

# ANNUAL REPORT 2015/16



DEC  
2016

KILANERIN-BALLYFAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
ASSOCIATION

A Report on the activities of the Community Development Association

# Annual Report 2015/16

KILANERIN-BALLYFAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

## CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

On behalf of the Association, I would like to thank all those who have contributed to local community development in 2015/16. As indicated in the last annual report, the contribution scheme has come to its official end. Our sincere thanks to the entire community for their dedication to the local development over the last ten years. I would also note that although we offered all contributors the option to discontinue payments, we still continue to receive significant funds from more than 40 individuals – these are gratefully received and much needed. In the year past, we have managed to move the association towards a more sustainable funding model, the remaining phases of which will see the completion of the current build at the new Kilanerin-Ballyfad Community Centre, and continued contributions to key community projects across Ballyfad, Ballythomas, Kilanerin and the wider the townland.

A special thank you to all those that are making use of the sports hall within the Community Centre. As the facility expands, we aim to introduce a gym, meeting rooms, showering facilities, a sports hall viewing area, snooker and a local hot-desk / start up facilities for those in the local community in search of accessible office space. Those using the sports hall are directly contributing to the continuous improvement of the facilities. In reality, the Centre could be used even more efficiently. Therefore, we would ask anyone who would like to use the facility, either for once-off parties or for a regular club activity, please make contact with us at [admin@kilanerin.com](mailto:admin@kilanerin.com) or by calling 089-4456184. Further information about booking the facility can be found at [www.Kilanerin.com](http://www.Kilanerin.com).

Through this annual report, you will see updates on key initiatives either directly associated with KBCDA or developed as a collaboration between other local organisations and the Association. In each case, many individuals have been working hard behind the scenes to both plan and implement the required changes that were identified more than 10 years ago by the founders of KBCDA. When the final phase of local development is complete, not only will this be a moment to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of all involved, but it will also be an occasion to ask what should we try and achieve over the next 10 years. Already, ideas around sustainable energy, social inclusivity, supporting local business and broadband access have begun to trickle into our discussions. If you have an idea for change, please come along to our AGM in Ballyfad Hall on December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm.

Although many have contributed to the work of our committee, the role of Association Secretary requires a particular expertise and dedication. I would like therefore to thank Siobhán O'Sullivan for her years of service, as Association Secretary, and I would also like to formally acknowledge the enormity of her contribution to our whole community. We are also greatly reassured that Cathal O'Sullivan has agreed to take on the role, helping to lead us through the next phase of development.

Yours sincerely



Jason Last, KBCDA Chairperson

## PREVIOUS TREASURER'S REPORT 2014/15

<b>INCOME:</b>	€	€
Voluntary Contributions	34878	
Capital Grants re Phase 1 & 2	195000	
Fundraising - Strictly Come Dancing & Dining	17286	
Cattle Raising Scheme	1000	
Sports Hall Rental & Ballybeg Rental	9560	
Grants Received*	6826	
Contributions re Local Infrastructure	9850	
Sundry	544	
ESBi		
	-----	274944
<b>OTHER INCOME</b>		
Personal Loans Received	4500	
Kilanerin Sheltered Housing - Prof. Fees	0	
	-----	4500
		-----
		279444
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	€	€
Development Works	232610	
Donations - Other Parish Events	2000	
Local Infrastructure	5854	
Insurance	1717	
Bank Interest and Charges	9491	
Office Expenses	705	
Accounts and Professional Services	2850	
Cleaning and Rental expenses	3796	
ESB and Heating	3503	
Collector General - VAT and RCT	0	
Shrubs, Flowers, Tidy Towns Improvements	844	
Sundry Expenses	710	
	-----	264080
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>		-----
		15364
	€	€
Opening Bank Balances 01/04		
	11475	
	-211255	
	-----	-199780
Closing Bank Balances 31/03		
	828	
	-185244	
	-----	-184416
Increase in Bank Balances - yr end 31/03		-----
		-15364

