

4<sup>th</sup> October 2017

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

**Re: Community Recreation & Amenity and Local Sports  
Partnership Section  
Progress Report for April 2017 to September 2017**

I set out, hereunder, for consideration by the members, progress report for period April 2017 to September 2017 in respect of the following areas of responsibility under Community, Recreation & Amenity and Local Sports Partnership:

1. Carlow Local Community Development Committee
2. Carlow Public Participation Network
3. Community Initiatives
4. Other Initiatives / Areas of Responsibility
5. County Carlow Sports Partnership

**1. Carlow Local Community Development Committee:**

The LCDC is a committee of the Council but independent in the performance of its functions. Membership of the LCDC was increased from seventeen to nineteen during 2016 and consists of both statutory and non-statutory, including four elected members. The following resigned from the committee in 2017, Cllr William Quinn, Mary Walsh, Carlow County Development Partnership and Brian Hand, Civic Society. These members were replaced by Cllr John Murphy, Karl Duffy & Jules Michael.

**Carlow Local Community Development Committee Members are:**

<b>Statutory Interests</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Members Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Local Government</b>	Michael Doran Charlie Murphy John Murphy Arthur McDonald	Members of Carlow County Council
	Kathleen Holohan	Chief Executive

	Kieran Comerford	Head of Enterprise
<b>State Agencies</b>	Noel Barry Cynthia Deane Anna-Marie Lanigan	Department of Social Protection Kilkenny/Carlow Education & Training Board HSE
<b>Non Statutory Interests</b>		
<b>Sector</b>	<b>Members Name</b>	<b>Organisation</b>
<b>Local &amp; Community Development</b>	Thomas Kelly Mary Doyle Josephine Tierney Andrea Dalton Eamonn Moore	Drumphea Cemetery Committee (Community and Voluntary, PPN) Hacketstown Community Group (Community and Voluntary, PPN) Social Inclusion, PPN St Catherine's Community Services Centre (Social Inclusion, PPN) Environmental (PPN)
<b>Social Economic and Community Interests</b>	Karl Duffy John Brophy John Nolan Jules Michael Eileen O'Rourke	Carlow County Development Partnership Carlow Chamber (Business Employer) Agricultural / Farming Civic Society Carlow Tourism

Since April 2017 LCDC/LAG Meetings were held on:

- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017
- 17<sup>th</sup> August 2017 (LAG only)
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

The LCDC/LAG has programme oversight and programme management in respect of the following activities:

- Rural Development Programme (LEADER)
- Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)
- Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP)

### **Rural Development Programme (LEADER)**

Carlow was allocated €6,416,803.43m under the Rural Development Programme for the period 2014 -2020. Carlow County Development Partnership CLG is the Lead Implementing Partner for the Rural Development Programme.

Expression of Interests (EOIs) in respect of Festivals targeting a National Audience, and single applications for Tourism Product and Rural Enterprise were assessed by the Implementing Partner i.e. Carlow County Development Partnership CLG and were approved by the Local Action Group (LAG) at meeting held on the 12th January. In respect of Festivals targeting a National Audience 2 application received approval at the 13<sup>th</sup> April LCDC Board meeting and received a letter of offer on 17<sup>th</sup> May. Both projects have been completed.

In respect of Tourism Product and Rural Enterprise 8 applications were approved at 17<sup>th</sup> August LAG meeting and on 26<sup>th</sup> September a letter of offer was issued to 6 of these applications. The total value of applications approved to date is €624,830.47

### **Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP)**

The Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme (SICAP) is the successor programme to the Local Community Development Programme. SICAP is a local social inclusion programme focussed on the most marginalised in Irish Society.

SICAP funding of €536,428 was allocated to County Carlow for the year 2017. The LCDC is the contracting authority and Carlow County Development Partnership is the Programme Implementer.

A sub group of the LCDC committee comprising of Andrea Dalton and Noel Barry including Michael Brennan, Chief Officer and Margaret Moore, Community met on several occasions during 2017 to examine and review the implementation of the programme with Karl Duffy Carlow County Development Partnership, Programme Implementer. All headline targets in the SICAP Programme were on target for the Mid-term Review which was approved by the LCDC in July.

