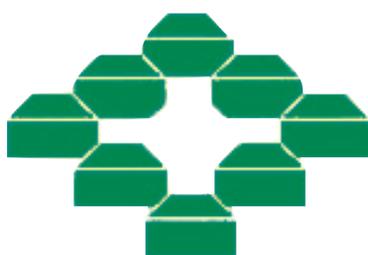


muintir na tíre



annual report 2010 / 2011
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1.

Agenda

5.15 p.m.

Registration of Delegates

5.30 p.m.

Minutes of 2010 A.G.M.

5.40 p.m.

Directors' Report

5.50 p.m.

Auditor's Report for year ended 31.12.10

6.00 p.m.

Election of Directors

6.10 p.m.

Motions

6.20 p.m.

Open Forum

6.30 p.m.

Close of Business



2. Minutes of 2010 Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Muintir na Tire took place in Ballykisteen Hotel, Tipperary on Friday the 25th of June 2010.

The meeting commenced with a welcome from National President Martin Quinn, which was followed by the minutes of the 2009 AGM which were delivered by Company Secretary Martin Lonergan.

The minutes were adopted on the proposal of Seamus Forde, Director and seconded by Margaret O'Doherty, Director. Under matters arising from the minutes, Marian O'Dwyer, Newcastle Muintir na Tire enquired about her proposal at the previous AGM relating to the design and commission of a Muintir na Tire National flag. Seamus Forde, Director suggested that the new funding situation for the organisation may suggest that Departmental funding could not be spent at this time on this particular issue. The President agreed, but said it would be brought up at the new Boards first meeting.

National President, Martin Quinn then gave a wide ranging address to the assembly. He expressed his thanks to those who had helped in the arrangements for the meeting including members of staff and the Board of Directors. The Treasurer Sean Hegarty then gave the Treasurers report which showed the financial state of the various programmes been administered by Muintir na Tire. The Treasurer again cautioned all present that funding strands from various Government Departments are on a yearly basis and that funding would be a very important role in the work of the Organisation in the coming years. He thanked all that assisted him in the role of Treasurer throughout the year and made particular reference to the work of Mary Ryan who looks after the financial management of all Muintir na Tires programmes.

The Auditors report was then presented to the meeting by Jim Noonan of Noonan, O'Cinnéide & Co. Mr Noonan took the meeting through the accounts under the various headings and explained the accounts in great detail. There was a net surplus of 23,960. Noonan, O'Cinnéide & Co were then re-appointed as Auditors and Accountants to the Muintir na Tire Organisation for the coming year on the proposal of John Crosse, seconded by John Roche.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of Directors to fill vacancies on the Board of Muintir na Tire. President Martin Quinn first explained changes to the election process under the new Memorandum and Articles of Association of Muintir na Tire, namely that two Directors would have to retire from the Board and who were representing Community Councils. They were Dan Lynch and Seamus Forde. There were three nominations received under the Community Council representation and with one declared null and void, John Hogan and Frank McCarthy were deemed elected. Under the Community Alert representation on the Board, Peter Butler Cahir Community Alert was deemed to be elected. It was also decided that a proof of posting for all nominations to the Board of Directors would be necessary in the future should they arrive after the assigned due date.

Tributes were paid to retiring Board members, Dan Lynch and Seamus Forde for their huge contribution and dedication to the Organisation.

There were two notices of motion submitted for the AGM, namely from Darrara Community Council in relation to a better geographical representation on the Board and from Killeagh - Inch Community Council in relation to more funding for older people and also grants for CCTV particularly for smaller villages. Both were discussed at length with a lot of contributions from the assembled and unanimously passed.

As part of the open forum discussion, there was broad discussion and overwhelming support from the meeting in relation to a suggestion from Seamus Forde to discuss the current economic situation, particularly the increase in young people nationally now losing their jobs and the rise in young people who have committed suicide, at a Board meeting to see if there were any initiatives that the organisation could get involved with. Liam Kelly, as coordinator of the INTERRG 4A Programme, Celtic

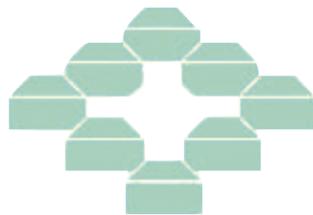


Community Link, gave a very informative explanation as to the programmes funding, function and aims. Sean Hegarty congratulated Kilworth Community Council on their 50th anniversary. Margaret O’Doherty extended congratulations to President Martin Quinn on his involvement in the recent International Tipperary Peace Award and also spoke on the level of high unemployment as was discussed earlier. Tom Fitzgerald was also congratulated at the meeting. Tom had recently been honoured by the then Minister for Social Protection, Eamon O’Cuiv TD and the Citizens Information Board for his long number of years of service volunteering. Good wishes were extended to Mr John Lonergan, a Bansha native who would soon be retiring from his position of Governor of Mountjoy Prison by the President.

Votes of Sympathy were passed:

- Kitty O’Dwyer, Littleton
- Mary Ryan on the death of her mother and aunt
- Dermot Early, Defence Forces
- Rosaline Drew on the death of her uncle
- James O’Neill on the death of his uncle

MARTIN LONERGAN
Company Secretary





3.

President's Address

It has been a great honour for me to be National President of Muintir na Tíre. As a Bansha native, Muintir na Tíre holds special significance for me because of the fact that the organisation's Founder and first Chairman, Very Rev. John Canon Hayes was Parish Priest of Bansha/Kilmoyler from 1946 until his death on January 30th, 1957.

During his 11 years of ministry in the parish Fr. Hayes accomplished a multitude and certainly put Bansha on the map as a result of the many initiatives and schemes that were piloted during his time there

Fr. Hayes preached about local patriotism centered on the parish, motivated by a sense of neighbourliness and self-help. He passionately advocated the philosophy of 'muintearas' and a community approach to problem solving. Speaking in 1943 he said "Our philosophy is a very simple one – to create a spirit of citizenship in every little parish in Ireland, to drive out bitterness and class work, to get people to co-operate with their neighbours and thus, through the age-old Christian principles of our social life, to build up a truly Christian and Irish nation."