**Income and Expenditure Account for Year Ended 31/03/2015**

## CURRENT TREASURER'S REPORT 2015/16

**Income and Expenditure Account for year to 31/03/2016**

<b>Income :</b>	€	€
Voluntary Contributions	29,601	
Fundraising - Cattle sales	17,500	
Other Fundraising	256	
Sports Hall rental & Ballybeg rental	11,267	
FAS, Arts & amenity grant	<u>1,750</u>	60,374
<b>Other Income</b>		
Capital Grants		50,000
<b>Expenditure :</b>	€	€
Development Works	3,759	
Donations - Other Parish Events	1,650	
Local Infrastructure	3,477	
Insurance	1,288	
Bank Interest and Charges	9,935	
Office Expenses	66	
Accounts & Professional Fees	3,937	
Cleaning & Rental expenses	870	
ESB & Heating	3,407	
Shrubs, Flowers, Tidy Town Improvements	1,136	
Sundry Expenses	<u>220</u>	29,745
Reduction in creditors		11,134
<b>Surplus of Income over Expenditure</b>		<b><u>69,495</u></b>
Opening Bank Balances Current a/c 01.04.2015	828	
Opening Loan Balance	<u>-208,481</u>	-207,653
Closing a/c Balances Current a/c 31.03.2016	44,651	
Closing Loan Balance	<u>-182,809</u>	<u>-138,158</u>
Increase in Bank Balances year ended 31.03.2016		<b><u>69,495</u></b>

This financial reporting period ended in March 2016. Since then, the sale of the eight development sites has been closed and the Ulster Bank Loan has been paid off in full.

Copies of the full audited accounts for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 will be available for inspection at the AGM.

## CURRENT COMMITTEE

Chairman	Jason Last
Vice Chairman	John Bardon
Secretary	Cathal O'Sullivan & Siobhán O'Sullivan
Treasurers	Peter Bushe, Dave Naughton
Members	Peter O'Connor Michael D'Arcy Siobhán O'Sullivan Gráinne Hartnett Pat O'Connor Orla Fealey Julie Sammiller Mary Fleming John Hegarty Donal Hayden Anthony Donohue Jimmy McCarthy Fiontán Ó Súilleabháin Seamus Hughes Dolores Murphy Padraic Caulfield Brendan Bolger Enda Kavanagh
CE Community Secretary	Althea Styles & Tina Gregory
CE workers	David Conyard, Greg Penny,
TÚS worker	Kevin Walker (Ballythomas)
RSS worker	Pat Sheehan
Bankers	Ulster Bank Gorey, Bank of Ireland, Carnew
Accountant	Donal Noonan, Michael Doyle & Co
Solicitors	Donal O'Sullivan & Co.
Architects	Enda O' Leary, HKR

## ACTIVITIES REPORT

### Community Centre

Phase I of the Community Centre (sports/mixed-use) continues to be used extensively by individuals, clubs and schools from throughout the area. Football, basketball and circuit training currently take place and it is intended to add basketball and indoor bowls to the range of activities available.

The main structure of Phase II of the Kilanerin-Ballyfad Mixed-Use Community Centre is due for completion in early 2017. It contains provision for a clinic/treatment room, social/viewing area, general purpose room, changing rooms/showers, meeting room, store, office, kitchen, coffee dock/elderly drop-in centre/youth café, enterprise/incubator space and children's soft play area.

Applications to LEADER 2014-2020 funding have been made to enable internal finishing, fitting out and furnishing of the clinic/treatment room, social/viewing area, general purpose room, meeting room, store, office, kitchen, and children's soft play area, together with installation of a lift for disabled access.

The building design incorporates high levels of insulation, with heating and hot water supplemented by PV/Solar and heat pumps to be installed. Rainwater harvesting will also be carried out. All of the facilities will be available at affordable cost and participation will be open to all ages and gender, regardless of means and mobility. The centre will be run on a not for profit basis with all surplus income used for the maintenance/development of facilities.

