

KILCORNAN COMMUNITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2016

Kilcornan Community Council, had a very successful year thanks to the help of our committee members and those who volunteered their help with the varied events we held this year. We were greatly supported by the community.

Kilcornan Community Council Members: Gillian Downes (Chair), Eileen Byrnes (Secretary), Randal Howlett (Treasurer), Edel Dore, Betty Dore, Liam Meade, Tom Breen, May Quilty, Patricia Manning, Garrett Kelly, Noreen Walsh, (Sheila Finnerty and Ger Ward left the committee through the year).

Kilcornan Community Council's aim is to work to help promote and support our community. We plan to do this through working with and supporting our community groups, our school, our local business's and local people. We aim to protect and maintain our community centre and community facilities and try to make them the best they can be as they form the hub of our community and contribute to Kilcornan keeping its identity.

This year we as a committee we worked and supported our Community in the following areas:

Community Centre & Amenities:

- Conducted a survey on the improvements that needed to be carried out in the Centre to make it more attractive to users, which would result hopefully in the increase of income generated from its use to fund running costs and maintaining the centre to a standard acceptable in today's climate. The survey was completed by the main users of the centre, groups and our national school.
- The Survey resulted in the Community Council coming together and brainstorming a way to fundraise and to get our council out there as well as having a community night for people in the parish.
- This year Maggie Hanley is working maintaining the centre, playing fields, All weather pitch and grounds through the CE scheme she has been a great benefit to us.

Fundraising & Community Participation:

- Kilcornan Strictly Come Dancing Fundraiser was held on the 26th of November 2016 in the South Court Hotel. This was a massive undertaking for the committee so we needed the help of members from other groups to support us in what needed to be done to make the night a success. So I would like to take this opportunity to thank representatives from our local groups AK Utd (Damien O'Brien), Kilcornan Community Development Committee, (Rachel Cregan) and Tracey Hanley, Aisling Arthur, Kilcornan.
- We would like to express our sincere thanks to our local business people who acted as our main sponsors for Strictly Come Dancing Tom Mulvihill, Building Contractor, Sinead Downes, Sineads Boutique, Dave Downes Painting and Decorating.
- A very big thank you to our 24 dancers, locals Ger Mann, Joe Rigney, Eilis Griffin, Betty Dore, Niamh Hennessy, Aisling Arthur Peter Nash, Ross Mann, Darragh Walsh, Juanita Griffin, Lorraine Lynch, Shirley Balfry, Jessica Kelly, Anne Delaney, Davey Dolan, Timmy O'Carroll, Mark O'Connell, Noel Mulcair, Vanessa Kellett, Anita Maune (Askeaton), Cliona Lane (Adare), Paul Fitzgerald (Ballybrown), Paul Grogan & PJ Corbett (Pallaskenry), .
- The current figure in our account with everything paid for 20,247, but we have money outstanding of 900e if we receive the moneys that are currently outstanding will have raised in the region of 21,100e. This money has been put into a maintenance and Development Account that would go

towards works to the centre or to act as a contingency fund to match or subsidise the funding ratio associated with Leader Funding and others that is available this year for Community Groups towards community services and facilities grants.

- We held 2 church gate collections, one in November and in April. (April for community Defibrillator).
- Donations received of 500e from Kilcornan Community Games and 500e from AK Utd (half to go towards Strictly Fundraiser) from their spooktacular fundraiser. These were much appreciated by the council.

Environmental & Community Centre

- As part of conducting the needs of the centre, we have just recently organised an Energy Rating Audit which when completed will be returned with recommendations and costs involved in making the centre energy efficient which will also result in saving costs in the running of the centre.

Community Defibrillator and Local Participation:

- We had to replace our Community Defibrillator in April through the help of contributions from local groups and our church gate collection.
- We held a AED training day for 21 local people in March they are now trained in using the Defibrillator. (we are looking at maintenance and system on how to use the defibrillator in an emergency locally in the community we are discussing with other communities)

Tidy Towns:

- In conjunction with Team Limerick Clean-up we organised a day where we had locals picking up rubbish on the main and adjoining roads, there was a great response to this, its increasing every year and is a great way of cleaning up our areas and making them aware of just how dirty and the amount of litter dumped around the area. This is something that could be handed over to the Tidy Towns Action Group.
- We facilitated the set-up of Kilcornan's First Tidy Towns Action Group which was a great benefit to Kilcornan and did very well in the Tidy Towns adjudication. Not only did Kilcornan look well on the N69 but it attracted many volunteers with a similar interest and resulted in contributing to the community spirit.

Local Communication, Networking & Training:

- We also introduced a bi-monthly/quarterly newsletter that was distributed through the national school, the church and the local pub when it was open. Kept facebook up to date on what was going on and sharing with other groups.
- Notes were put in local papers every week where possible thanks to John O'Gorman and Ian O'Gorman was keeping our website up to date.
- We attending the Bank of Ireland Enterprise Day in Askeaton where we had a stand showing what we were about and what we have being doing and what events etc go ahead in Kilcornan throughout the year.
- We were also asked to speak on Volunteering and its importance at Mna na Cheile night which was run by Kilcornan Parents Council in May.
- We attended 5 West Limerick training and information evenings for Community Development Groups, which was very informative and made committees aware on how local groups and their purpose is ever changing.

Safety Measures in Kilcornan Activity Areas:

- We are continuing our quest on getting traffic calming measures outside our National school and playing fields entrance. We presented our concerns on the lack of feedback from the Limerick city and County Council at the September Adare/Rathkeale District Municipal Meeting, and we met with Limerick County Council in December and they are currently drafting a plan that will be presented to us and from there it will go to the National Road Authority with proposed funding cost which we should have in the next week or so.

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 Curraghase 10k run/walk aswell as supporting Kilcornan Parents Council and Kilcornan National School when possible.
- The year closed with Our Annual Senior Citizens Party which was held on the 15th of January 2017 with an attendance of 46 people, this was enjoyed by everyone, and this year we ordered our food from Bloomers Restaurant in Rathkeale and everyone was really impressed.

So over all it was a productive and fun year for the committee and community, and I would like to thank everyone involved.

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.

Some examples:

- The closure of our Local Pub which is a big blow to our community and has had a negative response within the community not only socially but how its derelict look has a negative effect on the area.
- We have now heard that Curraghchase is going to be included in the Wild Atlantic Way route, (so how can we benefit from this).
- Enquire and keep updated with Coillte on what their plan is for Curraghchase with their new allocated funding etc.
- Our sports fields and All Weather Pitch is being used every night which results with a large number of people being in the area for hours every day, (so we need to make the place an attractive place for people to spend the few hours and we should try and benefit in some way from high numbers)
- But one of our main aims is to apply of Leader Funding that is available this year and we are not sure when it will come on stream again. So it is important that we get in there with a strong Expression of Interest submitted by the 27th of February, where they decide if we are a suitable candidate to go ahead with application for funding. There is also the Sports Capital Grants that are also open to applications closing date the 24th of February. So as you can see we need to work on these as soon as possible and we would benefit from the help of those who may have been successful in these applications before.
- We will continue our negotiations with the IIT (previously NRA) and Local Council to enforce the plan for traffic calming and street lighting in front of school and playing fields.
- And we will continue to support and address the needs of our community here in Kilcornan.

So again, I would like to thank all our committee and local volunteers and groups who have helped support our causes throughout the year.