



Slí

Issue 4- July 2022

'Slí' A newsletter to inform and report on matters which are relevant to island residents around our coast

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*A Wonderful Day on Whiddy at the opening of the New Community Centre.
Congratulations to the local committee*

Cllr. Patrick Gerard Murphy and Cork Footballer Graham Canty cutting the ribbon on the newly built Community Centre on Whiddy Island, Co. Cork. Also in the photo is Cllr Declan Hurley, chair of the LCDC, Cllr Danny Collins and Danny O'Leary of Whiddy Development, Tim O'Leary, Jimmy O'Leary, Cllr Christy O'Sullivan and Connie O' Leary and members of his community.

**Pobal na nOileán, Daonra, Fiontraíocht, Timpeallacht na nOileán, Ceantair Tuaithe, Gaeltacht.
Communities on the Islands, Population, Enterprise, Environment, Rural Areas, Gaeltacht**



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann All-Ireland Island Survey – Coming Soon

Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann All-Ireland Island Survey

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the views and needs of island residents on their household's present housing circumstances, and future housing requirements. The research is being carried out in partnership between **Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann, Comhar na nOileán and researchers from University College Cork (UCC).**

Why is this important?

There is a housing crisis in Ireland, and the Islands are very far down on the list of priorities for our policy makers. Unless we ourselves come up with solutions, we will be left behind. We need concrete and accurate data. We would ask communities on the Islands to fill out the online survey. All the information will be processed by University College Cork, and this study has obtained ethical approval from the UCC Social Research Ethics Committee and is completely **confidential**.

What would your participation involve?

Should you choose to participate, you will be asked to complete a survey questionnaire. This will include questions on your current housing circumstances as well as future housing needs.

Do I have a choice to participate or not?

Participation in this study is completely voluntary. There is no obligation to participate, and should you choose to do so you can refuse to answer specific questions or decide to withdraw from the study prior to completing it. All information you provide will be confidential, and your anonymity will be protected throughout the study.

Can I withdraw from the study?

You maintain the right to withdraw from the study at any stage up to the point of data submission.

What will happen to the information I provide?

The anonymous data will be stored on a University College Cork supported cloud storage platform (Microsoft Teams/Google Drive). The information you provide will be used (anonymously) to write up a report on the current and future housing requirements of Ireland's island residents.

Are there any negative impacts to taking part?

We do not anticipate any negative outcomes from participating in this study. Should you experience distress arising from participating in the research, the contact details for support services provided below may be of assistance (Comhar na nOileán - Tel: 099 75096)

There are currently four categories on the survey:

1(A) I live on the island full-time, where my main place of residence is owned by me or my family.

1(B) I live on the island full-time, where my place of residence is rented by me or my family.

2 I have holiday / second home on the island and do not live full-time on the island.

3 I have previously lived on the island and have moved away.

4 I have not previously lived on the island but would like to, or need to, move to the island.

The Survey will be publicised on all social media and through personal contact shortly.



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Ár dTodhchaí
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Our Rural
Future 2



The European Agricultural Fund
for Rural Development:
Europe investing in rural areas

CLÁR Programme - includes Island Measure in 2022



to the Islands who were successful in their applications.

County	Organisation	Project details
Cork	Bere island Projects Group CLG	To fund an electric wheelchair accessible bus with PV charging panels on the community Centre €72,693.00
Donegal	Comharchumann Oileán Árainn Mhór CTR	Replacement galvanised fence and gates for multipurpose sports ground €18,977.37
Donegal	Comharchumann Thoráí Teo	Replacement of Fencing at Tory Island Playground €22,185.00
Donegal	Comharchumann Thoráí Teo	Purchase of Gym Equipment €22,078.80
Donegal	Comharchumann Thoráí Teo	Placement of recycled plastic, outdoor seating throughout the Island for use by walkers and cyclists €24,223.86
Donegal	Arranmore Country Fest	Purchase of mobile outdoor stage €5,241.44
Donegal	Comharchumann Thoráí Teo	Provision of picnic benches and seating throughout the Island €5,241.44
Galway	Coiste Chomhlacht Forbartha Inis Meáin	Purchase of a plug-in hybrid minibus, PV panels, and a plug-in charging point €114,147.00
Galway	Inis Oírr Comhar Caomhán Teo	Enhancement of existing public toilets facilities and associated litter/recycling infrastructure €56,814.83
Galway	Comharchumann Forbartha Árann	Purchase raised beds, signage, equipment, bins, picnic table, seating and CCTV €43,098.12
Mayo	Inishturk Community Club CLG	Purchase of fencing to secure and make safe the boundaries of the playground €11,474.60
TOTAL: 11		€412,534.60