Following my election as National President I pledged to renew the ideals and aspirations of Muintir na Tíre and to re-vitalise the organisation. While it has been a great honour to lead this organisation it has been one with many burdens and challenges. In this time of economic recession there are further serious challenges ahead for the organisation. It is crucial therefore that Muintir na Tíre continues to articulate its views at the highest level and to have an input into major policy decisions affecting the development of communities.

Canon Hayes left a lasting legacy not just in Bansha but throughout the country and particularly so in the organisation that he founded, which has been such a driving force for community development in this country. For close on 75 years, Muintir na Tíre has championed the cause of community development and has never wavered in its ideals and principles. It's record in promoting and supporting local community development is unequalled and reflects the strength of its core principles of neighbourliness, self-help and self-reliance. Real tangible examples of community development at its very best are to be found throughout the country in the work of the many Muintir na Tíre Community Councils & Community Alert Groups.

Canon Hayes frequently referred to a great building having to be raised brick by brick and so similarly Muintir na Tíre chose the parishes of Ireland as it's 'bricks' in building up a communities. The parishes of Ireland are still the bricks by which Muintir builds. They are the very core and essence of what the organisation stands for and it is through them that we see real community development.

Bringing people together and uniting all the different groups in the parish for the good of the community was one of the key aims of Canon Hayes when he founded Muintir na Tíre. Many years later they are still the core principles of the organisation. They have adapted to a changing climate but they are still as relevant today as they were when the organisation was founded. The cornerstone of rural life is the strength of the community and a community will be measured by how it looks after each other, and those that need our help, especially the elderly and the vulnerable.

There is now a greater need for community than at any other time that I can remember. We must have a greater awareness of the needs and difficulties of others in what is a vastly changed economic climate. Employment opportunities in rural communities have changed substantially and many challenges still lie ahead for communities. I believe that how we respond to these challenges and to the needs and difficulties of others will define us as a people. In assessing the implications of economic and social change, Muintir na Tíre will continue to support local communities to organise and develop their capacity to effectively respond to their problems and needs.

Canon Hayes once said that "waiting for state action to create an earthly paradise without our own active co-operation is as futile as expecting to gather figs from thistles". The sentiments expressed by Canon Hayes, which are ingrained in the core principles of Muintir, are hugely relevant to the current economic climate. Our own active co-operation is essential for our future economic progression.



When Muintir na Tíre was founded in 1937 it just seemed to fit into the Irish scene and it has remained that way throughout its 70 plus years existence, fulfilling a particular function on behalf of rural communities that no other organisation was, or is, capable of doing. It is a lasting testament to John Canon Hayes that Muintir na Tíre has survived the test of time and continues to implement a programme of work on behalf of the people of Ireland. Muintir na Tíre taught the people of Ireland not just how to live more effectively in their own parish but more especially how to care for their neighbours and for their community as a whole. It was this community ethos that was, and continues to be, one of the key principles of the organisation.

The late Canon Hayes believed strongly in the potential for good that often lies dormant in people but which, when activated, could be a powerful force for action and development. It was these strongly held beliefs that encouraged him to forge ahead with a movement that would play such a crucial role in the development of rural Ireland.

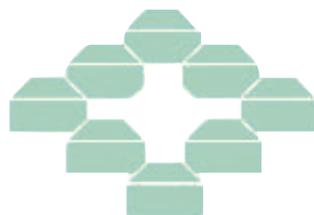
When the late Taoiseach Eamon de Valera addressed a Muintir na Tíre Rural Week-End in November 1941 he said "You will have to develop this organisation. It is the most valuable movement in the country for many a long time. Use it to develop a spirit of self-reliance and co-operation and to the fullest possible extent to develop a sense of honour amongst our people. That is the foundation of all character which brings with it honesty and truth, and it is on a basis of this kind that a real nation is built".

I hope that I have served the organisation well during my time as President and that I have done justice to the memory and ideals of its founder, the late John Canon Hayes.

In conclusion, I would like to extend a sincere thanks to my colleagues on the Board of the organisation along with the Staff members in Head Office and in the Regions for their unfailing support and for the great courtesy that they always afforded to me. My thanks also to the affiliated groups and their members for the many invitations that I received and for the kindness and support extended to me at all times. I wish you all well in your great work.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

**Martin Quinn,
National President**





4. DIRECTORS' REPORT 2010-2011

Since last year's Annual General Meeting which was held on Friday, 25 June 2010, a total of ten meetings of the Board were held in Canon Hayes House, Tipperary on the following dates: 9 July, 10 September, 15 October, 19 November 2010, 28 January, 11 March, 29 April and 27 May 2011 at Canon Hayes House, Tipperary with an emergency Board meeting being held on 4 April 2011 at Kilworth, Co Cork.

At the first meeting of the Board on 9 July, 2010 – it was decided by the Board that the outgoing Secretary, Martin Lonergan should be co-opted.

The following national officers were then elected:

PRESIDENT: Martin Quinn
VICE PRESIDENT: Margaret O'Doherty
SECRETARY: Martin Lonergan
TREASURER: Mike Sweeney



SUB COMMITTEE'S FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS WERE ALSO ESTABLISHED AT THE FIRST MEETING:

- Finance Committee
- Community Development Committee
- Community Alert Committee
- Ireland/Wales Interreg Programme (Steering Committee)

Martin Quinn, National President, fulfilled a number of national engagements On behalf of Muintir na Tíre too numerous to mention here.

Canon Hayes Anniversary Mass

The Anniversary Mass in Memory of Muintir na Tíre founder, Canon Hayes was celebrated in Bansha Parish Church on Saturday, 29 January 2011. Chief Celebrant of the Mass was Dr Dermot Clifford, Arch Bishop of Cashel and Emly. This was followed by a graveside wreath laying ceremony. Later on that morning, the launch of Muintir na Tíre's South East Pilot Regional Councils took place in the McGrath GAA Centre, Bansha. The initiative was launched by Mr John Lonergan, former Governor of Mountjoy Prison. Other guest speakers were Sean Kelly, MEP and Dr Martin Mansergh, former TD and Minister of State with responsibility for the OPW and Arts. There was a large and representative attendance.