The SICAP programme (Budget for 2018 €547,157) for the period 2018-2022 is currently at Public Tender, with a closing date for receipt of Tenders on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2017.

### **Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP)**

The Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides a stronger and clearer role for local government in economic and community development. This is a key element in achieving the vision set out in the Action Programme for Effective Local Government –Putting People First “local government will be the main vehicle of governance and public service at local level, leading economic, social and community development.”

Section 44 of the Local Government Reform Act 2014 provides for the making of a six-year integrated Local Economic and Community Plan (LECP).

The Plan will be implemented in three cycles of two year periods through an Implementation plan and the Implementation Plan for the period 2016-2018 has been considered and approved by the LCDC and Carlow County Council.

From April 2017, the following agencies have presented to the LCDC their progress reports on the delivery of their actions.

- 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 - Carlow Children and Young People Services Committee
- 11<sup>th</sup> May 2017 – Carlow Local Sports Partnership
- 15<sup>th</sup> June 2017 – Environmental Section, Carlow County Council
- 13<sup>th</sup> July 2017 - Library Service, Carlow County Council
- 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017 – Department of Social Protection

## **2. Carlow Public Participation Network**

Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN) is a framework for public engagement and participation with wellbeing and sustainability at its core. The purpose of Carlow PPN is to bring together community, voluntary and environmental groups in an independent structure. Through the PPN, these groups have opportunities for networking, communication and sharing of information which leads to participation in local decision making and collective action. Carlow PPN is the main link through which Carlow County Council connects with the community.

### **Carlow Public Participation Network (PPN) April – September 2017**

- Currently, there are 377 community groups registered with Carlow PPN
- Active participant of the Carlow Roadshow in partnership with agencies across the County e.g. CCDDP, Volunteer Centre, CIS, St. Catherine's and ETB and this took place over the summer including attending the Tullow Show.
- Successfully went to tender for a project – 'Consultation – Bridging the Gap'. The development of a Consultation Toolkit specific to County Carlow will help to address concerns and gaps in how communities are consulted.
- Employment of 2 part-time workers – Administrator and Outreach Worker. The Outreach Worker will be in the community building the profile of the PPN and promoting further engagement of already registered groups and identifying and working with those

not registered. This work will also inform the PPN research on how many community groups are actually in the County of Carlow, what they do, where the gaps are and why.

### **3. Community Initiatives:**

#### **Carlow's Pride of Place Competition**

Carlow's Pride of Place continues to be a great success, Judging for Carlow's Pride of Place Competition 2017 has now concluded. 216 applications were received from 150 groups, with 45 people nominated for the Individual Award. The 2017 Awards Ceremony will take place in the Lord Bagenal Hotel, Leighlinbridge on Wednesday October 18th at 7:30pm. Ms. Anna May McHugh will be the guest speaker.

This initiative encourages all individuals and communities in the county to enhance the presentation of their town, village or estate; keep their area litter free, preserve local heritage; continue to build community spirit and reflect the pride generated by enhancing the environment in which one lives, which has both a social and an economic spin off.

#### **Tidy Towns**

The Community Section supports Tidy Towns Groups. The 2017 National Tidy Towns results were announced recently Clonegal and Leighlinbridge retained their Gold Medals, Carlow town retained the Silver Medal and Clonmore the Bronze Medal. Borris won the endeavour award with an increase of 9 marks on last year's results. The majority of the 21 entrants from County Carlow increased their points this year reflecting the dedication and hard work of the Tidy Towns Groups and their volunteers. We welcomed back Ardattin and Old Leighlin to the competition this year. The high standard is achieved and maintained by the positive co-operation and partnerships that exists between the community groups, Carlow County Council and other agencies.

Minister of Rural & Community Development Michael Ring T.D. attended the Tidy Towns awards and announced during his speech that he intends holding roundtable discussions with Tidy Towns Groups throughout the country to explore how his department can offer more support to them and he intends using the opportunity to explore how to mark the 60<sup>th</sup> year of the competition in 2018.

