

SocialiSE

Part of the Awareness Raising Initiatives for Social Enterprise (ARISE) Scheme 2021

Registration Now Open for Socialise Summit 2022



PJ Murphy, IRD Duhallow, Karen O'Connor, St. John of God, Colm O'Connor, IRD Duhallow Furniture Revamp, Kerrie Kavanagh, ACE Enterprise Park, Donie McGrath, ILDN (front row) Jack Crowley, Paint Reuse Network and John Ryan, Dept of Rural & Community Development, at the launch of the Summit for Social Enterprise, SocialiSE.

Speakers and topics have now been confirmed for the SocialiSE Summit for Social Enterprises which will take place on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 at the F2 Centre in Dublin 2. The Summit, which is focused on raising awareness about and supporting social enterprises, will focus on issues such as funding, governance, marketing and social innovation.

"SocialiSE Summit 2022 celebrates social enterprise and encourages more development in this sector by raising awareness of the model," says Joe Saunders, CEO of the ILDN. "Information on the benefits of social enterprises as well as advice on overcoming the set-up challenges will be freely available."

During the morning session, Mary Lawlor, CEO of Clann Credo, will discuss Sourcing Funding for Social Enterprises while, Jim O'Sullivan of Ambit Compliance will look at legal obligations and governance issues.

Just before lunch, Dr Andrew Forde, Head of Rural Strategy & Social Enterprise at the Department of Rural & Community Development, will address the Summit on Social Enterprises: Building Community Cohesion Through Social Innovation.

In the afternoon, organisations like Galway's An Mheitheal Rothar (Bike Shop), Dublin's ACE Enterprise Park, WALK and the nationwide Paint Reuse Network will be among the social enterprises offering guidance to those interested in establishing similar enterprises. The afternoon will also feature break-out sessions on a number of themes.

Full details on the running order for SocialiSE Summit 2022 are on pages 4 & 5.

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SEs pivoting to help Ukrainian refugees

A Clare social enterprise is altering its operations to provide support and housing for refugees fleeing Ukraine following the Russian invasion of the country.

Lisdoonvarna Fáilte is one of a number of social enterprises in Clare working to accommodate the sudden influx of more than 2,500 Ukrainians to the Banner County since the beginning of the war in February. In total, more than 27,000 Ukrainians are thought to be living in Ireland, with a large proportion housed in emergency accommodation.

Michelle Nolan of the Clare Local Development Company which provides grants and other funding to Social Enterprises such as Lisdoonvarna Fáilte, hailed their efforts in addressing the challenges. "Groups like Lisdoonvarna Fáilte are so beneficial because, unlike for-profit businesses, they can pivot quickly and respond to the changing situation," she said.

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WELCOME

Welcome to the second edition of 'SocialiSE', bringing you news and essential updates about the rapidly approaching SocialiSE 22 Summit to be held in Dublin on June 29th!

The newsletter also includes features about different Social Enterprises around the country and showcases all the great work and innovations that are happening across our network.

In this issue, the range and flexibility of social enterprises is brilliantly demonstrated by the works of two SEs in particular. The Big Interview is an inspiring read about how the villages of Piltown and Fiddown in Co Kilkenny pulled together to form a social enterprise that delivered high-speed broadband to their communities.

And the flexibility of social enterprises in times of crisis can be seen in the great work of Lisdoonvarna Fáilte, which pivoted from managing facilities and amenities for its community to providing hope and homes for hundreds of Ukrainian refugees.

This SocialiSE newsletter is a vehicle to learn more about each other's work and showcase stories from communities across Ireland ahead

of our summit at the F2 Fatima Centre in Rialto, Dublin. Our next newsletter will look back at the summit as well as carrying other news and features from our network. If you would like a story or social enterprise featured in our next newsletter, just get in touch and let us know.

