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Community alerts on the rise

Mary Havanagh

Editorial, 10th Dec 2011

THREE last years have passed in community alert programmes across Tipperary and the Celtic Community.

There are now 100 community alert programmes in place across the county, with 1000 people involved in the programme.

Community alert programmes have been set up in many areas, including the Celtic Community.

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at the Celtic Community, which has been a great success story for the Celtic Community.

Mr. Havanagh, a Celtic Community member, said that it is a great success story for the Celtic Community.

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President's Address



On behalf of the board of Muintir na Tire, I wish to extend a warm welcome to all our delegates to this Annual General Meeting.

It is fitting, as we celebrate our Seventy fifth anniversary, that we return to the parish of Murroe in Co Limerick, where our founder the Rev

John Canon Hayes was born. A truly inspirational leader of his time, who saw the need for communities to unite and support each other. Canon Hayes promoted an ethos of wisdom and common sense that has stood the test of time, that being **Neighbourliness, Self Help and Self Reliance**.

It is therefore appropriate in this historic building, a renowned centre of learning, that we pay tribute to the Hayes family and to the community of Murroe. Canon John Hayes pioneering principles of Community Development continues to be an empowering force for Muintir Na Tire Community groups nationally. These principles are used in most of our third level colleges and institutions today.

Ireland presently finds itself in an austerity programme that is having a profound effect on many communities, resulting in many who are struggling or unable to meet their commitments. This is causing immense strains on family life, forcing many of our well educated to leave our shores in search of employment.

Statistics tell us that mental health issues are increasing dramatically; suicide regrettably is topping the scale and is causing incredible pain both in those affected families and in communities. We as an organisation must be more proactive in encouraging communities to actively engage with each other through the spirit of neighbourliness.

Canon Hayes presented Ireland with a road map that changed the future of this country, with the involvement of communities in rural electrification, water schemes through community development and the provision of community centres and ancillary services. Today, we in the board of Muintir na Tire are witnessing an ever increasing need of communities to avail of these services and an increased demand from communities to develop facilities that will greatly enhance their area. They are utilising the many funding streams that The Partnership Programme has in place at present.

Muintir na Tire in the past twelve months has seen its core funding cut by more than 25%.

This has placed our organisation in a difficult position as we are faced with increased demands. As a board, we undertook a review of all activities and introduced corrective measures to ensure that the financial position of the organisation remains in a positive position. A collective decision was made to have Church gate collections in all parishes in Ireland, these commenced in September 2011. We acknowledge the tremendous generosity of those communities to date that have supported our fundraising drive. It is vital that all affiliations are forwarded as required, however in the future as costs are increasing, particularly transport, it may not be possible to provide Muintir na Tire personnel to attend meetings other than phone contact where affiliations remain unpaid.

It is appropriate to express appreciation to the board members, staff and to the Job bridge internships employees for their loyalty and professional approach.



Since my election as President of Muintir na Tire in September 2011, I have represented all communities in an open and fair manner in my dealings with Government and other statutory agencies. Canon Hayes founded Muintir na Tire in 1937 at a time of great economic strife. It is regrettable that in 2012, 75 years later we are once again in the midst of the greatest economic challenges that our country has experienced since its foundation. Therefore as President, it is my duty to carry the guiding principles of neighbourliness, self-help and self-reliance as the vision for the future as set out by Rev John Canon Hayes.

It is particularly timely that the theme of this our 75th anniversary conference is **A CALL FOR ACTION**.



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF MUINTIR NA TIRE HELD ON THURSDAY, 30 JUNE 2011 AT UPPER COURT MANOR, FRESHFORD, CO. KILKENNY

The annual general meeting of Muintir na Tire took place on Thursday, 30 June 2011 in the Upper Court Manor, Freshford, County Kilkenny.

The meeting commenced with a welcome from National President, Martin Quinn which was followed by the minutes of the 2010 AGM which were delivered by Company Secretary, Martin Lonergan.

The minutes were adopted on the proposition of Margaret O'Doherty, Director and Vice President and were seconded by John Hogan, Director. There were no matters arising and as the National President would be addressing the meeting later that evening in the presence of the Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government, Mr Phil Hogan, TD, he asked company secretary Martin Lonergan to deliver his directors report.

Due to time restraints, National Treasurer Mike Sweeney gave a brief run down on the financial situation of the organisation. He stressed the particular need for Muintir na Tire to put in place fundraising structures, so that the organisation would not need to be fully dependent on State funding. He said that the organisation was at a cross roads and that future funding would have to be a priority for the incoming Board. Mike Sweeney paid tribute to the staff in Canon Hayes House and in particular to Mary Ryan, Financial Administrator for her assistance throughout the year. The Treasurer then invited Donán O'Cinnéide of Noonan and O'Cinnéide & Co, Accountants and Auditors to brief the assembled of Muintir Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December, 2010. Mr Cinnéide proceeded to take the meeting through the accounts under the various headings which were explained in great detail. There was a deficit recorded of €42,646 compared to a net surplus of €23,960 the previous year! 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 Roche, Director and seconded by John Hogan, Director.

The meeting then proceeded to the election of Directors to fill vacancies on the Board of Muintir na Tire! National President, Martin Quinn explained to the meeting that 3 Board members representative of Community Councils would have to retire and they were Martin Quinn, Mike Sweeney and John Crosse and under the Community Alert Group, Mattie McGrath.

There were 4 persons nominated under Community Council Representation and they were;

Edwina Newport
Paddy Byrne
Paddy Fitzpatrick
Collette Flynn

As Edwina Newport was not present at the AGM Paddy Byrne, Paddy Fitzpatrick and Collette Flynn were deemed to be elected without contest.

As there was only 1 nomination under the Community Alert Representation namely Martin Lonergan, he was deemed to be elected without contest. The President, Martin Quinn welcomed the new Directors to the Board and wished them well for the coming year. He also expressed his thanks to the outgoing Board Members.

As there were no motions submitted prior to the meeting, the President Martin Quinn wished to propose from the floor the following motion;

- In regard to local, rural Post Offices and in particular Bansha Post Office and its proposed closure, that Muintir na Tire support efforts of locals, wherever required, to secure their local rural Post Offices and the services that these provide.

The National President explained in some detail the efforts that were been made to close, in particular Bansha Post Office and An Post's intention to close up to 500 rural Post Offices nationally. He stated that this was an attack on rural Ireland. The motion was seconded by Sean Hegarty, Director who informed the meeting that they had the same problem in Kilworth. It was unanimously passed by the delegates present.



Under the Open Forum section of the meeting, there was a wide ranging discussion in regards to threats to rural services, i.e. Post Offices, rural transport school transport, etc.

Concluding the meeting, National President Martin Quinn expressed his gratitude and thanks to the staff in Canon Hayes House, Development Officers throughout the Country, the Board of Directors and the many organisations on the ground who had invited him to functions throughout his tenure as National President. Tributes were then paid to the outgoing President Martin Quinn whose term of Office ends at the next Board meeting with contributions from Margaret O'Doherty, Director Mike Sweeney, Director and Sean Hegarty Director.

The meeting then adjourned for the arrival of the Minister.

Martin Lonergan
Secretary





DIRECTORS REPORT 2011-2012

Since last year's Annual General Meeting which was held on Thursday, 30 June 2011 a total of 10 meetings was held.

At the first meeting of the new Board which was held on the 14/07/2011, following officers were elected for the forthcoming year;

PRESIDENT:	John Hogan
VICE PRESIDENT:	Margaret O'Doherty
SECRETARY:	Martin Lonergan
TREASURER:	Michael Sweeney

The following co-options were also endorsed by the new Board of Directors: Michael Sweeney and Martin Quinn.

SUB COMMITTEES FOR THE FOLLOWING AREAS WERE ALSO ESTABLISHED AT THE FIRST MEETING:

- Finance Committee
- Community Development/Social Enterprise Committee
- Community Alert Programme Committee
- Ireland/Wales INTERREG Programme (Steering Committee)

The National President, John Hogan fulfilled a number of national engagements on behalf of the Muintir na Tíre organisation too numerous to mention here.

