



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Castleisland Community Garden as the ninth 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
6. Ballybunion Senior Citizens Meals on Wheels
7. Mol Teic - Dingle Creativity and Innovation Hub
8. NEWKD's Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)

For further information www.newkd.ie

Castleisland Community Garden

Castleisland Community Garden is an all inclusive community development project that involves gardeners with diverse abilities and from various different backgrounds. The project works with people and groups, from pre-school to pension age, to promote sustainable growing and the harvesting of organic produce.

In 2011 NEWKD's Rural Social Scheme (RSS) decided to set up a Community Garden in Castleisland, and negotiated with the Presentation Sisters a lease of 0.8 of an acre at the Cragreens for a nominal cost. A committee was formed at the start of 2012 comprising of local voluntary groups, St. John of God, Castleisland Women's Resource, Kerry Diocesan Youth Service (KDYS), Castleisland Branch of Kerry Mental Health, staff and participants from Oilean Beo, Castleisland Community Group College Transition year students, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABI) and other groups and interested individuals. Planning permission was gained for the project in January 2013, and the Garden development started in the Garden in April 2013.

Funding was received under NEWKD's Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP), Local Agenda 21, Kerry County Council Support Fund, KDYS and Castleisland Branch of Kerry Mental Health. The project also acknowledges the ongoing support and co-operation of the local athletic club, An Riocht, and Castleisland Cooperative Livestock Mart for ensuring the facility is accessible and water is available.

Current Activities

Currently the project has 32 gardeners and a waiting list for plots for the next season. With 53 plots fully planted and growing, they also have three large poly tunnels, and an orchard with several rows of more than 20 different types of trees and bushes. The garden also has a pond for frogs and bio diversity, with natural hedging planted on the boundaries, as well as some native Irish trees creating bio diversity corridors throughout the garden. KETB have been a great support running several courses on vegetables, growing in poly tunnels, herb courses, composting and rain harvesting and cookery courses delivered by Ian McGrigor, Niamh Ní Dhuill, Rachel Budd, Kathleen Barrett and Pádraig O'Brian. The group have also completed a course with gardeners, Joan Brosnan, Peter Murray and the head master canner in the State of Maine, Dennis Connelly.

Plans

With the help of LEADER funding the group hope to facilitate the collection of large quantities of rain water from a local building. LEADER is also funding the manufacture of a large compost sieve which will allow for the production of large quantities of finely sieved compost and soil and the roofing of the Eco Hut, which will be developed as a Cob House, where a training course on how to build using cob can take place.

Future plans also include the development of a large fruit cage over the orchard which would allow for chickens and ducks, adding to the variety in the garden.

Contact Information

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GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

We use organic principles whilst gardening and educate and encourage all gardeners to follow this ethos. We are trying to get people to get back in touch with nature, educate children about where and how things grow. We aim to provide a social outlet for all involved where community involvement, team work and co-sharing is to the fore front of our work. We do not sell produce but, we love bartering. We have a sharing table for any extra plants where plot owners can help themselves to anything that takes their interest. We seed save in September and we teach the local Primary Schools to do the same, this encourages self-sustainability. Linking with all the relevant organisations and keeping them informed of developments is crucial to maintaining goodwill.

SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- Rural Social Scheme - Garden Manager and Workers
- TUS Workers
- Community Services Programme
- SICAP
- LEADER Funding



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

CASTLEISLAND COMMUNITY GARDEN

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

- Community Vibrancy of the Castleisland Area;
- Social Supports
- Leadership in Community, Environment and Rural Development.

July 2018