We'd like to hear what you think of this edition – what you liked, didn't like and any great ideas you have for future editions. Contact us at info@ildn.ie

Donie McGrath

Employment & Enterprise, Coordinator, ILDN

The **SocialiSE Summit** for Social Enterprises will take place on 29 June in the F2 Centre in Dublin. The event is free for social enterprise workers and those in the community interested in setting up a SE. Places will be limited so we recommend booking early at https://socialise_summit_2022.eventbrite.ie



COMMUNITY FOCUS



Ukrainian arrivals to County Clare enjoying a surf class in Lahinch

Helping Ukrainian refugees settle in Clare with support from CLDC

Surfing off the coast of Clare probably wasn't a summer activity a group of 50 Ukrainians envisaged for themselves at the beginning of this year.

But now living thousands of miles from home and with news broadcasts showing daily images of razed residential buildings and civilian infrastructure around Kiev, Kharkiv and Mariupol, Michelle Nolan of the Clare Local Development Company (CLDC) understands that distraction is the point of the exercise.

"The key is to provide experiences that will give them some peace," says Michelle, who works with social enterprises and local community groups around the Banner County to provide support to newly arrived Ukrainian refugees.

"The surf schools in Lahinch contacted us to say they wanted to offer classes to Ukrainians. Local Link provided a bus to bring around 50 Ukrainians to Lahinch. Some of them had never seen the sea, so it was a fantastic distraction in that sense."

Of the more than 27,000 Ukrainian refugees currently living in Ireland, around 2,500 have been put up in direct accommodation and another 1,000 with host families across Clare. Michelle says that the sudden influx has hugely increased the demands on the groups supported by CLDC under the Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP).

"I hadn't realised the scale of what was going on until I went to Lisdoonvarna to meet the manager

of a social enterprise there called Lisdoonvarna Fáilte," she says. "It was around the time that Ukrainian refugees were first starting to arrive and were being put up in hotels. The numbers shocked me."

CLDC responded by providing direct supports to Lisdoonvarna Fáilte in the form of additional funding. Under its normal remit, Lisdoonvarna Fáilte is responsible for the upkeep of community facilities like the Spa Wells Heritage Centre, AstroTurf and playing pitches, as well as a 450-seater theatre pavilion. CLDC was on hand to meet the cost of health and safety risk assessments for these facilities.

"That involved a full audit of the facilities," says Michelle. "It was a substantial cost, but it was necessary as those facilities are now completely overbooked due to the massive increase in demand."

She continues: "We help in other ways, too. Last year, social enterprises could apply for a SICAP grant of €2,500. Lisdoonvarna Fáilte was successful in its application for a facility to host outdoor events, as it wanted to erect marquees for a drive-in cinema night, the sheltered space was for locals with no cars. SICAP also supported the cost of the tickets for disadvantaged families on low incomes."

Michelle points out that while there had been existing infrastructure for those living in Direct Provision in Lisdoonvarna, the arrival of refugees from Ukraine has created a need for additional resources.

"Luckily the likes of Lisdoonvarna

Fáilte have secured new funding for Ukrainian liaison coordinators based in Lisdoonvarna," she says.



Michelle Nolan, CLDC

"They also have a volunteer coordinator. Lots of people come forward but these volunteers need to be trained and vetted by gardaí, so all that needs to be managed."

Despite these administrative challenges, community groups have used the support of CLDC to great effect in training volunteers to run English conversation classes, as well as a weekly singing circle.

"Fáilte Isteach is a national programme for English conversation classes that was brought to Clare. We actually ran it online for anyone that wanted to learn English during the pandemic but demand has gone through the roof over the last two months. We've trained 70 tutors who will now be giving English lessons," Michelle adds.

NEWS

Measuring the impact and scale of social enterprises

As with anything, the more evidence you have, the more it can be measured and understood. It's much easier to place a value on something when you know its size and scale. That is why the Social Enterprise Baseline Data Collection exercise that is underway is so important.

