***KILCORNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL***

***ANNUAL REPORT 2017***

Kilcornan Community Council had a very progressive and successful year in 2017. Thanks to the help of our hard working and dedicated members and those who volunteered their help with the varied events we held throughout the year.

Kilcornan Community Council Members 2017: Gillian Downes (Chairperson), Tracy Hanly (Secretary), John Nealon (Treasurer), Aisling Arthur (PRO), Eileen Byrnes, Edel Dore, Betty Dore, Liam Meade, Tom Breen, May Quilty, Patricia Manning and Noreen Walsh.

Our objective as members of the Kilcornan Community Council is to help promote and support our community.  We plan to do this through working with and supporting our community groups, our school, our local businesses and people of the community.  We aim to protect and maintain our community centre and community facilities to ensure that they meet the needs of our growing community. The community centre is the hub of our community and contributes to Kilcornan keeping its identity.

Our main focus and commitments as a committee for 2017 were:

1. Traffic Calming Measures outside our National School, Community Centre and playing fields.
2. Application for funding for renovation costs towards Kilcornan Community Centre.

**Traffic Calming Measures**

During 2017, the Community Council continued to work throughout the year with all our Councillors and TD’s, to lobby for the traffic calming measures, between Curraghchase Cross and Dromlohan/Cowpark Cross on the N69. We held an information evening with residents on the N69 in relation to proposed plan for traffic calming measures, for feedback etc. As a result of this ongoing lobbying, Parliamentary Questions on Kilcornan Traffic Calming were submitted to Minister Shane Ross. Late in the year, the matter was again raised in the Dail, under Topical Issues, where local TD’s, can, from the Dail floor, deal directly with a Minister. This process was televised, with video of the live proceedings available for viewing on the Community Council’s Facebook page. Copies of the Dail transcript were printed that evening, and circulated throughout the Parish, over the following days. The commitment of Minister Ross, to put in place the requested Traffic Calming Measures, during 2018, was a most positive and welcome outcome for the Community. Completion of these works will bring closure to Phase 1 of road improvement/enhancement works in Kilcornan. The measures include a 50km speed limit between the two junctions, footpaths, etc.

It is hoped to lobby, on a phased basis, over the next number of years, to clean-up the Council lands opposite the Coach Inn, extend footpaths from the Curraghchase Junction towards the Cemetery, and an extension of the 50km speed limit east of Kilcornan Church. It is unlikely this speed limit extension will happen in the short term while the N69 is a Nation Road, and subject to Transport Infrastructure Ireland approval. However, on completion of the national spur road from Rathkeale to service Foynes Port, it is anticipated the section of roadway, east of Askeaton towards Limerick, will be downgraded to local road status. The result of this downgrading of the roadway will permit our local area Councillors to consider/amend/review the speed limits in Kilcornan, under a Speed Limit Review.

A commitment has been given to the Community Council, by the Limerick City and County Council, to undertake works to clean-up and enhance the appearance of the Council Depot, opposite the entrance to Curraghchase. We are awaiting details of the works to be undertaken.

Much has been achieved in 2017, the results of which will be seen on the ground during 2018. We are extremely grateful to our local and national politicians, and look forward to working with them for the benefit of Kilcornan. They have at all times pledged their continuing support and assistance for the betterment our community.

**Funding application to Leader for renovation to Community Centre**

LEADER funding has provided rural communities across the European Union with the resources to enable local partners to actively engage and direct the local development of their area, through community-led local development. A lot of work went into putting this application from surveying the needs of the centres users, negotiating, prioritising, planning and collating of information and paperwork.  We hope our application will be successful. The result of this application will determine the amount of work that will be carried out on the centre. We wait in anticipation for the outcome which is predicted to be known in February 2018.

The Community Council were involved in many more events in 2017.

**Kayleigh Maher- Kilcornan’s Limerick Rose**

This year saw Kilcornan local girl Kayleigh Maher representing Limerick in the Rose of Tralee. This was a great boost to our small parish, the excitement it brought to everyone was seen throughout the whole summer.  Being the first rose ever from Kilcornan, we as a community felt it was important to rally around and support Kayleigh in any way we could.  Erecting posters and banners on the N69 ensuring people knew our Limerick Rose hailed from Kilcornan.  The support Kayleigh received from the locals and business’s was overwhelming.  Kayleigh went on to be one of the finalists in the Rose of Tralee she was an absolute credit to Kilcornan and Limerick and we wish her all the best in her very bright future.

