

Job Club

Do you remember you woke up with a start? The alarm had just gone off. It was the first day back to work after the long Christmas break. Did you groan, turn the alarm to snooze, catch a few more minutes sleep or did you spring out of bed glad to have a job?

We had become used to a more affluent lifestyle. Over the last ten years Irish living standards have increased significantly. But now gloom and doom is the by word of the day. All around are collapsing house prices, reduced consumer expenditure. These are the days of the credit crunch, recession and most significant of all - rising unemployment, lay-offs and closures. Last year Live Register figures showed that the number of people signing on has reached 250,000 for the first time in ten years.

Unfortunately, the unemployment rate is projected to increase further over the next 18 months. According to forecasts from the Economic and Social Research Institute, average employment will fall by 117,000 in 2009. Certainly for the job-seeker times have never been more difficult. Historical experience shows youth, immigrants, low skilled and older workers are more likely to bear the brunt of rising unemployment. As we all know, in the current economic slowdown, the construction industry has been severely hit. The banking and other financial institutions have also announced large lay-offs. Yet there are still jobs out there. It is true that in Inishowen fewer employers have been looking for staff in 2008 compared to previous years.

The pace may be slower but people are still finding new employment positions, jobs are still advertised in newspapers and employers continue to approach the Job Club Centre in Buncrana with vacancies The

difference today is that it is a more competitive market. Many people are applying for each job opening. It is more important than ever before that applications are well presented and that skills are relevant to the needs of the employer. Interview performance has never before been judged so critically. It is vital to answer interview questions confidently and to come across as a competent and capable potential employee.

This is where the Inishowen Development Partnership Job Club Centre in Buncrana can help. They are well known for helping job-seekers feel more confident when they are applying for jobs. The staff in the centre - Marie Monahan, Virginia Byrne and Aisling Sheehy - are expert in knowing what will catch the employer's eye in an application form, in designing a CV that highlights relevant skills and in preparing the job-seeker for a forthcoming interview.

Using the Job Club is one of the most effective ways to identify potential employers and find a job. They have a considerable knowledge of local businesses and encourages the employer to approach them with job openings. In the last year, 131 different employers in Inishowen contacted the Job Club seeking staff for almost 200 vacancies. The Job Club runs programmes throughout Inishowen - Buncrana, Carndonagh and Moville. It is also intended to run an outreach programme in Culdaff, Quigley's Point and Muff this year. For those who cannot commit to a structured programme, arrangements can be made to meet up with them for a one to one appointment in order to get them registered on their database.

If you would like more information on the Job Club service telephone Aisling (074 93 61376) or call into the Inishowen Development Partnership Offices.

Immigrant Outreach Programme



The Inishowen Development Partnership (IDP) established an Immigrant Outreach Programme (IOP) in December 2005. Its main objective is to provide a co-ordinated interagency approach to the provision of information, support and involvement of the immigrant community. "Parents Time" has been introduced as an initiative by the IOP to assist members of the immigrant community with any concerns such as language, job seeking, and schooling for children health care, tax, and any other

issues which may arise.

The "Parents Time" support group meets every two weeks in Buncrana. IOP in collaboration with VEC have prepared a training module named

'Story Sacks for New Friends' specifically for immigrant and Irish parents of young children. This project has helped integrate immigrant parents to the wider community through support and has helped them achieve a good level of English reading and story telling for children. Parents also learned how to choose books relevant to children and their situation and how to develop reading skills. For immigrant parents it was a good opportunity and a different way to learn/speak/practice English to learn/speak/practice English. IOP in collaboration with An Teach Ban (Centre for Peace Building) -working with young people from different religious backgrounds in Northern Ireland - organised a Teen Photography workshop. It was targeted at ethnic minority groups (including Eastern European and Bangladeshi), rural Irish and Northern Irish teenagers. That project used visual art and digital photography as a catalyst to explore community relations issues with a diverse group of young people from the North West. The participants were encouraged to reflect on what it meant and how it felt to be from different places in the world and how they have experienced integrating into their new lives in Ireland. In March IOP followed up on last year's International Women's Day - a multicultural event in collaboration with a new Group 'Women of Inishowen'.

or develop a small existing business. It is not always a requirement that those supported must be in receipt of a social welfare payment. For further information please contact Rosemary Lyons (074) 93 62218.

