

KILLORGLIN CHAMBER ALLIANCE NEWSLETTER

Issue No: 1 - May 2019



Helping build
a stronger
community

Aerial photograph of Killorglin Town by Tadhg Hayes

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Stephen O'Sullivan
Killorglin Chamber Alliance New Chair

WELCOME TO OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER FOR 2019.

The Killorglin Chamber Alliance newsletter aims to keep you informed of key Chamber news, as well as upcoming opportunities and will be produced once every quarter.

As the newly elected Chair of Killorglin Chamber Alliance (KCA) I would like to thank former chairman Ger Counihan, former secretary Trudi O'Sullivan and all of the other former KCA committee members. Their vision and commitment helped establish KCA to effectively represent the commercial, industrial and professional community of Killorglin in its broadest sense.

Throughout 2018 Killorglin's community collaborated to shape a Socio-Economic Plan for the town, reflecting an ambition for enhanced liveability, quality of life and quality of place in the town and its environs.

Killorglin is blessed with a very talented and committed community and I am delighted that the following have joined the KCA committee: Jens Bachem (Reeks District), Jennifer Boyle (Access 4 All), Darragh Burns - Deputy Chairman (Burns Auctioneers), Fergus Clifford - Treasurer (Bank of Ireland), Brian Jones (Eurospar), Denis McCarthy (Fexco), Liz McCarthy (Fexco), Tim Moroney - Secretary (Astellas), Josie O'Donnell (O'Donnells Bakery) and Stephen O'Sullivan - Chair (Fexco).

During the next twelve months, we will be supporting and implementing several projects for the business, cultural, environmental, youth, educational and social benefit of Killorglin, some of which you will hear about in more detail overleaf.

We will be working closely with over 80 community organisations and businesses. We are also greatly supported by Kerry County Council and South Kerry Development Partnership in our work.

Together we have ambition for enhanced liveability, quality of life and quality of place in Killorglin and its environs. We look forward to innovating and collaborating to create a socially diverse, economically vibrant and sustainable future for Killorglin.

Stephen



Pictured are some members of the new Killorglin Chamber Alliance Committee with some of the Tralee Chamber Alliance Team who we met in Q1 2019.

KILLORGLIN IS A TOWN FOR THE AGES

SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLAN FOR KILLORGLIN 2018-2021



Picture of the Town Hall Public Meeting which was held last summer

THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC PLAN FOR KILLORGLIN 2018-2021 WAS COMMISSIONED BY SOUTH KERRY DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP CLG AND KERRY COUNTY COUNCIL, FUNDED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

Planning is fundamentally about people and places, about the communities we live in and their futures. In planning for all our futures we have to consider the whole town, its physical infrastructure, our social and economic aspirations, while also striving to meet and address local issues and needs through the alignment of local area planning with development plans and objectives.

Undoubtedly, Killorglin has seen significant changes over the past decade, some positive and some less so. The socio-economic plan will lead to a better and more coherent approach to planning and development across the town and its environs.

Our socio-economic plan was shaped by the people of Killorglin and our aim is to ensure that sustainability is at the heart of all our decisions as we strive to build a better community, where people want to live, work and enjoy a good quality of life, now and into the future.

Simply put, a progressive and vibrant Killorglin is A Town for the Ages; representative and inclusive of all ages, honouring its past, mindful of its present and boldly optimistic for its future.

The socio-economic plan proposes 95 development actions through which Killorglin's assets and resources can be aligned to achieve an improved quality of life and quality of place for residents and visitors alike.

Designed to support the shared vision and to achieve the objectives set out in this plan, they provide a sound basis for the town's balanced social, economic and environmental development in the period to 2021.