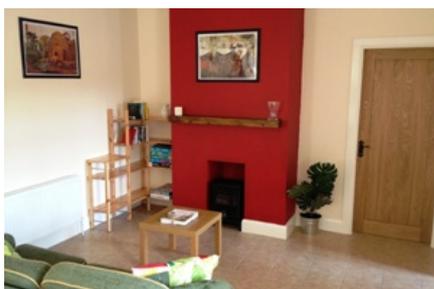
Work on Phase II to date has been funded by the Association's own funds and income from Phase I, from a Wexford County Council grant of €100,000, a Sports Capital grant of €100,000 and a Term Loan of €120,000 from Community Finance Ireland.

### Development Sites Kilanerin

The sale of the remaining 8 sites was completed in 2016, and the funds have been used to pay down the outstanding amount of Ulster Bank Term Loan of €500,000 from 2008 with the balance used to support the recommencement of work on the next phase of the community centre. This has been a timely relief to those individuals from within our community who had backed the original loan in 2006 with personal guarantees to Ulster Bank.



### Ballybeg Cottage



The cottage at Ballybeg (Failte Ireland 3\* rated) has been let both as a holiday home over the summers and has also been successfully let for longer terms over the winter period. This has provided a constant source of income to the Association. The house is currently available for short term lease – interested parties can contact the community office.

## Sheltered Housing Kilanerin

In April 2014 construction of the 6 houses started and was completed by Byrne & Byrne of Bunclody in April 2015. The project funding was secured from the Department of the Environment at €688,000. This included the purchase of the site and the completion of the houses. Wexford County Council has managing the funding of the project in association with Kilanerin Sheltered Housing Association led by John Bardon. The houses are occupied by elderly people from the local community and surrounding area who can live independently, and who are already on the council housing list.



Any elderly person from the community, who meets the criteria and would like to live in one of these houses, may place their name on a waiting list. When a house becomes available they will then be considered for it. Further information may be obtained from the Community Secretary on 089 4456184.

A grant €4,200 was obtained by KBCDA in 2014 from the Public Areas Enhancement Scheme and use to landscape the fountain and park area in front of the sheltered housing, in association with the Tidy Towns group. The landscaping was completed in early 2015 through the expertise and hard work of CE and RSS workers Mr Dave Conyard, Mr Colm Kavanagh and Mr Pat Sheehan. The KBCDA is delighted to report that the Park received first prize in the County Environment Awards, 2016.

## Community Secretary

The Community Secretary position is provided under a DSP CE scheme and as well as dealing with the affairs of the Development Association, is available to assist all organisations, clubs and parish bodies in the Kilanerin, Ballyfad, Ballythomas, and Annagh areas. The contact number is 089-4456184 or via email at [admin@kilanerin.com](mailto:admin@kilanerin.com). As mentioned in the Chairperson's address, we would like to formally thank Ms Althea Styles for all of her work on behalf of the community. Without her, we would not have been able to progress many of the successful initiatives over the last 2 years. We would also like to welcome the recently arrived new Community Secretary, Mrs Tina Gregory with whom we greatly look forward to working. Tina is currently based in the Community Office in Shamrock Hall and, progress dependent, will relocate to the new community centre.

## Tidy Towns

The Development Association continues to assist the Tidy Towns Groups in the area by providing funding from the County Council amenity grant and by the provision of DSP Community Employment (CE) and WLD Rural Social Scheme (RSS) workers.

The annual Tidy Towns mark continues to rise and Kilanerin village is now ranked within the top ten villages of Co. Wexford. Well done to all concerned. Completion of Phase II of the Community Centre and construction of the 8 development sites will enable landscaping of the site to be finalised.

**The Gap Tidy Towns & Heritage Group** firmly established itself over the past year, working on a number of projects at Pallas waterworks, Clonroe Crossroads, The Gap junction and Lennon's Cross as well as continuing with clearing of dry stone walls. Works were also carried out to improve

road safety. The securing of TÚS staff was very welcome. A number of fundraisers have been held during the year. The Group recently secured first place in the Wexford County Council Environment Awards for their participation in the North Wexford 2K Clean for keeping roads in their district free of litter.