The specific supports include:

- Access to the Back-to-Work Enterprise Allowance Scheme.
- A business information and guidance service.
- One-to-One Business Mentoring Sessions.
- Networking Opportunities.
- Through links with the Donegal County Enterprise Fund Ltd access to a number of revolving business loan schemes aimed at the small and medium enterprise sector.
- Access to the Department of Social & Family Affairs Technical Assistance and Training Fund (TA&TF).
- Access to First Step Microfinance.
- Education & Training Opportunities.
- Access to the Donegal Women in Business Network and to the NI equivalent "Women in Enterprise" (Northern Ireland).

Summary Of Enterprise Supports Offered By The Inishowen Development Partnership

The Inishowen Development Partnership seeks to assist, support and develop any project, business or enterprise which has the potential for creating or sustaining productive employment and enhancing economic prosperity in the Inishowen Peninsula. We also seek opportunities to cooperate in the implementation of economic cross-border initiatives designed to develop the capability of businesses to compete internationally.

We offer a broad range of supports to meet the needs of those, particularly unemployed people, who wish to become self-employed. Many of the supports offered are available to any person wishing to set up in business,

OPTIC - Older People Together in Creativity

In May 2008, at a meeting of the Inishowen Regional Network of the Voice of Older People, the training needs of older people were discussed. Subsequently Anne Gill, Project Co-ordinator of the Good Morning Service held a further meeting with Mary McGeehan, Training Officer at Inishowen Development Partnership. They considered the possibility of some training for the volunteers and clients of the Good Morning Service. Both the volunteers and clients had for a long time expressed their desire to meet and also to get involved in some type of activity.

A series of discussions and consultations on the possibilities and options followed and from these the programme, OPTIC - Older People Together in Creativity, was designed. The format consisted of a weekly drama and writing session at the premises of Good Morning Inishowen in Buncrana. It has included exercises in drama and role-play on the themes of isolation and loneliness. The participants have also had the opportunity for a dance class, a lesson in getting the most out of their mobile phones, an introduction to Microsoft Publisher, a theatre excursion to the Playhouse in Derry and a visit to the Harmony Singers - a cross community volunteer choir in Derry, who sing in nursing homes, hospitals and charity concerts. Until January 2009 the sessions took place every Tuesday afternoon with lunch being provided, funded by HSE, for all the participants involved.

The drama that emerged from these sessions is called The Red Rose Café which was performed on 25th, 26th, 27th and 29th March in Greenbank Hall, Bocan Hall, Inch Hall and Tullyarvan Mill. The play was written by all the OPTIC members.

The programme has also, in a unique way, allowed clients to meet their volunteers and to work alongside them. There has been a tremendous amount of laughter throughout this process as well as hard work and dedication by everyone involved. The OPTIC Programme has been supported by Inishowen Development Partnership and the Good Morning Service, which is funded by the HSE.



Men's Groups

Inishowen Development Partnership has supported the work of two men's groups in Inishowen. In Buncrana a group of men led by Noel Bradley meet on a regular basis, and in Moville David Simpson does similar work. David, Noel and John Jackson met recently to plan an event for men to mark Men's Health Week June 15th - 21st 2009. This event will be open to members of those groups and to interested individuals, and will take place on Saturday, June 20th starting at 10:30 a.m in Caiseal Mara, Moville, for further information contact John Jackson on 074 93 64108.

I.D.O.L. - Inishowen Digital Older Learners



I.D.O.L. provides computer training for older people. This project is being assisted by funding from the Department of the Communications, Energy and Natural Resources, under the EBenefit Scheme. It promotes opportunities for rurally isolated older

learners in Inishowen to learn new technologies in a safe relaxed environment and in doing so to expand their social interaction and provide social inclusion to this target group. The direct benefits of the use of computers will be demonstrated at a pace to suit the learner, and each older learner will be consulted as to their IT learning needs.

The Project tutor, Sinead McDaid commented, "This project targets absolute beginners. Computers for the terrified, if you like. It is for people who have little or no knowledge of computers and cannot access them in their own locality. We offer people the chance to learn computers on a laptop in their own sitting rooms". Basic Content includes Word Processing, Internet and Email. We take groups of 4 - 6 people, over the age of 55.

