

SPA ROAD & BALLOONAGH WOMEN'S GROUP



Well done to all of the members who recently completed an art class with the Kerry Education Service. A full schedule of events is currently being organised for 2012. The women meet every Tuesday morning from 10am – 12 noon in the civil defence building.

MITCHEL'S/BOHERBEE COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROJECT

The Mitchels Regeneration Project is a significant capital programme being undertaken by Tralee Town Council in the Mitchels Crescent area of Tralee town where a total of €6.5 million was recouped from the Department of Environment, Community and Local Government in 2011.

Since 2008, over 60 families have been relocated from the area, a total of 105 houses were demolished, 48 apartments have been constructed as part of the Tobar Naofa Complex and the first phase of construction on the Mitchels Crescent site has commenced. In 2011, meetings continued to be held every few months with the Department of the Environment, Community and Local Government to ensure the financial support required for the implementation of the Regeneration Plan was provided. Meetings were also held throughout the year with the Mitchels/Boherbee Regeneration Steering Committee and the Community Participation Task Group.

The following is a summary of the current status of projects under the Mitchels/Boherbee Community Regeneration Project:

Review of Masterplan & Health Impact Assessment
A review of the Regeneration Masterplan is underway. A Health Impact Assessment on the physical plan for the regeneration area will be completed by the end of the year. As part of this process, six appraisal workshops were held within the community, which were very well attended by residents and staff working in the regeneration area. Also as part of the review, a socio-economic profile was undertaken where 780 households in the regeneration area were surveyed by Tralee Town Council. Co-operation from the community was exceptional, as 61% of households surveyed completed the survey (i.e. 476 households). This information will help the Regeneration Steering committee establish a proper planning baseline for the review of the Regeneration Masterplan.

Environmental Improvement Works from Tobar Naofa to the Low Carbon Units along Dean's Lane
This project includes for upgrading works of external elements at Kevin Barry Villas, Mitchels Avenue & Deans Lane. The tender report was approved by the Department and work commenced on site in December.

Redevelopment of St. Martins Park & Mitchel's Crescent
In 2011, a total of 24 housing units were demolished in the St. Martins Park and Mitchels Crescent area, where 11 families were re-housed, over the past two years to facilitate this process. Five Traveller families remain in this area. Consultations with the families living in the area are ongoing; Tralee Town Council will continue to liaise with the remaining families to ascertain who wishes to remain in the area and to facilitate a new design for the area.

Construction of 18 Residential Units at Mitchels Crescent
The construction of 18 energy efficient homes on the old Mitchels Crescent site is nearly complete. This marks the first phase of construction on the Mitchels Crescent site where 81 houses were demolished in 2010. The

houses will be allocated next year. This area will be known as Croilar na Mistealach, this name was chosen in consultation with the community reps.

Redevelopment of Convent Building at Moyderwell
This project will finalise the development of courtyard phase of the old Moyderwell School/Convent Site and will further enhance the recently constructed Tobar Naofa Complex. This project is due for completion in December 2011. The ground floor of the former convent is being modified to meet the needs of a daycare centre, which will be managed by the HSE and will replace the existing daycare facility occupying a section of the St. Patricks Bungalows Complex. The first floor of the building will retain its residential use and will comprise of 8 additional units and will be managed by the residential scheme caretaker as part of the overall development at Tobar Naofa.

Kingdom Voluntary Housing Development
A 22 apartment complex adjacent to St. Brigid's Community Centre in Hawley Park is nearly complete. These apartments will be managed by Kingdom Voluntary Housing and will be allocated to older people in the area. It is anticipated that these units will be occupied early 2012.

Community Social Projects
Central to the regeneration process is the ongoing involvement of the community. The Department of Environment, Community and Local Government has provided assistance to establish a small grants scheme which has enabled the Regeneration Steering Committee to provide financial support to local groups and projects that are contributing towards improving facilities and promoting the positive impact of the regeneration project. The projects which received funding in 2011 included:

- The production of the 2012 Calender and Annual from the Historical and Heritage Working Group.
- The Community Mural Project, which was installed during the summer on Dean's Lane.
- The Mitchels Boherbee Sport Recreation and Physical Activity Programme; this was a year long activity programme specifically based in the Regeneration area.
- A Photographic Exhibition by the Historical and Heritage Working Group, which was launched on the 14th of March 2011.
- Tralee Boxing Club received funding towards equipment costs and a tournament which was held in November 2011.
- 'Preparing for the Web': The Historical and Heritage Group in conjunction with KES ran a basic computer course specifically for older people, where participants learned how to access relevant information on the internet.
- The 'Strengthening Families Programme' which is a family skills training programme received funding towards programme costs.
- Moyderwell Allotment Steering Committee received funding to develop a composting area.