The actions proposed for Social and Community; Economic Development and for the Built, Natural and Cultural Environment are as follows:

Community & Governance

Structures & Governance, Network Development, Representation & Engagement

Economic Development

SMART strategy, ICT & Innovation, Large Enterprise, Trade and Small Enterprise, Tourism & Recreation and Marketing & Promotion

Built, Natural & Cultural Environment

Mobility & Accessibility, Streetscape & Public Realm, Build Environment, Environmental Management, Culture & Heritage and Youth Engagement

To read or download Killorglin's Socio-Economic Plan please see www.killorglinchamberalliance.com.

GET INVOLVED!

This plan won't be implemented by government or any one organisation alone, but rather by local people working together and with public agencies.

So without people stepping up and getting involved in projects they are passionate about, the ideas simply won't become reality.

There are lots of ways to get involved and help so please come on board as a volunteer.

Just email us at killorglinchamber@gmail.com



Smartphone mock-up of the new killorglin.ie website

CURRENTLY THE CHAMBER ALLIANCE IS WORKING ON A NUMBER OF PROJECTS AND INITIATIVES.

There are numerous projects ongoing and in this newsletter, we would like to focus on giving you an update on CoderDojo Killorglin, Free Public Wi-Fi and #BrandingOurTown projects which will all have a positive impact on the future development of our Town.

CODERDOJO KILLORGLIN

CoderDojo is a movement orientated around running free coding clubs and regular sessions for young people.

It is a fun, free and welcoming place where children and teenagers can learn to code, experiment with technology and make new friends.

Killorglin's CoderDojo relaunched back in January and it was a great success with 78 children attending the sessions.

A big thanks to all the participants, Donal O'Reilly, Principal, Killorglin Community College and the CoderDojo volunteers including Oisín O'Céarnaigh, Timothy McGrath, Roy Ferris, Shalini Mahajan, Emival Silva, Thiago Pereira, Colin O'Brien, Matthew Cahalane, Alannah Rice and Jack Dowling.

We are currently on a break for the summer and will return in September. Please keep an eye on their Facebook page for updates: www.facebook.com/CoderDojoKillorglin/.

Volunteers and mentors are vital to the success of any CoderDojo so if you would like to get involved, we would love to hear from you!

CoderDojo Killorglin is proud to be supported by Killorglin Community College and Fexco.

FREE HIGH-SPEED PUBLIC WI-FI

Digital technologies and communications are permeating every aspect of life. All they require is access to high-speed internet. We need to be connected. Our economy needs it. People need it.

We are currently looking for feasible solutions to introduce a free scheme that provides locals and visitors with unlimited access to speeds of up to 100mps in the town centre.

BRANDING OUR TOWN

There are no two ways about it branding is the most valuable asset to a business or even a town like Killorglin. Why? Because a brand is perceived by the world around it, and, like it or not, in an increasingly digital age, perception is reality.

Branding is one of the resoundingly smartest investments any business or town can make and we were delighted to have received funding from Kerry County Council to help develop Killorglin's brand tools (logo, tagline and brand identity) and the Killorglin.ie website. This has allowed us to start the design process. So through a tendering process in 2018, we selected the right design and web development partner to help deliver the project.

In December, Paul Carney, who moved to Killorglin 6 years ago with his family, reached out to offer his professional services on a voluntary basis in order to support the Chamber and help shape and manage the #BrandingOurTown project. The process will be managed by Paul and like all other projects they will be supported by a Project Sponsor who will report directly to the KCA Committee.

The new brand tools and website will enable us to share what's happening in Killorglin with locals and visitors alike.

Killorglin.ie will be used to help promote the town's assets and effectively communicate the socio-economic plan updates, what's on, supports

available and so on. In time we're hoping it will become a great community communication hub.

Collaboration is key so with this in mind one of our commitments is to have the local community and businesses have their say. So there will be a structured community engagement process to strike the balance between consultation and progress in delivering the brand tools and website.

In the coming weeks, we'll reach out for feedback on the preferred logo design that will represent our town going forward. We aim to launch the town's branding and website later in 2019.