For further information contact Project Tutor, Sinead McDaid on 074 93 62218.

Community Allotments Funding for Ard Cilbride Estate,



Funding has been secured through Local Agenda 21 for the setup & delivery of gardening workshops for the Community Garden project at the Ard Cilbride estate in Carndonagh. The first of the workshops commenced the 27th Feb, under the tutorship of local woman Bev Doherty, who is a local organic grower and is renowned for her knowledge in growing organic food. Donegal County Council has been very supportive of this project

and has agreed to the residents using the land adjacent to the estate for the community allotments. They have also contributed financially to the project. It is envisaged that the community garden, should be developed by end of April, in keeping with the growing season. To date 10 families have signed up to take on allotments. *Photo: Ard Cilbride residents with local Gardener Patrick McCartney, Greencastle.*

Reminiscence DVD

A DVD on Reminiscence is in the final stages of production and features contributions from local storytellers and historians reflecting on life in Inishowen. Several themes are touched upon in this DVD including school days, work, social life, food and the impact of work events on local communities. The DVD is available at the Inishowen Development Partnership. Contact John Jackson on 074 93 64108

Rural Development Programme 2007 – 2013 Frequently Asked Questions

How can IDP assist me in developing an idea/project?

IDP staff will advise you on the development of your idea and also put you in contact with the necessary expertise you may require from other agencies. We also have a comprehensive knowledge of all the programmes and schemes available and will advise you on how to access these. IDP offers capital Grants from eligible projects which fulfil the criteria for the Rural Development Programme.

What are the main features of an eligible grant?

Eligible grants should have the following features

They should be innovative

:Generate economic activity.

:Identify a market for the product/service

:Should not result in displacement of existing jobs.

What is the first step to take in developing my idea into reality?

Whether your project is only at the idea stage or may have developed further, you can telephone and arrange to meet our Development Officers or for them to call out to you to discuss your proposed project.

How do I know what agency to contact?

Part of our job at IDP is to advise people on all other schemes and programmes currently available. We welcome any enquiries and if we cannot help we will put you in contact with the agency which may be better suited to your project.

If my project is eligible for funding under some other scheme, can I still apply for Rural Development Programme funding?

No. You must apply under the relevant scheme. This is to ensure that all schemes are fully utilised and in the interest securing real added value under the Rural Development Programme as required by the European Commission.

Can I receive aid from more than one grant scheme or programme for my project?

No. A project may not receive aid (co-funding) from the Rural Development Programme and other public grant schemes and programmes. In some cases where there is clearly an identifiable phase of a project, grant aid may be allowable; this should be discussed with a staff member initially.

What types of grant are available and what is the maximum grant allocation?

Measures:

Diversification into Non-Agricultural Activities

Support for Business Creation & Development

Encouragement of Tourism Activities

Basic Services for the Economy & Rural Population

Village & Countryside Renewal & Development

Conservation & Upgrading of the Rural Heritage
Training & Information

Rates of aid

Capital Projects (Private) – 50%

Capital Projects (Community) – 75%

Analysis & Development (Private) – 75%

Analysis & Development (Community) – 90%

Training Courses – 100%

How is my application assessed?

An eligible application is first evaluated by an Evaluation Committee, with a recommendation being forwarded to the Board for approval. If a project is approved by the board, you will receive a letter of offer and contract.

How long must I wait after submitting my application to find out if it has been successful?

Provided all necessary information has been supplied, you will know in less than 12 weeks.

If my application is successful, how do I draw down the grant and is there a time limit on it?

Grant payments may be made only on completion of the project (in exceptional circumstances, a phased payment may be made when the project is 50% complete), on submission of original paid invoices, receipts etc as per payment checklist which will be supplied by IDP, approval from relevant authorities as to quality of work and on inspection by IDP as to the projects satisfactory completion. The time limit is 12 months.

The members of our development group intend to carry out a lot of this work themselves. Can this be accepted as match funding?

In certain circumstances Voluntary labour is acceptable as a source of private matching funding for community based projects to a limit of 50%. The donation of buildings, equipment or services free of charge or at a nominal cost as part of the project may be considered as private matching funding for community groups only. To do this, all work and the hours involved must be broken down in detail. This must be included with the application.

