



An Taisce Green Communities

Green Communities is an environmental project operated jointly by the An Taisce Education Unit in Ireland and Keep Wales Tidy. The Green Communities programme is funded by a grant from the European Regional Development Fund Interreg 4A Ireland - Wales Programme.

Green Communities is designed to encourage groups to actively enhance local biodiversity, while also minimising the carbon footprint of their activities. The programme is aimed at groups interested, or already involved, in community-based environmental work. The two main aspects of the programme are carbon footprinting of group activities and enhancing local biodiversity. Carbon footprinting is undertaken through a simple review of existing activities and reducing carbon footprint, where possible. The biodiversity aspect of the programme involves groups identifying the main habitats in the locality by carrying out a simple habitat survey. Once important habitats have been identified, groups decide on a number of actions designed to enhance these areas.

Website: www.antaisce.org

Arts Council

There are several funding programmes, which are relevant to community-led village design statements including, the Artist in the Community, Engaging with Architecture Scheme, and Festivals and Events Scheme:

Artist in the Community (in partnership with Create – see below)

Twice yearly, the Arts Council offers grants to enable artists and communities of place/or interest to work together on projects. The scheme is open to artists from any of the following artform disciplines: architecture, circus, street art and spectacle, dance, film, literature (Irish and English language), music, opera, theatre, visual arts, and traditional arts. The projects can take place in a diverse range of social and community contexts e.g. arts and health; arts in prisons; arts and older people; arts and cultural diversity. The aim of the scheme is to encourage meaningful collaboration between communities of place and/or interest and artists. It is essential that consultation takes place between the artist and the community group, so that both parties are involved in deciding on the nature of the project realisation. Group ownership of the art should be maintained at every stage. The Project Realisation may result in a variety of outcomes. There are two phases to the scheme:

Phase One, Research & Development, is open to artists who wish to research and develop a project in a community context. Research & Development/Mentoring is open to artists who wish to develop a community based project and who have identified an artist mentor they want to work with during the research and development phase.

Phase Two, Project Realisation, is open to communities of interest or place (or their representative organisations) with an artist.

Engaging with Architecture Scheme (a partnership scheme between the Arts Council and the Department of the Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht)

The purpose of the scheme is to support ambitious, innovative and creative, high-quality initiatives that specifically aim to enhance and extend the public's experience of and engagement with architecture. This is a partnership scheme between the Arts Council and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, under the Government Policy on Architecture Implementation Programme 2009-2015. This scheme is normally advertised in the summer.

Festivals and Events Scheme

The Arts Council has introduced a new scheme to support festivals and events. The scheme is open to multi-disciplinary festivals and single art-form festivals. Events may be one-off projects or programmed over a number of months.

Website: www.artscouncil.ie



Business/Private Sector

Your group might find it useful to explore the potential of securing private sector sponsorship and support in kind for the VDS process and VDS projects. It is important to get a group consensus on what organisations to approach to ensure that everyone is in agreement. Support in kind might include printing facilities, venue hire and catering, advertising, transport, computers, etc.

Website: see relevant business websites.

Create

Create is the national development agency for collaborative arts in social and community contexts. Create's mission is to provide advice and support services to artists and arts organisations working collaboratively with communities in social and community contexts. Create supports artists across all artforms who work collaboratively with communities, be they communities of place or communities brought together by interest.

Website: www.create-ireland.ie

Clann Credo

Clann Credo helps to build stronger communities by providing social finance for community growth. The organisation offers a range of loan products to community, voluntary, and charitable groups as well as social enterprises and community businesses throughout Ireland. Loans are considered up to €500,000. Loans are generally granted for a period of up to seven years, but longer repayment periods (up to 15 years) may be considered. Their packages include:

- Bridging loans against grant income or other funding.
- Finance for property purchase, construction or refurbishment.
- Working capital loans.
- Matching funding loans.
- Loans to purchase equipment and vehicles.

Beneficiaries include:

- Community owned enterprises.
- Social housing initiatives.
- Accessible transport.
- Community childcare.
- Arts, culture and heritage projects.
- Environmental projects.
- Social enterprises.