The Community Section works in partnership with the Environment Section to support County Carlow Tidy Towns Network. The majority of groups are participating in the network which is a source of support and networking with members sharing examples of best practice. A County

Carlow Tidy Towns Network Facebook page is up and running. The group will now analyse the Judge's Tidy Towns Reports and use this information to plan a series of workshops in 2017 & 2018 to support the work of all the groups.

### **IPB Pride of Place in association with Co-operation Ireland**

New Oak Estate and Community Centre represented County Carlow in this year's competition. Judging took place on August 1st. The residents of New Oak Estate proudly took up the challenge to represent the County in the Estates category. There was a large gathering in New Oak Community Centre when judges Blaise Tracy and Terry O' Niadh arrived to judge. Cathaoirleach of Carlow County Council Cllr William Paton, Deputy Chief Executive of Carlow County Council Dan McInerney and Community Hosts Sharon Byrne and Vicki Kavanagh welcomed the judges and toured the estate with them following a power point presentation and questions and answers. There was entertainment in the hall and on the green areas of the estate on the day.

This competition is about acknowledging in a meaningful manner the many communities and groups who are out there doing wonderful work, sometimes in very difficult circumstances against the odds to create a sense of pride and dignity in their area or for a group within the community. It is about creating caring, viable, vibrant and visible communities. It is also about creating a real mechanism and opportunity for the local authority's participation in the heart of communities and interagency work.

### **Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme**

Administering, assessing and processing Environmental/Amenity & Tidy Towns Grants Scheme. Members provided €48,000 in the 2017 Annual Service Plans for Environmental/ Amenity and Tidy Towns grants.

Members will be aware of the very valuable work carried out by community and voluntary groups throughout the county with the assistance of Carlow County Council's Environmental / Amenity Grant Scheme. The scheme has played a major role in transforming the appearance of the Municipal Districts. The money invested by this Council is greatly supplemented by the communities and Tidy Towns Groups through their voluntary efforts and fund raising activities and many areas/communities also receive separate funding through success in Council Initiatives such as Carlow's Pride of Place.

A total of 158 grants were awarded to Tidy Towns, Community Groups/Residents Associations and schools throughout the county in 2017. Qualifying works included landscaping and development of open-spaces; amenity development on river/stream banks; provision of picnic

facilities; painting; provision of litterbins/anti-litter initiatives, improvements in burial grounds and general enhancement of areas.

### **Community Grant Scheme**

The aim of this grant scheme is to support community and voluntary groups in County Carlow who undertake projects/activities which benefit the local community and specifically support the following key priority areas:

- Community Development
- Work with groups which experience social exclusion and increase their opportunities for participation.
- Carry out a service or activity that makes a contribution to the quality of life in their local community
- Work with groups to promote integration of Travellers and new communities.

The Section administers, assesses and processes the Community Grants. Members provided €11,200 in the 2017 Annual Service Plans for the Community Grant Scheme. A total of 29 grants were awarded to Community Groups throughout the County under this scheme in 2017

### **Discretionary Funding**

The Community section administers and processes grants awarded by Elected Members to Resident Associations, Tidy Towns Groups, Community Voluntary Organisations, Schools and Sporting Organisations from their Discretionary Funds, 65 grants have been processed to date in 2017, with further allocations/requests by Elected Member and payments to be processed. Councillors are reminded that Thursday the 30<sup>th</sup> of November is the final day for allocation of funding.

### **Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund**

The Local Agenda 21 Environmental Partnership Fund promotes sustainable development by assisting small-scale environmental projects at local level. The Fund encourages involvement of local communities in local action and decision-making and assists them in working towards the goal of sustainable development. The value of the scheme is enhanced by the voluntary effort that it facilitates.

Through funding from the Dept. of Communications, Climate Action and Environment and match funding from Carlow County Council, a total of €19,550 for 2017/18 was allocated to 24 groups in County Carlow which included Tidy Towns, Schools, Youth Groups, Community Gardens & Environmental Education NGOs. These groups have undertaken projects which will contribute to increasing local levels of environmental

awareness or which promote building greener, more sustainable communities.

