



RECOGNITION PROGRAMME



## COMMUNITY VIBRANCY RECOGNITION PROGRAMME 2017-2019

NEWKD in partnership with Kerry Group are delighted to announce Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs) as the eighth 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

For further information [www.newkd.ie](http://www.newkd.ie)

## Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs)

NEWKD's vision is an improved quality of life for everyone in North, East and West Kerry, and this is achieved through collaborative work with communities through developing and delivering actions based on the needs of the people.

In order to do this the Local Area Advisory Councils (LAACs) were formed to ensure that there is local community representation on the NEWKD Board and ongoing, constructive communication and information flow between local communities and the board of NEWKD.

### Who is involved

NEWKD was established in 2008 through the amalgamation of four existing local development partnerships that had been in existence since the 1990's: North Kerry Together, Partnership Trá Lí, Tuatha Chiarraí and Sliabh Luachra Local Development. The boards and committees of these organisations were amalgamated under a new Board to form Local Area Advisory Councils (LAAC) in each of our 3 geographic areas in Tralee, Listowel / North Kerry and Sliabh Luachra / Castleisland. In 2012 - when we added much of the Dingle Peninsula to our area of operation and a 'W' to our original name - another LAAC was formed to represent Corcha Dhuibhne.

The number of members on each LAACs can be up to 16, and should be representative of the area in terms of gender balance, geographic spread, and relevant / local issues, providing a real opportunity to build up and respect the volunteer community representation in the area. The Board of NEWKD recently made the decision that all geographic areas / parishes should be represented on their LAAC.





LAACs are for people involved in community, voluntary and charitable activity, or those with special interest and experience who can contribute their skills to benefit the company and wider community.

#### How it works

The board of NEWKD is essentially a partnership structure of up to 19 directors, with the community and voluntary sector being the strongest sector represented. Each LAAC elects 2 members to the NEWKD Board and nominate members to evaluation committees (e.g. Enterprise, LEADER, etc.).

#### Activities

LAAC's members are a valuable link to the communities that they represent especially in relation to sharing of information, highlighting and bringing forward issues and suggestions to the Board of NEWKD. Some of the LAACs have been very active in pursuing local issues such as road planning, insurance, access to employment / activation schemes, etc., and members have attended meetings of Kerry County Council's Municipal area to have issues aired and addressed. LAACs have also initiated local actions, for example supporting members of new communities by organising a local walk (including food) and showing a commitment to integration of new communities. LAAC monthly meetings provide an opportunity to invite guest presentations from Gardaí, local projects, Chambers of Commerce, etc., to keep informed of issues and developments and enables members to learn from each other especially in relation to best practice. Ongoing challenges for the LAACs are for members to get a full sense of the work of NEWKD and to ensure continued representation from all areas.

**Tralee** 066 718 0190  
**Listowel** 068 234 29  
**Castleisland** 066 714 2576  
**Dingle** 066 714 2788

[info@newkd.ie](mailto:info@newkd.ie)  
[www.newkd.ie](http://www.newkd.ie)

### SUPPORT FROM NEWKD

- NEWKD's Area Managers and local development staff support the LAACs on an ongoing basis in organising meetings, agendas, minutes, etc.
- LAACs are kept up-to-date on all programmes and can request attendance of relevant staff to update and inform them of progress and developments.
- Issues and opportunities raised at LAAC level often need resourcing, and management allocate staff / funding as appropriate.

### GOOD PRACTICE & LEARNING:

- Meetings are generally held on a monthly or bi-monthly basis and include report from Boards, update from local NEWKD area staff, and reports from members as to activities and issues in their local areas.
- The LAACs are an ideal forum to ensure that all are informed of progress on programmes, projects, initiatives and actions taking place in their own area and across the whole North, East & West Kerry region, to enable them to make informed decisions regarding the development of their area and be in a position to advise the board on decisions being taken.
- It is important to involve the LAACs members in planning for NEWKD programmes, including analyzing local area needs and involving 'Issue based' and 'Geographic based' groups.
- The LAAC can support and advise the Local Area Manager and staff on issues arising in the local community and how to address them.
- It is useful for some meetings or part thereof to focus on a discussion /presentation on a particular topic, including through inviting an external organisation.
- This forum provides excellent opportunity for the recommendations to be made to the NEWKD board on local area or regional issues.
- Representation from the LAACs on evaluation committees, etc. can facilitate more informed discussion on projects, whereby additional information and clarity can enhance the process.
- Discuss and initiate projects as promoters for local actions.
- Joint meetings of all LAACs should be organised each year.



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

### LOCAL AREA ADVISORY COUNCILS (LAACS)

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

- Community Vibrancy of North, East and West Kerry Area;
- Enterprise Development;
- Leadership in Community, Environment and Rural Development.

June 2018