Congratulations to Mary Fleming and her hard working committee who recently completed Phase I of the Gap Field walking track and drainage improvements. The work was financed by a grant of €9,500 from the Raheenleagh Windfarm Community as well as by local fundraising.

## Arts

KBCDA is delighted to have been able to support the Gap Arts Festival through a limited yearly sponsorship and administrative support and all involved are congratulated on their efforts. Every August since 2011, the Festival has brought a weekend of theatre, art, workshops and fun to Ballythomas.

### THE GAP ARTS FESTIVAL 2016

On Sunday August 7<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm *The Quaid Quartet/Sextet* brought the curtain down on the most successful Gap Arts Festival to date. Their classical concert captivated the audience of young and old. The packed house gave a standing a standing ovation and called for 'Encore, Encore!'



It was a great weekend and there were many highlights. See the 3-minute round-up video featuring footage shot by participants in the Mobile Device Film Making Project <https://youtu.be/-jicRUMaE4>

Growing year on year, more than 1400 people from far and near attended the sixth Gap Arts Festival as audience and participants. Many had never been to the Gap before. Twenty-five artists and ten technicians were employed. Six hundred people stood in the school field in the dark of Saturday night and were mesmerised by the *Inferno Fire Show*. There were full houses and standing ovations for Sorcha Fox and Donal O'Kelly in the main theatre offering *The Cambria*. And capacity audiences for the *Gap Children's Cinema*.

There was bopping to DJ T's funk and ska, and to *The Atlantic Rhythm Section's* R n B. A hundred youngsters got stuck into the *Drop-In Workshop* painting and making pottery. A week later the pottery work was fired and the children took their pieces home. Under the direction of Terence White the participants in the two-month *Mobile Device Film Making Project* produced ten short films that were premiered at the Festival. And who knows what films will be made in the future with these skills learned in the community?

See [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFIC\\_haUjy0QtUbosNif8FEtGt2093UX](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLFIC_haUjy0QtUbosNif8FEtGt2093UX)

Out of all this the Gap Film and Photography Group was formed. Open to all, it meets 7.30pm every third Friday at the Gap. Check out <https://www.facebook.com/inspiringfps/>

The Festival hosted the official unveiling of the *ICA Community Tapestry* – a wonderful work of women weavers depicting the hills and landmarks of the area. It was then exhibited in Kilanerin Hall, and will have a permanent home in the new Community Centre. Late on Saturday night local artist Ali Ali thrilled children and adults when he arrived in the field in a *Flying Saucer*. On a sunny Sunday morning Dara McGee from *Fibín* led groups of children (and their parents) in painting a mural on the wall of Ballythomas School. There were cups of tea and trays of popcorn. There was