CANON HAYES ANNIVERSARY MASS & THE COMMUNITY ALERT VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARDS



The Anniversary Mass in Memory of Muintir na Tíre founder, Canon Hayes was celebrated in Bansha Parish Church on Saturday, February 4, 2012. This was followed by a wreath laying ceremony at the resting place of Canon Hayes and a decade of the Rosary was recited.

Later that morning, the Community Alert Volunteer of the Year Awards were presented in the McGrath GAA

Centre in Bansha in front of a very large attendance. This event was a tremendous success. The guest speakers for the event were Mr Seán Kelly MEP, Mr John Lonergan, former Governor of Mount Joy Prison and South Tipperary County Council Vice Chairman Mr Michael Murphy and the Mayor of Tipperary Town, Jacqui Finnan. The event was also attended by other local dignitaries. We congratulate all the nominees and especially the regional and the overall winner listed below. The event and the organisation also got extensive media coverage in local and regional papers which were great opportunities to push the Muintir ethos.

Finally, Acting Director of Services James O'Neil launched the pilot initiative called the Home Care Safety Audit which I am sure he will elaborate on further.

The Community Alert award winners were:

- Annette Nolan, Shillelagh Community Alert, Co. Wicklow, Eastern Region and National Award winner;
- Sean Ryan White Mountain Community Alert, Co. Wexford, South Eastern Region,
- Peggy Coakley, Darrara Community Alert, Co. Cork, Southern Region,
- Mary O'Gara, Ballintubber Community Alert, Co. Roscommon Western Region
- Kevin McGoldrick, Dromahair/Killargue Community Alert, Co. Leitrim, Northern Region winner.

ONGOING 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 have been considered and many will be followed up on. This year the Organisation has begun to roll out a National Church Gate Collection in the various Garda regions. We extend our gratitude for the support and help of James O'Neil, Acting Director of Services, in this regard and indeed all those who have supported and helped in anyway in organising collections in the various regions so far. Your continued support with this vital initiative for the funding of our National Organisation would be greatly appreciated. We would also request that, if a unit of this organisation hold a collection of any kind, that they consider forwarding some of the monies taken to Muintir Head Quarters.

Since we met last, there is no doubt that due to the ongoing 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.

As you will establish from the Treasurer, Michael Sweeney's report, the financial condition is not as bleak as it looked last year. I will leave Michael to further elaborate on same.

Finally, we as a Board we would like to pay tribute to our Treasurer Michael Sweeney, Mary Ryan, Financial Administrator and the Financial Committee for their commitment to the financial matters of Muintir na Tíre over the past year.

COMMUNITY ALERT

Liam Kelly, the 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 Community Alert Development Officers – Bernie Kearney, Vanessa Clarke, Margaret Quinn and Diarmuid Cronin whose areas of operation cover the entire country.

The Board of Muintir na Tíre would like to pay a special tribute to our former Community Alert Development Officer Noel McCarthy who retired from the organisation recently. His commitment to the



Programme and the units he serviced was beyond reproach and we thank him sincerely for his service and wish him a happy and enjoyable retirement.

The launch of the Community Alert Awareness Month took place on Monday 26 September 2011 in the Excel Centre, Tipperary Town. The month was launched by Presidential Candidate, Mary Davis. The review of the Community Alert Programme is ongoing and almost complete and Liam Kelly and his team continue to introduce 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. One such initiative is in partnership with Saorview to provide an information programme nationally on the digital switchover to rural communities.

On Wednesday 11 January, the President John Hogan and Secretary Martin Lonergan along with Liam Kelly and Vanessa Clarke met with the Garda Commissioner Seamus Callanan in Garda Head Quarters, Dublin, in relation to the Community Alert Programme. We had a very constructive meeting with the Commissioner reiterating his and the Gardai's ongoing support for Community Alert. The Community Alert Programme also held meetings throughout the year with many statutory agencies for discussions on funding and various voluntary groups to discuss issues of mutual concern.

The President John Hogan along with Board Member Seán Hegarty were invited to and attended the Pat Kenny Frontline Programme on RTE to discuss issues relating to rural crime etc. The programme aired on Monday 23 April 2012.

On a more important note, circulars have recently issued to Groups advising them of the importance to affiliate to Muintir na Tíre Head Office each year. The fee is a nominal €50. It is simply not possible for us as an organisation for financial, administrative and legal reasons to have our Development Officers on the ground service groups that have not affiliated to Muintir na Tíre. While affiliations have slightly increased in general this year, we would ask that those outstanding should be forwarded to Head Office as soon as possible.

CELTIC COMMUNITY LINK

In Muintir na Tíre's continued partnership with the Carmarthenshire Association of Voluntary Services (CAVS) in Wales and assisted from funding through the Ireland/Wales INTERREG Programme for funding to support the provision of services to communities in South Tipperary and Waterford, the Celtic Community Link Project continues to bring major benefits to rural Community's throughout South Tipperary and Waterford.

We thank our fulltime field staff Julie O'Halloran in Waterford and Mark O'Brien in South Tipperary for their ongoing work in this area. As was outlined last year, the main aim of the project were 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, Mark and Julie have established outreach centres in various locations throughout both counties and are involved in ambitious initiatives with the respective local communities. Two examples of such projects are Knockmealdown Active in South Tipperary and the Knockmealdown Forum in Waterford. An overview of which is in the CCL report. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Philly Ryan former South Tipperary Project Manager who left the project earlier this year. We wish him every success on his future career.

TIPPERARY COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT AND STEP INSULATION

The 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. This Project continues to perform way beyond our expectations.

STEP Insulation continues to provide contract services to Sustainable Energy Action Ireland to provide Attic and Cavity Wall Insulation to low income homeowners who suffer from Fuel Poverty. 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.

Applicants must be homeowners in receipt of National Fuel Allowance. Both are essential and extremely important services as they ensure peace of mind and security for the Older and Vulnerable in our community. The benefits of the basic services provided to the people this Programme caters 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.



HIS EXCELLENCY, MR MICHAEL D HIGGINS, PRESIDENT OF IRELAND

The President John Hogan on behalf of the Board of Muintir na Tíre had the pleasure of inviting the new President of Ireland Mr Michael D Higgins to become the sole Patron of our National Organisation and we are delighted to announce that the President has accepted.

REMEMBRANCE

Muintir na Tíre would like to pay tribute to former president Michael Lynch, who sadly passed away this year. Michael served as president of Muintir na Tíre for two periods, from 1980-'83 and 1986-'94. We extend our sympathies to his wife Betty and his family. He will be sadly missed.

THANKS

The Board of Directors 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 and Community Development. 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



NATIONAL DIRECTOR OF SERVICES REPORT

The 75th anniversary conference of the organisation is taking place in Glenstal Abbey, which is in Murroe, Co Limerick, the birthplace of our visionary founder, Canon John Hayes.

Delegates attending this year's conference will recall and reflect on that vision conceived by Canon Hayes. He passionately promoted community based self help action as a radical solution for many of the problems facing Ireland.

Fr Harry Bohan a neighbouring Clare man wrote *"No man or woman is an island. People cannot live in isolation and in such extreme forms of individualism, everybody needs friends or companions. A sense of togetherness, belonging and shared experience be it in groups of friends, in family, in clubs, in churches or in groups of any kind it is an integral part of human nature. Community is the foundation of human society. Isolated we curl up and die"*.

Indeed our founder viewed community as an essential component in the building blocks of our fledgling nation back in 1937.

This year's conference is entitled A CALL FOR ACTION

Briefly the four broad areas which our community activists on the ground have identified as requiring serious consideration are the following:

STRESS OF MORTGAGE DEBT ARREARS

The unemployment crisis is a major factor in the spiralling rate of arrears. Many families have now reached breaking point, and an increasing number of mortgage holders have either used up personal savings or the goodwill of family members in order to keep their mortgage repayments current.

Free Legal Advice Centres director general Noeline Blackwell said that while this week's report will show that more than 80,000 households are 90 days or longer in arrears, this figure doesn't include those in arrears of less than 90 days, or those that have already done deals with banks and are paying less than their full mortgage rates.