Tendered by the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD), the consortium is made up of Amárach research, Social Enterprise Republic of Ireland (SERI) and Irish Local Development Network (ILDN). This is the first national baseline data collection exercise of social enterprises to take place in Ireland. Speaking about the project, Lorraine Corcoran, SERI Director and part of the project team, notes that "this is a key project, not only for the much needed data that will be produced that will inform and support policy, but it is also an opportunity for the Social Enterprise

sector to come together, collaborate and gather evidence."

The project is split into 2 stages. Stage 1 is about agreeing the methodology for what data will be collected and how this will be done. Stage 2 will be putting this into action by gathering the data and producing a report on the findings.

As part of Stage 1 there have been over 100 participants who were consulted through a series of four workshops or 1-2-1 meetings. This has been about gathering views on the methodology. Once the methodology is agreed with DRCD, Stage 2 will start. Stage 1 will be completed in June and we look forward to communicating this and the plans for Stage 2 shortly afterwards.

If you want to get in touch with the project at any stage you can email: Project.Team@seDataCollection.ie



Lorraine Corcoran, SERI Director

A SHOUT OUT TO SOCIAL ENTREPREPRISE

Launch of SocialISE Summit 2022 for Social Enterprises



Joy Corrigan, Arch Cafe at F2 Centre, with Karen O'Connor, St John of God, John Ryan, Dept of Rural & Community Development, and Donie McGrath, ILDN at the launch of the Summit for Social Enterprises, SocialISE

Organised by the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN), the SocialISE Summit for Social Enterprises in Ireland will take place on Wednesday, 29 June 2022 at the F2 Centre in Dublin 2. The Summit is specifically focused on raising awareness and supporting social enterprises, through talks, workshops and discussion on a range of topics from funding and finance, to promotion, community development and social innovation.

"Social enterprises do incredible work in Irish communities, providing much-needed services while also creating employment in the local area. SocialISE Summit 2022 celebrates social enterprise and encourages more development in this sector by raising awareness of the model," says Joe Saunders, CEO of the ILDN. "Information on the benefits of social enterprises as well as advice on overcoming the set-up challenges will be freely available."

As business models set up to tackle social, economic or environmental issues, social enterprises engage in commercial activities to pursue these objectives and produce social and community gain. Some are also referred to as Work Integration Social

Enterprises (WISEs), supporting disadvantaged people to prepare for, and participate in, the labour market. In Ireland, over 30,000 people work in over 1,400 social enterprises.

Many of these social enterprises will be attending the SocialISE Summit to talk to those interested in establishing similar enterprises in their region. Organisations like Galway's An Mheitheal Rothar (Bike Shop), Dublin's ACE Enterprise Park, WALK and the nationwide Paint Reuse Network are among the case studies that will be discussing their models for success in their sectors. Topics such as access to funding, as well as governance, marketing and digital media will be covered by subject matter experts on the day.

SocialISE Summit 2022 is free to attend thanks to the Department of Rural and Community Development who are supporting this initiative through the ARISE programme, as well as Pobal and the Dormant Accounts Fund.

For more information, see www.ildn.ie or register at https://socialise_summit_2022.eventbrite.ie

09:45 Event Registration & Networking: Tea & Coffee/Scones

10:15 Event Kick Off with MC Donie McGrath (ILDN)

10:20 Official Opening by Minister

10:30 ILDN Speaker

10:45 MORNING PANEL

Sourcing Funding for Social Enterprises — The Challenges & How to Overcome Them Mary Lalor, Clann Credo

Selling Through Social Media — Can Digital Boost my Business? Stephen Ryan, Narration

Getting Your Ducks in a Row — Legal Obligations & Governance for Social Enterprise Jim O'Sullivan, Ambit Compliance

Case Study: How Social Enterprise Impacts Positive Change in our Community — Cathy Coote, An Mheitheal Rothar: Galway's Bike Workshop

