

Leenane Development Association Ltd AGM 11th February 2016

Main Objective:

The main objective for which the body is established is to promote the general welfare of the community and of visitors and to facilitate further sustainable development of the current economic activity.

The Committee meets the second Thursday in every month.

Activities and work carried out through 2014-2015

Health and Safety

The committee continue to work with TJ Redmond, Galway Co Council Engineer on many issues around the village that need attention. Some months ago two members of the committee met with Galway County Public Participation Network to report to all matters that need attention in the village and surrounding area. The Co Council have promised reply. One issue has been address since the meeting was the installation of a footpath from the village to the NS under the Community Involvement Roadworks Scheme.

Tidy Towns:

The village entered the National Tidy Towns competition in 2014 and 2015 and gained 7 additional marks.

Biodiversity Garden:

The area at Corr na hAille continues to be developed as a biodiversity picnic area. The two corners of the area is filled with land fill and planted with recommended biodiversity plants. Two stone seats have been built and two mountain ash trees have been planted. Recently a Bug Hotel has been erected. The children in the national school hope to furnish the hotel, this will allow native insect's take up residence with the belief that if there is a furnished Bug Hotel in the area, fairies may move in to the garden. Just last week Elaine O Reirdan gave a talk to the national school children on invasive species, with a plan that a project will be undertaken by the pupils in the school and displayed in the garden. The Forum worker planted Sea-buck-worth which was supplied and donated by Fr Burke.

Security:

The LDA continue to liaise with the Clifden and Maam Garda and tonight we had a number of guests to discuss and explain text alert system. Security for the elderly is available when required, Smoke alarms are available at present and can be installed by a Forum worker.

Information Board

Three new Information Board have been erected in the village. One contains a map of the village and outlines all village and surrounding amenities, this board has a Community Notice Board at the back. The other two boards provide detail the tides of Killary and the most common birds and animals found in the area.

A Mega Clean Up.

A Mega clean-up of Leenane village and shore took place on Saturday the 16th May 2015, in cooperation with BIM Mary Hannon and Galway Co Council Litter Warden, some of the Shell fish farmers and Pier users. All the marine rubbish dumped and abandoned was cleared from the pier and from around the shore line. At least twenty volunteers took part.

Web Site

Leenane Village Web Site is a great asset, it contains village news and activities it is a very useful tool. The committee very much appreciate the way it is manned and updated for the community regularly by Tim Wood. The site is critical in promoting the area and keeping everyone updated on services and events.

Support for Los Chile.

The community supported Los Chile again through a church gate collection.

Amenity Park

Following a feasibility study on the football pitch, the Leader programme turned down our application for grant for the second phase of this project, which is the planning phase. In spite of this set back we are now going forward to planning stage.

Sheep Show:

The 45th and 46th Annual Sheep Shows were a great success, is seen as a great social event for the farming community, and provides funds for community undertakings.

Walking Festival

The annual Walking Festival was held on the May Bank holiday week end, as always this festival was a great success, the weekend includes three level of hill walking and talks on geology and history. Funds raised assists with the work carried out by LDA.

Autumnal Festival

The annual Autumnal Festival proved very popular in 2014 with record attendance. The festival did not take place in 2015 due to difficulties in sourcing Leader funding. The committee very kindly put their energy in to helping with the hosting the 25th Anniversary Field Festival. Funds raised by the Autumnal Festival go towards work carried out by LDA.

The Field Festival

The celebrations for 25th anniversary of the film "The Field" hosted in the village in September was a great success.

Obviously the festival would not have happened without the amazing support from the community. Resulting on from this festival a documentary of the film is now being made.

Water Issues.

On the communities behalf John has been engaged in lengthy discussion and correspondence with Irish Water the HSE and EPA regarding the high levels of Trihalomethanes in the water supply in the village. The recommended levels of THM has failed several times in tests on Leenane water. Following this a boil notice is in place in Leenane since early in 2015. The EPA served formal direction to Irish Water to rectify

the situation. John continues to contact the relevant authorities insuring this matter is addressed. A treatment plant is to be installed but this will take time. The audit report on the quality of The Leenane Water supply is very shocking. John continues to monitor this to insure this situation is rectified.

Gunnera Spraying

Because of the return of the Gunnera along the roadways and shoreline, it was felt it was important to address this issue once again. Elíona O Reirdan Galway Biodiversity through Galway Co Council was contacted in order that the problem be dealt with in the safest possible way. After some meetings and following a programme provided by Elaine the spraying of the Gunnera and Knotweed has taken place in September 2014 and September 2015.

Book launch

The Patroani Couple used Leenane to launch their book of photographs in December. Leenane featured in many of the photographs.

Christmas lights.

Christmas tree, lights and decorations have been provided in the village for the past two Christmases.

Wild Atlantic Way.

LDA are in contact with Pádraig Cleary in order to stay abreast of issues in relation to this. One meeting attended to date.

GP Services.

GP services not always available in village. This of great concern locally. LDA are keeping a watchful eye on this.

Western Way.

After a number of meetings with the Rural Recreational Officer, the plan to extend the Western Way through the village of Glanagimla has had to be shelved.

Garda House

Submission sent to Cluid and Brian Hayes in effort to hold this house for Social Housing. No positive response received to date.

Crèche (Leenane Sea Garden)

Following the set-up of our much needed a Child Care Centre, the Crèche has been expanded can now cater for babies. This has bolstered the numbers attending. This facility has created two jobs and is providing care for at least eleven children fulltime.

Kayaking Club

This club continues to offer a chance to local to take to the water, weather permitting and has over 30 happy members, adults and children.

Red Cross:

Continue with their worthwhile work. The Leenane /Maam Red Cross launched their newly formed Community First Response (CFR) Scheme in April 2015. This Community

based initiative involves local volunteers trained in basic life support and the use of a defibrillator. The responders have complete vigorous training which has been certified by the Irish Red Cross. Eight new defibrillators have been installed between the two project areas. Mathew Flaherty swam the killary to help raise funds. To celebrate Matthews's efforts a reception was held in Leenane Community Hall. The annual Run, Walk, Jog takes place in November; this event is the main fundraised for Red Cross projects. Currently a Basic First Aid Course is being provided for the older children in the community, there are ten children taking part.

Leenane Day Care

Continues to meet every Thursday twelve members attend week. A small number of Meals on Wheels are delivered weekly.

Community Office.

This office is a very important part of community work. We are very lucky to have staff to run the office regularly.

Graveyard.

Ongoing of discussion with Galway Co Council for the past two years on sourcing a new graveyard.

Use it or Lose it.

Right now the LDA are embarking on a "Use it or Lose it" programme, creating awareness of what is available locally and encouraging everyone to take into account the importance of holding on to local business.

Leenane Hall.

The Leenane Community Hall is available to the community for all society activities is maintained by the Leenane Development Association LTD

I hope in this report I have not left anything out.

I want to sincerely thank the many people who helped LDA. It is only by our work together that we can make things happen. A huge thanks must go to the people who give so generously their time voluntary to help with Clean Ups, Festivals, Red Cross and Social Events. I am always in awe of how charitable you all are with your valuable time. We are very much aware of the bighearted generosity of our many sponsors, without them we simply would not get any work done. I would like to thank the Forum workers, Patrick Eamon and Shane, for all their hard work and help. A special thanks to Mary in the Community Office who coordinated so much of the work. Thanks so much Mary we very much appreciate you working with us.

*Martina Gavin
Chairperson*