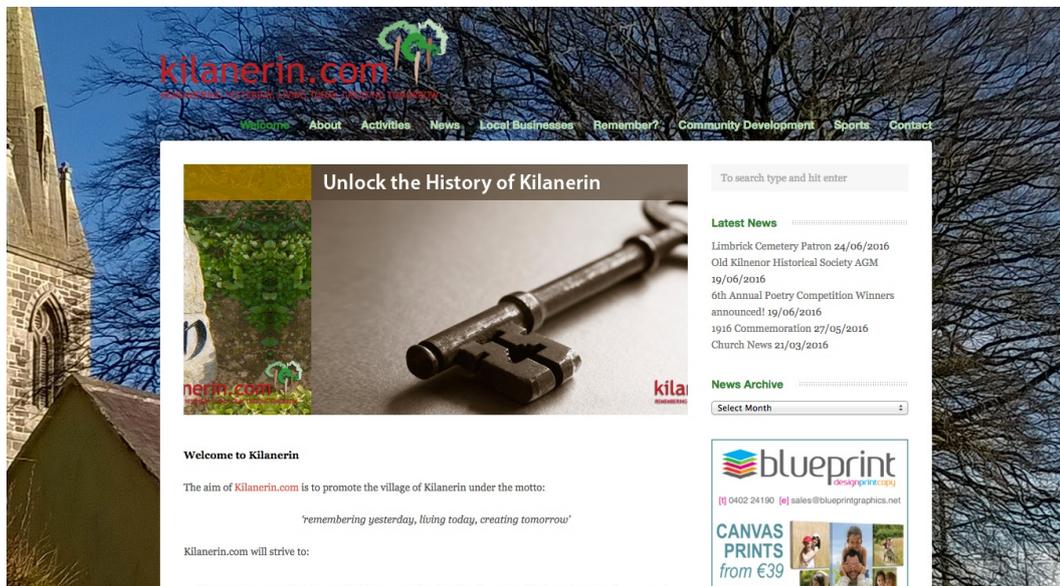
chat and laughter. Fields and sheep, flowers, stone walls, a fox and crows appeared. It was fun, it was playful, it was art. And it was on our doorstep.

So if you come by the Wicklow Gap at Ballythomas stop and take a look - it's the Gap Arts Festival's thank you to the school and the pupils, to all who helped, to our sponsors, and to all who came. *Go dtí an am seo arís!* Till the next time...

If you have any ideas or suggestions, contact us at [gapartsfest@gmail.com](mailto:gapartsfest@gmail.com) and keep an eye out for future events on [www.gapartsfestival.com](http://www.gapartsfestival.com)

## Website

The community website, [www.kilanerin.com](http://www.kilanerin.com), contains a wealth of information on the area as well as up to date news of events and is updated regularly by Damian Nash. Damian also runs the annual primary schools poetry competition for which the results booklet is published at the time of the parish field day. Additional information has recently been posted regarding booking the sports hall within the Community Centre. Please let us know if you would like to see additional items added to the site.



## Community Gain Fund

Following extensive representations from KBCDA, a community gain fund was established as part of the ESBI/Coillte windfarm development at Raheenleagh. Advanced funding for the Kilanerin Community Centre, and annual funding rounds have been in place since 2015, with a yearly allocation of around €42,000 over the lifetime of the project. The first round of grant awards in December 2015 supported local projects in Ballyfad, Rathpierce, Kilnenor and Ballythomas as well as the Gap Arts Festival. Our continued thanks to all those on the committee involved in initially developing the opportunity, and more recently to Enda Kavanagh for negotiating a favourable outcome for the entire community. Our community is represented on the Fund committee by Mary Fleming, Myles Carroll and Peter O'Connor.

## Woodland Walks

The woodland walks in Kilanerin and Ballyfad continue to be popular. Maintenance work and litter control is carried out by the FAS/RSS workers. Two committee members, Ms Grainne Hartnett

and Ms Mary Fleming have been in constant contact with Coillte and the National Trails Organisation (NTO). The Kilanerin-Curragh looped walk is now a signed 6km trail that is officially registered with the NTO and is a part of Wexford Walking Trails group and will be featured in the upcoming brochure due to come out in February/March 2017. This will be in the same format as the Wexford County Council Garden, Craft and Heritage Brochures available to tourists.

KBCDA committee members John Bardon, Gráinne Hartnett, Mary Fleming and Peter O'Connor, have been part of the committee that Coillte and ESB have consulted on the layout of the new walks at Croghan/Raheenleagh. These walks, which will be NTO registered, are expected to open to the public in December 2016. The committee, which has membership from both Wicklow and Wexford, is also looking at the development of further walking trails in the wider Croghan area.

## Fundraising

The voluntary contribution scheme ended officially in April 2016 but over 40 members of our community have decided to keep paying their monthly contributions beyond this date. The continuation of this funding stream has been of enormous help as we make the transition from voluntary and fundraising income to activities based income from the new Centre.