CANON HAYES MEMORIAL MASS AND THE LAUNCH OF MUINTIR NA TÍRE'S SOUTH EAST PILOT REGIONAL COUNCILS

Financial Matters

The Finance Committee had several meetings throughout the year to monitor income and expenditure and in particular to explore ways to improve the organisation's financial base outside of Government grants. A number of ideas were considered and many will be followed up. One successful fundraiser initiated was held as a bucket collection. This was organised in conjunction with Galbally Rugby FC and took place in major towns in the South of the Country. We thank our Treasurer Mike Sweeney, Galbally RFC and anyone who helped out in anyway to organise the various events. There is no doubt that due to the current fiscal constraints on the economy which has caused significantly reduced allocations of capital expenditure to the Departments of State that fund us, the levels of funding that were allocated to Muintir na Tíre in previous years will not be sustained. It is therefore of the utmost importance that we as a National Organisation put in place viable fundraising structures so that we no longer rely solely on State funding. President Martin Quinn and James O'Neill have met with the new Minister for



the Environment, Community and Local Government Mr Phil Hogan, TD on Friday, 8 April 2011. President Quinn stressed to the Minister the important role Muintir na Tíre plays in communities across the country and the invaluable work carried out by our organisation in community development. We look forward to having a constructive partnership with both the new Minister and his Department in the coming years.

Community Alert:

Liam Kelly, National Co-ordinator of the Community Alert programme, continues to be very active promoting and servicing the large number of Community Alert groups which exist throughout the country. This is being expertly delivered through our five Community Alert Development Officers – Bernie Kearney, Vanessa Clarke, Margaret Quinn, Noel McCarthy and Diarmuid Cronin whose areas of operation cover the entire country. Liam Kelly and his team have introduced a number of new innovative initiatives which, when they all come into operation, will greatly improve the quality of life and care of older people in many areas of the countryside. We would however, encourage Community Alert Groups across the country to continue to affiliate to Muintir na Tíre each year. The 25th Anniversary Celebration Conference was held in the Garda College, Templemore, Co Tipperary on Friday and Saturday 29 and 30 October 2010. Delegates had the opportunity, along with members of An Garda Síochána to participate in various workshops. Recommendations which emerged from these workshops will be considered in future Community Alert strategy documents. Among the speakers was Dr Ciaran McCullagh, Department of Sociology UCC. Please refer to the National Co-ordinators report for further initiatives that continue to be rolled out by Community Alert.

To mark the 25th Celebration of Community Alert, the President Martin Quinn and the Board of Muintir na Tíre were delighted to welcome, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland and her Husband Dr Martin McAleese along with former Garda Commissioner, Fachtna Murphy to the Canon Hayes Recreational Centre on Saturday, 4th August 2010. President McAleese and Commissioner Murphy had the opportunity to view at first hand the many initiatives that Community Alert Groups are involved with throughout the country and both gave inspiring addresses to the large attendance present. It is also heartening that many Local Authorities (County Councils), Town and City Councils have bestowed Civic/Mayoral receptions to mark Community Alerts 25th Anniversary and not only to recognise, but to acknowledge the invaluable work that the Community Alert Groups carry out in their local communities on a daily basis.

Celtic Community Link Project

Last year you were informed that Muintir na Tíre, in partnership with the Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS), made a successful application to the Ireland/Wales INTERREG Programme for funding to support the provision of services to communities in South Tipperary and Waterford. Two new full-time field staff have been employed and are out and about in rural communities across South Tipperary and Waterford. They are Philly Ryan in South Tipperary and Julie O'Halloran in County Waterford. Main aims of the project are to establish pilot outreach centres based in the project target communities, to identify gaps in service and information provision in the project target area, provide rural communities with access to services and information in their own community through the use of innovative information technology, to provide a link between neighbouring communities to encourage the sharing of information and expertise necessary for development, to improve the competitive advantage of rural communities and finally to encourage active participation by all members of communities in their own social and economic development. Already, Philly and Julie have established outreach centres in various locations throughout both counties and are involved in ambitious initiatives with the respective local communities! The Irish launch of the project took place in St. Michael's Hall, Ballyduff Upper on the 4th of April, 2011. We were delighted to have present with us the members of the Carmarthenshire steering committee. The following day, 5th April our Welsh visitors were brought on a whistle stop tour of some community projects across South Tipperary and Waterford. On the morning of the 6th April both Irish and Welsh steering committees met in Canon Hayes House.

Tipperary Community Safety Project and STEP Insulation

Tipperary Community Safety Project & STEP Insulation is a FÁS funded Community Employment programme aimed at providing services to Older and Vulnerable people of meager means. Care of older people is ongoing and is a growing necessity in an age when people are living longer and the neighbourliness of past generations is fast disappearing. The Muintir na Tíre Safety project is designed to meet the needs of older and vulnerable people in South Tipperary and indeed surrounding areas. For people who cannot maintain themselves, or afford to pay someone to maintain the general maintenance of their homes, the project is providing a painting, decorating and plumbing, electrical and carpentry service. It also provides a service to install Socially Monitored Alarms, Security Lighting, Door and Window Locks. The Group is providing contract services Sustainable Energy Action Ireland to provide Attic and Cavity Wall Insulation to low income homeowners who suffer from Fuel Poverty. Applicants must be homeowners in receipt of National Fuel Allowance. This is a very essential and extremely important service as it ensures peace of mind and security for the Older and Vulnerable in our community. The benefits of the basic services provided to the people we cater for are incalculable when it comes to maintaining quality of life. In particular it enables people to keep in touch with older people and to alert other service providers as required.



There are currently 1 Supervisor and 16 FÁS CE participants employed in this particular scheme which has been in operation since 2009. The project aims to cover approx 12 to 15 homes per week carrying out either minor repair works or the provision of cavity wall/attic insulation etc. On Friday, 15 October 2010, the Board welcomed former Justice Minister, Dermot Ahern who visited the facility on Galbally Road and some of the homes that have benefitted from this project. Among other Ministerial visits were former Minister of State for Older People, Áine Brady.

National Ploughing Championships 2010

Once again this year, Muintir na Tíre had its own Stand at the 2010 National Ploughing Championships in Athy, Co Kildare. This is a great opportunity to continue to raise the national profile of Muintir na Tíre and attracts a number of visitors dignitaries each year!

Training and Support Day:

On Saturday, 27 November 2010 a Training and Support day was held in the Tipperary Institute for communities in the South East Region.

Her Excellency, Mary McAleese, President of Ireland

As you will be aware, President McAleese was sole Patron of our National Organisation. Shortly after been elected, the President was invited to become Patron and she kindly did so. We take the opportunity to wish President McAleese and her husband Senator Martin McAleese every good wish for the future as she leaves office later this year.