Muintir na Tire are delighted that **Ross Maguire** from New Beginning has agreed to speak at our annual conference. New Beginning was set up to provide protection for hard-hit homeowners in Ireland. 'New Beginning' is a group of lawyers, business people and concerned citizens set up to help mortgage holders who face imminent repossession orders but have no legal representation.

The body also intends to mount test cases which will establish whether lending institutions had a duty of care to borrowers and whether this duty was breached by excessive and negligent lending practices.

DRAMATIC INCREASE IN SUICIDE

The suicide rate in Ireland increased 16 percent between 2007 and 2009 as the economic crisis hit.

"Suicide by economic crisis" is the phrase being attached to the recent rise in European suicides. Small-business owners and entrepreneurs are among those in the increased rates of suicide.

Ella Arensman, director of research at the National Suicide Research Foundation said that a study in Cork reached out to people who had lost relatives to suicide. The study found that: *"The victims were predominantly men, with an average age of 36. Almost 40 percent were unemployed, and 32 percent worked in construction as plumbers, electricians and plasterers."*

She added that generally, those who took their own lives *"suffered from a constellation of problems: financial struggles, unemployment, broken relationships and loneliness."*

DAN NEVILLE T.D. has very kindly agreed to address our delegates and guests on this most sensitive and yet challenging reality.

RURAL HOMES UNDER SIEGE FROM INCREASED BURGLARIES

The fear in many rural homes is palpable, and a ritual of never ending checking to see if their homes are properly secure. Confusion abounds regarding an adequate understanding of the latest legislation. Latest figures from the various Garda Divisions for the last quarter of 2011 show a dramatic increase in home burglaries.



ASSISTANT GARDA COMMISSIONER will outline the challenge nationally and hopefully explain how advanced the Community Texting initiative is. Askamore, a very proactive Muintir na Tire Community Council from north Wexford have introduced an innovative Community Alert Texting campaign, to combat the burglaries in their area. They will showcase their initiative at our AGM.

HOW RURAL COMMUNITIES CAN ACCESS FUNDING

CARMEL FOX FROM BALLYHOURA will address the challenge as to how the Communities that have never made an application under the Leader or the Partnership Rural Development Programme can empower themselves to do so.

Muintir staff will be on hand to explain the unique organisational structure that Muintir na Tire can put in place with such Community Groups.

The above 4 topics will be chaired by **Dr Michael Ryan from LIT** and each speaker will address the delegates for approximately ten minutes each with a further question and answer session for each topic of a further fifteen.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

JOHN LONERGAN will deliver the keynote address. He argues that there is a direct link between crime and social and economic deprivation and believes that the biggest challenge facing us today is not just the economy but how we are going to create a just, inclusive and cohesive society based on the core values of justice, equality, fairness and compassion.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Community Development Programme is funded by the newly named Department of the Environment, Community, & Local Government. The Programme employs a National Director Of Services, 1 Community Development Officer-based in the South Eastern 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 and address 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 Affiliated Groups

New Community Alert / Community Council Groups since the AGM of 30th June 2011	
Community Council Groups	County
Whitegate	Clare
Aghabullogue, Coachford & Rylane	Cork
Blarney	Cork
Glenville	Cork
Kilmurry Historical & Archaeological Society	Cork
Milstreet	Cork
Schull	Cork
Clifden	Galway
Gurteen	Galway
Caherconlish	Limerick
Carlanstown	Meath
Drangan Community Centre Ltd	Tipperary
Knockmealdown Active	Tipperary
Aglish	Waterford
Mountmellery	Waterford



New Community Alert Groups	County
Bofeenaun	Mayo
Cloonfad	Roscommon
Barefield	Clare
Tour Greaney	Clare
Castletara	Cavan
Belturbet East	Cavan
Dromard	Longford
Clonguish	Longford
Gorteen	Galway
Baile na hAbhain	Galway
Bohermore	Limerick
Glenbrohane	Limerick
Mungret	Limerick
Ballybrown	Limerick
Larganreagh	Donegal
Downings	Donegal
Collon	Louth
Culmullin	Meath
Growtown/Powderlough	Meath
Lagore	Meath
Hermitage Glen	Meath
Kilcrouney	Meath
Dunderry	Meath
Rosnaree	Meath
Emo	Laois
Ballycomoye/Ballymanus	WMeath
Drumcooley	WMeath
Ballinamere	Offaly
Cheekpoint & Faithlegg	Waterford
Faha	Waterford
Kilmacthomas & Mahon River	Waterford
The Ballagh	Wexford
Re-Launched CA Groups	County
Mulranny	Mayo
Colmcille	Longford
Carrickedmond/Abbeyshrute	Longford
Peters Well	Galway
Reenascreena	Cork
Berrings	Cork
Dromach/Derrinagree	Cork
Knockainey	Limerick
Knockagree	Kerry
Ventry	Kerry
Wooden Bridge (Ballycolla)	Laois
Ballyron	Laois
Croghan	Kildare

Re-Launched CA Groups	County
Moone/Timolin	Kildare
Omeath	Louth
Killeigh	Offaly
Durrow	Offaly
Ballivor	Meath
Kentstown	Meath
Nobber	Meath
Glenmore	Kilkenny
Courtnacuddy	Wexford
Carrig on Bannow	Wexford
Fethard on Sea	Wexford
Knockgraffon	Tipperary
Aglish/Villerstown	Waterford

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

ACTIVITIES OF THE PAST YEAR 2012

CHURCH GATE COLLECTION INITIATIVE

The staff and board of Muintir na Tire would like to express our sincere thanks to all our affiliated groups who organised our National Church gate collections in their respective area.

This has made a huge difference in offsetting the large reduction in our funding that we have experienced from the various government agencies that support our organisation.

In the present economic environment these cutbacks are likely to continue, and your support has made the difference in ensuring that we have not had to reduce staff numbers.

INNOVATIVE FUNDRAISING IDEAS THAT SOME OF OUR COMMUNITY COUNCILS / ALERT GROUPS HAVE ROLLED OUT.

Please read the fundraising section and you will be inspired and informed as regards how communities have met their funding needs.



PROVIDE FUNDING FOR A PILOT TRAINING PROGRAMME

TITLE: Home Care Safety Audit

LOCATION: Uppercourt College,
Freshford, Co. Kilkenny

ACCREDITATION: FETAC Level 5

DURATION: 3 Days

PARTICIPATING PARTNERSHIPS:

South Tipperary Development Company,
Avondhu/Blackwater Partnership, Waterford Leader
Partnership, Carlow County Development
Partnership, Kilkenny Leader Partnership.
(Lead Agency to be agreed re Interreg Proposal)

The purpose of carrying out the Home Safety Audit is to:

- Carry out a Home Safety Audit for Older and Vulnerable People (Prevention of trips, falls). Older people will be offered a Home Care Safety Audit to identify any potential hazards or necessary repairs.
- Give older people and those facing mobility problems 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.

The pilot programme will target all older people over the age of 65 and also those deemed to be vulnerable. Whilst the latest census information reveal that over 11.85% of the population is aged 65 or older, that percentage figure in the very rural areas can increase to be as high as 22%.

It is also worth noting that there is a dramatic increase in the number of older people over the age of 85 when the census of 2006 is compared to the census of 2011. The increase is 23%, and when we examine the over 65 to 69 comparative figure, it reveals a percentage increase of over 20%

2 Volunteers from each parish in the 4 Pilot regions will attend this 3 day accredited course, and will then return to their own communities and begin the process of carrying out the audit.

The above is a Pilot Programme and we will be advocating that the relevant state agencies with responsibility for older people will work in partnership with Muintir na Tire to roll this out nationally as soon as this Pilot Project has been evaluated

RURAL PLANNING

Ireland is undergoing considerable social and land-use change. The significant and imbalanced spread of major urban centres represents a major environmental and social challenge. The increasing trend of urban focused policies, places many rural areas at a continuing disadvantage in relation to access to services (such as education, transport, policing). The ongoing reduction in population of many rural areas allied with an increasing age profile calls for an immediate and fresh approach to the issue of rural planning. Increased levels of restriction in relation to planning in rural areas is contributing to an imbalance in the rural population profile. Sustaining viable rural populations remains a key concern of Muintir na Tire, and this issue is seen as a strategic component of improving rural security, maintaining services, reducing isolation and retaining rural identity.

