



**13<sup>th</sup> November 2017**

**To the Cathaoirleach & Each Member of Carlow County Council**

**Re: Take A Part Carlow Progress Report**

Carlow Arts Office continues to work closely with the partner agencies and local communities leading the Take A Part initiative. This initiative is supported under the Arts Council of Ireland Invitation to Collaborate Award which saw Carlow successfully securing 71K for the project and was one of 6 success applications nationally. It is further supported in partnership with the Take A Part organisation from Plymouth UK and through the County Council's Public Art Working Group.

Take A Part Carlow aims to break down barriers of what art is and how it can act as a tool to transform local communities, creating opportunities for social exchanges, participation, access and involvement in decisions relating to their direct locale. Take a Part Carlow is managed by Carlow Arts Office with a Project Coordinator Sile Penkert. There are regular meetings held with the involvement of community members called the local Arts Action Group set up under this project and the membership of this group consists of representations from County Council, CCDP, Carlow Regional Youth Services, Tullow Road Community Development Group and members of the local community. These meetings are held in John Sweeney Park.

Following the establishment of the Arts Action Group and appointment of the Coordinator the following activities have taken place in the area:

- May 2017 - A five week programme of arts activities for young people in the Tullow Road area working with Carlow Regional Youth Services. As a result of this a short film was commissioned to capture this.
- July 2017 - Take A Part Carlow was represented at the Family Fun Day on the pitch in the Tullow Road area and featured Dublin Circus Project and a big doodle which presented an opportunity to

**DIRECT LINES: CODE 059**

Carlow MD Area Engineer	9136272	Information Technology	9136215	Fire Service & Building Control	9131144
Planning	9170346	Housing	9136296	County Museum	9131554
Human Resources	9170314	Waste & Environment	9136231	Rent Payments	9172497
Muinebheag MD Area Engineer	9172415	Rates	9172489	Recreation & Amenity	9170377
Local Enterprise Office	9129783	County Library	9129705	Arts	9136203
Register of Electors	9170313	Community	9136204	Motor Taxation	9170342
Roads / Transportation	9170379	Loan Payments	9172491		

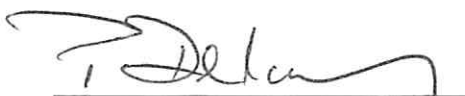


local communities to have some artistic fun, throughout the day **643** local people participated in this. This initiative led to Dublin Circus Project wanting to come back to Carlow and they performed their fire spectacle for Culture Night Carlow which featured on the RTE 9'0'Clock News.

- September 2017 - Poetry & Print Making workshops were held in Askea Parish Centre with award winning poet Sarah Clancy along with staff from Carlow College which proved to be a fantastic success and was completely booked out throughout the weekend.
- Over the Halloween break, as part of the Creative Ireland Carlow 'Samhain Festival Trail', Take A Part Carlow hosted two free Mask Making Workshops for families from the Tullow Road area with Artist Caitriona McGowan and took place in Eire Og. These workshop were fully booked out engaging 24 local children and their families from Askea, John Sweeney Park and Dereen Heights in a fun activity.

Take A Part Carlow's first artist commission has been awarded to Wexford based artist Michael Fortune following an evening of "Meeting the Artist" for the community to choose an artist they wanted to work with. This evening took place in John Sweeney House recently and was attended by 32 members of the community. Michael Fortune was chosen and will now be working directly with the community over a 8 month period which commenced on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> November to begin the process of directly meeting and engaging with residents and neighbours to explore the communities traditions, culture and folklore. This project 'Day Into Light' was held in Lisa Brooks home in Dereen Heights with over 25 other local residents and neighbours took part in delving into old Halloween folklore customs; cooking foods and carving turnips. Residents also brought along old archive maps of the area before building commenced there. Coverage of this event will feature on KCLR and via social media.

The Arts Action Group are currently meeting with other stakeholders in the local area, developing a programme for young people, producing a newsletter of progress to date and devising a matrix for measuring and evaluating the project in terms of the social and cultural impact on this community.



**Pat Delaney**  
Director of Finance, Information  
Technology & Culture (Libraries,  
Arts & County Museum)



**Sinead Dowling**  
County Arts Officer