Thanks

The Board of Muintir na Tíre wish to record their tribute to all their hard-working and committed staff working out of Canon Hayes House and in the various parts of the country promoting Community Alert. They also wish to thank the many thousands of voluntary workers at local level for their personal input into local community projects which they promote under the banner of Muintir na Tíre.

Martin Lonergan

Secretary





5. TREASURER'S REPORT AND SUMMARY ACCOUNTS 2010

Set out in the following two pages is a summary of the accounts of the Board of Muintir na Tíre for the year ended 31 December 2010 prepared by our Auditors Noonan O'Conneide & Co. Tipperary Town

Muintir naTíre is funded by the following:

Department of Community, Equality and Gaeltacht Affairs:

The assessment for applications under the Funding Scheme to Support National Organisations in the Community and Voluntary Sector has been completed and the funding recommended for Muintir na Tíre is €85,000 per annum until 2013 effective immediately .



Community Alert programme is funded by the following Government Departments

Department of Justice : The funding granted by the Department of Justice is used to employ three Community Alert Development Officers and Community Alert Co-Ordinator for the promotion of the Community Alert Programme.

Health Service Executive: The funding granted by the Department of Health is used to employ two Community Alert Development Officers for the promotion of the Community Alert Programme.

INTERREG 4 A Project:

The Ireland Wales Territorial Co-operation Programme 2007-2013 (INTERREG 4A) aims to further develop Irish Welsh co-operation in the areas of employment, innovation, climate change and sustainable development. Muintir na Tíre's partnership with Carmarthen Association of Voluntary Services known as Celtic Community Links, runs from May 2010 to April 2013, covering the counties of South Tipperary and Waterford in Ireland and the county of Carmarthen in Wales. The programme employs 2 Staff and is co funded by the Irish Government and the Welsh Assembly in association with the European Regional Development Fund.

The Tipperary Community Safety Project and STEP Insulation:

This programme is run by Muintir na Tíre in South Tipperary with a staff of 1 Supervisor and 16 FÁS CE Participants and has been in operation since July 2009. It is supported by FÁS through their Community Employment Programme. The schedule of works includes the carrying out of minor repairs to the homes of Older and Vulnerable people in West Tipperary. The project is now contracted to SEAI to provide attic and cavity wall insulation in County Tipperary under the SEAI Warmer Homes Low Income Housing Programme. This programme is funded by SEAI.

The aims of the programme are:

- The carrying out of works to include painting, grass cutting, installation of toilets, showers and re-wiring of houses.
- To cover an average of 12 to 15 homes per week with minor repair work.
- To provide attic and cavity wall insulation to homes in County Tipperary under the SEAI Warmer Homes Low Income Housing Programme.
- To provide a service to install socially monitored alarms, security lighting, door and window locks.
- To ensure peace of mind and security for the older and vulnerable members of our community.

Fundraising

In the current economic climate fundraising is an important element in the ongoing success of the National Organisation. A successful bucket collection took place in November 2010 in conjunction with Galbally Rugby club; a total of €14,610.00 was raised for Muintir na Tíre. We plan to further develop this concept in the coming year. In addition all possible alternative funding sources will have to be thoroughly investigated by the finance sub-committee, in the coming year, and we hope to announce a number of initiatives later this year.

As can be seen from the accounts, funding is subject to Departmental accounting rules and is only issued when accounts are



certified by Departmental Finance sections. It should also be understood that all Departmental Funding is issued on an annual basis and no guarantee is given for funding beyond the end of the current financial year at any time.

The Treasurer Michael Sweeney delivers a detailed financial report to the Board at each meeting. The finance sub-committee meet every month, this comprises of - Sean Hegarty, Michael Sweeney, John Roche, Liam Kelly and Mary Ryan. Their role is to oversee the finances and source funding for the organisation.

The affiliation fee for Community Councils remains at €150.00 and €35.00 for Community Alert Groups.

I wish to sincerely thank the staff at Muintir headquarters, the finance sub committee, Board members, Board secretary, and in particular Martin Quinn, who has performed as an exemplary President of Muintir Na Tire during the past year.

Mike Sweeney
Treasurer





Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2010

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	
		€	€	€	€
Fixed Assets					
Tangible assets	8		131,991		126,576
Investments			444		444
			<u>132,435</u>		<u>127,020</u>
Current Assets					
Stock of stationery	9		1,200		1,200
Debtors & Prepayments	10		46,445		7,929
Cash at bank and in hand			64,604		88,418
Cash at bank - Projects			45,711		64,976
			<u>157,960</u>		<u>162,523</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	11		(38,556)		(37,975)
			<u>(38,556)</u>		<u>(37,975)</u>
Net Current Assets			<u>119,404</u>		<u>124,548</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities			251,839		251,568
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	12		(40,000)		-
Net Assets			<u>211,839</u>		<u>251,568</u>
Capital and Reserves					
Capital Grants	19		37,776		34,857
Other Reserves	20		245,314		245,314
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	14		(71,251)		(28,603)
			<u>211,839</u>		<u>251,568</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 29th April 2011 and signed on its behalf by

Martin Quinn - Director

Michael Sweeney - Director



Summary of Income & Expenditure as at 31st December 2010

	<u>2010</u>		<u>2009</u>	
	€	€	€	€
<u>Muintir na Tire - Head Office - Schedule A</u>				
Income	52,375		196,549	
Administrative Expenses	(83,243)		(168,357)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(30,868)		28,192
<u>Community Alert No 3 - Schedule 1</u>				
Income	87,077		92,341	
Expenses	(89,676)		(90,368)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,599)		1,973
<u>Community Alert No 4 - Schedule 2</u>				
Income	180,246		200,065	
Expenses	(200,029)		(200,099)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(19,783)		(34)
<u>Director of Services - Schedule 3</u>				
Income	40,000		-	
Expenses	(43,728)		(653)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(3,728)		(653)
<u>Communications - Schedule 4</u>				
Income	7,000		28,000	
Expenses	(9,759)		(3,296)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		(2,759)		24,704
<u>Victims of Crime - Schedule 5</u>				
Income	-		-	
Expenses	-		(24,277)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-		(24,277)
<u>E-Volve - Schedule 6</u>				
Income	-		-	
Expenses	-		(5,945)	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-		(5,945)
<u>Community, Equality & Gaeltacht Affairs - Schedule 7</u>				
Income	125,630		-	
Expenses	(108,539)		-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		17,091		-
<u>Interreg 4A - Schedule 8</u>				
Income	38,203		-	
Expenses	(38,203)		-	
Net Surplus/(Deficit)		-		-
Overall Surplus/(Deficit) for year		<u>(42,646)</u>		<u>23,960</u>



6. National Director of Services Report

The period since the last AGM has seen the economic and social environment within which Community Groups operate become more challenged, with the numbers on the live register increasing, in tandem with the increase of our young educated people been forced to emigrate.