Muintir na Tire proposes to initiate a meaningful dialogue amongst all stakeholders so that appropriate measures are put in place at Local level, Regional level and at National level which adequately address issues of rural alienation and which make a meaningful contribution to sustainable rural development.

CONCLUSION

“A THOUGHT FOR YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP”

It personifies the wisdom and common sense of a man who has truly made a difference to communities throughout the length and breadth of this country. Canon Hayes was heard to say by our valued colleague Tom Fitzgerald whom many of you know and respect.

“You can pray over the kettle for as long as you like, but unless you plug it in, it will never boil”

Fundraising in these Challenging Times

In this difficult economic climate, communities are attempting to find more novel and innovative ways to try and raise badly needed finances to improve their communities social, educational and economic environment. In this page, we provide a synopsis of the fundraising initiatives implemented by Muintir na Tire Community groups nationwide, which we hope will stimulate creativity and innovativity in how communities approach fundraising.

Goresbridge Calendar and Split the Pot

**For more information: Contact Colette Breen
at (059) 9775646 or taylorhill@eircom.net.**

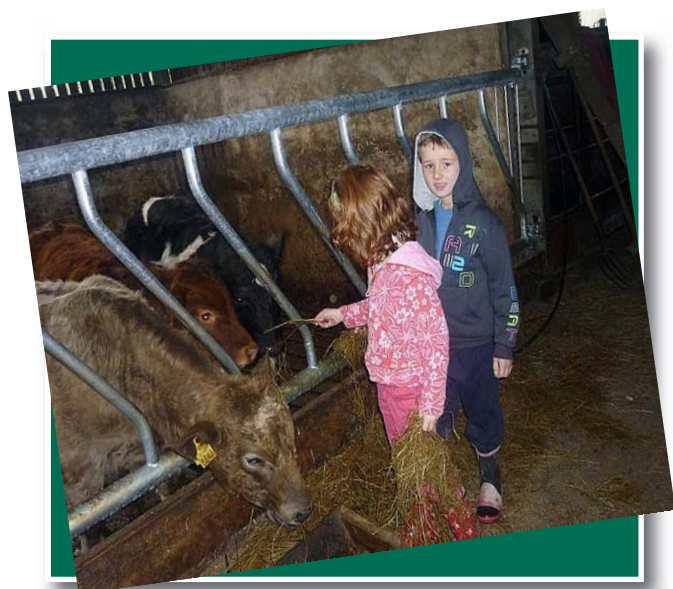


"This idea was about promoting the village and raising badly needed finances. We asked for local people to submit photographs of a person, place or thing around Goresbridge. We got a photographer to choose the best photos for each month of the calendar. We had each month sponsored by a business which paid for the printing of it. We sold them at €10 each. They have been sent to all corners of the world, this year will be our third year doing it. The businesses get a calendar for free as do those who took the photos."



"This is a weekly draw, it means providing an envelope with space to write a name and address. You simply pop €2 in the envelope, stick your name and address or phone number on the front. These envelopes are made available in all the local shops/businesses and we provided a box, with a slit and a padlock. We collect the envelopes, get the businesses to sign as to how many were in the box, just count the number of envelopes e.g. if there are 150 in it means there is €300 in the pot, €150 goes to our organisation and we give €20 each to second and third and €110 to the winner."

Fundraising for Freshford Community Hall



"The Community Hall was becoming a derelict building so the first step in developing the project was to organize fund raising with a difference.

A brain storming meeting was held and out of this it was decided to approach local business for a loan of €1,000.00 to help re-roof the building. The committee linked with the young people of the area to come along and paint the building / and be part of a fund raising subcommittee.

At the time there were 87 small business / including farmers in the area. The sub-committee mainly young people with a member of the hall committee delivered by hand letters to each business. The response was great, some gave a loan of €1000.00 but others gave non refundable donations of €250/€300. This raised a large amount of money.

The committee also approached Kilkenny County Council for a grant to enable work to start on the roof; the county council was very supportive of the idea.

The committee then decided to buy some cattle and approach farmers in the area to rear them for the community hall to enable us to pay back the €1000.00 given by the local businesses.

When farmers were approached, they offered to rear one and also give another free to the hall. At the moment the hall has 20 cattle being reared by local farmers which we hope to sell at the end of this year to help in the further development that will be taking place in phase 3 of the project."

**For more information on this fundraising initiative,
Contact: Colette Flynn, coletteflynn05@eircom.net**



Celtic Community Link Report

In the past 12 months, Celtic Community Link has established outreach offices in rural Waterford – Ardmore, Portlaw and Ballyduff Upper and Cappawhite, Killenaule and Fethard in rural Tipperary, providing an outreach information service and community development support. Through the intervention of Celtic Community Link (CCL), issues have been identified in the project pilot areas and communities supported in addressing these issues.



In relation to Waterford, in 2011, the CCL Project Officer in collaboration with the Local and Community Development Programme in Waterford LEADER Partnership, outreached and engaged with communities in West and East Waterford. The objective of this initiative was to provide capacity building training for members of community centre committees through the Development in Communities Programme. Participants from Kinsalebeg, Ballinavella, Kilbrien and Aglish represented the West of the county, while participants from Portlaw, Kilmeaden, Ballyduff Lower and Kill represented the East of the county. Participants were supported in looking critically at their centres and identifying social enterprise activities in order to become sustainable and move away from reliance on outside funding. Following on from this project all of the above committees were in a position to apply for funding from Waterford LEADER Partnership and other sources for identified sustainable projects.

CCL helping to promote Tourism

Celtic Community Link Project Officers have been working closely with Waterford Co. Council, Waterford LEADER Partnership, the County Waterford Community Forum, South Tipperary Development Company along with support from Fáilte Ireland and farming representative bodies to implement recreational strategies for the Knockmealdowns region.

To date, training has been provided to both groups by SLR Tourism Consultants which was funded by Waterford Leader Partnership and South Tipperary

Development Company. The CCL officers have assisted in successfully developing steering committees, the Knockmealdown Active Group in South Tipperary and the Knockmealdown Forum in Waterford. These steering committees consist of strong community activists, their objective being to promote sustainable tourism, cultural and economic development of these areas.



The CCL officers have been very active in assisting in the implementation of the objectives outlined in the recreational strategies for the Knockmealdown Mountains in Waterford and South Tipperary. The Knockmealdown Active Group in South Tipperary have sought Muintir na Tire experience in the implementation of strong organisational structures and have since affiliated with the organisation, while our partners in Waterford are in the process of forming a company limited by guarantee.

The Knockmealdown Active Group has had numerous successful fundraising events thus far.





CCL helping to promote local arts and culture

The CCL Project Officer in Waterford has supported Kill Community Centre in identifying a viable project that fitted with the artistic ethos of the Centre. Funding was applied for under the Arts Council Small Festivals Grant Scheme and Kill Community Centre received €3000 for the First Annual Gealach Gorm Singer/Songwriter Festival in Kill. This event took place in February 2012 and was a resounding success, attracting artists from Wales, Ireland, Scotland and the USA.

Through their Digital Briefcase initiative, the CCL officer in South Tipperary has been working in conjunction with Newcastle Community Council in digitally recording local heritage and traditions which will be aired at the launch of the Eigse Festival. This project is being conducted by the local national school in conjunction with the community council.

CCL Providing Information and Training Support

Celtic Community Link, as an on the ground community support project, has identified a key area of development i.e. supporting on a one to one basis those who are unemployed and interested in returning to education and training. The Project Officers have identified this as a key area of project activity for the coming year and has thus far received commitment from the Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP) Co-ordinator in

Waterford LEADER Partnership (WLP) to support this area of work through provision of training and/or motivational support for Unemployed people in the Project catchment area. The project officer in South Tipperary is hoping that South Tipperary Development Company through their social inclusion programme will collaborate to run a similar programme in South Tipperary.

