

INISHOWEN DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP highlights achievements for the year

At its recent AGM, Inishowen's Local Development Company, Inishowen Development Partnership, reviewed its achievements for 2009 having survived budget cuts and struggled successfully to maintain its services to the people of Inishowen.

"In the past year", Chairperson John McCarter pointed out "we have weathered a number of storms not least of which was a large cut in our budget allocation. However we still managed to allocate €871,355 to projects under the Rural Development Programme and a further €244,316 under the Salmon Hardship Programme. We have delivered 13 separate funding streams in the peninsula and have directly leveraged funds totalling over €2.9million for Inishowen".

During the year Inishowen Development Partnership supported 128 participants through training at FETAC Levels 3-4 and in fact has offered a total of 357 people the opportunity to achieve FETAC component certificates since we became a registered centre in 2007. The Job Club based in our Bunrana Office had another busy year with 438 clients seeking support and a further 142 participating in the Fás funded Job Club Programme.

Over 200 people have sought advice and guidance on potential self employment start-ups and we currently have 95 people on our Back To Work Database. 135 availed of business support training offered by IDP with courses ranging from Manual Book-keeping, Sales and Marketing to Computerised accounts. A total of 2047 individuals in total availed of supports under our Social Inclusion Programme which exceeded our targets by 30% in 2009.

IDP now also delivers the Clár Bilingual Signage Scheme for Inishowen and also administers the Rural Social Scheme in the peninsula from its Carndonagh Office with 31 people currently employed through that programme. A wide range of youth projects are currently being delivered by our Organisation including the Football for Peace Programme with over 560 participants, Youth 52 , a cross border/transnational SEUPB funded Project with 73 participants to date plus 8 workshops on Conflict Resolution, Youthnet Mk2 supported through Donegal Peace III Partnership with 86 participants.

This year a continuum of training and professional development of the sector was devised starting with the basic child protection course and has led to successful entry on to the University of Ulster's Community and Youth Degree for a number of Inishowen Participants. Other transnational work ongoing throughout the year was the hosting of a delegation from New Brunswick and the presentation delivered by our Programme Manager to the Floor of the Assembly of the State Legislation of New Brunswick earlier this year.

IDP, Bunrana Office has successfully delivered the first phase of a Worldwide project which last year hosted three international events throughout Inishowen. This project which will continue into next year focuses on raising awareness and participating in activities relating to poverty and disadvantage, health, HIV, AIDS, Education, Food and Livelihood Security, the Environment, Sustainable Development, Trade, Human Rights and Peace and Conflict.

John thanked the 23 other Board Members for their contribution throughout the year and their active participation in our 8 board meetings and 35 subgroup/steering committee meetings held during this busy year. He acknowledged that the peninsula has difficult challenges ahead but that as with other

years in the past when the economic situation looked grim for many, Inishowen people showed strength and fortitude in finding a way to develop their skills and sustain their families and we hope that through our range of programmes we can support the people in Inishowen to emerge from the current economic difficulties challenging us all.

A full description of our programmes is now also available on our website at www.inishowen.ie which to date has had 2485 hits between February 2010 to June 30th this year. Alternatively further information can be received by phoning our offices at Buncrana 074 9362218 or Carndonagh 074 9373083.