### **Communities Facilities Capital Grants Scheme**

The aim of the scheme is to enhance communities, address disadvantage and improve social cohesion at a local level by providing access to small scale capital grants.

Carlow LCDC in conjunction with the Municipal Districts of Carlow and Muinebheag were responsible for targeting and allocating funding under the Communities Facilities Scheme 2017

All applications for funding under this scheme were reviewed and accessed to ensure complementarity with County Carlow 2021 Local Economic & Community Plan (LECP) 2016-2021.

County Carlow was allocated €64,500, 76 applications were approved for funding under this scheme. The Community Section is currently processing payments in respect of same.

### **Clár**

CLÁR is a targeted investment programme which provides funding for small scale infrastructural projects in rural areas which suffered the greatest levels of population decline.

Funding was provided under the following measures;

Measure 1: Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (€2M)

Measure 2: Play Areas (€0.75M)

Measure 3: Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (€1.5M)

Measure 4: First Response Support Measure (€0.75M)

Five projects in the Municipal District of Muinebheag were successful in securing funding under this programme, total amount awarded was €178,760. Ballymurphy Community Centre €30,000, St Michael's N.S Newtown Borris €49,500, Drumphea N.S €30,000, Newtown Hall €18,759.50 and Drumphea Community Centre €50,000. Grants are processed by the Community Section when work is completed.

### **Outdoor Recreational Infrastructure Scheme**

The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of new outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.

Funding of €32,500 was received in respect of in respect of Measure I- Small Scale Maintenance/ Promotional and Marketing of the programme for the following projects: Cycle Routes development and promotion (€8,000), Carlow Autumn Walking Festival (€7,000), Improvement works to the Carlow section of the Wicklow Way(€9,500),Bahana Forest Signed Route (€8,000). Works have commenced on these projects  
The remaining two measures are due to be rolled out early next year.

#### **4. Other Initiatives and Areas of Responsibility:**

##### **Comhairle na nÓg**

Comhairlí na nÓg/Youth Councils were established in response to the 10 year National Children Strategy launched in 2001 by the Department of Health and Children and was set up in 34 City and County Development Boards around the Country. Under the auspices of these City/County Development Boards Comhairle na nÓg is the responsibility of the local authority in each area. In Co Carlow, Comhairle na nÓg is managed by Carlow Regional Youth Services in conjunction with the Community and Enterprise Section of Carlow County Council. It is a forum for structured input into decision making by children and young people in the development of local services and policies that impact on young people's lives.

##### **County Carlow Children and Young People's Services Committee**

The Inter-agency Committee is be responsible for improving the lives of children and families at local and community level through integrated planning, working and service delivery and will ensure that professionals and agencies work together so that children and families receive better and more accessible services.

##### **Age Friendly County**

The Carlow Age Friendly Subgroup continued to meet regularly throughout the year in order to implement the Carlow Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan and some highlights would be as follows;

- The Carlow Age Friendly County Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 was launched on 13<sup>th</sup> September in Gairdín Beo by Minister of State for Mental Health and Older People, Deputy Jim Daly.

##### **Carlow Volunteer Centre**

Carlow Volunteer Centre had a very busy year, surpassing of main targets that were set and engaging in a range of activities that have effectively promoted and supported volunteering across the County of Carlow, activities such as the vital placement service, Volunteer

Management Training, Garda Vetting, working with community and local development groups.

- Due to consistent significant cuts in budget over the last few years Carlow Volunteer Centre remained in accommodation provided by Carlow Local Authorities.
- Personnel in Community continued to support the Volunteer Centre.