A sample of the wonderful *Holiday* accommodation available on the Islands

Leave everyday life behind and let yourself be transported to a heavenly place with white sandy beaches, crystal clear waters and glorious peace and quiet.



Arranmore Holiday Village



Whiddy Island Hostel



Clare Island Lighthouse

A sample of the wonderful *Holiday* accommodation available on the Islands;



Wild Atlantic Glamping, Bere Island



Aran Islands Glamping, Inis Mór



Arranmore Lighthouse



Rural
Recreation
Officer

ÁINE HERE.

TITLE

Rural Recreational Officer for the
Islands of Ireland

AREA

Covering Islands in Donegal, Mayo,
Galway & Cork

AIM

Support local communities grow
and create Island Walks & Trails

PLANS FOR THIS YEAR

- Visit and familiarise myself with existing trails, management groups & locals
- Identify potential new trails and extensions to existing routes
- Prepare applications to increase Walk Scheme Participants on the islands

FUN FACT

I run Yoga classes and retreats on
Inis Oírr., Aran Islands through Irish

099 75096 ext 108
Mob 083 205 5565
aine@oileain.ie

ABOUT

TWINLAG PROJECT – Linking Europe and Sharing Best Practice



Comhar na nOileán are currently involved in a cooperation project with other LEADER Groups. France, Finland and Ireland are already well established in delivering the LEADER Programme, and the aim is to assist newcomers such as Moldova and Macedonia to the Programme.

The aim of the Project is to establish ties, learn more about the actors, the entrepreneurs, and the developers. The Project will also assess the potential for long-term cooperation between these countries.

As part of this cooperation initiative Mary Lavelle and Jude Gilbert visited the le Pays Vichy-Auvergne Leader Group in Mid France from the 16th of November to the 19th. Their main aim with LEADER is to link town and countryside under different initiatives.

During their stay several different projects were visited by Jude and Mary. One such project was a youth project that assists young people to get work, go back to education or to partake in a virtual experience of what it would be like to work in the career of their choice. This project uses technology in the virtual reality realm.

They also visited a project that supports services to the general public like our "Citizens Information" (information on employment law, taxation, health, housing

and retirement).

Faced with the exclusion that affects people of rural and agricultural origins, Jargins de Cocagne –Arrones was set up in 2006. It is a 6.5 ha site producing fruit and chemical free vegetables. The landowners lease the land for a nominal fee of 1,200 per year and it is also supported by the State. They are paid a decent wage for their work there, and if they prove to be successful then they move on to other similar work disciplines.

The final Project visited was to a former 27 ha military site which was sold to the State and is now an ECO Centre and startup business in eco services. There are currently 350 jobs on site.

The buildings are all fitted with solar panels, and the excess electricity is sold to the national grid.

There will be other visits to Finland and Macedonia in 2022, and a return visit to Ireland in April 2023 as part of the Programme.



Pleanáil Teanga ar na hOileáin Ghaeltachta



Comhghairdeas mór le trí Oilean Árann on the announcement by Minister Jack Chambers of funding for the implementation of a Language Plan for the three Islands. In the photo from L - R are Micheál Ó Culáin, Príomhoide Coláiste Naomh Éinne, Inis Mór, Árann; Paddy Crowe retired manager of Comhar Caomhán Teo; Mairéad Ní Fhátharta, Príomhoide Coláiste Naomh Eoin, Inis Meáin; Cathy Ní Ghóill, Manager Comharchumann Forbartha Árann and Chair of Comhar na nOileán; Maggie Seoighe, Inis Mór, current chair of the steering group; Máire Uí Dhufaigh, Inis Oírr, Geraldine Ní Ghóill, assistant Manager Comharchumann Forbartha Árann, Chloe Ní Mháille, Bainisteoir Comhar Caomhán Teo and (sumperimposed cleverly by Chloe is) Máire Uí Mhaoláin, CEO, Comhar na nOileán who could not be present on the day. Go n-éirí go geal leo.