That said the resilience, wisdom, and common sense of the thousands of community activists that work tirelessly to promote positive change for their Muintir community is a huge resource to Irish Society and one which our newly appointed Government should actively listen to.

Community Development Programme

The Community Development Programme is funded by the newly named Department of the Environment, Community & Local Government, and we wish the incoming Minister of this Department, Mr. Phil Hogan well for his term of office. The Programme employs a National Director Of Services, 2 Community Development Officers – one based in the South Eastern Region and one based in the Western Region , an Administrator, a Consultant and administrative support staff working from the Head Office in Tipperary.

The aims of the Community Development Programme are as follows:

- Support existing Community Councils and establish new Community Councils.
- Develop services that react to emerging community issues.
- Provide backup information and technical assistance to Community Councils, Community Associations and all voluntary workers in the Muintir na Tire programme e.g. in the establishment, development and management of various community facilities and procedures.
- Provide specific services that enable communities to engage with other community and local development structures and processes.
- Develop Muintir na Tire and each Community Council as a reflective and proactive organisation able to change and respond to changing needs in community and society.

We welcome the following newly formed Muintir na Tire Community Councils

- Askamore County Wexford
- Ballysaggert County Waterford
- Freshford County Kilkenny
- Gatabawn County Kilkenny
- Goresbridge County Kilkenny

We say well done to each of our new Councils and trust that they will make a real difference in their respective communities.

Activities of the Past Year and Priorities For The Year Ahead

The Board of Muintir na Tire authorised the 2 newly appointed Development Officers to carry out a face to face questionnaire with the existing Community Councils, in the South East and the Western region. The purpose of this questionnaire was to identify the most important issues which the Community Councils considered needed to be addressed in their areas. The questionnaires were completed during the months of June and July of last year, and the following are the 4 key areas that were identified as their greatest challenges :

1. Promoting Independent living for older people within their communities.
2. Promoting Youth Employment with a particular focus on construction apprentices who cannot complete their apprenticeships
3. Supporting Local Businesses.
4. Training, Support and Facilitation for individual Muintir na Tire Community Councils.

Following on detailed consultations and research, Muintir na Tire proposed to respond with a proactive strategy to the emerging and clearly identified challenges. The Board of Muintir na Tire put in place a Pilot Programme whereby 10 new Regional Councils were formed to ensure the successful delivery of the 4 key challenges identified in the research. The former Governor of Mountjoy, John Lonergan was the guest speaker at the launch of the ten new Regional Community Councils in Bansha on Saturday 29th January 2011. The event in Bansha was another milestone in the history of Muintir na Tire. The event was preceded by the anniversary Mass for the late John m Canon Hayes, founder of Muintir na Tire, and for the deceased members of the organisation nationwide in Bansha Parish church.



The guest speaker at the event was John Lonergan and he began his address by saying that the greatest thing we can give others is time. "We need to be connected to others and we need to return to the ideals of neighbourliness, and muintearas, as espoused by Canon Hayes". He went on to say that three factors promote happiness, having something to work for in life, having something to dream for, and having something in life to love.

The Proposed Pilot Programme specifically aims to:

- Give older people and those facing mobility and other difficulties, the opportunity to continue to stay in safety in their homes by providing practical help with repairs, improvements, and household maintenance. Help reduce accidents and increase safety and security within the home.
- To provide services to facilitate patient hospital discharges and to help prevent avoidable admissions to hospital and other care setting through provision of comfortable living conditions. Carry out a Home Check for elderly people. (Prevention of trips and falls). Older people will be offered a safety check in their home to identify any potential hazards or necessary repairs.
- Provide accredited training and up skilling opportunities for those on the Live Register and who are participating in the scheme

Muintir Na Tire Collaborating With The County Partnership Boards

The process has begun with the various County Partnership Boards to secure a Supervisor and 20 placements under the TUS programme for each of the 10 Regional Councils in the South East. The TUS programme is a Community Work Placement initiative where the Government has allocated funding to give work to 5,000 people in the community and voluntary sector in the delivery of local services. This activation initiative is for those who are unemployed and on the Live Register. The initiative will provide short term quality and suitable working opportunities for people who are unemployed while at the same time carrying out beneficial work within communities. An example of how this collaborative approach is working between Muintir and a County Partnership is the Rathdangan Muintir Community Council in Wicklow. With the support of Muintir na Tire, Rathdangan Community Council is working with three neighbouring communities (Askanagap, Kiltegan, and Knockananna) to form a regional community council to collectively address challenges in their remote area. The pilot regional community council is liaising with County Wicklow Partnership to secure a TUS PROGRAMME for the area to support older people to continue living in their homes and address other priority needs in the area. It is fantastic to witness collaboration not alone with the statutory agencies, but also with the Muintir Communities themselves agreeing to work together for a common goal and purpose. We wish all 10 New Regional Councils ongoing success for the coming year.

PRIORITIES FOR COMING YEAR

SUSTAINABLE FUNDRAISING PROPOSAL RE (MUINTIR, AND COMMUNITY GROUPS)

In the present economic climate there is widespread acceptance that most National Organisations can no longer depend on 100% funding from the state. Muintir Na Tire is no exception, and it is imperative that a sustainable Funding initiative is developed, which can become a win win for both Muintir as a National organisation, and Community Groups that are affiliated to Muintir, and indeed those that are not. It is proposed to develop a symbiotic funding relationship between Muintir and Communities who wish to hold a targeted funding event within their catchment area during a designated time period. Five Community Groups have agreed to participate in a Pilot Funding Programme which will be rolled out this coming September.





7.