Project meetings cannot be accepted as voluntary labour.

When can project works commence?

Project works may only commence after the project has been approved, the promoter has received the letter of offer and contract and IDP has received formal acceptance of this offer of grant aid. If works commence prior to this stage the project (or clearly identified phase of project) will then be deemed ineligible and contract will be null and void.

Who Do I Contact For Further Information?

Inishowen Development Partnership.

Pound Street Business Park

Carndonagh Inishowen

Co. Donegal

Tel: 074 9373083 Fax: 074 9373084

Web: www.inishowen.ie Email: info@inishowen.ie

Contact Details:

Buncrana Office

St Marys Rd., Buncrana, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

Tel: 074 9362218

Fax: 074 9362990

Email: admin@inishowen.ie

Carndonagh Office

Pound Street, Carndonagh, Inishowen, Co. Donegal

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Inishowen Development Partnership
Páirtíocht Forbartha Inis Eoghain

NEWS

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Rural Transport In Inishowen Gets The Green Light



People living in places such as Carrowmena, Glengad and Iskaheen may be forgiven for thinking that they are seeing things when a bus passes their door on a regular basis. However in these days of doom and gloom rural transport has come to Inishowen in an attempt to make life easier for the rural dweller. Only for the goodwill of family, friends and neighbours many people would

not have enjoyed the quality of life that those of us who own our own transport take for granted. Rural transport aims to give people who have no access to their own transport a choice and as one passenger said 'our independence'. On Tuesday 25th November 2008 we commenced services which provide links to the large hubs within the peninsula and in addition we offer an evening service to Derry to accommodate those clients who are accessing third level education or accessing social activities not currently available within the peninsula.

The minibus service is provided by two experienced providers, Foyle Coaches Northwest Busways who operate on the following routes; Carrowmena/Moville/Carndonagh, Redcastle/Iskaheen/Muff/Burnfoot/Buncrana, Carndonagh/Quigley's Point /Derry, Greencastle/Moville/Derry and Neil McLaughlin who operates the Clonmany/Urris/Dunree/Buncrana route. Rural transport is community transport and Inishowen Rural transport offers a 'door to door' service for anyone who lives close to the routes but are unable to make the connection. For information on schedules and timetables please contact Noreen Murphy at 074 9322291 or Cormac Skinnader 087 9861606.

Jobs Secure on the Job Initiative



Job Initiative Participants who received Higher Certificates in T-Line Shorthand at Letterkenny Institute of Technology

The Job Initiative Programme has been in operation since January 2000 creating employment for the long term unemployed and providing non profit organisations with a paid employee. Employees who have left the programme voluntarily have secured employment in the private sector. The Inishowen Development Partnership submitted a bid proposal to FÁS seeking funding for another year. This proposal was approved and 17 Jobs were secured. Veronica Friel Job Initiative Participant comments "in this economic downturn I am grateful to FÁS and the Inishowen Development Partnership to have a job. It is always a worry that your contract will not be renewed". Kathleen Doherty Manager of the High Support Unit, Clonmany, Sponsor of the programme highlighted the importance of the Job Initiative Programme stating "I would hope that this scheme which is supporting and enhancing community organisations will continue, as it makes a positive contribution to local communities and is invaluable to our organisation". This programme is funded by FÁS and managed by the Inishowen Development Partnership

We've Moved!

We have new premises and we haven't moved too far! Both of our Offices have relocated in the last few months. Inishowen Development Partnership Buncrana is located behind the library in the premises previously occupied by Carlin McLaughlin Accountants. Look for us in the left hand corner of the car park. Our Carndonagh Office is located in the Pound Street Business Park around the corner from ICR and just across the road from our old offices. Drop in and see us and see what we have going on. Below is a picture of Minister O Cuiv, Minister for Community Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs on a recent visit to our Buncrana Office pictured with our Chairperson, John McCarter and some of our staff and board members.



Minister O Cuiv launches Inishowen Rural Transport Programme

At the recent launch of the IRTP, Minister O Cuiv, Cormac Skinnader, Co-Ordinator, Noreen Murphy, Administrator, Marion McDonald and Rena Donaghey, Sub-group/Board Members, John McCarter, Chairperson Inishowen Development Partnership, Andrew Ward and Shauna McClenaghan, Joint Programme Managers

