



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels as the sixth 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 Rural Tourism**
- **Community, Environment and Rural Development**

The 'Community Vibrancy Recognition Programme' pays tribute to up to 10 recipients each year. Each project is selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local need. Recipients are recognised locally through the NEWKD structures which operate in Tralee, Listowel, Castleisland and Dingle, and will promote 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 Bhuire Day Care Centre

For further information www.newkd.ie

Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals On Wheels

Up to 1985 the Vincent De Paul held a Christmas Party for Senior Citizens every year, and this led to the formation of Ballybunion Senior Citizens Group in 1985.

The group leased The Towers (a holiday centre located in Ballybunion for senior citizens) from the St. Vincent de Paul during the winter months and Kerry Flyer provided transport for the clients. Approximately 30 people used the service three times a week. An Active Retired Group was later formed from the Senior Citizens for the more active senior members of the local community, and this is still going strong.

Identifying the need

Ballyduff and Listowel ran very successful meals delivery services and in April 2015 the Public Health Nurses (PHN's) identified the need in the Lisselton, Ballybunion, Asdee and Ballylongford parishes. As NEWKD's Rural Social Scheme (RSS) teams had been working closely with these nurses they felt we would be best placed in the community to help deliver this service. A meeting was organised with the local PHN's, the Senior Citizen Group, the HSE Community Department and NEWKD RSS and it was agreed to pilot the Meals Delivery Service Scheme in May 2015.



Case Study 6

Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals On Wheels BALLYBUNION, CO. KERRY



Where we are now

Today, approximately 40 meals are delivered twice per week by a team of RSS workers and the day care centre is catering for on average another 20 people. This service could not happen without the dedicated volunteers who prepare, cook, serve, wash-up and fundraise. There are no paid staff and the voluntary contribution is immeasurable.

Challenges

By the nature of the project there is obviously the issue of losing clients as maybe they may move into residential care or indeed pass away. However, the group is constantly seeking to promote its service through various different networks including the PHN's, NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Council, the RSS Supervisors and Participants, etc.

There is also now a requirement to source funding to purchase / equip a refrigerated van, as ever-changing health regulations mean that an upgraded vehicle is needed.

SUPPORT FROM THE NEWKD RURAL SOCIAL SCHEME

The NEWKD RSS has been responsible for providing the vehicle and the delivery personnel.

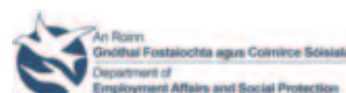
As the RSS Workers are from the rural community and know the people they provide the service to, it gives a sense of security for those receiving the meals. Should they notice anything unusual (e.g. the person may not answer the door or appears unwell) they can inform the designated contact person.

The RSS workers make people aware of other services provided by NEWKD and other statutory agencies.

They are often the only human contact for some of these people and always make time for a quick chat as they do their delivery's.

GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- It is important that the stakeholders share a common vision for such initiatives and in this case NEWKD, the Senior Citizens Group and the HSE share the core value of dignity and respect for the elderly.
- Where possible use fresh locally-sourced food to provide a balanced meal which is essential for the health and wellbeing of the more vulnerable in our community.
- It is important to maintain relationships between the key stakeholders and in this instance we have maintained a successful partnership between the Senior Citizen Group, HSE, St. Vincent De Paul and NEWKD.
- There needs to be a constant focus on being self-sustaining in order to ensure the people who most need the service are catered for, which includes retaining a strong volunteer ethos.
- There is real added-value opportunity in delivering meals to people in their own homes, and enabling our personnel to bring social interaction, information and assistance to our communities is vital.



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

BALLYBUNION SENIOR CITIZENS MEALS ON WHEELS

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

- Community Vibrancy of the North Kerry Area;
- Addressing rural isolation through delivering social supports;
- Community & Rural Leadership.



April 2018