Report on Community Alert

2010 marked the 25th anniversary of the Community Alert Programme and it started with some of the coldest weather in living memory. In response to the adverse weather, Muintir na Tíre launched its Community Helpline on the afternoon of the 8th January 2010. The Helpline ran from 8.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. daily to provide support to communities nationally for the duration of the cold spell.

The service acted as:

- (a) A contact point for those who were housebound and would like to talk to somebody or needed advice on how to cope with the present cold conditions.
- (b) To provide practical assistance to callers utilising Muintir na Tíre's network of volunteers throughout Ireland.

This helpline was again in operation from the 29th of November 2010 right through until New Years Day. It was a very rewarding experience for all concerned as there was tremendous satisfaction to be gained from actually being able to help the callers, to assist the elderly and not so old to access food, medical supplies and of course fresh water. In some instances, all that was required was re-assurance that there was somebody there if the need arose. The helpline also highlighted the fact that whilst there are many organisations providing helpline services none of them has a network on the ground that can actually be utilised in times of emergency.

Seniors Alert Programme

The Community Supports Programme for Older People was re-launched in May 2010 as the Seniors Alert programme. This programme continues to be the main source of funding utilised by Community Alert Groups to provide small scale security devices for the Older and more vulnerable members of their respective communities. The new registration format for groups has helped to ensure the sustainability of the groups going forward. Community Alert groups accessed in excess of €0.5m of funding for Older and vulnerable members of Communities under the Seniors Alert Communities for the supply and fitting of small scale security devices.

Community Alert Awareness Month

Community Alert Awareness Month was held during the month of October 2010 culminating in the Community Alert Conference in the Garda College Templemore. It was a very successful month with the Community Alert Groups running many community events during the period. The aim of Community Alert Awareness Month is to:

- (1) promote and raise awareness of Community Alert
- (2) create a forum for people of all ages and from all walks of life to volunteer in their Community
- (3) to create a safer, caring community.

Community Road Safety Initiative

Muintir na Tíre has continued their involvement with the Road Safety Authority in facilitating community training events on the Community Road Safety programme known as "Protecting Our Community – A Call to Action". This project was piloted by the Community Alert programme in counties Cavan and Monaghan with volunteer trainers selected from the Community Alert programme. The programme is directed at adults and will continue to be facilitated nationally by the Community Alert programme.



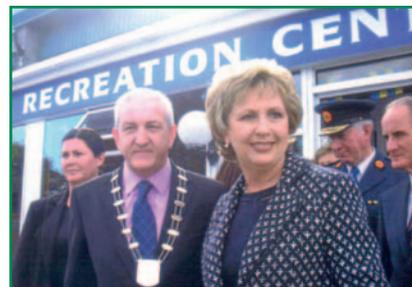


Community TXT Link

Training under this programme took place throughout 2010 and it is expected that the training programme will be completed by end of April 2011

25th Anniversary Celebrations

Uachtarán na h'Eireann marks 25th Anniversary of Community Alert
On September the 4th 2010, a crowd of approximately 400 people gathered in the Canon Hayes Recreation Centre, Tipperary to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Community Alert Programme. In the attendance were some of the people who had been involved in the inception of the Community Alert Programme. The President was joined at the event by the Garda Commissioner, Mr. Fachtina Murphy and Mr. Martin Quinn, President of Muintir na Tíre. In the course of her address, President McAleese stated that the value of the Community Alert programme was impossible to quantify but people felt safer because of it.



Exhibitions from a number of Community Alert groups lined the corridors of the recreation centre. They included a display from Rathangan Community Alert Body which set up a text alert system to warn of suspicious activities. Inniskeen Community Alert piloted a "bottle-in-the-fridge" project to be used in the homes of older people. The bottle contains vital health information. A sticker is placed on the individuals' door alerting emergency personnel to the presence of the bottle. There were also exhibitions demonstrating the Roscommon Community Alert Groups Mureas Warmer Homes Programme, the Tipperary Community Safety Project which carries out essential repairs to the homes of Older and Vulnerable people, the White Mountain community Mapping Programme in Wexford and also the Clontead, Co. Cork smoke alarm programme which is run in conjunction with the Cork County Fire Service and has many other Community Alert groups in Cork partaking in the programme.

Also present, were members of An Garda Síochána from Cahir Co. Tipperary who in association with the Community Alert groups in their District have run a Senior Citizens Christmas Party for the last 10 years. The president also visited a group attending Muintir na Tíres Community Text Training programme for community members.

President McAleese, who is patron of Muintir na Tíre, thanked the organisation for its hard work and for "25 year of caring for the community". She said "instead of walking past on the other side of the road, it had stepped forward and told the Garda it would help. You have put together a package of care that is now so important in people's lives". She said she "did not think it would ever be possible to fully measure the human and community impact it had brought to people and that people felt safer, happier and less alone since community alert was introduced". In terms of the scale of community alert's achievement, she said. "I wish there was some way of capturing in a real sense the sheer reach of it. The real tribute to you is that we can't do that, it is too vast." Garda Commissioner Fachtina Murphy said the programme was what policing was all about – partnership with the community. He said that a conference in October would examine how to increase membership and develop new initiatives. "This is not rocket science; it's one person looking out for the other," he said. The President also unveiled a plaque commemorating 25 years of the Community Alert Programme.

Community Alert 25th Anniversary Conference

A Conference to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Community Alert was held in the Garda College Templemore on Saturday the 30th October 2010. The keynote speaker was Dr. Ciaran McCullagh from the Department of Sociology, UCC. Approximately 250 people attended the conference.





The theme of the conference was the future of Community Alert. Dr McCullagh argued that whilst older people are vulnerable in Irish society that the most vulnerable in Irish society, are the young, who were more at risk of being victims of crime, more at risk of involuntary emigration and more at risk of suicide. The question is how can a project like Community Alert reach out to them in a manner that does not - as currently is the situation - see them as a problem? The address concluded by suggesting that Community Alert could link its concerns about the old with a new concern about the young through the notion of electronic citizenship. The isolation of many old people could be reduced through their introduction to and their education in the use of the new communications technology. And the people to educate them in this are those who know best how to use it – young people. This was followed by a number of parallel workshops on the following topics all of which were very well attended. The facilitators and topics covered were:

Joint Policing Committees, Community Alert Programme Analysis, Elder Abuse and Communities. Juvenile Crime Causes & Remedies and Causes of Crime. The analysis of the Community Alert Programme provided the following to guide the work of the programme going forward.