CHANGES AT KERRY TRAVELLERS DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

The work of KTDP, as a county-wide Community Development Project, is informed by an acknowledgement of Travellers as a nomadic ethnic group with a distinct culture. Its work stems from the belief that racism (individual, cultural and institutional) is at the root of the problems facing the Traveller Community. KTDP's central aim is to create a partnership of Travellers and settled people, which aims to challenge inequalities and to bring about positive change for the Traveller Community at both an individual and institutional level.

As you may be aware KTDP's Board of Management is in the process of reviewing and restructuring its operation and management. Bridget Horgan and Pádraig Ó Briain, as Joint Project Co-ordinators, came to the end of their one-year contract with the Project at the end of September and I was asked to take on this role on an interim basis and to continue, in a limited way, with the management of the Traveller Health Action Zone Project. There are two primary considerations at the heart of this restructuring process, namely, the Community's core needs and the Project's finite resources – both human and financial. As part of this restructuring process, which aims to achieve the best positive impact for the Community, the Project is prioritising its core areas of work going forward and reconfiguring the roles of its workers and volunteers. Among the critical pieces of work being undertaken as part of this process are the following:

- **Shedding any current or past work and ways of working that stand out as being ineffective**
- **Developing any current or past work and ways of working that stand out as being effective**
- **Exploring new ways of working effectively with the Traveller and settled communities, as well as relevant community, voluntary and statutory agencies**

Anyone who has been through the Mitchel's area of Tralee in recent times will be acutely aware of the myriad changes to the physical environment, with new buildings being constructed, others being redeveloped, and still others being demolished. There is a strong determination on the part of all involved in steering this Regeneration Programme that it will mean more than just a physical redevelopment of the area. It must also have a positive impact on people's overall health and wellbeing. KTDP has endeavoured to play its part in this multi-faceted process by supporting Traveller participation in the Health Impact Assessment and Socio-Economic Profile of the area among other ways.

While we acknowledge that our support has not always been as we would wish, because of the limitations of our personnel in the area, we are committed going forward to a community development approach to our work within the funding available to us. This approach to work involves ongoing consultation with Travellers, involving the Traveller community in articulating its own needs and developing Travellers' capacity to act as prime movers in their own development and to participate in the strategies and initiatives that affect their way of life. When KTDP looks at its personnel on the ground as we prepare for a New Year, it's clear that change is required. Notwithstanding the role of part-time Traveller Community Health Workers and part-time Community Link Workers on the Community Employment Scheme, we have funding for just one full-time Community Development Worker in the whole county of approximately 1,600 Travellers. Consequently, as part of the current restructuring process we will need to be innovative in how we utilize our personnel, as well as being realistic and honest with others on what we can do going forward.

We thank you for your ongoing support and look forward to strengthening community and work relationships going forward.

By Owen McCarthy, Acting Project Co-ordinator



North and East Kerry DEVELOPMENT

UPCOMING FREE PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT COURSE FOR WOMEN

AT ST. BRIGID'S FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE, HAWLEY PARK

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

"Time for me" is a twelve week programme for women interested in personal development, enhancing self-esteem and developing relaxation skills. The course will commence on Monday 16th of January, 2012 at St. Brigid's Resource Centre, Hawley Park, Tralee. The programme starts at 9.45 in the morning till 12.45. Sessions are free and all are welcome.

ALL ENQUIRIES TO Maureen O'Sullivan at St. Brigid's FRC Tel: 066-7128521.



DADS & LADS PROGRAMME

Moyderwell Primary school opened its doors at 7.30pm on Monday 17th October for the start of our 'Dads and Lads' programme. Eleven boys and six dads participated in the six week programme which covered literacy and sport. The emphasis was on 'fun' but some dads couldn't help but be competitive! All participants received a certificate on completion. The course was organised and funded through Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership, K.E.S. and H.S.C.L. Moyderwell School.

Congratulations to all who took part.



MITCHEL'S/BOHERBUE SPORTS, PHYSICAL ACTIVITY & RECREATION PROGRAMME

A sports, physical activity and recreation programme for the Mitchel's/Boherbue area of Tralee is currently being implemented by Kerry Recreation and Sports Partnership (KRSP) and Tralee Town Council, through the support of the Irish Sports Council and the Department of Environment, Heritage and Local Government. Since the commencement of this programme in January 2011, a part-time programme facilitator has rolled out six physical activity programmes and two multi-activity camps resulting in a total of 67 physical activity sessions being held. One hundred and fifty nine people from 10 different estates within the Mitchel's/Boherbue area have taken part in programme activities.