Website: www.clanncredo.ie

County and City Enterprise Boards (CEBs)

CEBs offer priming grants to sole traders, partnerships, community or limited companies that meet their criteria. For more information, please contact your local CEB.

Website: www.cdb.ie

Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht

Local authorities are allocated funding from the DoAHG through the *Structures at Risk Fund*, which in 2012 amounted to €500,000.

Website: www.ahg.gov.ie

Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government

See Local Authorities, Local Agenda 21 and Pobal below.

Website: www.environ.ie



Dept of Transport, Tourism and Sport - Sustainable Transport - Smarter Travel

Funding is available through the Department's *Smarter Travel: A Sustainable Transport Future*, published in February 2009, which represents a new transport policy for Ireland for the period 2009-2020. For example, funding is available for the following:

- National Cycleways (in partnership with local authorities).
- Green Schools Travel Module (in partnership with An Taisce).

Website: www.dttas.ie

Enterprise Ireland (EI)

Enterprise Ireland is the state agency responsible for supporting the development of manufacturing and internationally traded services companies. EI provides funding and support for companies - from entrepreneurs with plans for a high potential start-up through to large companies expanding their activities, improving efficiency and growing export sales. Enterprise Ireland also provides funding and support for college-based researchers to assist in the development, protection and transfer of technologies into industry via licensing or spin-out companies. EI provides support for international services as well as manufacturing. For further information, please follow the link below.

Website: www.enterprise-ireland.com

Failte Ireland

Faílte Ireland provides funding under its *Festivals and Participative Events Programme* – the deadline for annual funding applications is normally in September. Funding is available for national or regional events. The minimum eligibility requirements for a regional event includes the following:

- Festivals must generate a minimum of 600 overnight stays.
- Participative sporting events must generate a minimum of 1,000 overnight stays.
- The festival/event must have a minimum expenditure of €10,000.
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If your festival or event is not eligible under this scheme, your group may be able to avail of some of the practical business tools that FI provides. These include training, mentoring and, in some cases, promotion of events.

Website: www.failteireland.ie

Heritage Council

The Heritage Council has a number of funding programmes, which are relevant to the community-led Village Design Statement initiative, most notably the annual funding programme relating to County/City Heritage Plans operated by the Local Authority Heritage Officers Network. Project applications are required annually in November, assessment takes place the following February and draw down of successful projects must be by the end of November that year. Other funding programmes include:

- Heritage Research.
- Heritage Management.
- Heritage Education, Community and Outreach.

It might be useful to be well through Step 1 of the Community-led VDS Toolkit before applying for funding as the turn around for Heritage Plan projects is less than the community-led VDS process, which recommends a 1.5-2 yr period to set up, scope and complete the community-led process. N.B. The future of the Heritage Council's funding programmes will be dependent on its future budget.

Website: www.heritagecouncil.ie



Ireland Fund (Worldwide)

The Worldwide Ireland Funds accept applications for projects in the following area:

- Investing in Ireland's communities.
- Supporting a shared future for Northern Ireland.
- Providing access to Education.
- Promoting Culture and Heritage.
- Assisting Disadvantaged Youth.
- Assisting the elderly "Forgotten Irish".
- Promoting Philanthropy in Ireland.

The maximum amount awarded is €20,000. The average award is normally around €6,000 and there is no minimum award.

Website: www.theirelandfunds.org

JobBridge (FÁS) – National Internship Scheme

JobBridge is the National Internship Scheme that provides work experience placements for interns for a 6-9 month period. It is recommended that village communities explore the potential to secure these valuable resources for their projects. Information on the JobBridge Scheme is available using the link below.