Congratulations to all the Gaeltacht Islands who have had their language plans ratified; Oileán Chléire; Oileán Thoraigh; Oileán Árann Mhór. Comhar na nOileán will support the delivery of the plans in any way we can and would welcome any news or photos of innovative language actions from the Gaeltacht Islands.

SICAP CLASSES



Participants from the Cork Islands at defibrillator training on Whiddy Island



Arts and crafts classes on Whiddy Island.



Whiddy Island Community Centre





Maude Cullen-Mouze outside Leinster House. Photo: Maxwell Photography

Young Mayo people speak on climate crisis in Seanad Chamber

Comhdháil Oileáin na hÉireann and Comhar na nOileán are very proud and grateful to Maude Cullen-Mouze, a young islander from Clare Island who agreed to give the Island's perspective on Climate Change at a recent invitation to address the Joint Oireachtas Committee on the Environment and Climate Action. Below are a few highlights from her speech. Joining Maude at the event was Alex Cocking, Cape Clear Island and Tadhg Trocme, Arranmore, who also contributed to the presentation.

"40% of Irish people reside within 5km of the coast and thus are an extremely vulnerable to sea level rise. Low lying islands are particularly at risk. More mountainous islands such as Clare Island may fare better in weathering the rising sea levels but by 2050 according to Climate Central's predictions with the current trajectory of warming the pier we use will be completely submerged. Indeed, there was a recent consultation about the pier at which rising sea levels were not mentioned - a shocking blind spot considering the pier is projected to be below annual flood levels in less than a decade. And the sea levels have risen faster than predicted especially in the case of cities. The predicted 27cm of rise in Cork became in actuality 40cm of sea level rise to give an example."

"It is important to note that the problems facing small islands now, will not remain confined to small islands. Ireland is after all, an island nation and a rather small one. Small islands such as Clare Island are but microcosms in the macrocosm that is Ireland. As a nation we too, must import everything that we do not produce ourselves by air or sea. The emissions from flying in produce are not compatible with the carbon neutral economy Ireland intends to become. Shipping by sea is also fuel heavy. So, we must maximise self-sufficiency and produce locally what can be produced locally much as islanders did before the link to the mainland became so accessible."

And it is essential that this transition to a carbon neutral world happens and happens soon. The consequences of not acting on these crises are unthinkable. Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley stated at COP26 that "two degrees is a death sentence for island nations." As an islander, as a young person, as someone who is deeply concerned about the future of our world... I would like immediate, concrete action. The solutions exist. **Action on the climate crisis can wait no longer.** "

If I had missed the ferry this evening I must wait until the next morning for the next one. These storms though are becomingly increasingly frequent - driven by climate change. I have seen weeks pass without a single boat going to the scheduled pier at the scheduled time. Everything and everyone that leaves or arrives on the island must do so by ferry, therefore when the ferry service is disrupted, all movement of people and good is disrupted."

"Thankfully there are mitigation options available for combatting both the effects and root causes of climate change. Rainwater can be collected for drinking water, agriculture revolutionised and de-carbonised. Political will and push to implement them must come next. Action on the climate crisis can wait no longer. "

OTHER PROJECTS FUNDED AROUND THE IRISH ISLANDS

Congratulations to those who put the work in and achieved their Dreams.