To give a flavour of their core work which is the Placement Services, their work with the Volunteer include the following;

- Information on volunteering options
- Support and advice for those with extra support needs
- Placement & brokerage
- Recognition and appreciation events
- Text-message alerts
- Media profiles/Awareness raising
- Social media
- Schools Transition Year Volunteering
- 3rd Level Outreach Volunteering
- I.T. Carlow Volunteering Award
- Corporate volunteering team days
- Presentations on specific volunteering themes – i.e. environmental, disability, unemployment

Their work with the Voluntary Organisations includes the following;

- Advertising volunteer vacancies
- Advice and support
- Documentation templates – e.g. volunteer policies, role descriptions etc.
- Consultancy on specific issues
- Volunteer Management Training
- Garda Vetting access
- Seminars on relevant topics
- Recruitment events - Volunteer Expo, Carlow IT Volunteering Fair
- “Once-off/Event Volunteers” list
- Regular email updates
- Access to national volunteer recognition

### **The Plots Community Garden & Allotment Project**

Community staff continue to support the Plots Community Gardens & Allotments Project.

The project is meeting the main objectives which are:

- Provide a space for individuals and groups to grow their own vegetables.
- Act as a training facility for people not in employment, education or training providing a combination of horticultural training with literacy, numeracy, personal development and job preparation modules while supporting participants to address their barriers to progression
- Promote healthy eating and healthy lifestyles through the growing of fresh food and availing of daily exercise
- Promote community development, integration and pride through co-operative working with different sections of the local community
- Enhance the local environment

This continues to be a very successful working partnership with the communities of St Mary's Park and Rathnapish, St Catherine's Community Services Centre and Carlow County Council.

### **Carlow Traveller Interagency Group**

Carlow Traveller Interagency Group (TIG) monitors the implementation of the actions contained in the Interagency Traveller Strategy through their four Thematic Groups: Accommodation & Relationships (Local Traveller Accommodation Consultative Committee); Education, Community Development & Arts; Employment, Training and Business Opportunities; Health & Lifestyle, which were established to oversee the implementation of the actions. Members participated in training on inter-culturalism which was given by the Primary Health Care Workers from St Catherine's Community Services Centre. A very successful Traveller Pride Week was organised by Carlow Traveller Network with support from St Catherine's.

An inter-agency grant application was successful in securing funding for a Project Worker and training for service providers working with the Roma Community in County Carlow.

### **New Oak Community Centre**

Community staff continue to provide support for New Oak Community Centre Steering Committee. Probation & Welfare, Tusla and Carlow County Development Partnership use the centre as well as local residents associations.

### **Duckett's Grove and Walled Gardens**

This project is currently being reviewed to enhance the tourism product on offer. A Project Manager/Gardener took up duty on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

A funding application for project works has been submitted under the Towns and Village Scheme.

### **South Leinster Way/Kilbrannish South Loop/Johns Hill**

The Council in partnership with Carlow Tourism are currently enhancing this walk, following receipt of funding from the Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs through the provision of:

- Signage/ markers at various points.
- Information Map boards
- Rest/picnic amenities

Surface repairs will also be carried out where required. The erection of signage/markers has been completed. The National Trails office has carried out an Audit of this long distance walking route.

## **5. Local Sports Partnership**

### **Increase Participation In Sport**

- **Development of Carlow Town Park Outdoor Activity Hub** – This ‘pilot’ project is a collaboration between Carlow Local Sports Partnership, Carlow County Council, Carlow Tourism, Carlow Regional Youth Services & Waterways Ireland. The objective of the project is to increase physical activity on the River Barrow and in the Town Park. The Local Sports Partnership planned coordinated an extensive activity programme to be delivered in the month of August based at the Town Park in collaboration with quality providers such as Blackstairs Eco Trails, Pure Adventure, Wildways Adventure, Barrow Way Bike Hire, Carlow Rowing Club and Carlow Dragon Boat Club. The activity hub served as a gateway for people to access water sports, cycling, fishing, walking, and other outdoor pursuits. The programme came to an end on the 27<sup>th</sup> August. A review is currently underway.
- **Parkrun Carlow Town** – Supporting the development of ‘Parkrun Carlow’ with local volunteers and the national Parkrun Coordinator Matt Shields. Facilitated a meeting on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July with Matt Shields (Parkrun Ireland Manager) and two local volunteers, Lisa Kennedy and Suzanne Dunne, to explore possible locations. The proposal is initially to use the Barrow Track and the Town Park for the 5km route for trial period. The event will take place weekly on a Saturday at 9.30am. It is free and managed by volunteers. Tullow Parkrun started on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 See [www.parkrun.com](http://www.parkrun.com).

