**KILCORNAN’S COMMUNITY COUNCIL**

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KILCORNAN COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER **November 2017**

The year is almost over, where has the time gone, just an update on what we have been working on throughout the year.

**Community Centre Renovation plan.** Earlier in the year we prepared a plan to complete extensive renovations to the community centre. The main improvements that we hope to complete include:

* Renovate, insulate and improve the heating in the meeting room and kitchen area
* Upgrade the shower facilities and changing rooms
* Paint the entire building
* Install a new toilet which can be accessed from the outside (without the need to unlock the entire building)
* Repair the main hall roof and floor
* Upgrade sewerage system to be compliant with current environmental standards
* Purchase a new boiler

The total cost is estimated to be over €70,000, so during the summer we applied for funding under the LEADER programme. This was an extensive application process which took us months to complete, and we submitted our application and plan at the end of July. The rules require us to part-fund the renovations ourselves, so the funds raised from the Strictly Come Dancing event have been set aside as our self-funding. This a really great opportunity to receive grant aid for extensive renovations, much more than we could achieve with the Strictly Come Dancing funds alone. We had hoped to have a decision before now, but the latest update is that a decision is expected early in the new year. We want to make a start as soon as possible and are hopeful that our application will be successful.

**Traffic Calming measures.** We are continuing our efforts in pursuing a traffic calming system outside our National School, Community Centre and sports fields. We have attached information on our progress to date, it’s worth a read.

**Limerick County Council Depot** We have contacted the Limerick County Council numerous times asking them to clean up and improve the look of their work area opposite entrance to Curraghchase Forest Park. The response each time was that they did not have a budget to make improvements however, we have been told this month that it will be included in the budget for the month of December.

**KILCORNAN TIDY TOWNS ACTION GROUP**

What can we say about our Tidy Towns Actions Group. They have been absolutely fantastic in keeping Kilcornan clean and colourful. They had amazing success this year in the Super Valu Tidy Towns Awards. Their hard work really paid off and resulted in us being awarded the endeavour award (of which there was only 3 Nationwide) and being presented with a cheque for €2,000. A winter cleanup was organised for last weekend, and even though the weather was so bad there was a positive response with a number of people getting out there to pick up the rubbish on their roads which they brought to the centre to be collected by the council. Our wheelbarrows will be taken in shortly for a rest and with a little TLC, they will be cleaned up and painted before they are put out next year. Our wooden tubs have been planted up for the winter. The group will be planning pieces of work (new and continued) for next year at the beginning of next year. Kilcornan Tidy Towns Action Group have also made contact with Living Limerick and they are willing to help us with various projects that we hope to carry out over the coming months.  We held an information evening recently on Gardening for Wildlflowers in conjunction with Living Limerick where we learned about the importance of wild flowers for pollinators.

You can keep up to date with local activities on our facebook page and notes in the local papers or on [www.Kilcornan.com](http://www.Kilcornan.com)

**WHAT’S HAPPENING IN CURRAGHCHASE?**

The Living Limerick programme is part of a countrywide project run by An Taisce to encourage the exploring of local wildlife. Biologist and TV presenter Éanna Ní Lamhna led a wildlife walk through Curraghchase in July 2017 to launch the programme. Since then Curraghchase has been a hive of activity including Mini Beast safaris, Fungi walks, a Blindfold tree day, a plant identification workshop, and a Children's Halloween event where over 400 children participated in activities in the forest over two days.

Coillte workers also contributed to interest in nature and the forest when, on a voluntary basis, they guided over 500 primary school children around Curraghchase on National Tree Day which was sponsored by TetraPak.

**KILCORNAN NATIONAL SCHOOL.**

Kilcornan National Schools Christmas production of 'Oliver Twist' and 'Children of the World' will take place in the Community Centre on Tue Dec 19th at 7pm. Matinee performance will be staged at 10.00am on the same day.

Thanks to all who supported 'Operation Christmas Shoebox' sending 79 shoeboxes around the world!

Pupils are invited to attend the Christmas Panto 'Cinderella' in the UL Concert Hall on Thurs ,Dec 21st.

The official opening of 'Our Bookshed' took place on Oct 6th. Kyle Hayes and Aaron Gillane All Ireland U21 Hurlers, cut the ribbon! Sincere thanks to our wonderful Parents Council for their hard work & dedication in putting the bricks in place for this great facility. Thank you also to our Board of Management and to Parents who donated books for the Library. We would greatly appreciate any further donations of good second hand books you may have available.

Kilcornan Parents Council will be holding their annual bag packing fundraiser on the 2nd of December in Supervalu, Askeaton, your support would be greatly appreciated.

**COMMUNITY SUCCESS**

We would like to acknowledge the great success in the parish over the last few months.

**Limerick Rose of Tralee** our Limerick Rose Kayleigh Maher, who represented us in the last 30 roses at the Rose of Tralee, she did us all proud and was amazing through it all. We would really like to thank all of you who have supported Kayleigh throughout and came out and celebrated her selection on the 30th of June, it was a fantastic night in the community.

**The Curraghchase 10k** **Run** was another great success in August, with over 600 people travelling from all over the country to participate, it poured rain that day, and they still came out in droves.

**The Spooky Spooktacular** in its second year, it was an amazing performance put on by AK Utd for one night only attracting over 850 people. The amount of work put in by the people in the community and for to put on such production was something we can as a community can be very proud of.

**Underage Internationals** Congratulations to Joey Rushe, our Irish U15 Soccer International, Joey represented Ireland on the Irish Under 15 team who played against Poland last week in Dublin. Joey has also been to Glasgow attending trials for Celtic and has a very bright future in front of him. Congratulations to Kian Dore who participated in the English Home Pony Competitions recently. Kian was part of the Irish team who won silver in the teams event. Kian has competed in many competitions here in Ireland and abroad, where he has been very successful and is a rising star in the horse jumping arena.

**Our Tidy Towns Action Group:** On winning the endeavour award again congratulations.

**COMMUNITY COUNCIL FUNDRAISERS**

We are currently fundraising to cover the costs to run our Senior Citizens Party and maintaining our Community Defibrillator.

We recently held a bag packing fundraiser in Dunnes Stores unfortunately we only had 7 volunteers on the day but we managed to raise 440e. Unfortunately, this will not cover these costs so we are holding another Bag Packing Day in Tesco Saturday 16th of December from 3 to 9pm, any help on the day would be greatly appreciated, we are asking if people could give us 2 hours of their time if possible, if you are in a position to do so please contact Gillian Downes on 087 7781225 or any other committee member with the preferred timeslot that would suit you. Remember the defibrillator is for everyone in the community and it is important that it is working at all times and properly maintained by being serviced etc.

Our Annual Senior Citizen Party, is a great day for the Senior people in our community and it is an opportunity for them to get together, have their dinner prepared for them, listen to music, and have a catch up and more importantly for us to show how important they are to us, how we appreciate what they have done and contributed to our community over the years. It’s our time to give back.

Our Annual Church Gate Collection will be held on the 25th and 26th of November, this collection goes towards the day to day running costs of the community centre.

**DATES FOR DIARY**

Senior Citizens Party: 14th or 21st of January (to be confirmed)

Annual General Meeting: 5th of February 2018