

Straide Community Development

Whilst you hopefully have some information on changes and developments which Straide Community Development Group have made, we would like to take this opportunity to give you an update on same:

As recommended through various sources, including the community training workshops we attended with Mayo Co Co Community Futures Office, our discussions with North East Mayo Leader, and looking at various Grant Application requirements, we have recently changed our name and our structure to a Company, Limited by Guarantee. This change will now enable us to engage fully with Public bodies and ensure we can apply for funding with the various Agencies as appropriate for projects we undertake in the Community.

The Straide Community Development, Limited Company by Guarantee Board of Directors are the existing 11 members from the previous Straide Community Development Group (see names at end of newsletter).

Our main objectives remain the same as voted on by the Community outlined in our Community Futures Action Plan 2014-2019:

- 1) Outdoor Amenities & Facilities
- 2) Footpaths, Roads & Parking
- 3) Community Hall & Activities
- 4) Community Facilities & Services
- 5) Heritage & Tourism

We are currently researching and commit to working to the good practice, principles and standards of The Good Governance Code for Community and Voluntary Organisations. (www.governancecode.ie)

Obviously we are delighted to have made progress recently in regard to Action 3) & 4) by signing a 15 year lease on the Davitt Memorial Community Centre.

And we are excited at the prospect of what this will lead to in the future and the benefits it will hopefully bring to the whole community.

Davitt Memorial Community Centre – The Hall



We have commenced a good clean up of the main areas inside the building.

We are currently putting together a snag list of jobs to be done both in the short term and long term.

We are in discussions with Leader and working on our proposal to seek any possible funding to carry out more major improvements to the building which would include the kitchen, toilets, heating, refurbishment etc.

Our objective must be to make the building into a multi-purpose facility which will serve as many and varied needs as possible for the whole community.

We have been informed that the competition for the next available tranche of Leader Funding will be extremely competitive and they will require high quality projects to be eligible for consideration.

This Funding will also require a significant local contribution (up to 25% of the Grant) therefore it is imperative that we start to not only use the existing facility in as many and varied ways as possible but that we start to generate income/funds immediately.

Through the community surveys we have compiled to date, we have a long list of wants and wishes in regard to Hall Facilities and Activities. It is now time to start taking real actions to a) start using the facility as much as possible, b) start generating income c) prove the need for funding to improve the building for the benefit of us all.

Currently, we (SCD) have very meagre funds in hand so it is imperative we commence immediately and some ideas are now works in progress:

Upcoming Events:

Straide Indoor Market Place: Our first local Bring & Buy, will take place on Sun 24th July 2016 from 11am-3pm (Table €10), (School Uniforms, books, sports equip, games, household, garden). Followed by a Craft, Food & Wellness Market with local and visiting stallholders on Sun 31st July (10am-3pm). See Straide Community Facebook page for details or contact 087-2233527 (Esther).

We will be starting both a Junior and Adult Badminton Club.

A Fundraising/Social Straide Bardic Quiz will be held in the hall in September.

We will be holding a Fundraising Fashion Show in the Autumn.

Previously held children's events will resume, including the Halloween Party and the Winter Indoor Soccer.

We will hold our Christmas Gathering Event this year.

We are currently looking at other possible Social/Fundraising events which would be of interest and be supported by the community.

Ideas for Other Uses:

In tandem with our ideas and projects, the most important objective now is for the whole Community to start using the facility in as many ways as possible including Meetings, Events, Club Activities, birthday parties, Reunions, Celebrations, Classes, Workshops etc. So please consider how you can contribute and avail of the building and put it to good use.



Please contact 087-6883880 (Kate) if you wish to suggest or organize an event, club, activity or wish to make a booking.

As we do not have a clear history to work from, it is only over time that we will be able to calculate accurately the running costs on the Hall and what income it must generate to be viable – costs will include: Insurance, Heat, Electricity, Water, Repairs and Facilities (e.g. furniture,

kitchen equipment, wifi etc.) So we will be pricing/costing usage on an event by event basis.

Always bearing in mind the important balance of providing a community facility available and accessible to all, ensuring it is value for money to the User and being able to pay the bills.

We would also very much welcome any volunteer skills you may be able to offer (plumber, electrician, painter, carpenter, gardener etc. etc.) Whatever jobs we can do ourselves at minimum cost, the better!! Please contact any of us if you would be willing to lend a hand, equipment or your time!

Other Actions/News:

Straide Loop Walk/Trails – although it is taking time, there is progress going on slowly but surely in the background and we hope to be launching the 3 Straide Walks by late Summer/Early Autumn.

We are currently researching and working on our environmental/litter project which we hope will include a Community Clean Up Day, installation of Bottle Banks for Straide and a Hazardous Waste Collection Event etc.

Parish News/Events:

26th July: 8.00 p.m. To commemorate the building of Moore Hall 220 years ago, there will be a Talk by Fiona White, Lecturer GMT, on George Moore (who hailed from Ashbrook, Straide) in the Davitt Museum.

31st July: 11.00 a.m. Cemetery Mass. The Benefactors of Straide Church (living & deceased) will be remembered to mark 100 years since the Church was opened on 27/8/1916.

7th August: 3.00 p.m. Mass in the Old Penal Church (Davitt Museum) – commemoration of 110 years since the death of Michael Davitt.

10th September: 9.00 p.m. Harvest Thanksgiving Function in the Church Grounds.

Further Autumn Events: Dates to be announced:

Straide's War Dead 1914 – 2016. Monument will be erected and unveiled to commemorate those from the Parish who fought in various wars throughout the world.

Bardic Poet Prize – 425 years anniversary of Tadhg O'hUiginn – School competition.

Fashion Show – Fundraiser for Straide National School and Davitt Memorial Community Centre.