Celtic Community Link has also identified supports for older people as a key area of work. Practical supports such as information provision and in areas such as mobile phone text training have been delivered, along with IT training under the Benefits 3 Scheme. The Benefit 3 training funded by the Department of Communications provides basic IT training to anyone over 55, the unemployed and disadvantaged. Thus far, in excess of 150 people have received this training.

In Waterford, the Project Officer, in conjunction with the LCDP Co-ordinator in WLP is currently undertaking a needs analysis in the Project area, with a particular emphasis on older people. The information received will be documented in a report that will inform WLP's social inclusion work plan for older people in 2013.

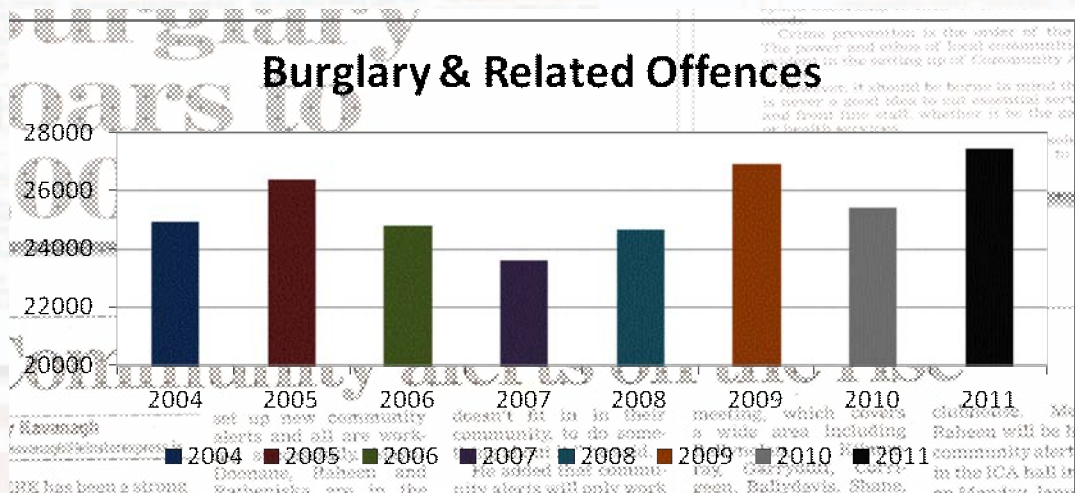
Conclusion

Through the work of Celtic Community Link to date it has become clear that there is a need for on the ground developmental support for communities in Waterford and South Tipperary, as a means of enhancing existing services. Celtic Community Link is supporting communities and individuals that have not engaged with these services therefore highlighting the need for this type of project in rural areas.



RURAL CRIME ON THE INCREASE

Economic and social commentators have long argued the correlation between countries in recession and criminal activity. A number of studies have analyzed the link between the unemployment rate and crime rates (with a greater focus on property crime), some theorizing that in times of economic turmoil, people may turn to illicit rather than licit means of income. Some theorists predicting a positive correlation between unemployment and property crime; in other words, that increases in the unemployment rate will be correlated with increases in property crime rates. The reason for this positive correlation, according to the economic model, is that during periods when there are fewer opportunities for legitimate income, people may turn to illegal activities, while when more jobs are available, the risks of committing a crime may be weighed against the opportunity for legitimate work.

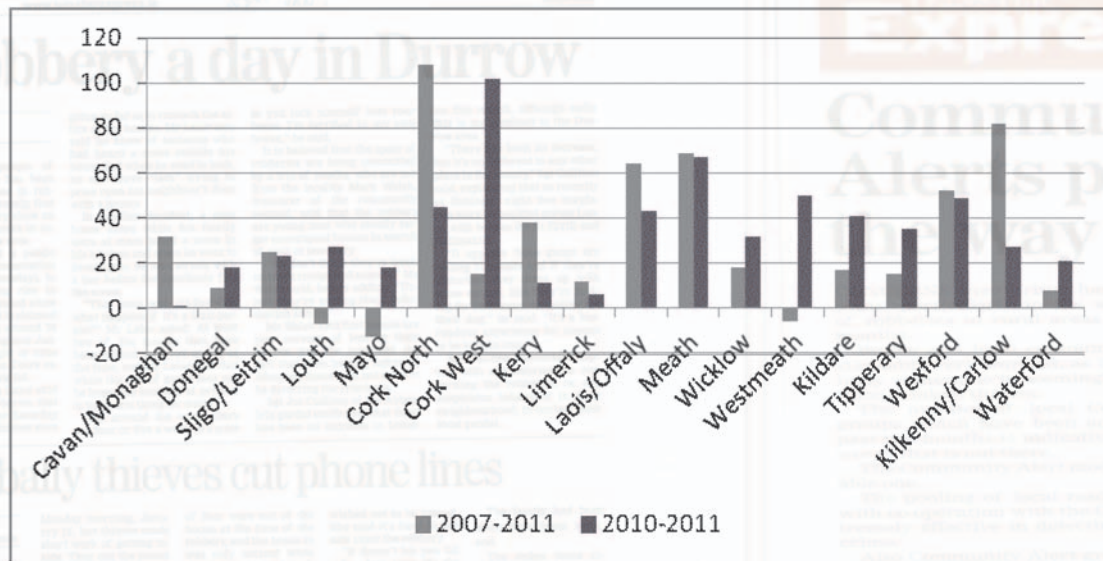


According to the CSO (Central Statistics Office), the unemployment rate in Ireland stood at 14.3 percent, an increase of 8 percent on 2008 CSO figures, therefore based on the premise of the economic theorists, increasing unemployment results in increasing levels of criminal activity. This can be substantiated not only by the statistics provided by the CSO but also by the increasing number of column inches allocated to reporting on criminal activity and behavior since the onset of the economic downturn.

The Recorded Crime Statistics published by the CSO showed for the fourth quarter of 2011 showed that there were 27,439 recorded Burglary and related offences representing an increase of 2,019 (+7.9%) on the number recorded in 2010.

The data shows that while the rate of increase in such break-ins was 8 per cent nationally last year, trends significantly varied when data from each Garda division was examined. On closer examination according to the CSO, between quarter 4 of 2010 and 2011 of the burglary and related offences by Garda division, burglaries increased by as much as 102 per cent in the West Cork Garda division with an increase of over 40 percent in 5 Garda divisions.

Percentage Difference in Burglary and Related Offences by Garda Division 2007-2011



These figures were further substantiated by a recent survey conducted by Eircom Phonewatch which estimated that €48 million worth of goods was taken from households in Ireland in only the last 12 months. That equated to an average of €1,870 worth of property per household.

The increase in criminal activity creates a feeling of unease and insecurity, particularly amongst the elderly population, this is evident from the statistics in the Crime and Victimisation Quarterly National Household 2010 Survey published by the CSO which illustrates that in relation to age, 44% of those aged 65 years or over reported feeling unsafe or very unsafe walking alone in their neighbourhoods after dark, compared to 21% of those aged 18-24. Similar differences can be seen in perceptions of safety alone in the home, with 3 times as many in the 65 year or older age group reporting feeling unsafe or very unsafe (15%) compared to those in the 18-24 year age category (5%).

The sense of isolation and insecurity can be more prevalent in rural dwellings. Crime rates in rural Ireland have increased significantly in the last number of years; this is reflected in daily media reports of everything from cattle rustling, the theft of tools and farm machinery, tractors, quad bikes and even fuel and vintage farm machinery. It can be difficult to convey the sense of isolation, especially on a dark night, that

can fall over a remote rural home or farmyard. Whole swathes of the countryside with little or no garda presence due to garda stations closures or open only on a part-time basis. The sense of isolation will be exacerbated further with the closure of 40 Garda stations in 2012.

With the backdrop of rising rural crime rates and the impending closure of rural Garda stations, communities need to empower themselves to protect and safeguard their way of life. The place for initiatives such as Community Alert is even more important for the safeguarding of communities nationwide.

Muintir na Tire Communities Responding

Askamore Community have responded to increasing crime rates by introducing a text alert programme to dissuade would be criminals.

Mary Donohoe from Askamore Community Council explains the programme;

"The idea was conceived from a model developed by Rathnure/White Mountain. Initially, we contacted the Gardai, to discuss the initiative that we wanted to implement. This is important as they will need to be able to be contacted. Then we established a group consisting of up to 12 members who would take charge of the phone for approximately a month at a time. Guidelines regarding protocol were then established.