Questions & Answers

11:45 FACILITATED NETWORKING

11:55 **Social Enterprises: Building Community Cohesion Through Social Innovation** Dr. Andrew Forde, DRCD & European Commission Expert Group on the Social Economy

12:10 MC to Conclude Morning Session

12:15 Lunch Break / Brown Bag Lunch, Tea & Coffee & Networking

12:50 AFTERNOON PANEL

Social Enterprise Close Up chaired by Ciaran Mullooly, Roscommon Leader Partnership

Key Themes: Business Opportunity – Challenges
Lessons Learned – Future Plans & Needs

Case Studies Discussion from

- Walk
- ACE Enterprise Park
- Paint Reuse Network & Furniture Revamp

13:15 BREAK OUT SESSIONS (Choose 1)

Theme No. 1: Marrying Corporate & Community (CSR)
Theme No. 2A: Storytelling: Empowering Your Brand
Theme No. 3A: Funding: How to Access Funding for a SE startup
Theme No. 3B: Funding: Funding Options for your existing SE
Theme No. 4: Networking: Power Your Sales Through Networking

14:00 **Return from Break Out**
Discussion by Facilitators on Issues / Solutions

14:30 QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

14:50 CONCLUDING COMMENTS BY ILDN SPEAKER

15:00 EVENT OFFICIAL CLOSE

RUNNING ORDER

SocialISE Summit22

NEWS



Galway social enterprises work together to raise awareness

A group of six social enterprises in Galway have come together to raise awareness of the social enterprise model under the ARISE programme.

The social enterprises involved are all well known in Galway in their own right, but the Choose Galway Social Enterprise Campaign aims to create awareness among the public that they are in fact social enterprises.

The six social enterprises participating in the campaign are An Mheitheal Rothar, Bounce Back Recycling, Galway City Partnership, Galway Community Circus, Go Com Radio and Westside Resource Centre.

It also aims to encourage existing social enterprises to identify as such and to join the Galway City Social Enterprise Collective. "The third aim is to create an awareness amongst groups that a social enterprise model is a way to address

a lack of services, create sustainable employment, and address environmental issues," says Fiona Blaney, Social Enterprise and Community Development Worker with Galway City Partnership.

The awareness drive is ongoing and has involved radio slots on local stations featuring some of the social enterprises, a series of features in the Galway Advertiser and social media campaigns.

Dublin gets social for the greater good

Social Enterprise Dublin has launched a new promotional campaign called 'Get Social, Invest in your Community' to call on the public and the business community to back social enterprises by buying a product or service, offering their time as a volunteer or investing in the enterprise to drive growth.

The campaign was launched at the Mendicity Institution in Dublin on Wednesday, May 11th, by Social Enterprise Dublin, which is a network of seven local

development companies.

Funded by the Government under the Dormant Accounts Fund, the campaign will tell the stories of a number of social entrepreneurs in Dublin and the people they support through media, radio advertising on Newstalk, videos, podcasts and on social media.

Una Lowry, spokesperson for Social Enterprise Dublin and CEO of Dublin South City Partnership, stressed the importance of building greater awareness for the sector. "Dublin has suffered from numerous social issues over the years from homelessness, drug dealing, litter blackspots to a lack of amenities for communities to socialise and express their creativity. This campaign is all about highlighting the people behind these social enterprises who are addressing social issues head on and instigating real change," she said.

Since 2019, Social Enterprise Dublin has mentored and delivered financial support to over 90 social enterprises in the capital who have reported a combined turnover of €9.3 million providing employment to over 650 people in their local communities.



Miriam Spollen, Founder, Connections Arts Centre; Bernie Walsh, Founder, Sunflower Recycling; Anthony Freeman O'Brien, Beekeeper, Bee8; Louisa Santoro, CEO, Mendicity Institution and Joyce Ngwe Akama, hairdresser and trainer, DiP Hair and Beauty Bar

New online directory to help boost opportunities for long-term unemployed

Speedpak Group, a Work Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) based in north Dublin, is seeking to make contact with other WISEs who wish to be featured in a new online directory.