SCAN ME TO VIEW
BRANDING OUR TOWN EXPLAINER VIDEO

KILLORGLIN NEEDS A VIBRANT, ENGAGING CHAMBER AND YOU!

Our aim is to be at the core of our community where businesses, individuals, clubs and groups come together.

Through our collaborative approach, we can achieve more for the town. One of our goals is to make a positive social impact, through our working group projects, partnerships, initiatives and events.

Why not help us build a stronger community by becoming a new member.

Simply complete the application form on our website using the following link:

www.killorglinchamberalliance.com/join-now.

KILLORGLIN CHAMBER ALLIANCE SPONSOR RÁS MUMHAN

The Killorglin Chamber Alliance were one of the sponsors of the Kerry Group Rás Mumhan at the Easter weekend.

Rás Mumhan is the premier cycling event in the Irish Cycling Calendar and attracts top amateur cyclists from the UK, Holland, Belgium and Ireland. The 4 day race starts annually on Good Friday and finishes on Easter Monday.

The event is hosted and organised by Killorglin Cycling Club. It is a significant event for the local economy filling 500 bed nights with spending estimated at €200,000.

Visit <https://rasmumhan.com/> for more information about the event.



Pictured are competitors racing in the Rás Mumhan cycling event at one of the stages through Killorglin town

What is the Smart Village Initiative?



Pictured are representatives from Killorglin at a Smart Villages event which was held in Brussels in March

SMART VILLAGES ARE COMMUNITIES IN RURAL AREAS THAT USE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO IMPROVE THEIR RESILIENCE, BUILDING ON LOCAL STRENGTHS & OPPORTUNITIES

The Pilot Project on Smart Eco-Social Villages, initiated by the European Parliament, has been carried out by a consortium consisting of Ecorys, Origin for Sustainability and R.E.D. under the responsibility of the European Commission (Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development).

The purpose of the project is to observe Smart Village activity and to define the concept of Smart Village.

The goals of the project were to map the rural challenges in Europe. There are three specific objectives and they include:

1. To map the current challenges and potential to boost development in EU rural areas
2. To develop a definition of Smart Villages
3. To identify practical solutions to overcome challenges and to improve the situation in villages

Over time, many rural areas have experienced a decline in the range of services available. Changing demographic structures, public sector cutbacks and the impact of climate change can stimulate local communities to step in and fill the gap. Discovering and implementing new solutions to address local challenges is therefore one of the key characteristics of Smart Villages.

Smart Villages are rural communities that build on their strengths and assets, while also developing new opportunities. Underpinning this approach is enhancing both traditional and new networks and services through digital, telecommunication technologies, innovations and better use of knowledge. The concept is not prescriptive and acknowledges there are no one size fits

all solutions. It is also about much more than digitisation.

The concept takes a bigger picture focus and enables a more holistic view of how rural development is taking shape. Rural policies and programmes provide for building blocks to support rural development.

The Smart Villages concept aims to enable local actors to look beyond component parts, assess, plan and take action around how existing assets and future opportunities can come together and join the dots for more balanced, forward looking rural development.

The Smart Villages concept is also closely aligned to Ireland's new 'Smart Community' initiative, launched in January 2019. This innovative initiative is a new approach that aims to bring exposure to digital content and technology in rural communities, and also to support rural dwellers in discovering the value of using digital in their daily lives.

Killorglin was the only Irish town to be selected as a case study along with 14 other towns and villages across Europe.

Our case study was based on our engagement with the community and the development of our strategy (Socio-Economic Plan) with Noel Spillane (South Kerry Development Partnership CLG) and Siobhan Griffin (Kerry County Council) presenting.

The outputs from the project will be published by the European Commission and will inform future EU Rural Development Policy.

You can read more about the initiative at: www.enrd.ec.europa.eu.



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ABOUT US

The Killorglin Chamber Alliance is the core of our community where businesses, individuals, and resources come together. Through our collaboration, we can achieve more for the region than any individual or organization could do alone.