

Press Release

Thursday, 21/01/2016

Roscommon LEADER Partnership supports the Save Roscommon Campaign

Roscommon LEADER Partnership (RLP) has announced its support for the Save Roscommon campaign, aimed at preventing the planned annexation of the Monksland area of south Roscommon to Co. Westmeath. RLP will be making a submission to the Athlone Boundary Review Committee, citing its opposition to the proposed changes.

Having been a leading player in the delivery of services and funding to the business, community and voluntary sector throughout Co. Roscommon for over 20 years, Roscommon LEADER Partnership has, over this period, developed vast experience dealing with business, individuals, community and voluntary groups in the South Roscommon area, in particular under the Rural Social Scheme and TÚS. RLP has grave concerns that the relationships, trust and experience built up would be lost should the proposed boundary change take place.

RLP has received great support from the South Roscommon area, and Monksland in particular, in developing the Local Development Strategy, the plan for the next LEADER Programme for Co. Roscommon, which is due to commence within the next few months. This is supported by the high number of LEADER Project Proposals received from the area to date. These have been incorporated into the

Local Development Strategy, with the hope of seeing these project ideas come to fruition over the next few years.

RLP has also been one of the leaders in the development of the Town Teams initiative in Monksland, working with all aspects of the community to develop plans which aims to energise and reinvigorate their towns. This plan, combined with plans for 5 other towns in Co. Roscommon, will serve as a blue print for future development strategies for the county.

Roscommon LEADER Partnership fears that, should the proposed annexation proceed, this area will no longer have access to the range of programmes and supports currently available. RLP encourages the entire population of Co. Roscommon to come out and support the Save Roscommon campaign.

RLP looks forward to continuing to work with the Save Roscommon Committee in order to protect the Roscommon county boundary as a whole. Completed submissions can be left at Roscommon LEADER Partnership's Roscommon Town Office by 5pm on Tuesday, 26th January 2016 and RLP will ensure that they are received by Westmeath Co. Co. by the submission deadline.

Ends

For further information, contact Tomás Beades, Roscommon LEADER Partnership at 090 663 0252.