There is a €3,000 fee to set up a Parkrun route. This will be funded by the HSE, Carlow County Council and Carlow Local Sports Partnership. The Local Sports Partnership is supporting a core group of 6 volunteers there to run the weekly events with approx. 8 other volunteers who assist on a rotating basis. Numbers attending weekly in Tullow fluctuate between 35 -100. The numbers in Carlow Town are predicted to be much higher given the population.

- **Buggy Buddies** – Weekly sessions from Carlow Town Park for new mothers. Weekly average attendance for June and July was approximately 8 people. A second Buggy Buddies group has been established at Eire Og to facilitate people living in the Tullow Road area. The sessions will be facilitated by Caroline Shanahan from Supreme Fitness Gym at Eire Og GFC. Cost is €5 per person.
- **Disability Inclusion Programme** - This programme is linked to the CARA – the national support centre for physical activity for people with a disability. Planning a multi-activity pilot programme in collaboration with the IWA and IT Carlow to begin in September. Delivered an inclusive summer camp for young people with a disability and their siblings which took place from August the 14<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 10.30am – 2.30pm each day. There were 48 participants. 16 leaders were recruited and trained for the initiative. The initial feedback has been very positive. Currently reviewing the project with input from project partners and participants. Project partners included Youth Services, IT Carlow and Carlow County Council. The facilities at IT Carlow provide an excellent base for the camp. Joanne Wall was engaged to coordinate the camp. The Local Sports Partnership also organized horse riding lessons for people with a disability, in collaboration with Doyle's Equestrian Centre during the month of August.
- **Carlow Mensana Mental Health Festival** – Working with the organising committee to plan an event to promote physical activity as a means to improve mental health. Mensana is due to take place between the 9<sup>th</sup> and the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, 2017.
- **Carlow Walking Festival** – Working with Carlow Tourism to plan two events for the Carlow Walking Festival which is due to take place from Friday 6<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October, 2017. Engaging with two excellent local companies – Trail Kids and Wildways Adventures to coordinate the events.
- **Cycling Programme** – Developing a programme of work around cycling to incorporate leader training, events, programmes, research and promotional activities to increase the number of people cycling.
- **Generation Games** – Supported Sean Gannon, Carlow GAA, to prepare a project proposal for a community event targeting families,

promoting participation in physical activity. Assisting with planning and delivery of event schedule for October, 2017.

- **Development of the Tullow Road Sports Hub** – This project is a collaboration between the LSP, Carlow County Council, Youth Services, and the Tullow Road Community Development Group. The Tullow Road Development Group were engaged and involved in the development of two actions: 1. Play Day event on the 16<sup>th</sup> July & 2. Physical Activity Taster Programme for July & August. The National Play Day event took place on the 16<sup>th</sup> July and was very well attended with a crowd of over 600 people. A project evaluation is currently underway. A 6 week programme of activities for the Tullow Road Area was organized as a follow on to the event. The Tullow Road Community Development Group were consulted on the programme content. Activities will begin on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> July and will finish on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September, 2017. Activities included: swimming lessons; balance bike classes; fitness classes, bowling and pitching games, etc.
- **School Support Programme** – Programmes are operated on a scheduled basis and schools may be clustered in the interest of efficiency. Please see below for a summary:
  - **Balance Bike Programme:** Balance Bike Programme has been officially launched. Expressions of interest and course content has been distributed to relevant centres and services. John Kenny and Louise Barry to deliver the initial sessions. 22 schools and pre-school centres replied with expression of interest forms and are currently being scheduled for delivery. It is proposed to purchase a further 11 bikes to supply the demand and make the programme as accessible as possible
  - **Orienteering Programme:** Clogrennan & Ducketts Grove have been mapped. 3 further areas in progress. Expressions of Interest for Schools have been distributed to all Primary School settings and 8 responded with interest to have their school grounds mapped and to engage on teachers training.
  - **Sportshall Athletics:** 8 schools have requested the Sportshall athletics programme and are currently scheduled for delivery. Preference will be given to disadvantaged schools and schools that have not previously participated in LSP programmes in relation to scheduling.