**Nicola Dore – Power Lifting Championships**

Nicola Dore another local success travelled to Mexico representing Ireland by competing in The World Powerlifting championships in 2017. Nicola is the first Irish woman to make the Irish Para-Powerlifting Team. Nicola has worked very hard to reach the word ranking table. We may not have been with you in Mexico but know that the entire Kilcornan Community support you and are very proud of your achievements. We wish Nicola all the best in her future competitions.

We celebrated the success of both of these women in the community centre in June. The night was a great success and another night for us to remember.  On the night we had an official presentation to Kayleigh from the people of Kilcornan and the proceeds of the night went to Nicola to sponsor her trip to Mexico.

**Fundraising & Supporting our Community:**

We held 2 church gate collections, one for Kilcornan Senior Citizens Party and the other was for the maintenance of the Community Defibrillator.

We held 2 bag packing days in Dunnes Stores, Childers Road and Tesco in the Crescent Shopping Centre throughout the year these were to fund our Senior Citizens Party.

The following are other ongoing initiatives that the community council led/supported throughout 2017:

**Community Centre & Amenities:**

Under the Community Employment Scheme, we are fortunate to have a CE worker 3 days a week maintaining the centre, playing fields, All weather pitch and grounds.

The income generated from the rental of the centre has reduced largely this year, this is something that needs to be addressed and if we are successful with our funding application we hope that renovating and updating the centre will help with our endeavour in making the centre more accessible and attractive to user in order to generate revenue to promote and improve the centre as best we can on a continuous basis.

This year the centres small office space has been set up and let to a local business “ The Pain Relief Clinic”

**Kilcornan Community Defibrillator**

The Community Defibrillator is situated on wall of community centre and is accessible at all times. This is monitored by the community council and was serviced in June 2017.

We plan to hold a training day again this year for people who are interested in knowing how to use the defibrillator and we would urge representatives from local groups to attend.

**Tidy Towns**

This year we handed over the organising of the Team Limerick Clean-up to Kilcornan Tidy Towns. Again we would like to thank the Tidy Towns Group for their hard work.

**Local Communication, Networking & Training**

We continued with our newsletter throughout the year which was distributed through the national school and church.  Our Facebook page is updated regularly with relevant news and community notes are put in local papers. More information and documents of interest are available to read or download from the Kilcornan.com website.

Committee members attended an introduction to project management training for volunteers provided by Dell.

Representatives attended a number of information events on funding available to groups.

**Working with Local Groups & Business’s in Kilcornan**

We supported our local groups in their fundraising endeavours, ie. AK Utd with their Spooktacular Halloween fundraiser, and Kilcornan Community Development Committee with their Annual Curraghchase 10k run/walk, Kilcornan Parents Council and Kilcornan National School.

We supported the Annual New Years Day Soccer Day that was held by Kilcornan, we provided tea/coffee/soup, sandwiches.  Proceeds received on the day went to the Funeral costs of Willy Lynch from neighbouring parish Pallaskenry who died tragically.

**Annual Senior Citizens Party**

Again our Senior Citizens Party was a success in 2017. Unfortunately our Annual Senior Citizens Party this January had to be postponed due the very cold weather conditions.  We hope to hold it later in April 2018.

***The Year ahead-2018***

It is important that we remember that our community, our groups needs, and our environment is ever changing so therefore it is important also that our Community Council recognises this and incorporates what needs to be changed in their future plans for our community and would be of benefit to us locally.

One of those was the traffic calming and lighting measures and we have successfully secured this work to go ahead this year and we will follow up and keep you up to date on its progress throughout the year.

Our sports fields and All Weather Pitch is still attracting people to Kilcornan and we recognise its importance to the area, therefore we hope to improve facilities in and paint the Community Centre this year to compliment what surrounds our centre.

We have also committed to supporting the Ger McDonnell Cycle for its final and 10 year celebration which will be held on the 21st of July 2018. We hope this will be a fun day for everyone in the community and far.  The Community Council hope to hold a fundraising event to tie in with this occasion.

For the year ahead we would like to focus on committee membership, focusing on representation from Junior to the Senior people across the community. Our committee membership is very small so we can only work to the capacity that allows us with the number of committee members we have.

This would help us as a committee to work on areas of the community that would be of interest and benefit to everyone. We as a committee will continue to support and address the needs of our community as best we can with local support and encouragement. 2017 was a busy year for the committee and soon the results of our success will be visible.