You then need to spread the word about the scheme, divide up your area between your 12 people, and get a registration form out to everyone in the designated area. The signed forms and the fiver need to then be collected.

In the meantime, you buy a ready-to-go phone and u set up an account with a company called <http://www.webtext.com/>. Each text costs 4c so you need to have enough credit to cover at least 5/6 texts by whatever number of people you will have in the system. We have approx 300 signed up, so that costs €12 per text to all those just once. V important not to run out of credit, but there is a system whereby you set up that they notify when your credits get below a certain level.

You will need someone computer handy to set up the accounts online - it's not difficult - and you will probably need an available email account when you set up with webtext. When you're up and running, you will need signage to deter the bad guys, so they know there's such a thing going on in the area.

Arrange someone to take responsibility for training the phone users and for making sure it's being passed on each month or so. In our case, anybody who is registered may text in a sighting to the dedicated number. Then the person in charge at the time rings to verify that it's kosher.

I think the optimum idea is for adjoining areas to have the schemes up and running in a linked coherent manner, where signage will let people know they're going to be under observation. As a result of our initiative, there has been no crime of any kind since the 31st of December 2011"





COMMUNITY ALERT REPORT 2011

Community Alert has been operating in rural Ireland since its inception as a crime prevention programme. The programme is operated by Muintir na Tire in partnership with An Garda Síochána and harnesses the voluntary input of community members in 1,420 Community Alert schemes which operate nationwide to provide crime prevention, support and reassurance to an ever ageing population.

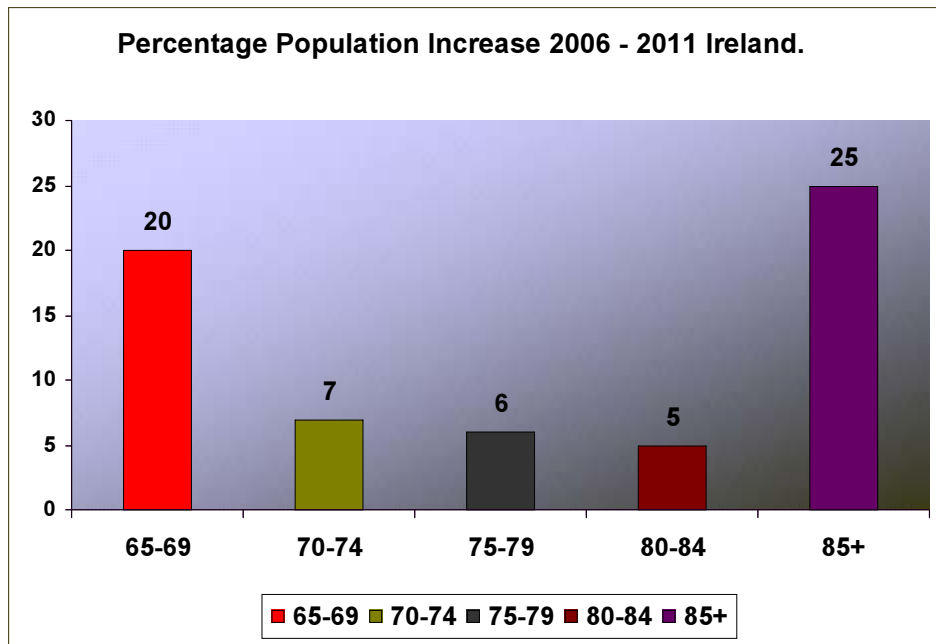
In November 2010, on the issue of Crime and Older people the Department of Justice and Law Reform held a series of consultation sessions with Older People. The participants were nominated by a range of twenty-seven community and voluntary organisations who work with older people at local and national levels. A report based on analysis of the consultation session was published by the Department. It serves as a good indicator of the attitude and perception of older people to crime and how it impacts their lives.

The report shows that older people who lived alone, in isolated areas or as dependents in the family or residential home were considered by some to be at increased risk of becoming victims of crime. People from rural areas thought crime was more prevalent in rural isolated areas because it is easier for criminals to move about and commit crimes undetected. Night time and winter were especially worrying times for older people and female participants in particular cited concerns about going out at night. It was noted that the fear of crime could lead to isolation, with people reluctant to leave their homes, especially after dark which can be quite early in winter, and reluctant to answer their doors at night. The fear of crime was also said to be paralysing and constant, with people afraid to go out and simultaneously afraid of being confronted by intruders in their own homes. An acute sense of violation was associated with break-ins in which the householder was not in the home at the time, but older people were particularly concerned about being at home when a break-in occurred and

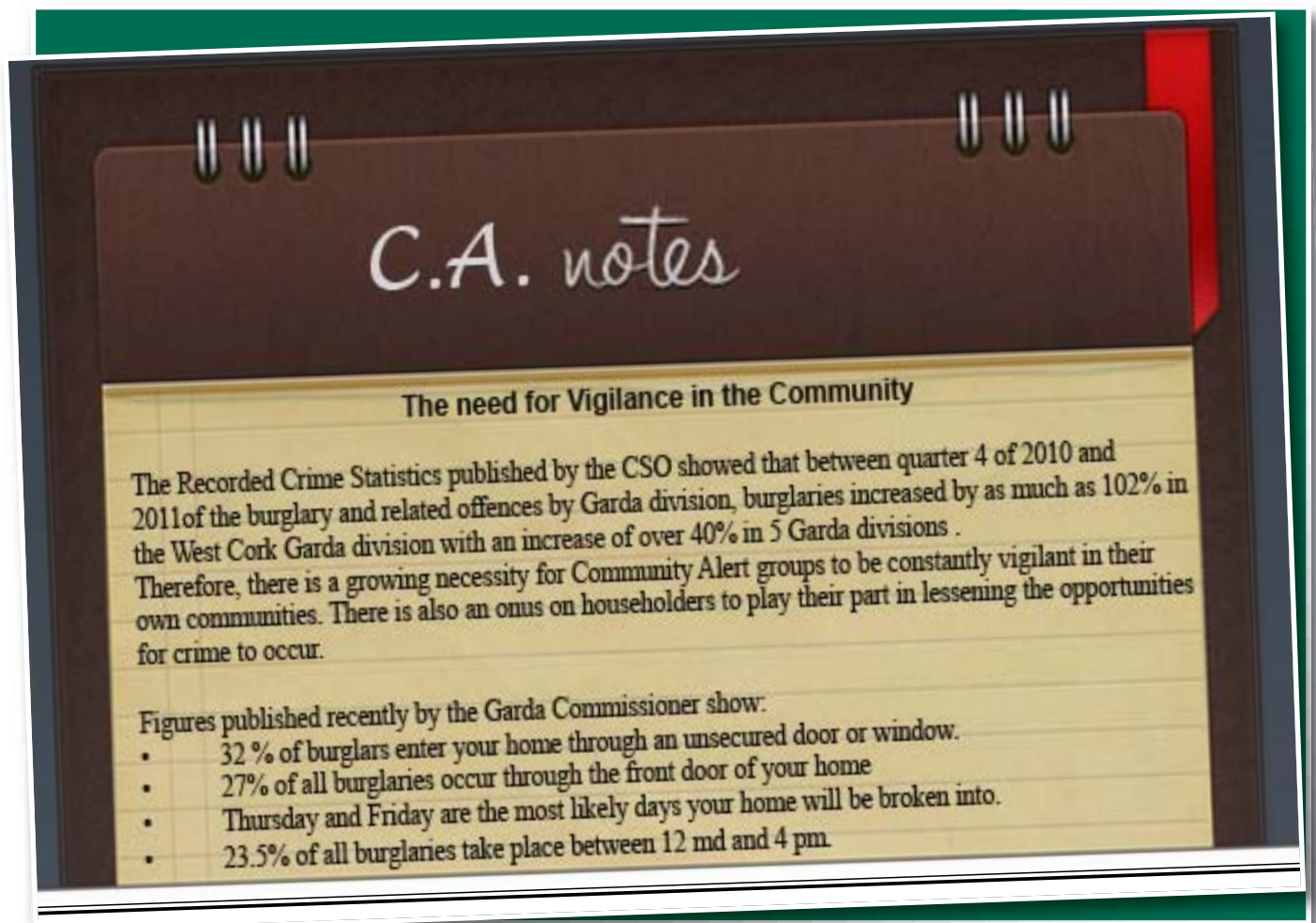
the potential for physical and sexual violence. A number of participants had concerns about people calling to their homes representing themselves as service providers or from charities. They reported feeling threatened by such people if they were home alone and being afraid to say no to them. Service providers calling to homes both during and after daylight hours was raised as a concern as was ESB and Bord Gais personnel having to gain access to people's houses to read meters. Poor living conditions and the absence of resources for young people were also mentioned as contributing factors to anti-social and criminal behaviour.