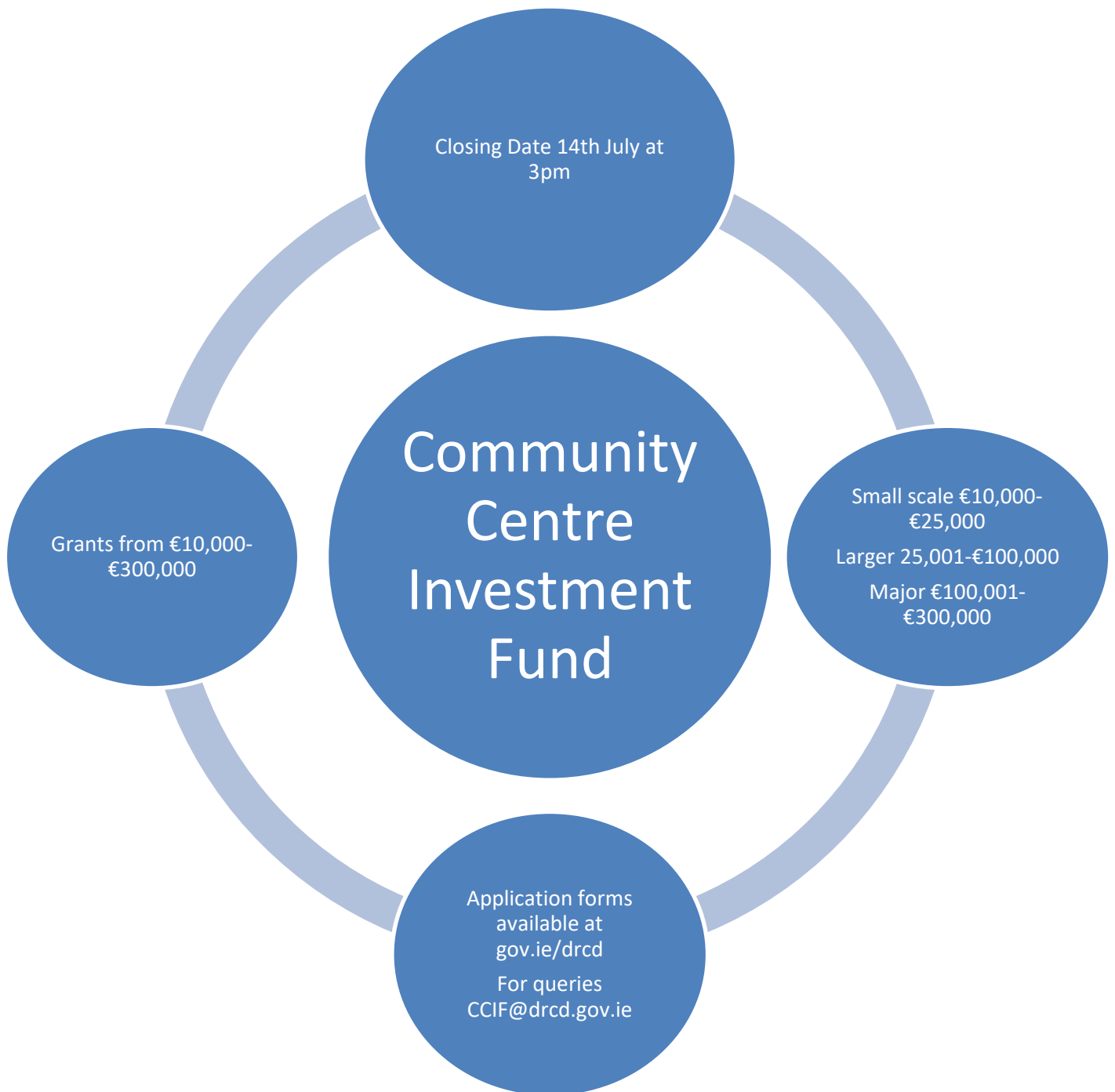
Thomas Costello was funded to acquire a marquee which will be available for events and festivals on Arranmore Island. May the project enrich life on Arranmore Island. Go n-éirí leis.

Joe Ó Curraoin is our Project Officer for the Donegal Islands. If you live on one of the Donegal Islands and have a dream of your own to bring to fruition, talk to Joe @ 099 75096 ext 100 or joe@oileain.ie



Noreen and Jim Muldowney's Glamping Project on Arranmore Island. Go n-éirí go geal leo.

**Funding Opportunity – Community Centre Investment Fund
Reminder - Closing Date coming up on the 14th July 2022.**





Carn Uí Néid, Co. Chorcaí / Mizen Head, Co. Cork

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