- Community Alert needs to use the Community Development Methodology to ensure the sustainability of the programme.
- Engage with young people in communities.
- The Programme is not thriving where it is operating solely on community safety remit.
- Communities have the capacity but need constant guidance on how to manage, plan and execute projects.
- Groups want to link with or seek assistance of Rural Social Scheme or Community Development Programme and FÁS, particularly in areas of administration.
- Groups are critical of red tape and not understanding that compliance and efficiency is crucial to survival
- Community Alert Strategy has been weakening particularly in the last year. Divisional Structures are ticking boxes but are without meaningful impact on the ground.
- Development officers are stretched on the ground, there are too many groups to be managed and travelling long distances for small numbers at meetings is non-productive.
- There is a need to engage in active citizenship projects particularly with schools, transition year projects
- Reintroduction of old fashioned civics programme in schools.

25 Years Of Community Alert Celebrated In County Limerick, Monaghan and Tipperary

57 Community Alert groups from throughout County Limerick were honoured by Limerick County Council on Monday the 4th November 2010. The ceremony, which was hosted by Limerick County Council, marked the 25th anniversary of the establishment by Muintir na Tíre of the Community Alert Programme in 1985.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the establishment of the Community Alert initiative to safeguard rural areas, undertaken by Muintir na Tíre and the Gardai, were marked by Monaghan Co Council at a civic reception which took place in Monaghan Town's Hillgrove Hotel on Tuesday evening the 16th November 201

Community Alert a model of best practice in Community Safety

"Community Alert a model of best practice in Community Safety" was the title of a presentation delivered by Vanessa Clarke Community Alert Development Officer in the Northern Region to a conference of Co. Down Community Safety Network. It was found that sometimes in one's own area of community development the impact and success of programmes can be more often criticized than complimented.

Also, a group of 10 members of the Community Safety Partnership are scheduled to make a visit to Sligo on August 11/12 to meet with representatives of An Garda Síochána, Neighborhood Watch, Community Alert and Sligo town and County JPCs

In summation, I would also like to record my thanks to all the staff with whom I work and also the staff at Head Office whose hard work and dedication contribute so much to Muintir na Tíre's ongoing success.



8.

CELTIC COMMUNITY LINK REPORT



Launch of the Celtic Community Link Programme- Ballyduff Upper 04/04/2011

Celtic Community Link, funded under InterReg 4A of the Ireland Wales Programme 2007 – 2013, is a rural development project being rolled out in South Tipperary and Waterford, along with our lead partners Carmarthenshire Association of Volunteer Services (CAVS) in Wales.

Funding for the three year project was finalised in May 2010, with a steering committee of John Hogan, Sean Hegarty and Martin Lonergan in place and two project officers, Philip Ryan (Sth. Tipperary) and Julie O'Halloran (Waterford) appointed in September 2010. The main aims of the project are:

- To establish pilot outreach centres in South Tipperary and Waterford.
- To identify and address gaps in service and information provision in the project target areas.
- To provide a link between neighbouring communities to encourage the sharing of information and expertise necessary for development.
- To improve the competitive advantage of rural communities.
- To encourage active participation by all members of communities in their own social and economic development.

As part of the learning process the Steering Committee and Project Officers visited Carmarthenshire for two days in November, which included attending the CAVS A.G.M., visiting a number of community facilities and a time banking seminar delivered by Edgar Cahn, founder of Time Banks U.S.A. All of this was extremely worthwhile as it highlighted innovative methods of rewarding volunteers for their invaluable contribution to communities.

In April, the CAVS Steering Committee and Project Officers made a return visit to Ireland for the official launch of Celtic Community Link. During their two day stay, the group visited community facilities in South Tipperary and Waterford, along with trips to Bru Boru in Cashel and Lismore Heritage Centre. An inspiring presentation by Cris Tomos, the CAVS Project Manager, on the Welsh experience of fund raising for community projects was well received with many follow up enquiries for further information from those who attended.



Food hamper sourced in Waterford presented to C.A.V.S to mark a recent visit.



In South Tipperary, outreach offices have been established in Killenaule, Fethard & Cappawhite, while in Waterford outreach offices have been established in Ardmore, Ballyduff Upper and Portlaw. These offices are located in local community halls, which are the focus for social activity and community development.

The Celtic Community Link Project Officers are working to enhance the provision of services to rural areas in both counties and to date have developed excellent working relationships with community groups and statutory agencies. These include local development groups, LEADER Partnership companies, the Community Forum organisations in both counties, key personnel in both County Councils, Failte Ireland, Coillte and Teagasc.

Along with providing information regarding a wide range of queries, the project officers are currently working on key development projects. In Waterford the Project Officer is working closely with the Community Development Officer in Waterford Leader Partnership on a predevelopment outreach and training programme aimed at community groups who are interested in re-developing their community halls as a focal point for community activity and as a viable and sustainable community enterprise.

The Project Officer is also working at the preliminary stage of supporting the development of the Knockmealdown Mountains Forum, which will bring together all stakeholders in the development of the Knockmealdowns as a community recreational amenity and a sustainable tourism product.



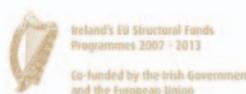
**Round Tower
in Ardmore**

In South Tipperary the project officer has already begun work on the development of a steering committee to deliver the Knockmealdowns Recreational Strategy as developed by SLR consultants for South Tipperary Development Company and South Tipperary Tourism. The Project Officer is also working closely with the re-development of the Breac Gaeltacht in Newcastle, Co. Tipperary, with a successful funding application submitted to Foras Gaeltacht for this project. Other initiatives in South Tipperary include online training for farmers regarding Dept. of Agriculture services. Celtic Community Link is providing a valuable outreach service to rural communities in South Tipperary and Waterford, identifying needs, providing information and referrals to appropriate agencies, and supporting communities in their continued development. The outcomes will identify key areas for support and provide the tools for addressing these issues in the wider context through the sharing of experiences and knowledge.