Website: www.jobbridge.ie

LEADER Groups

The LEADER Programme (€80m) is funded through the NDP Rural Development Programme supported by the EU through CAP. Each LEADER company or local action group (36 no. in total) has different priorities based on their local plan. There are seven measures under LEADER – all are open to rural dwellers, however, there is one which is exclusive to farmers and their families. If you want more technical information on the measures, contact your Local LEADER company. The measures are as follows:

1. Diversification into non agri-cultural activities.
2. Support for the business creation and development.
3. Encouragement of tourism activities.
4. Basic services for the rural economy and population.
5. Village and countryside renewal and development.
6. Conservation and upgrading of rural heritage.
7. Training and skills acquisition.

The funding for community projects whether they are community services or community enterprises is at a rate of 75% from LEADER up to a maximum of €150,000 (in exceptional circumstances flagship projects can qualify for a maximum grant of €500,000. It should be noted that CAP concludes in 2013 and a new programme will be launched to cover 2014-2020. LEADER also funds festivals with an upper threshold of €150,000.

Since 10th September 2012, LEADER companies are subject to new operational procedures in relation to heritage projects, 'Heritage projects' are defined as those which will impact or have potential to impact upon structures, places or sites of heritage interest, including:

- Monuments and places protected under the *National Monuments Acts 1930-2004*.
- Protected structures, and proposed protected structures, within the meaning of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*.
- Architectural conservation areas within the meaning of the *Planning and Development Act, 2000*, as amended.
- Protected nature conservation sites.
- Protected species of flora and fauna and their key habitats.
- Other nature conservation sites and biodiversity areas.

The system in relation to heritage projects has been developed in co-operation with the Local Action Groups, the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government, and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht to address the funding of 'Heritage projects' under the Rural Development Programme (RDP) 2007-2013.

Website: see websites for local LEADER companies



Local Agenda 21 – Environmental Partnership - (DoECLG through the Local Authorities)

A Local Agenda 21 project should aim to: promote sustainable community development and take into account the well being and quality of life of the entire community in the long term; include a high level of participation at local level, giving particular attention to participation by minority or under-represented groups; and - while it may focus on a particular social, economic, cultural or environmental issue, the project will present an integrated vision of how the other aspects of community life will be affected. Further information and application forms are available from your Local Authority Environmental Awareness Officer. The annual deadline for applications is July.

In addition, a number of local authorities provide information on funding opportunities - one of the best websites which was set up and managed by a local authority is the funding website for Dublin City Council – please see: www.funding4dublincity.ie/.

Website: www.environ.ie/en/Environment/LocalAgenda21/

National Lottery – The Lotto

The National Lottery generates funds for good causes in the areas of Youth, Sport, Recreation and Amenities; Health & Welfare; Arts, Culture & National Heritage and the Irish Language. Funds raised by the National Lottery are transferred to the Exchequer and are used to part-finance expenditure by various Government Departments on projects in these categories. Government Departments with allocations part-funded by the National Lottery publish details of grant programmes and grants paid from such allocations on their websites.

Website: www.lottery.ie

Patagonia – Outdoor Clothing Company

Patagonia offers grants to charitable organisations in Ireland working on grassroots campaigns to protect threatened wilderness and biodiversity. Patagonia is a privately held American outdoor clothing and gear company that is based in the United States and operates internationally in a number of different countries, including the Republic of Ireland. It offers grants to non-profit grassroots environmental groups in the countries where it works. The company is particularly keen to support 'small, grassroots activist organisations with provocative direct-action agendas, working on multi-pronged campaigns to preserve and protect the environment'. Charities registered in the Republic of Ireland may apply for grants of between \$3,000 and \$8,000 (approximately €2,400 to €6,500).

Website: www.patagonia.com

PEACE III

The EU Programme for Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland and the Border Region of Ireland (2007-2013) - 'the PEACE III Programme' - is a distinctive European Union Structural Funds Programme aimed at reinforcing progress towards a peaceful and stable society and promoting reconciliation. Taking this overall aim forward, the PEACE III Programme focuses on two strategic objectives:

Priority 1: Reconciling Communities.

Priority 2: Contributing to a Shared Society.

Theme 1.1: Building positive relationships at the local level.

Theme 1.2: Acknowledging and dealing with the past.