Speedpak is undertaking the project to raise awareness of WISEs, particularly among the business community, and to create opportunities for the long-term unemployed. Speedpak is one of Ireland's longest established WISEs, operating two successful commercial businesses, Speedpak Contract Services and Shamrock Rosettes.

"Our goal with this resource and campaign is to increase the number of businesses procuring goods and services from social enterprises. We want to show

businesses that they can achieve positive social impact by buying from social enterprises, and we want to facilitate those businesses in finding local WISEs they can engage with on commercial or philanthropic projects," Pearse O'Reilly, coordinator of the project, says.

A WISE Ireland website is being launched as a directory of WISEs that supply goods and services in the North Dublin area. The site will show how businesses can achieve their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by procuring from, and engaging with, local social enterprises.

Businesses that want to make a difference can achieve positive social impact through social procurement.

The first stage of the project is to identify WISEs and feature them in the directory at www.wiseireland.ie. Inclusion is free of charge. The second stage will centre on promoting the directory to businesses. This will include making direct contact with large local businesses to highlight how they can create positive social impact by collaborating with WISEs.

The project is part of the Government's 2022 Awareness Raising Initiatives for Social Enterprises (ARISE) programme, approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund.

Get in contact at info@wiseireland.ie to include your organisation's details in the directory or see further details at www.speedpakgroup.com/wise

SocialiSE People

Q&A

with Joe Slattery

Mental health professional Joe Slattery talks to SocialiSE about setting up and running his social enterprise, JS Equine Therapies in Ballina, Co.Tipperary.



What is JS Equine Therapies?

JS Equine therapies is a counselling psychotherapy service through the medium of horses. It's working with horses to learn about yourself.

Who is it for?

The Eagala (the Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association) model that I use is practiced in 50 countries across the world and is used for a variety of different things. I mainly use it for people with emotional and behavioural issues. Working with adolescents, it's usually non-verbal emotional issues that they struggle to verbalise. When I'm working with older people, a lot of times it's trauma that they might not have dealt with. Really it's for anyone who might be considering going for counselling but doesn't want to do traditional talk therapy.

How, why and when did you set up a social enterprise?

I set it up about eight years ago and it happened by accident. I grew up in a socially deprived area of Limerick, but I had horses. As a young man I always had a love for them but when I look back now that I'm professionally trained, having the horses probably saved my life in some ways because it gave me emotional release. At work, one of my colleagues mentioned an event to do with horses and that was my first introduction to the Eagala model of using horses to work with people through emotional issues. I worked as a counsellor, so my two passions just collided.

How does it operate?

Really what you are looking to do is make the community a better place, give people living in our society more options of healing and feeling better. The ethos of the model is spreading the word about the healing benefits of being with horses, so for me that's how it works as a social enterprise. It's really there as a benefit to society as opposed to a commodity.

What supports did you get to set it up and to run it?

I set it up off my own back but then I went and did a social enterprise course called BNest here in Limerick. It showed us how to put structures in place, how to monitor costs, all that kind of stuff. That programme gave a lot of practical advice on what you need to be focusing on because I think a lot of people starting a social enterprise come from a place of emotion – it's something you want to do but it has to be a business for longevity. The Eagala model also has a vast amount of resources online on things like how to promote, how to do a proper leaflet, how to do consent forms. So the model itself is very supportive for people on how to establish and run their business.

What are the challenges social enterprises like yours face?

When you set up a social enterprise, usually what you are doing is setting up something within your own vision, a vision in your head of what's missing and would be a benefit to society and the bigger picture, and sometimes it can be hard to get people to buy into your vision. There's also not enough financial support out there for people to do it. If you take someone who is maybe a mother or father of one or two kids and who is trying to set up a social enterprise but also live – it's very hard to get any further than maybe building the website. You haven't the time to do all the legwork, to do your presentations, to meet with different services. That can be a very difficult draw on people.

