennettsbridge Community Development Group	Graiguenamanagh Regatta Club
Bennettsbridge Community Hall Ltd	Graiguenamanagh Camogie Club
BITS South East Ltd	Graiguenamanagh Community Garden
Brandon Hill Camping	Graiguenamanagh Rowing Club
Brandon Hill Cross Committee	Graiguenamanagh Tyre Service
Butts Community Safety Committee	Graine Development Association
Callan Community Network	Green Business Consulting
Callan Handball/RacquetBall Club	Gretta Power
Castlecomer Day Centre	Hillsfield Community Centre
Castlecomer Enterprise Centre	Holistic Healing Centre
Castlewarren Community Development Group	IFA Graiguenamanagh Branch
Clara GAA	Immigrant Services
Cois Nore Cancer Support Centre	Iresource Education & Training
Community Radio Kilkenny City	Irish Ancestral Woodcraft
Costellos Brewing Company	Iverk Produce
Countrystyle Foods Ltd.	Iverk Show
Dan Lenehan	James Fitzpatrick
David Huges	James Stephan GAA Club
Davys Butchers	Jerpoint Park
Declan Gibbons	John O' Brien
Deen Celtic	Johnny Waugh
Discover (Love) Graiguenamanagh	Johnstown & Crosspatrick Defibrillator Group
Dorans Supervalu Supermarket	Johnstown Concern
Droichead FRC	Johnstown Crosspatrick Community Alert Group
Duiske Players Drama Group	KBK Community Project

KCAT, Mill Lane, Callan, Co. Kilkenny

Kells Economic Enterprise Ltd KREE

Kells Tidy Towns

Kells Wholemeal Ltd

Kevin Higgins

Kilkenny Cancer Support Charity Shop

Kilkenny Chamber of Commerce & Industry

Kilkenny Job Club

Kilkenny School Completion Programme

Kilkenny Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Ltd.

Kilkenny Tradfest

Kilmanagh ballycallan Killaloe Community Enterprise Group CLG

Kilmoganny Area Development Association

Kingsriver Community

L'Arche

Ligaun Valley Tourism

Lisdowney Resource Centre

Loughboy Area Resource Centre

Made in Kilkenny C/oCastle Arch Pottery

Mark Drea

Mary Hoyne

Mens Action Network

Mill Family Resource Centre Ltd

Millennium Court Committee

Mooncoin Men's shed

Mulinavat ICA

Mullinavat Community Group Ltd

Mullinavat Vintage Club

National Learning Network

New Ross Boat Yard

Nore Valley Park

Nore Valley Park Farm

O'Shea Farms

O' Loughlin Gaels

O' Shea Russell Solicitors

O'Driscolls Bar

Old Folks Active Retirement Party Committee

Older People's Forum

Ossory Youth

Over 60's Club

Pat Fitzpatrick

Philip P Lynch

Pilltown Allotments

Pilltown Basketball Club

Pilltown Bowls

Pilltown Community Enterprise

Pilltown Community Centre

Pilltown Community Library

Pilltown Computer Club

Pilltown cooking Classes

Pilltown Dev Assoc

Pilltown Heritage

Pilltown Knitting Circle

Pilltown Snooker Club

Pilltown Tidy Towns

Piltown European Aid Food Group

Piltown Table Tennis

Piltown Vintage Group

Ring a Link

Rothe House Trust

Sarah Drea

Savour Kilkenny

Shirley Power

Slieverue Community Resource Centre

Smartcore Ltd.

Spa Development Association

Spa UTD AFC

St Patricks Day Parade

Stoneyford Dev Association

Stoneyford Tidy Towns

Suir Roofing Supplies Ltd

The Thomas Hayes Trust

Thomastown Community Centre

Thomastown Community Network

Thomastown Community River Trust

Thomastown Men's Shed

Thomastown School of Food

Tony Walsh

Town of Books Festival Committee

TRASNA Productions

Tullahought Community Development Ltd

KLP MEMBERS

Turkestown Tidy Towns
 Turkstown Development Association
 Tyndall Mountain Club
 Urlingford Community Childcare
 Urlingford Tidy Town

Vincent O'Shea
 Waterside Bike & Hire
 Windgap Community Development
 Workhouse Union



Photos:
 Smart Villages Event



Thank you!

Contact Kilkenny LEADER Partnership

T: 056 7752111

E: info@cklp.ie

W: www.cklp.ie

