



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Tralee Community Allotments as the 18th recipient of the Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme.

This is a three-year initiative (2017-2019) aimed at recognising the diversity and vibrancy of community work throughout the region. Every year NEWKD works with over 500 community groups, businesses and initiatives under our 4 Strategic Pillars:

- **Social Supports**
- **Employment Services**
- **Enterprise and Tourism**
- **Community, Environment & Rural Development**

The 'Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme' pays tribute to a number of recipients each year. Each project is selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local needs. Recipients are nominated locally through the NEWKD structures which operate in Tralee, Listowel, Castleisland and Dingle, and are exemplars of best practices and innovative solutions in social, economic and environmental development, while giving recognition to community leadership and entrepreneurs.

Previous recipients:

1. Glanageenty Walkways
2. The Kerry Food Hub, Fries
3. Ballybunion Men's Shed
4. Dingle New Music Choir and Orchestra
5. Baile Mhuire Day Care Centre
6. Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels
7. Mol Teic - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub
8. NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)
9. Castleisland Community Garden
10. Sliabh Luachra Boxing Club Castleisland
11. Áras Mhuire Nursing Home
12. Kerryhead/Ballyheigue Family Resource Centre
13. Community Café, Ballyduff
14. Sliabh Luachra Cultural & Heritage Centre
15. Listowel Tidy Towns
16. Lyreacrompane Community Development Company
17. Camphill Communities of Ireland, Dingle Community

Tralee Community Allotments

The Tralee Community Allotment Project was established in 2010 with the opening of the Moyderwell Allotments as part of the wider Mitchels/Boherbee Community Regeneration Initiative.

The project has since expanded to include allotments in Marian Park and Ragoonanne communities. Tralee Town Council (now Kerry County Council) initiated the community allotments development in Tralee following a community consultation process. The allotments provide people with an opportunity to meet and share their growing experiences with each other, while also providing a chance to learn about food production and creating an understanding of ecosystems.

Tralee Community Allotment Project comprises of:

- Moyderwell Allotments - 20 individual and 10 community allotments
- Ragoonanne Allotments - 30 individual allotments
- Marian Park Allotments - 28 individual allotments

With renewed interest globally and locally in growing our own food the allotments have played a vital role in engaging communities in promoting and preserving biodiversity. 'Bio' refers to life and 'living things' and 'diversity' focuses on the variety and variation of life systems. The Tralee Community Allotment Project aims to maintain a high level of diversity among plants, animals and all living things around us as an essential way of keeping the environment healthy and fit for human life. This includes diversity within species, between species and diversity of ecosystems.

These ecosystems are central to how the allotments work. In all locations each allotment is raised. Water is supplied through rainwater collection systems. Sheds are provided to support potting and a communal area for allotment users, also on-site are designated composting areas. In 2019, Moyderwell Allotments built a Geodesic Dome, this is a mixed use space for both planting and community activities.

As part of 'National Diversity Plan' talks and demonstration take place on-site to display how to make your town garden friendlier to wildlife, the pond in Moyderwell Allotments provided a drinking and bathing place for nesting birds in the garden, biodiversity is also abundant in the pond with many varieties of snails, goldfish and frogs spawning. Frogs play an important role in the garden as their main diet is slugs. To encourage frogs to move around the allotment site, a 'frog highway' was built to the raised beds in addition to creating a frog friendly environment with the garden planting comfrey, marigolds and other plants to give them places to hide and feed. This is just one example of how biodiversity can be enhanced and is championed by the Tralee Community Allotments.

Activities include:

1. Individual allotment
2. Group allotments, e.g. Tralee International Resource Centre
3. Training including:
 - a. Biodiversity training
 - b. Master composter training and demonstrations
 - c. Apple pressing workshops
 - d. Meitheal to prune and train the fruit trees
 - e. Improve soil fertility
 - f. Seasonally based workshops
 - g. Wildlife gardening and natural pond maintenance
4. Allotment cooking workshops
 - a. Chutneys and pickles
 - b. Making fruits and jellies
 - c. Wine and cider making
 - d. Community apple pressing
5. Promotion of 'Grow your own' Initiative
6. Community notice board
7. Introduction of bumblebee and solitary bee life cycle in-line with All Ireland Pollinator Plan
8. Participation in Tidy Towns annually and Pride of Place Awards
9. Winner of Entente Florale Presidents Prize 2014
10. Partners in Transition Kerry 'Towards Climate Action & Biodiversity'

CONTACT DETAILS

Tralee Community Allotments
c/o NEWKD, Aras an Phobail, Deans, Lane, Tralee, Co. Kerry
Tel: 066 7180190



SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- Tús Programme - Community Work Placements

GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

1. Ensure access and participation of the local community through involving local people in skills, training and activities
2. Use natural and local resources
3. Promoting ongoing innovative and new ideas
4. Learning from and with other groups, including site visitation for ideas and inspiration
5. Encourage sustainability through individual and group participation
6. Providing a space for people to exchange ideas and co-share
7. Supporting a nature based approach to well-being



NEWKD and Kerry Group wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed to

TRALEE COMMUNITY ALLOTMENTS

Presented in recognition of the valuable contribution the group makes to the:

- Community Vibrancy specifically for the Regeneration Area of Tralee
- Social Supports in the provision of Community Based Environmental Activities
- Community, Environment and Rural Development Leadership

December 2019