Hazel Byrne of KRSP explained that "This programme links into the social pillar of the overall regeneration plan. Interaction between different communities within the regeneration is taking place through the medium of physical activity and sport programmes and participants are being encouraged to lead an active healthy lifestyle"

Programmes have been delivered to children, teenage girls/boys and adults. Programme activities have included an eight week dance programme for teenage girls, a soccer league and one day soccer tournament for males, an eight week health and physical activity programme for women, an activity day for the active retired, a summer walking programme for women and a summer/Halloween multi-activity camp. Teenscene participant Chantelle O' Sullivan said "the programme was very good, we really enjoyed it and we learnt lots of different dances including Hip Hop and Zumba".

For more information about this programme please contact: KRSP Programme Facilitator: Hazel Byrne on 066-7184776.



RAPID NEWSLETTER

January 2012



FÁS EVENING COURSES

There is an extensive range of Evening Courses, generally 30 hours in duration in Tralee and Killarney. These Evening Courses are available to fee-paying clients who want to upskill for personal or professional reasons **but they are also available at no cost to those in receipt of a social welfare payment.** Examples of these are Jobseekers Allowance, Jobseeker's Benefit, Disability Allowance, Carers and many more. For more information on eligibility, please contact your local FÁS Employment Services Office in Tralee at 17 Lower Castle Street on 066 7149665 or your Local Employment Services Office at North Circular Road on 066 7129675.

CONTACT INFORMATION: FÁS Evening Course Department, FÁS Training Centre, Monavalley Industrial Estate, Tralee on 066 7149665 or via e-mail TRNight@fas.ie

For a full listing of all FÁS Evening Courses, please log onto www.fas.ie

www.fas.ie



INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY TRALEE
INSTITIÚID TEICNEOLAÍOCHTA TRÁ LÉ

The Institute of Technology, Tralee is hosting two **OPEN EVENINGS ON 17TH & 18TH JANUARY** from 6pm on the North Campus to support students needing assistance with their CAO applications. The open evening is for all students, but in particular mature students needing assistance.

We look forward to meeting applicants from many different areas i.e. Leaving Certificate/FETAC/Mature and all others.

Information on student supports and finances will also be available on the night.

CONTACT THE ITT FOR MORE DETAILS ON: 066-7145600



FÁS will be running a training programme in early 2012 (15 weeks) in Tralee for young people who need support in applying for training, further education or work in this competitive and difficult market.

The course is for clients aged between 18-25 who are unemployed and in receipt of a payment from the Department of Social Protection. Priority will be given to clients living in the RAPID and Regeneration areas of Tralee i.e.

- **SHANAKILL** • **RAHOONANE**
- **SPA ROAD** • **BALLOONAGH**
- **MITCHEL'S REGENERATION AREA**

Participants will have the opportunity to sample different careers and jobs, learn new skills, and work closely with a tutor who will help you develop a career plan.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT :
FÁS, 17 Lr Castle Street, Tralee tel: 7149625 or the Local Employment Service Office, North Circular Road, Tralee, tel: 7129675.

TRALEE INTERNATIONAL RESOURCE CENTRE

TALKING FOLK

One of the core aims of the Tralee International Resource Centre Ltd, TIRC, is promoting integration between the international and local communities in Tralee. Every day we see and interact with people from different countries living here, but most of us don't really know much about life in their countries, what is their culture, history, economy, festivals and so much more. That's why TIRC contacted six 'natives' to deliver a series of seminars in Siamsa Tire about life and culture in their own countries. This is a unique opportunity to get a better understanding of how diverse and how surprisingly similar we, the folk of the world, are.

These seminars, which will take place on Thursdays at 4pm, are a wonderful opportunity to learn about different cultures from people of different countries!! Learn about their Food; Festivals; Music; Religion; History; Languages; and lots more...

The following is the list of seminars and speakers we have lined up:-

- **Chile:** Thurs Feb 16th, Barbara Damm
- **Uganda:** Thurs March 1st, Samuel Kiwanuka
- **India:** Thurs March 15th, Richa Upadhyay
- **Nigeria:** Thurs March 29th, Bimpee Obadina
- **Tibet:** Thurs April 12th, Gombo Dorjee
- **Russia:** Thurs April 26th, Galina Bart

All seminars at 4pm in Siamsa Tire.



