



Lacken Community Centre Christmas Newsletter 2017

Welcome everyone to the second Lacken Community Development Association newsletter. It has been a busy year for the committee and we are happy to share the good news and progress so far. The centre continues to be busy with various events including scout meetings, coffee mornings, yoga, dancing and knitting classes and even a pumpkin carving night. Thank you for all your continued support and good will.

The Development of the Centre

LEADER Funding Part 1

We have been successful with our first funding application to undertake a feasibility study on social enterprise in Lacken. For example, would there be enough support to run a community shop? What other ideas or ventures could be developed in the area? Gerard Doyle will be working with all the community to develop a plan for the area. A community survey and workshops etc. will happen in early 2018.

LEADER Funding Part 2

We have progressed to the next stage and been invited to submit a final application for funding to renovate the old school. We need planning approval from Wicklow County Council to complete this application. We are still engaged in the process of getting planning approval and expect a decision next month from Wicklow County Council.

The old school is also a building of interest to the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. Therefore, Wicklow Partnership, who administers LEADER funding, will need to get approval from this department before the project can go ahead and be funded.

It is a long process but we are making steady progress. Next step is to raise our share of the funds required to get funding from LEADER. See fundraising plans below.

Village Interpretative Panel

We are members of the Wicklow Uplands Council and have been working with them to access funding to put up a Village Interpretative Panel in Lacken. The panel will promote and raise awareness on the natural and built heritage of Lacken. The council will work with us to develop the panel over the coming months and already there has been much discussion about which sites, stories and photos to include. Have you any ideas or thoughts on what you would like to see included? Wicklow Uplands Council will fund the majority of the costs and the community makes a contribution. There are 13 of these panels around towns and villages in Wicklow, one of which is in Blessington, and you can check them out by following this link. www.wicklowuplands.ie/projects/village-interpretative-panels/

A Community Public Access Defibrillator for Lacken

Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) can happen at any time, to anyone, of any age, in any location and when a person collapses in SCA, minutes count. We know that in rural areas it takes time to get medical help, so Community Public Access Defibrillators (cPAD) have a very important part to play in helping save lives. Having a defibrillator at hand may increase the chance of survival from around 10% with only good effective CPR (Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation), up to possibly 60-80% with a defibrillator at hand for immediate use.

We want to make a Community Public Access Defibrillator available for the community in Lacken. The training and the defibrillator will be supplied free of charge but the community need to fund the cost of the heated storage cabinet and installation of same. A bag pack will be organised in Super Valu early in the New Year to raise the €600 required. Anyone who would like to volunteer an hour of their time for the bag pack please contact member of the committee. All help greatly appreciated for this lifesaving addition to our community. Once we have installed the defibrillator Simon Taylor/Tina Kelly from Blessington First Responders will run a 2 hour training evening and ideally someone from all households would attend to learn how to use the defibrillator should it be needed in your own home.

Christmas 2017

Decorating the school

The old school will be decorated for Christmas on December 7th at 8 pm - all welcome to help out.

Christmas Fair and Santa

The Christmas Fair will take place on December 10th from 3-5pm. Santa will be dropping in to say 'Hi' at 3pm. There will also be a small number of craft stalls. Please join us for tea, coffee, mulled wine and mince pies. Donations at the door which will include raffle tickets for prizes on the day.

Christmas Party

The Lacken Christmas Party will take place in old school on Saturday December 16th from 9.30 til late

Christmas Raffle

This annual raffle, with lots of great prizes, will take place Friday 22nd @ 7pm in the community centre. Thank you to all those who have contributed prizes. Check out our FACEBOOK for a list of prizes in addition to those gorgeous hampers.

Nollaig na MBan will be celebrated in January in the old school. Details to follow.

