

Joint Oireachtas Committee on Rural and Community Development

Thursday 27th September

Dail Eireann and Seanad Eireann

"Communities working in a genuine partnership with support agencies is a proven recipe for transformation"

**Dr Senan Cooke – Chairman Communities Creating Jobs (CCJ)
Ltd**

www.ccj.ie

The Enterprising Community



- Community-socio-cultural, economic ecosystem.
- Problem solver, wealth creator and organiser.
- Shape values, character, attitude, respect.
- Share responsibility for services, facilities.
- Families, schools, clubs want the best-work for it.
- Problems solved, prevented at source.
- Social enterprises address needs/ opportunities.

One of Many Communities



DFBA Community Enterprises Community Enterprises
CLG est.1993.

(Dunhill-Fenor-Boatstrand-Annewstown)

3 reasons for start up

1. Lost one teacher in both schools:from 4 to 3 & 3 to 2
2. Declining population post 1980s
3. Leader Partnership, CEBs and CES.

GAA club built indoor complex in 1989 for IR350,000. It cleared all debt in a few years by voluntary fund raising. A realisation dawned of a new capacity.

GAA club is representative, competitive, fearless & caring.

Results- Today

- **Schools :** Dunhill from 3 to 9. Fenor from 2 to 17.
- **Population:** Up 25% from 1993
- **Employment:** 250 jobs created since 2000.
- **Enterprise Centre:** Currently 36 enterprises / 75 jobs
- **International Recognition:**
 - Copper Coast EU & UNESCO Global Geopark
 - Integrated Constructed Wetlands (Ear to the Ground)
 - Fenor Bog
 - Dunhill Castle – Robert Le Poher 1174
 - Ireland-Newfoundland Connections (INC)

Against the odds:

Financial Crisis/ No Broadband/Fragmented Supports/Social Enterprise Ignored/ Main Emphasis on Disadvantage.

Communities Creating Jobs

- Est November 2011 by Dunhill & Skibbereen
- National voluntary shared learning network
- Share ideas, problems, solutions, resources, avoid mistakes, waste, duplication and displacement.
- Identify/ activate dormant resources/better ways
- Provide scaffolding with examples/ tools
- Simplify complex documents, criteria, barriers.
- Develop new pathways to success.



Cumasú 22

(2019-2022)



- CCJ, GAA, Third Level Education Consortium.
- Target 10 jobs in every community.
- Local task group and facilitator- 6 months timeline.
- Complete assets & opportunities audit report. Stage 1 app.
- Project promoters engage with relevant agencies. Stage 2
- Job creation, empowerment, capacity building process.

Democratic Imperative

- State partner with communities on regeneration projects.
- Education, employment, housing, health, security, enterprise, food, environment, migrants, sport, creative arts, social and economic cohesion.
- Empower communities to use social capital, build capacity.
- Build prosperity from ground up – Engage v Isolate?
- Solve and prevent problems at source.
- Rebalance population/economy-IDA, EI and S. Enterprise.
- ***Build respect for institutions and political system!***

10 Recommendations

- 1. Facilitate *new social enterprise policy and implementation plan, Jan 2019.* (All Parties)**
- 2. Identify supports in state/community/private. (DRCD)**
- 3. Pilot *Cumasú 22* in south-east. (CCJ/GAA/3rd Level)**
- 4. *Alleviate community enterprise centre debt . (EI-NACEC)***
- 5. 'Social Enterprise' in party manifestos. (All Parties)**
- 6. Access to fibre broadband countrywide!(Dept of Communications)**
- 7. Maximise EU funds for social enterprise. (DRCD)**
- 8. Pilot social enterprise projects with N Ireland. (North / South Body & Leader Partnership)**
- 9. Credit Unions provide loan finance for social enterprise. (ILCU)**
- 10. "*The Enterprising Community*" (Purchase & Promote Book)**



Thank-you!

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