Website: www.seupb.eu/programmes2007-2013/peaceiiiprogramme/overview.aspx



Planning Gain (Planning Obligations)

The concept of planning gain is well established in England and Wales through formal Section 106 Agreements. In Ireland, permission for the new Lansdowne Stadium in the south of the city (known as the Aviva Stadium) included a Planning Condition (No. 22), which required the developer/stadium operator to make annual payments of €75,000 (index linked) to a funding programme, 'which may be used to meet the costs of the general activities of the Project Management Committee, including in respect of works of environmental maintenance and improvement in the area and for social and educational activities benefiting the local community'¹.

The community-led Sandymount VDS project availed of these funds to print the VDS document, which was formally launched by Minister Deenihan T.D. in September 2011. Clearly, there is the potential to develop the concept of planning gain further in Ireland in the future in partnership with the DoECLG, local planning authorities, An Bord Pleanála, etc.

Website: see www.environ.ie

Pobal

Pobal provides an umbrella service for all community funding programmes in Ireland. Pobal is committed to supporting national recovery through the programmes managed on behalf of Government Departments, including the *Local and Community Development Programme (LCDP)* and the *Programmes of Grants for Community and Voluntary Organisations*, funded by the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government with part-funding made available from The National Lottery.

Website: www.pobal.ie

Ryanair

Ryanair seeks a charity partner to receive the proceeds from their annual Cabin Crew Charity Calendar (expected profits in 2012 were €100,000). The funding is aimed at improving the lives of those who need it most. Previous recipients include Angels Quest, Dublin Simon Community, KIDS, De Tafel and Debra Ireland. The deadline is normally August each year for the following year.

Website: www.ryanair.com/ie

The Arthur Guinness Fund

The Arthur Guinness Fund is an innovative investment vehicle that supports the big ideas and the passion for community of social entrepreneurs, furthering the philanthropic legacy of Arthur Guinness. The Arthur Guinness Fund helps social entrepreneurs deliver measurable, transformational change to communities in Ireland (and worldwide). Established in 2009, to help mark the 250th anniversary of Guinness, over €6.5m was initially invested in the fund. In 2011, the fund awarded €1m and a package of practical support and mentoring to 10 Irish social entrepreneurs and €650,000 was available in 2012.

Website: www.guinness.com/en-ie/arthursday/fund.html

The Wheel

The Wheel is a support and representative body connecting community and voluntary organisations and charities across Ireland. Established in 1999, the Wheel has evolved to become a resource centre and forum for the community and voluntary sector. The Wheel has produced a really useful guide in relation to preparing funding applications:

www.wheel.ie/sites/default/files/The%20Wheel%20-%20How%20to%20Apply%20for%20Funding%20-%20June%202010.pdf

Website: www.thewheel.ie

¹ ABP Ref: PL29S.218017, P.A. Reg. Ref: 108/06.



Tús

Tús is a Department of Social Protection activation initiative for people who are long-term unemployed and in receipt of Jobseekers Allowance. It was launched on 21st December 2010. Responsibility for the operation of Tús rests with the Department of Social Protection. Pobal (Government Supporting Communities) operates a payroll function on behalf of the Department and it is managed at a local level, on the Department's behalf, by the Local Integrated Development Companies, as well as Údarás na Gaeltachta in the Gaeltacht and Dublin Employment Pact. The programme provides twelve month work placement opportunities in local community settings. Tús workers would be able to work on the implementation of the Agreed VDS Action Plan and associated projects.

Website: see websites for local LEADER companies

Vodafone Foundation

For maximum impact, we target a range of strategic areas for investment and all projects we support fall within one of the following categories:

- Handset recycling.
- Annual charity partners.
- Working with those in need: children, young people and their families.
- Emergency relief.
- Collaboration and capacity building.
- Volunteering and employee matched funding.
- Sponsorship.

Each year, Vodafone invites a number of organisations to submit proposals for consideration by the Foundation Board. Please note that Vodafone does not accept unsolicited applications.