The need for crime prevention initiatives is even more pronounced given the findings of this report coupled with an ageing population. In 1985 when Community Alert was first established there were 382,000 persons aged 65 or over resident in Ireland. A review of the provisional figures published in September 2011 shows the actual number of persons aged 65+ in Ireland as 524,500 persons out of a total population of 4.48m or 11.7 % of the total population.

"2011 was once again a very busy year for the Community Alert Programme, between 2010 and 2011, there was a 20% increase in groups affiliated with Muintir na Tire!"



It is expected by 2036 over 65s will make up at least 25% of the overall population of Ireland. The figures indicate that there is a growing role for Community Alert locally and nationally to ensure that this particular cohort will feel safe in their own environment.





The presentation of the inaugural Muintir na Tíre/TASK Volunteer of the Year Awards took place on in Bansha, Co. Tipperary. The awards were introduced to recognise those who have made a significant voluntary contribution to the work of Muintir na Tíre and to their own community during 2011 (European Year of the Volunteer).

Regional and National Award Winners were announced on Saturday 4th February 2012 in the categories of Community Alert and Community Development and the Regional Winners each received a plaque and a cheque for €500 with an additional cheque for €500 to the overall National Winner in each category. The awards were sponsored by TASK Community Care and were presented by Munster M.E.P. (and former President of the G.A.A.) Seán Kelly. The Community Alert award winners were:

- Annette Nolan, Shillelagh Community Alert, Co. Wicklow, Eastern Region and National Award winner,
- Sean Ryan White Mountain Community Alert, Co. Wexford, South Eastern Region,
- Peggy Coakley, Darrara Community Alert Co. Cork, Southern Region,
- Mary O'Gara, Ballintubber Community Alert, Co. Roscommon Western Region
- Kevin McGoldrick, Dromahair/Killargue Community Alert, Co. Leitrim, Northern Region winner.





TIPPERARY COMMUNITY SAFETY PROJECT



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. Project Staff costs are provided by FAS under its Community Employment Programme. 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.





This is a resume of works carried out during the year together with a funding breakdown

FUNDING 2011		
Funder	Amount	Purpose
FAS	€300,000	Salaries.- Material and Training Grant for Supervisor & 16 CE Participants.
SEAI	€214,000	Materials, Overheads and Miscellaneous Expenses Warmer Homes LIH Programme
Housing Dept South Tipp Co Council	€ 14,000	Works to home of Low Income Householders under the Housing Aid for Older People Programme.
Householders	€ 15,000	Works to home of Low Income Householders
	€ 4,500	Fund Raising. (Church Gate & Raffle)

WORKS CARRIED OUT 2011	
SEAI (Warmer Homes)	280 Householders in Co. Tipperary
Housing Dept South Tipp County Council	4 Householders benefited from works ranging from major re wiring to complete refurbishment.
Householders	In excess of 200 Householders benefitted from works ranging from small maintenance jobs to disabled shower access etc.

This is a breakdown of the projects approximate turnover for 2011. The project does not make any profit whatsoever on this, as can be seen it has to engage in fundraising to keep afloat. The qualifying criteria to avail of works under this programme is to own your own home and be a recipient of the National Fuel Scheme (Similar to the Warmer Homes Low Income Housing Programme).

With regard to works carried out using Local Authority Housing Aid for Older Persons. The jobs are referred to us by the Local Authority and carried out under the supervision of their Clerk of Works. The FAS salaries are used as the householders element of the Grant. Because of rising costs a daily charge of €20.00 is applied to all householders availing of programme services.

In summary, a project that started in 2009 with a FAS participant from another programme is now a fully self sufficient programme with the ability to access large scale funding to carry out a work programme

throughout South Tipperary. The programme has self financed itself since start up and currently has borrowings of €32,000 but has total assets of €145,000. The workers on the community employment scheme have been in the construction sector for many years and the majority of the staff are fully qualified trades people who carry out the works. Funding for the materials is provided by the recipients with support from the Community Welfare Officers, HSE, St Vincent De Paul Local Authority etc. The works to be carried out are identified by the Public Health Nurses, Public Representatives, Community Organisation, Garda Síochána etc.

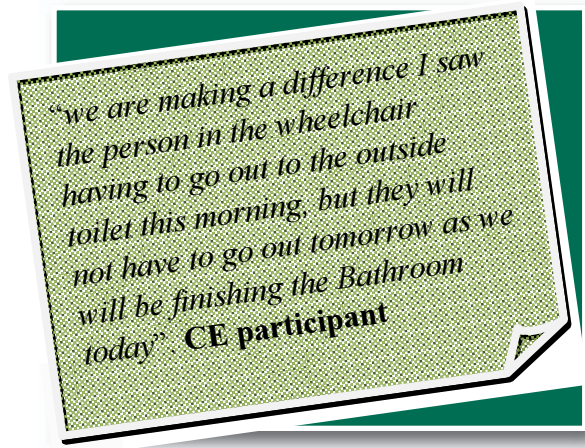
CASE STUDY

This job consisted of a wheelchair friendly extension to the home of an Older Couple who had only an outside toilet and one of the couple was confined to a wheelchair. The works consisted of a Bathroom and Kitchen which were built on to the existing house and completed by Christmas 2009.