*TIRC WISH ALL OUR USERS
& SUPPORTERS EVERY BEST WISH FOR 2012*

STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAMME

Congratulations to all the families who successfully completed the 14 week strengthening families programme which ran from September to December in St. Brigid's Family Resource Centre. Our thanks to funders – Mitchell's Regeneration, North & East Kerry Development & the Southern Regional Drug Task Force.



KERRY EDUCATION SERVICE



There is no doubt that community development has been the back bone of the Tralee RAPID programme. Without the input of local volunteers and groups the estate management and community safety efforts of the Gardai and Tralee Town Council would not have been as successful as they are.

It is great to see a number of RAPID residents involved in the community development course being run by Kerry Education Service at Tralee CDP in Rock Street. It is vital that communities stay involved in shaping and developing their own future. This course not only offers an opportunity to get training in community development, but also a chance to gain a valuable qualification (FETAC award at Level 5) that may lead to employment or further studies at the Institute of Technology.

The course started in September 2011 with two subjects – communications and computers. From January to May 2012, the following modules will be offered: Understanding Community Development; Community Development Practice; Working with Groups. The course is run two mornings a week.

Theses modules will give the learners a firm grounding in the theory of community development which is all about needs based collective action, inclusion, equality empowerment and social change. On the practical side learners will have an opportunity to develop new skills such as mapping what is available in their communities, analyzing and addressing local needs with the aim of taking action together as a community to create positive change. The Working with Groups part of the course covers group dynamics and facilitation skills – these are excellent generic competencies that can be useful in all areas of life.

It is great to see so many RAPID residents among the participants, representing a number of important groups in the community such as Shanakill FRC, the Spa Road / Balloonagh Women's group. A course like this can help your group or organization to grow it's activity, member and volunteer base. It is also an ideal way for a group to tackle a collective project that needs to be in a community.

AN GARDA SÍOCHÁNA

COMMUNITY SAFETY ADVICE



FROM YOUR COMMUNITY POLICING TEAM IN TRALEE

HEATING & DIESEL OIL THEFT

Theft of heating and diesel oil has been a problem for many years and the Gardia have always noticed increases in this type of crime whenever the price of crude oil rise. This makes oil more attractive proposition for the thief and they are now actively targeting fuel tanks at farms, transport depots and domestic properties. These tanks can contain many hundreds of Euro's worth of oil so it make good since to take a few precautions to protect them. For example control switches, Padlocks, oil level gauges, security lights defensive planting of prickly hedging, metal fencing and cctv.



EVERY DAY HOME SECURITY

- Fit front and back doors with good quality 5 lever mortice dead locks.
- Windows should be fitted with good safety catches.
- Always keep all your doors and windows well secured. This is particularly important when you answer a call to your front or back door. Burglars often work in pairs; one holds your attention while the other enters your home by another entrance.
- Fit a door viewer so that you can see the caller before you open the door.
- Fit a strong door chain on front and back door and leave in use at all times.
- Take care not to leave door keys hidden outside in a safe place; safe to you is usually the first check for a burglar.
- If you lose a key change the lock immediately.
- Never give personal information about yourself or anybody else to strangers at the door or on the telephone.
- Ask for identification from persons claiming to be officials who call without prior warning. If you are in doubt ask them to call back later
- Only keep small amounts of money at home and do not leave valuables on public view.

Keep the contact numbers for your nearest 24-hour Garda Station readily available. It is also wise to have a telephone extension in the bedroom.

AWAY FOR A STAY KEEP THE BURGLAR AT BAY

- Away for any length of time secure and lock all external windows and doors. Double check the rear of the house at it is usually the part most at risk.
- Let your neighbour know that you are to be away and ask them to keep an eye out.
- Cancel any regular deliveries that may build up on the doorstep advertising your absence.
- Lock up all tools well and especially ladders... you wouldn't want to be assisting a burglar.
- Leave a light and/or a radio on in the house to give the

impression of occupancy. There are many types of sensor and timed lights available.

- External sensor lighting is also a deterrent to burglars who are not fond of being seen.
- Consider having an alarm installed if you do not already have one. Many insurance companies offer reduced rates on home insurance where buildings have alarms fitted as they also do for being registered as a member of a Neighbourhood Watch group.

BEAT THE BOGUS CALLERS

- Install a door viewer so that you can see who it is at the door before you open.
- Have a door chain fitted to allow you to speak to the caller without opening the door fully.
- Request identification from the caller and if you are concerned ask him or her to call back another time when you are not busy, giving yourself time to check out their details. Remember agencies, organisations or companies that you have contacted for information usually call at a mutually agreed time.
- When strangers do call try to take a full description of them, their transport and anything else which arouses your suspicion.
- Under no circumstances give out personal information i.e. bank account number or credit card details to a stranger at your door or in conversation over the telephone.
- Always keep the number of the nearest 24 hour Garda Station close by your telephone.
- If you have a personal pendant alarm and feel afraid do not hesitate to press the panic button.