## **Build Sustainable Physical Activity Infrastructure**

- **Orienteering Programme:** The Local Sports Partnership secured funding from the Department of Community & Youth Affairs to develop 5 permanent orienteering sites. Orienteering is a sport that can be

participated in at a competitive and a casual level and it is very social. Orienteering also promotes the use of our local parks and forest areas. Working with Waterford Orienteering Club and the Irish Orienteering Association to develop the courses. The courses are being mapped by the well-known cartographer Pat Healy. The first of the five sites to be mapped was Ducketts Grove and the Ducketts Grove permanent orienteering course was launched with a sprint event facilitated by the Waterford Orienteering Club on the 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2017. This event was also linked to Heritage Week 2017. There are plans to develop four further permanent orienteering courses, including an urban course highlighting the heritage and history of the town. 'Expressions of Interest' forms were distributed to schools at the end of the last term and 8 primary schools responded to express their interest in having their school grounds mapped and to engage in teacher training.

## **Governance & Information & Support**

- **Directory of Activities for Older Adults in Carlow** – Collating data to create the directory in collaboration with Age Friendly Carlow and in conjunction with local physical activity providers.
- **European Week of Sport will take place from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> September** – Working with local activity organisers to ensure that events take place in Carlow to celebrate the week and that the events are promoted through Sport Ireland requesting that LSPs register relevant events online.
- **Carlow Local Sports Partnership Website** – Working with the County Council Procurement Officer to finalise a tender for a website which will be crucial to further development.
- **County Council Internal Auditor** – Completed scheduled internal audit process. Summary of recommendations will be provided at the September LSP Committee meeting.

## **Capacity Building For Physical Activity Leaders**

- **LSP Training Calendar** - Development and coordination of the Autumn Training Calendar to upskill sports volunteers in collaboration with IT Carlow. Training opportunities include Safeguarding 1 Basic Awareness Workshop in Child Welfare & Protection, Safeguarding 2 Club Children's Officer Workshop and Sports First Aid. The calendar is available from the Local Sports Partnership office.

- **Out to Play Seminar Autumn 2018** – Collaborating with Kilkenny Recreation & Sports Partnership, Kilkenny Childcare Committee, Carlow Childcare Committee and the HSE to plan a physical literacy seminar for early learning providers and primary school teachers.
- **Cycle Leader Training** – Organising Cycle Ireland leader training for 'Foundation' level and 'Bike Leader' level in IT Carlow on the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of September. The foundation cycling coaching course is on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September and the Ride Leader on the 24<sup>th</sup> September. If attendees complete both the Foundation and Ride leader courses they will be qualified 'Bike for Life' leaders also. The Local Sports Partnership will subsidise 50% of the total fee. This is a fantastic opportunity for anyone who has an interest in cycling from beginners to experienced cyclists.

### **Goal 5: Secure Resources For Sport & Physical Activity**

- **Department of Community Youth Affairs Play Day & Recreation Week Grant Scheme** – Secured €1,700 for National Recreation Week (beginning 3rd July 2017) and €650 for National Play Day (Sunday 2nd July)
- **Department of Transport tourism & Sport - Bike Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2017** - Secured €5,000 from the Department and €2,000 match funding from Carlow County Council to support the local delivery of Bike Week 2017.
- **Department of Community Youth Affairs Youth Capital Grant Scheme** – Secured €7,000 from this grant scheme to support Carlow Regional Youth Services in developing a water sports programme based on needs identified by young people.
- **Healthy Ireland Funding** – prepared programme proposal in collaboration with staff in the Community Section, Carlow County Council.
- **Staff Recruitment** – Tomás Kinsella started his 12 month post as Community Sports Development Officer with the Local Sports Partnership on Monday the 17<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

**Michael Brennan  
Senior Executive Officer  
Community, Recreation &  
Amenity and Local Sports  
Partnership Section**