Have you any advice for those thinking of setting up a social enterprise?

To do it! You might say this is going to take me four years, it's going to take me ten years. Thankfully, with good health, those ten years are going to pass anyway, but let's look back after those ten years and say 'I've done something with it'. Don't have regrets. Also, and this is very important, reach out for help. Find out where the resources are. Find out where the funding is. Find out where there are experts in those areas that want to get behind you and give it a go. Just believe in your idea.

“There was a David and Goliath element to it”

What do you do when your village is excluded from the National Broadband Plan, and you struggle with impossibly inadequate internet access? Grumble? Well, you could, but people in the villages of Piltown and Fiddown, Co Kilkenny, chose instead to form a social enterprise and build their own 150mb broadband network for their communities.

This huge undertaking started when County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership (CKLP) held roadshows around the county in 2018 to show communities that were outside of the National Broadband Plan examples of communities in the UK that had set up their own broadband service.

“We just needed one community to do it so we could show that it works here,” says Angela Campion, Development Officer with CKLP. “Piltown actually had a few residents working remotely using dongles, which would have been unheard of then. So, they had the hunger for it, and they understood the technical language of it.”



Mary Morgan, Secretary B4OC; Gerry Hickey, Liaison Officer B4OC; Jill Dowley, Treasurer B4OC; Brian Doyle, Chairperson B4OC; Paul Walsh, B4OC Volunteer

Jim O'Brien, now Project Manager with Broadband 4 Our Community (B4OC), which is the social enterprise formed to develop community-owned broadband for Piltown and Fiddown, was one of those Piltown residents who felt the hunger for improved broadband and understood the technical language involved.

The native of Carrick-on-Suir who settled with his family in Piltown about 12 years ago had first-hand knowledge of how difficult it was to function online in Piltown. “I had terrible broadband experience myself,” he says. “I was trying

to complete an online computer science course, which was completely dependent on the internet. I had to get one of those little wireless broadband dongles from Eir and had to set up office in my garage, because I could get speeds of more than 10 megabytes a second out there. I spent two winters in my garage.”

With a career background in construction and about to embark on a career in IT, Jim was well placed to help the effort to get broadband for the community. He attended a public meeting held by Piltown Community Enterprise after the CKLP roadshow to see if there were enough people within the community willing to do something about the broadband issue.

“It didn’t have a huge attendance, but the right people showed up,” Jim says. “We went on to form a steering committee and then carried out the first step which was an expression of interest survey.”

That undertaking, calling to around 750 homes or premises in Piltown and Fiddown, was the start of a massive effort that eventually saw the new community broadband service go live in March this year.

The next step was a feasibility study funded by CKLP. “We needed to know what we would need, where could the infrastructure go, who owned this land, who owned that land, how do you deal with the council, what happens if you want to cross a road or dig up a road and, most importantly, where does the internet come from? Can we get a fibre connection from the backhaul (national grid)?” Jim says.

“There is an Eir cabinet in the village but we were in talks with BT, who manage the franchise for Eir, and we found out we could only get one gigabit speed from that Eir cabinet, which would not be enough to build out what we wanted to build. We had done so much work, but we were back to square one.”

Fortunately, the backhaul runs along railway tracks around Ireland and Piltown is also adjacent to the rail line. The group found that they could get a ten gigabit line if they built a communications hut right beside the track. After lengthy discussions with BT and Irish Rail and permission from the landowner, O’Shea Farms, the hut was built.

“There was a bit of a leap of faith there in that we actually started building out our own infrastructure long before we had full permission to instal the hut. There was a point where we had spent a ton of money putting in poles and running cables and doing everything we needed before we actually had a definite signal, but there were some great people working for Irish Rail who saw the plight we were in and really moved it



Declan Rice, CEO, Kilkenny Leader Partnership; Jim O'Brien, Project Manager B4OC; Paul Walsh, B4OC Volunteer

over the line for us, which was a huge relief,” Jim says.