The calf rearing scheme set up in 2013 is now almost complete with only one remaining to be sold. The Association is most grateful to the farmers who took part and to those who bought or sponsored calves. A total of over €17,500 was raised which helped keep the Association going through difficult times. Special thanks to Mr Pat O'Connor who has put a considerable amount of work into this project.

## Ballyfad Hall

The Ballyfad Hall Committee has decided to demolish the existing hall and build a new one on the same site. Full planning permission has been obtained, and significant funding of €95,000 funding has been approved through the Windfarm Community Gain Fund, with further funding currently being sought through LEADER. The Association will be giving financial support to this project as well as supporting its grant application. Work is expected to commence in 2017.

## Ballythomas Community Field

Ballythomas Community Field continues to improve year on year, with the ground taking progressively less time to dry out after heavy rain. Wind farm funding of €9000 has been used to complete Phase I of a 350m walking/running track with bridging funding provided by KBCDA. The cost of Phase I of the walking track was somewhat more than originally planned as planning regulations required it to be 2.5 metres in width rather than the proposed 2m.

The field is maintained regularly. The cost of grass cutting annually is €1,000 with a liming cost €176. The Auction/Sale Of Work of 6 Nov 16 raised €1750 and this money will be used towards paying off debts. A donation of €200 has been received towards field costs and KBCDA is contributing €1,000. An additional €1,000 has still to be found to complete all payments.

## Representations

Contact has been maintained with Council staff, local Councillors, TDs, Senators, WLD, Wexford Public Participation Network, the Gorey District Tidy Towns network, Coillte, ESB, the Raheenleagh Windfarm Fund and the Department of the Environment, among others. This has been done by way of meetings and attendances at seminars, public meeting and consultations.

## Public Participation Network (PPN)

The Wexford Community Forum has been replaced by the new format PPN. The Development Association is a registered member and urges other community bodies to do the same.

*The Committee of the Development Association extends its sympathy to the families of those supporters and contributors who have passed away during the past year, and to all in our community who have suffered loss.*

## GRANTS RECEIVED IN 2015/16

<b>WLD:</b>	Payment for Community worker under the Rural Social Scheme. TÚS worker for Ballythomas.
<b>Wexford Co Co:</b>	€600 amenity grant towards Tidy villages work in Ballyfad, Annagh & Kilanerin. Provisions of trees, clean up kits, and waste disposal facilities for Tidy Towns Group.
<b>Dept. Of Social: Protection</b>	Funding of 3 Community Employment Scheme Workers to carry out community work in Ballythomas, Ballyfad and Kilanerin.
<b>Coillte/ESBI</b>	Funding of €50,000 towards the Community Centre received.

## WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

- Support Ballyfad Hall group in building a new hall.
- Registration of additional woodland walks.
- Fundraising and grant applications to allow full completion of Phase II of the Community Centre.
- Continued support the activities of Tidy Villages, Arts Groups and other activities.
- Develop and implement a plan for Community Centre facility management.
- Develop a renewed local development plan.

**KILANERIN BALLYFAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION LTD,  
COMHARCHUMANN FORBARTHA COILL AN IARAINN BAILE FADA**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**BALLYFAD HALL**

**Thursday December 8<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm**

**AGENDA**

1. Minutes of last AGM
2. Treasurers Report
3. Annual Report
4. Election of Committee Members
5. AOB

**KILANERIN BALLYFAD COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION  
COMHARCHUMANN FORBARTHA COILL AN IARAINN BAILE FADA**

NOMINATION FORM

BALLYTHOMAS / ANNAGH AREA

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposer: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded: \_\_\_\_\_

BALLYFAD AREA VACANCY

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by: \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

KILANERIN AREA VACANCIES

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

Nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed by \_\_\_\_\_ Seconded by \_\_\_\_\_

**NOMINATION FORMS TO BE RETURNED TO MR CATHAL O'SULLIVAN, SECRETARY KBCDA,  
C/O COMMUNITY OFFICE, KILANERIN  
BY DECEMBER 6TH**