"By establishing community-based partnerships, An Garda Síochána can determine, through consultation, the needs of the community and their policing priorities. The problems presented to and faced by An Garda Síochána cannot be solved by Gardai working alone. Crime and the prevention of crime is everybody's business."

An Garda Síochána, Community Policing, Tralee Tel: 066-7102300

ALL THE LATEST NEWS FROM SHANAKILL FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE

COOKERY

Joe Dalton held cookery classes in Shanakill Family Resource Centre on Wednesday nights. The class was full with 20 students. I t was also lovely to see 3 men participating. The aim of the class is to teach students how to cook homemade, healthy meals on a budget, using ingredients you might already have in your kitchen. The group is really enjoying these classes and are very enthusiastic for further training.



This group of 20 students had already completed a beginner cookery course in the centre. This course was delivered by the staff in the centre volunteering hours to teach a wide variety of cooking skills which also included a special coeliac baking night. We hope to carry this course to FETAC Level in the spring 2012. *These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service*

CRAFTS



Brenda Griffin held a craft class in Shanakill Family Resource Centre on a Thursday night for 6 weeks. The ladies in this group learn various skills including curtain making, knitting, quilt making, crochet and embroidery. This is a long standing group in the centre and they have produced some amazing craft work. *These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service*

DRAWING FETAC LEVEL 4



This group is going from strength to strength having progressed through the various modules and stages. Modules include Drawing Techniques, Art History and Traditional and Cultural Art.

This group intend to continue with Art courses in the centre. *These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service*

MEN'S HEALTH & FITNESS

Jeffrey Roche a new young tutor how delivered Health & Fitness Men's Course every Thursday night on the football pitch there are 14 men are taking part.



These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service

IRELAND VS ARMENIA



Nicola and Junior carried a group of 27 teenagers to the Aviva Stadium to see Ireland vs Armenia 11th October Tuesday night everyone had a great time thanks Rapid and well done to everyone involved. *These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service*

BOY'S WORKING ON THE GRAFFITI ART PROJECT



SHANAKILL/RAHOONANE COMMUNITY ORGANIC GARDEN

Training in Organic Horticulture – FETAC Levels 3 and 4 and Community Education - Beginners Organic Gardening. Learning to grow your own vegetables, fruit and herbs. *These adult education classes are run in conjunction with Kerry Education Service*



HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT UPDATE



ON MITCHELS BOHERBEE COMMUNITY REGENERATION PROJECT

The HSE wants to promote better health for all in the community and is undertaking a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) in The Mitchel's Boherbee area. The Community Regeneration Project has several different aspects to it, the redevelopment of Moyderwell Convent, the demolition of Mitchels Crescent area, housing refurbishments, traffic calming measures, are all on going. The entire project will have a big impact on local residents and the town in general. All involved are anxious to get the plan right. Copies of the proposed plan were displayed in St. Brigid's and other locations locally in the months of Sept and Oct. There were 6 community information and consultation sessions where staff from Tralee Town Council gave a brief presentation and answered questions. Tralee Town Council with technical support from Kerry County Council contacted 700 houses to undertake a socio economic survey of the area to provide further information for the regeneration Plan.

Local community representatives have really worked very hard on this part of the project and the success of the HIA is very much dependent on their commitment.

An HIA aims to improve people's health in an area and aims to ensure that where possible positive health impacts are enhanced and negative impacts reduced or eliminated. For example an insulation project for older houses will help improve the health of residents or increased or reduced traffic in an area will also affect health. The HIA is now in its final stages and we look forward to the recommendations.

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT & COMMUNITY SAFETY WORK

Despite the loss of the RAPID Leverage funds for Physical Environment work in the RAPID areas, Tralee Town Council has continued to prioritise RAPID for work in their annual budget and roads & housing grants.

The following work was completed in 2011 in Shanakill, Rahoanane, Spa Road and Balloonagh (Regeneration work is ongoing in the Mitchel's Area):

- Renewal of long footpath in St. Joseph's Estate, across from courts
- Addition of car parking in Spa Road ongoing
- Roads Block Grant funds of €13,320 was spent on footpath works in Rahoanane
- €37,304 was spent on footpath works and road surfacing at Shanakill.
- From the Council's own funds, railings were erected along the Killeen Road; new handrail provided at the steps at Rahoanane and an unsafe wall was removed