“We still had to come up through the fields by about two kilometres before we hit our first customer. It was a serious amount of work digging through fields.”

That digging, along with all the other work associated with the project was carried out by a team of about 12 volunteers. With the financial support of O’Shea Farms and other local businesses, the group, with the assistance of CKLP, were connected with a philanthropic trust, the Tomar Trust, which matched their funding. Other businesses, like Blacknight, the Carlow-based ISP, helped the group to manage their dealings with BT.

“It is for the community by the community”

“A lot of people just really liked this project. There was a David and Goliath element to it. A small village stepping up and trying to do this thing for themselves. There was loads of emotional and knowledge-based support from lots of businesses. Kilkenny LEADER Partnership were a big part of it and Piltown Community Enterprise – that gave us the strength, and the structure, and the confidence to move forward,” Jim says.

At time of writing, the broadband service had been up and running for 70 days. “It’s just brilliant. Where we started is where there was probably the worst broadband in the village. There were people there trying to survive on one megabyte a lot of the time. During the pandemic, their dependency had risen significantly, and they just couldn’t manage. I know families that had to drive to public hotspots so that their children could do their online classes. Their speeds now have

increased a hundredfold. It’s the way it should be.”

So far, phase one has seen 28 buildings connected out of a capacity of 64. “That’s made up of houses, large and small businesses, a church, the soccer club, community buildings, and a government-owned building – a water treatment plant down in a large, old quarry that couldn’t get a signal from anywhere,” Jim says.



Brian Doyle, Chairperson B4OC, attending Ballykeefe Smart Villages Conference

Work is continuing on connecting buildings in phase one, while phase 2, with capacity for another 64 connections, has also started.

Householders pay €100 (roughly 10% of the actual cost) to have the service installed and a monthly fee of €39.99 per month. “Our model is that it is for the community by the community, so when we have the network built and the company is earning money we can reduce the cost for every household – and that is one thing that no other ISP is going to do,” Jim says.

Care and repair in Kildare



Ready for action!: Maintenance workers Peter Nolan and Paul Kelly are all set with their new van

Kildare Small Jobs, a social enterprise supported by County Kildare LEADER Partnership, is proving to be a great success with over 65s in the county who find that due to age or mobility reasons there are some small household tasks that they are no longer able to do.

The service, which carries out small jobs for householders for a limited fee, launched last September after holding successful trials in the summer. Originally intended to provide a property maintenance service for people over 65 living in South Kildare, it is now going countywide due to demand.

Householders take out a €55 subscription to the service, which entitles them to five call outs. Each call out involves two maintenance workers – who are fully insured, carry photo ID and are garda-vetted – spending 90 minutes

carrying out any small jobs that the client wants done. The householder provides all the materials for the job while Kildare Small Jobs provides equipment and labour.

“We arrange a time and a day that suits the client and always send a text the day before to remind them. We could end up having one small job or several small jobs but would always encourage them to try and use up the time by grouping jobs,” says Paula O’Connor, coordinator of Kildare Small Jobs.

“We don’t undertake jobs that you would normally get a tradesperson to do, but small jobs that people may have done themselves in the past and would find it difficult and/or too costly to get a tradesperson to complete, such as fixing a security chain, putting up a shelf, putting items into the attic, painting a window sill or garden gate and mowing small lawn areas along with general garden work,” she adds.

“Feedback has been really positive. Nearly all of the trial clients subscribed, and we now have 85 subscribers and 16 of those subscriptions are clients who have resubscribed. Indeed, a few are on their third subscription. Our intention is to expand to meet demand as and when we can.”

Kildare Small Jobs started with two maintenance workers and has recently hired a third with plans to take on one other as soon as possible. As well as the maintenance workers, it also has several admin staff. Kildare Small Jobs is a Work Integration Social Enterprise (WISE) as positions are part-time and funded under the Community Employment Scheme.

