



## Building Sustainable Communities – Harnessing Local Resources

Station House Hotel, Letterkenny, 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>st</sup> November 2012

### SEMINAR PROGRAMME

#### Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> November 2012

9.30am

*Welcome and Introductions*

Cllr Frank McBrearty, Mayor of County Donegal

*Conference Programme*

Charles Sweeney, Community & Enterprise, Donegal County

Council

*VIT Project (Very Important Twinning: Volunteering in Town)*

Per Vinther, Association of Local Democracy Agencies (ALDA)

10.00am

**The importance of international collaboration in sustaining a viable community**

*Session chaired by Micheál Ó hÉanaigh, Community & Enterprise, Donegal County Council*

*Ireland Reaching Out – South East Galway Diaspora Project*

Rory O Shaughnessy, Community Activation Leader

*Experience of Irish and other immigrants to the United States of America*

Sr Leena Devy – Director Irish International Emigration

Centre Boston

*The possible benefits to be gained from twinning with other communities*

Teresa Casserly, Europe for Citizens

*Establishing linkages between the towns of Letterkenny and Weilun*

Robert Fabiansk, Letterkenny and Weilun

11.30am

**Tea / Coffee**

11.45am

**The importance of having a strong community & voluntary sector in a sustainable community**

*Session chaired by Mary McGowan, Chairperson, Donegal County Community Forum*

*This is Donegal in 2011 - Changing and Challenging Demographics*

Loretta McNicholas – Research & Policy, Donegal County

Council

*Overview of Volunteering in Donegal*  
John Curran, Manager, Donegal Volunteering Centre

*The tradition of volunteering in Donegal*  
Speaker TBC

*The practice of volunteering in Spain*  
Inés Novella Abril, Recreatura, Valencia, VIT Partner

**1.15pm**                      **Lunch**

**2.30pm**                      **Social Infrastructure for Sustainable Communities**

Session Chaired by Máire Ó Leary, Social Inclusion Manager, HSE

The importance of transport services in rural communities - The Donegal Model  
Barney McLaughlin, Community & Enterprise, Donegal County Council

*CAWT – Cross Border Social Inclusion*  
Karen Meehan, Project Manager

*Early Childhood Education and Care*  
Avril Sweeney - Donegal County Childcare Committee

## **Tuesday, 20<sup>st</sup> November**

**9.30am**                      Registration

**10.00am**                      **Culture and Enterprise for Sustainable Communities**

*Session chaired by John Andy Bonner, Letterkenny Institute of Technology*

The development of Donegal's cultural identity and product  
Micheál MacAoidh, Donegal Cultural Forum

*Building Suitable Community Practice*  
Corina Catterson Flynn and Michael Carlin, CPI Castlefin

*A community enterprise case study*  
Eamon O'Donnell, North West Taxi Proprietors

**11.30am**                      **Tea / Coffee**

**11.45pm**                      **The value of sport in a Sustainable Community**

*Session chaired by Cllr Dessie Larkin, Chairman of Donegal County Development Board*

*Valuing the contribution of our Sports Volunteers*  
Myles Sweeney, Co-ordinator, Donegal Sports Partnership

*Motivation of people to Volunteer*  
Mick Quinlivan, Special Olympics Ireland

*The impact of volunteers on the work of the GAA*  
Speaker TBC

*The role of Glasgow Celtic FC in promoting football in the community*  
Donna Marie Henry, Partnership Manager, The Celtic

Foundation

**1.15pm**

**Close of Conference followed by Lunch**