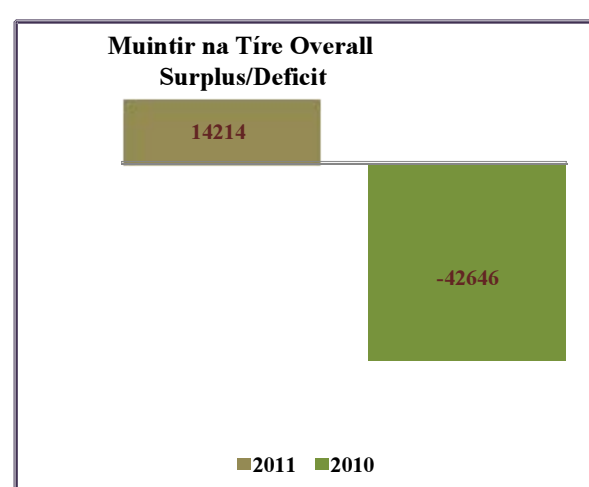
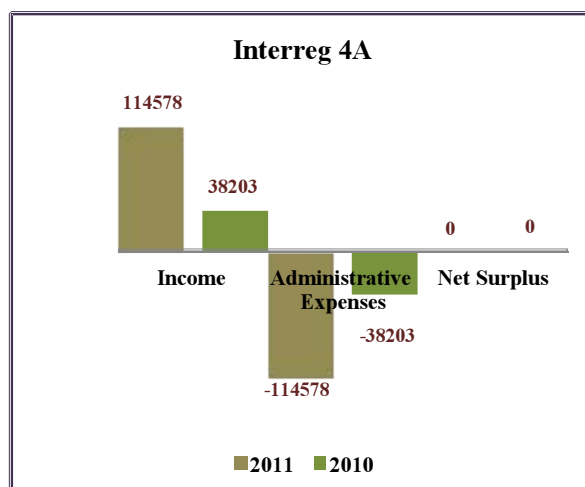
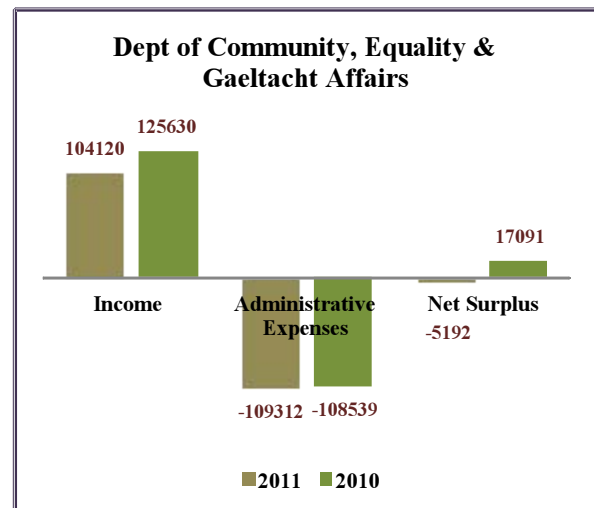
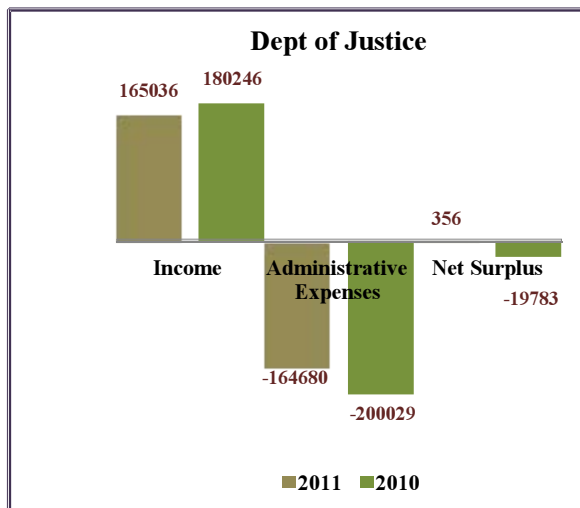
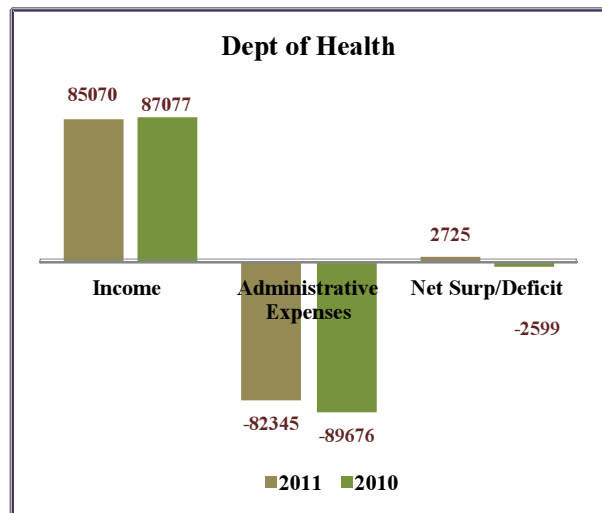
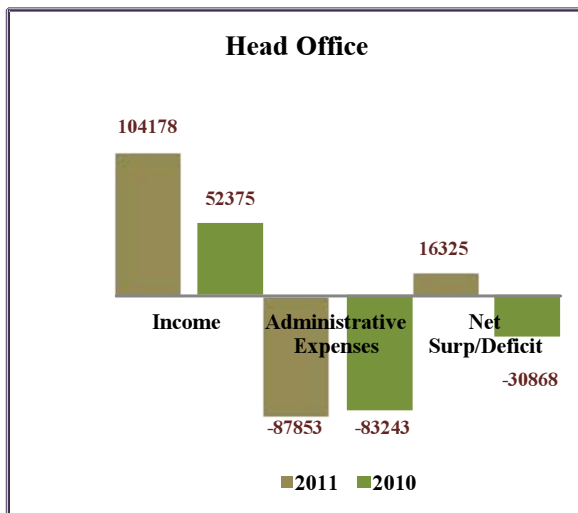
There is also another aspect to this programme which cannot be overstated and that is the value for money that the project provides:

- The couple had been approved for a Disabled Persons Grant to the sum of €10,000 by the local authority. The job had been priced at €32,000 by a building contractor. The cost to the couple would have been €22,000 which was beyond their means. With the Community Safety Project carrying out the works the cost to the Couple has been €8,500 and the Cost to FAS/State has been €9,500 in wages costs as no grant was drawn down.
- The Householders have saved €13,500, (€22,000 - €8,500)
- The Government has saved €500: The disabled Persons Grant of €10,000 which was not drawn down – FAS Wages Cost of €9,500.

The house also had its attic insulated under the SEAI Warmer Homes (LIH) programme.



Summary of Income and Expenditure for the year ended 31st December 2011





Muintir na Tire

Balance Sheet
as at 31st December 2011

	<u>2011</u>		<u>2010</u>
	€	€	€
Fixed Assets			
Tangible assets	119,344		131,991
Investments	444		444
	<u>119,788</u>		<u>132,435</u>
Current Assets			
Stock of stationery	1,200		1,200
Debtors & Prepayments	75,321		46,445
Cash at bank and in hand	26,965		85,613
Cash at bank - Projects	19,603		24,702
	<u>123,089</u>		<u>157,960</u>
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year			
	<u>(21,469)</u>		<u>(38,556)</u>
	(21,469)		(38,556)
Net Current Assets	<u>101,620</u>		<u>119,404</u>
Total Assets Less Current Liabilities	221,408		251,839
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
	-		(40,000)
Net Assets	<u>221,408</u>		<u>211,839</u>
Capital and Reserves			
Capital Grants	33,132		37,776
Other Reserves	245,314		245,314
Accumulated Surplus/Deficit	(57,038)		(71,251)
	<u>221,408</u>		<u>211,839</u>

The financial statements were approved by the Board on 20th April 2012 and signed on its behalf by

Martin Lonergan - Director

John Hogan - Director



Muintir na Tíre Board Members 2011-2012

<p>Muintir na Tíre President</p> <p>John Hogan Ballyduff Upper Community Council Co. Waterford.</p>
<p>National Treasurer</p> <p>Mike Sweeney Aherlow Kilross Community Council Co. Tipperary</p>
<p>National Secretary</p> <p>Martin Lonergan Ballybacon Community Alert Co. Tipperary</p>

Board Members

<p>Sean Hegarty Kilworth Community Council Co. Cork.</p>	<p>Frank McCarthy Darrara Community Council Co. Cork</p>
<p>Paddy Byrne Askamore Community Council Co. Wexford</p>	<p>John Roche Moore Community Council Co. Roscommon</p>
<p>Martin Quinn Tipperary Community Council Co. Tipperary</p>	<p>Margaret Kineavy Clonbur Community Council Co. Galway.</p>
<p>Margaret O' Doherty Mitchelstown Community Council Co. Cork</p>	<p>Myles McNamara Murroe Community Council Co. Limerick</p>
<p>Peter Butler Cahir Community Council Co. Tipperary.</p>	<p>Paddy Fitzpatrick Gathabawn Rural Dev Group Co. Kilkenny</p>
<p>Colette Flynn Freshford Muintir Council Co. Kilkenny</p>	<p>Edwina Newport Fethard Community Council Co. Tipperary</p>



MOTIONS FOR THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

1. That consideration be given by the Directors of Muintir na Tíre to replace the present logo of the Organisation by the original emblem of the Plough and Cross. (Murroe Community Council)
2. That the Community Alert annual affiliation fee be increased to €50. (Directors of Muintir na Tíre)
3. All Muintir na Tíre Directors must be active members of their local Muintir na Tíre organisation whilst serving as Directors. If a person resigns or is no longer active in their local Organisation they must notify the National Secretary of the Organisation. (Directors of Muintir na Tíre)
4. That Muintir na Tíre continue to lobby, The Minister for Justice, The Garda Commissioner, and members of the Oireachtas against the accelerated closure of Rural Garda Stations and what appears to be a pro-active strategy by Government to further reduce services to rural Ireland. Sustaining viable rural populations remains a key concern of Muintir na Tíre, and this issue is seen as a strategic component of improving rural security, maintaining services, reducing isolation and retaining rural identity.