“There is a care and repair slant to it. Lots of people were having these call outs for a bit of company.”

The service currently operates with one van but hopes to add another soon. “I can see this turning into a fleet of vans at some point because we are getting so many requests,” says Mary Minogue, Enterprise Support Worker with County Kildare Leader Partnership.



Paula O'Connor, Brian Kelly and Mary Minogue

“We’re finding that it is an ideal gift for friends or family. The child who lives 50 miles away gets it for a parent and knows that their small jobs are being done by people who they know they can trust and let into their home.”

That sense of knowing that the person who is carrying out small jobs in your home or garden is reliable and trustworthy is one of the reasons the service has proved so popular – as without such a resource, vulnerable older people could risk being taken advantage of when hiring someone to do small jobs for them. Indeed, the service is now looking at creating a referral trades list for larger jobs that Kildare Small Jobs cannot undertake so that householders will know they are dealing with legitimate businesses.

Another reason for its success is the simple fact that elderly people who may be quite isolated enjoy the company of the workers. “There is a care and repair slant to it. Lots of people were having these call outs for a bit of company,” Mary says.

“We’re now talking about it being a channel through which other services can be introduced. It was developed because a gap in a service was identified but it is turning into a conduit that is linking people to the other services available to them such as Older Voices, a befriending and activities service.”



Paul Kelly – KSJ Maintenance Worker / Kildare Small Jobs, Mary Minogue – Enterprise/Social Enterprise Support Worker, CKLP, Paula O’Connor – Enterprise Skills Programme CE Scheme / Kildare Small Jobs Co-ordinator, Anne Marie Maxwell – Customer Service Representative – Admin / Kildare Small Jobs, Rosaleen Kelly – Customer Service Representative / Kildare Small Jobs, Brian Kelly – Project Development Officer, CKLP, Peter Nolan – KSJ Maintenance Worker / Kildare Small Jobs

SOCIALLY SPEAKING!



Another progressive meeting last night at Maugherow Hall where the community decided to set up a limited company and a working group to pursue potential funding and begin to create a vision for the whole community of Maugherow. Thanks to everyone who came!

#sligo #community



Ukrainian community in North Wexford holding their first community consultation this morning in Gorey. Its vital that the voices of Ukrainians themselves is part of decision making #SICAP #Wexford



Fantastic day at @nearfm studios recording for the #GetSocialDublin podcast and video recordings. @SocEnterDublin. Sharing their stories of their journey as Social Enterprises. Can't wait to share it here soon!

@DorasBui @ForestsPocket @JustSocEnt @CityPartnership



Calling all Craft / Creative Businesses. IRD Duhallo is running a series of in person trainings for those in the Creative / Craft Sector. These also include creative clinics which are one to one mentoring opportunities with a specialist Craft Mentor. For further details and to book your place today contact <https://www.irdduhallo.com/upcoming-events/>



Dublin South City Partnership @CityPartnership · May 20
Great to hear @joefingalgreen praising the Community Services Programme at the launch of @FrontlineBikes1 today. Looking forward to the new Programme being announced by @DeptRCD @pobal Our @SocEnterDublin SE's need the supports asap



#SocialISE Summit for Social Enterprise is open for registrations!
The Summit takes place on Wed 29 June 22 @F2Centre Rialto, Dublin. Organised by the #ILDN, SocialISE is focused on social enterprises; #funding #digital #promotion, #community Register free lnkd.in/guSsdY4q

Ready to SocialISE



Cathy O'Connor, IRD Duhallo, Rialto, Enterprise Park, and Jack McGee, Rialto, Enterprise Park, at the launch of the Summit for Social Enterprises, SocialISE, which will take place on Wednesday, June 29, at the F2 Centre in Dublin.
Picture: Niamh Cullen