Website: www.vodafone.ie/foundation/how-we-support/



Funding Incentives:

Charitable Status

For voluntary and community organisations there are many advantages in having charitable status if possible. It gives a standing and credibility to the organisation. Most funders of voluntary and community organisations require them to be recognised as charitable. In addition the organisation is exempt from some taxes and can apply to the Valuation Office for exemption from rates on buildings. In Ireland when an organisation has charitable status it simply means that it is registered as charitable by the Revenue Commissioners for tax purposes. There is currently no official 'Register of Charities' in Ireland. However, a register is due in the short term. Applying to be recognised as a charity by the Revenue Commissioners involved groups applying for exemption from certain taxes and separately to the Valuation Office for exemption from rates on buildings. This can be important to a group for both fundraising purposes and also for exemption from certain taxes. Charitable status does not give legal status to an organisation, nor confer incorporation. A group can have charitable status without being incorporated and vice versa. In order to be recognised as charitable, an organisation must have:

- Legal status by means of a specific legal structures with its associated 'governing instrument' (see next section). This means that it has a written constitution or a Memorandum and Articles of Association or a Trust Deed.
- The governing instrument/document must include a clause stating that the organisation will use its money for charitable purposes only.
- The aims of the organisation as set out in the constitution must be exclusively charitable and must come under one of the following headings or definition of charity:
 - The relief of poverty.
 - The advancement of education.
 - The advancement of religion.
 - Other purposes beneficial to the community.

When applying to be recognised as a charity for tax purposes the organisation must send in:

- A completed application form – CHY1 form from Revenue Commissioners www.revenue.ie/en/tax/it/leaflets/chy1.doc
- Its governing instrument (e.g. a constitution, deed or trust or Memorandum and Articles of Association).
- A statement of activities
- The latest financial accounts
- The names and addresses of its officers.

Website: www.companyformations.ie or check out The Wheel - www.thewheel.ie

Development Contributions

Under Sections 48 and 49 of the *Planning and Development Act 2000*, Local authorities are required to prepare development contributions schemes. The DoECLG published guidelines in June 2012 in relation to the future preparation of these schemes. In order to stimulate economic activity and growth, schemes are required to include waivers on the following:

- *Reduced rates of development contributions or waivers for development in town centres to support town centre development.*
- *Waivers in the case of change-of-use permissions, where change-of use does not lead to the need for new or upgraded infrastructure / services.*
- *Reduced rates of development contributions for businesses grant-aided or supported by IDA/Enterprise Ireland or other local authority or state supported local development agencies, as well as reduced rates for developments that would progress the Government's Jobs Initiative.*
- *Provision to charge only net additional development in cases of redevelopment • projects (e.g. a redevelopment totaling 200m² of which 150m² is replacing existing development, contribution should only be levied on the additional 50m²).*
- *Waivers for broadband provision and sustainable energy infrastructure.*
- *Waivers in respect of works on protected structures.*

As a result, there will be a reduction in project costs relating to projects covered on the above list. The draft guidelines are available at the link below.

Website: www.environ.ie/en/DevelopmentHousing/PlanningDevelopment/Planning/PublicConsultations/



Other Support:

Third Level Institutes – Universities and Institutes of Technology

Finally, your group might find it useful to build links and to collaborate with local universities and institutes of technology. Third level institutes are an extremely useful resource for communities, particularly in relation to their regular requirement for locations for focused student group projects, which might fit in with your project programme. For example, the community-led VDS in Julianstown benefited hugely from the input of students undertaking a 12 week group project as part of the MSc in Urban and Rural Design at Queen's University Belfast².

Institutes with planning and architecture (built and landscape) departments include Dublin Institute of Technology, Queen's University of Belfast, University College Dublin, University College Cork, University of Limerick, University of Ulster, and Waterford Institute of Technology.

Website: www.ioti.ie/

Prepared by Alison Harvey, Heritage Council (October 2012)

² QUB Environmental Planning, Head of Department, Dr Ken Sterrett had attended the Heritage Council's VDS Conference in Slane Castle in October 2008.