John Hogan Chairperson of the Intereg Steering Committee

For further information contact:

Julie O' Halloran Project Officer - Waterford. Contact Number: (087) 6369146. Email: johalloran@muintir.ie
Philip Ryan Project Officer - South Tipperary. Contact Number: (087) 6270661. Email: PRyan@muintir.ie





9. TIPPERARY COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT REPORT

Since July 2009, Muintir na Tíre has been providing what is known as the Tipperary Community Safety Project in the West Tipperary Area to Older and Vulnerable Householders. This project was expanded in September 2010 to include STEP Insulation which is providing Contract Services to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland as a Community Based Organisation providing Cavity Wall and Attic Insulation under the Warmer Homes (LIH) Low Income Housing Programme. The project operates from a leased yard and warehouse at Galbally Road, Tipperary.

The project was born out of an identified need among householders in the West Tipperary area whose homes were of a poor standard and needed urgent repairs to provide an improved quality of life to the householder. Many of the referrals to the programme came from the Community Alert Organisation and other voluntary organisations in West Tipperary.

The key points of the project are as follows.

1. Providing a much needed service for older people and the less well off in our community in the form of the provision of small scale repairs for Older and vulnerable people in their homes i.e., Extensions , general maintenance work, painting and decorating.
2. Providing security systems: pendants, security lighting, door and window locks.
3. Since September 2010, the project has been contracted to the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) as a Community Based Organisation (CBO) providing Attic and Cavity Wall Insulation under the Warmer Homes Low Income Housing Programme to persons at risk of Fuel Poverty. (The qualifying criterion is a home owner in receipt of the National Fuel Allowance. (This is known as STEP Insulation i.e. South Tipperary Energy Project) The project covers all of County Tipperary and to-date has completed works throughout the county.
4. Providing valuable work experience and training for employees. E.g All workers on the Warmer Homes Programme have been trained to FETAC Level 5 Insulation Installers.

An example of the great work done since the inception of this programme is shown in the table below.



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Supervisor Tipperary Community Safety Project
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Tel: (062) 82575. Email: stepinsulation@gmail.com



Muintir na Tíre Board Members 2010-2011



Muintir na Tíre President

Martin Quinn
Tipperary Community Council,
Tipperary Town.



National Treasurer

Mike Sweeney
Aherlow Kilross Community Council,
Co. Tipperary



National Secretary

Martin Lonergan
Ballybacon Community Alert,
Co. Tipperary

Board Members



Sean Hegarty

Kilworth Community Council,
Co. Cork.



Frank McCarthy

Darrara Community Council,
Co. Cork



Mattie McGrath

Newcastle Community Council,
Co. Tipperary.



John Roche

Moore Community Council,
Co. Roscommon



John Crosse

Donohill Development Council,
Co. Tipperary.



Margaret Kineavy

Clonbur Community Council,
Co. Galway.



Margaret O' Doherty

Mitchelstown Community Council,
Co. Cork



Myles McNamara

Murroe Community Council,
Co. Limerick



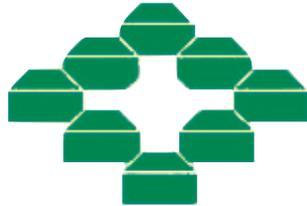
Peter Butler

Cahir Community Council,
Co. Tipperary.



John Hogan

Ballyduff Upper Community Council,
Co. Waterford.



muintir na tíre

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Notes



Notes



Notes



Muintir na Tíre, since its inception in 1937, has been involved in several major community development projects, pilot studies and research, and in the preparation of policy documents.

Muintir na Tíre's Track Record

2010	INTERREG 4A – Celtic Community Link – Support For Communities
2010	25th Anniversary of Community Alert
2009	Launch of fundraising initiative - Cárde Muintir na Tíre
2009	Launch of Muintir na Tíre Strategic and Organisational Plan 2009-2013
2009	BenefiT Community TXT Link Programme for Older and Vulnerable People
2009	Delivery of the Community Education Module of the Road Safety Authority Strategy 2007-2012 to Communities
2008	Submission to the Law Reform Commission "Consultation Paper on the Civil Liability of Good Samaritans and Volunteers"
2007	Launch of Community Alert Strategy 2007-2011
2007	INTERREG IIIA, joint Irish/Welsh Project - E-Volve - Electronic Services for the Voluntary Sector
2006	Submission to the Active Citizenship Taskforce at the Department of An Taoiseach
2006	Launch of Information Pack for Older People for use by volunteers funded by Comhairle
2006	Submission to the Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on the Ireland Rural Development National Strategy Plan (NSP) 2007-2013
2005	Submission to the Oireachtas - Report on Community Policing
2004 to date	Promotion of Community Alert Primary Schools' Art Competition
2004	National Committee on Volunteering Report "Tipping the Balance"
2002-2006	The National Rural Development Programme
2001-2002	Information and Communication Technology Project
2002	Policy document on "The Future of Rural Post Offices in Ireland"
2001	Policy document on "Spatial Strategy - The Way Forward"
2000-2001	Promoted information campaign on the Euro in association with the Euro Changeover Board of Ireland
1998-2001	LEADER II Programme (3 County Pilot Project to set up Community Council structures in Westmeath, North Kerry and West Cork)
1991	Promotion of Environmental/Heritage Projects
1985 to date	Community Crime Prevention Programme - Community Alert
1988	Researched and published "Community Centres in Ireland" Report
1985	Researched and published "Towards a New Democracy?" Report
1980	Pioneered a pilot project for Local Community Radio
1971	Preservation of Ancient Monuments Campaign
1961-1971	Promoted the Credit Union Movement
1963 to date	Promotion of Irish Tourism and the Tidy Towns Competition
1965-1985	Promotion of a national Post Primary Schools Public Speaking Competition
1973-1977	EEC Pilot Project for the Training of Trainers leading to employment opportunities through local enterprise (some of the findings were later adopted by the Youth Employment Agency)
1968	Piloting of Community Information Centres (now known as Citizen Information Centres)
1959-1980	Carrying out of group water schemes to install piped water in rural homes
1948-1954	The Limerick Rural Survey - to research and promote the development of small and medium sized industries suitable to the Irish economy
1948-1957	Muintir na Tíre's Parish Plan for Agriculture
1947 onwards	Encouraged rural communities to accept the Rural Electrification Scheme
1940	Development of Turf Cutting Schemes to provide fuel during the years of the Second World War
1939 onwards	Encouraged the building of Community Halls and Centres throughout the country