

Case Study 2



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME



COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce The Kerry Food Hub, Firies as the second 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' will pay tribute to 10 recipients each year. Each project will be selected for their uniqueness, vibrancy and responsiveness to addressing local need. Recipients will be 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 recipient: Glanageenty Walkways.

For further information www.newkd.ie



The Kerry Food Hub is a brand new facility incorporating four food production units completed to the highest standard.

The facility is located on a green field site on the outskirts of Firies Village, Co. Kerry.

After NEWKD initially sourced funding from Enterprise Ireland some years ago Firies Community Enterprise Development Ltd. spearheaded the project to success with the premises officially opened by An Taoiseach Enda Kenny, T.D. on 27th March 2017. 'The food and drinks sector continues to be one of the cornerstones of Ireland's economic recovery, and Kerry's lush, unspoiled landscape and pristine coast gives us access to some of the world's best agricultural and seafood produce,' said Martin Brosnan, Chairperson. This was certainly the central ethos at the design stage of the facility, purposely built on a greenfield site that blends naturally with the local environment and compliments both the people and place interactions of the local community.

The units are completely self-contained and comply with all food quality health and safety standards. There is currently 100% occupancy with four businesses and sixteen people employed. The site will enable further development opportunities.



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The Kerry Food Hub FIRIES, CO. KERRY

The premises was
officially opened
by An Taoiseach
Enda Kenny, T.D.
March 2017



Firies native and former Kerry footballer Donal Daly performed the official duties on 27th September, 2014, turning the first sod before the diggers moved in on a site that was to become The Kerry Food Hub. The construction phase attracted up to 50 jobs locally.

To achieve such a superb standard of food production, facility funding was secured from NEWKD, Enterprise Ireland, Kerry County Council, Kerry Local Enterprise Office and Killarney Technology Innovation. The project is also supported with loans from the Clann Credo Social Investment Fund.

Firies Community Enterprise Development Ltd. consists of a group of volunteers who combine their skills with the aim of making their local area a better place to live and work. The Kerry Food Hub is the first of its kind in Kerry and is the only facility which is purposely built for small food production in the county, thus helping to facilitate a rapidly expanding sector. The hub also helps and supports clients promote their business using individual and community networks and skills.

The Kerry Food Hub is an excellent example of how business start-ups can be supported through production facilities support. Operating at capacity, the hub is currently the base and production site for:

Unit 1: Cordal Goats Cheese
Unit 2: Harty Nutrition Ltd.
Unit 3: Leen Salads/Krave
Unit 4: Fruity Farm

The hub, which also accommodates a sub-office for Taste Kerry, will help to create further job growth, encourage up-skilling and promote better food tourism. All of this will have a positive impact on what is a rapidly growing local community in terms of housing, development, schools and greater community activism.

Manager: George Nash; Secretary: David Gleeson, Chairman; Martin Brosnan.
Directors: Anne O'Donoghue, Morgan McMahon, Tom Shanahan, Mike McKenna, Denis Duggan, Donal Spring.

www.kerryfoodhub.com

SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

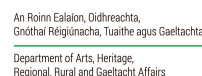
€9,000 funded under the **LEADER Rural Development Programme** to undertake a feasibility study.

Development support through **Social Inclusion & Community Activation Programme**, for skills development, capacity building and accessing funding.

NEWKD sourced €450,000 through Enterprise Ireland Community Enterprise Scheme in 2007.

GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- Have a core and shared vision that people can work towards.
- Learn to work together as a team, in the good and challenging times.
- Harness the knowledge and skill set of the committee and community.
- Trust is paramount.
- Resilience and a spirit to succeed.
- Motivate and support one another. Showing leadership and teamwork in action for the common good.
- Willingness of volunteers to commit to the vision and journey (12 years from initial idea and the first meeting in 2005, to the launch in 2017).
- In the challenging times the focus always came back to the common good of the local community.
- Develop relationships with all key stakeholders, seeking their support and co-operation.
- Utilise the resources that are available - information, training, networking, funding and knowledge.
- Learn from projects that exist, go and visit them, see how they function, meet the people involved.
- Inspire others and encourage innovation.
- Create a positive atmosphere/attitude towards enterprise in the community.



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME



NEWKD and Kerry Group wish to acknowledge and thank all those that have contributed to the development of the **THE KERRY FOOD HUB**

And recognise the valuable contribution that the hub makes to:

- The Community Vibrancy of the Firies Parish
- Employment Opportunities
- Enterprise Development
- Food Sector Advancement
- Community, Environment & Rural Development Leadership

July 2017