Fundraising

2018 will be the year that we will need to have a strong fundraising drive. If we are successful with the LEADER application to get funds to renovate the old school we will need to have raised approximately 20% of the costs. This is no inconsiderable sum and is likely to be in the region of €20,000. We will have better clarity on the amount required after we submitted the application to LEADER and the Department of Culture, Heritage and the Gaeltacht have given final approval. A number of events are being planned and we hope that you will support us. More information to follow but key dates for your diary are as follows:

- **April 14th: Local Hill Walk**
- **June 15th and 16th: Two day Barn Dance and Children's Afternoon Disco**
- **September Pub Quiz**

Over summer 2018 we plan to open the centre on Sundays for afternoon tea and of course the regular monthly coffee mornings will continue. We will need volunteers to help with these events.

Community Text Alert

There will be a public meeting, chaired by the local Gardaí, in Lacken Community Centre in January to explain how the Community Text Alert system works and identify whether there is sufficient interest to set one up in Lacken. Date and time to confirmed and advertised.

Wicklow Public Participation Network. (PPN)

The Lacken Community Development Committee is a member of the Wicklow Public Participation Network. This County Wicklow PPN is a representative organisation that acts as a voice for all community and voluntary organisations in County Wicklow and enables community consultation and participation in policy and decision making in the county. The PPN is a really useful way for us to keep informed and up to date with events in the county as well as sharing information about funding opportunities.

Tidy Village

This year a new tidy Village committee was formed and what a difference it has made already in the community – the place is looking great. A big THANK YOU to all those who have turned out to help at the various clean up sessions. Thanks also to Councillor Gerry O Neill who supported the Tidy Village committee to access funding through the Community Facilities Scheme. This facilitated the Tidy Village committee to purchase equipment to maintain and plant common areas. Christmas lights will also be purchased – the village will really look special this Christmas.

TUS

We are very fortunate to have Pat and Diarmuid working with Lacken Community Centre and the Tidy Villages. Their knowledge, skills and overall willingness to help is a valued by us all.

Communications

A big thank you to Claire Kyle for setting up and running our Facebook page; Lacken Community Centre. We have 148 followers and growing. If anyone would like to set up a Lacken Community Centre website we would love to hear from you.

LCDA Committee

The committee is enrolled on a training programme to continue our commitment to working on the voluntary code of governance and we are updating or creating new policies to ensure the committee is run effectively and transparently.

Committee members

- Avril Bailey, Chairperson
- Siobhan Gregg, Secretary
- Claire Kyle, Treasurer
- Theo Clarke,
- Phillip Gallagher
- Diana Gallagher

- Mattie Lennon
- Catherine Broe
- Lisa Browe
- Janice Griffith **New Member**

Contact details:

[Post Box: Gate on Old School Lacken](#)

Avril Bailey: avril.bailey@gmail.com Mobile: 087 1330839

Siobhan Gregg: gregg.siobhan@gmail.com

Please don't hesitate to contact us if you have any queries or would like to get involved in any way. With such a busy year ahead we will need to set up a number of subcommittees to work on fundraising, governance, LEADER application (which will be a significant piece of work) amongst other pieces of work. Perhaps you would run one of the coffee mornings or organise your own fundraising event. Bake a cake or even the gift of an hour or two of your time to help out with an event would be so appreciated.

Overview of Finances

Each year we file audited accounts on the Company Registration Office which we are required to do as a company limited by guarantee. Accounts for 2017 have not been finalised yet but the following gives a broad overview of general income and expenditure to date. We have worked with all providers to ensure we can get as fair deal as possible and we keep costs to an absolute minimum. And a big thank you to all those who have volunteered their time and expertise as well as to our local professional services who have either waived fees or kept their costs to a minimum.

Expenditure

Utilities:	€1,700
Professional fees (legal, accountancy, architects and planning)	€2,269
Insurances	€1,566
Training for 2017/18	€400
Memberships	€55
Miscellaneous (maintenance, hardware, skip hire, admin, Xmas events,)	<u>€1,644</u>
	Total €7,634.00

Income

Fundraisers and contributions	€5,504
Rental Income	<u>€2,025</u>
Total	€7,529

Wishing you all a Happy Christmas. We look forward to meeting you all at the Christmas events and on into the New Year