

# ***Roscommon LEADER Partnership's & Roscommon Public Participation Network Roadshow***

## ***Returns to Roscommon***

Roscommon Public Participation Network and Roscommon LEADER Partnership have joined forces to bring 7 informative sessions, 15 diverse programmes, 7 different venues, all in just 1 county – Roscommon. Commencing on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October to Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016, sessions constituting all 15 programmes Roscommon LEADER Partnership (RLP) currently undertake as well as information on Roscommon Public Participation Network (PPN) will be broadcast throughout the geographic plains of County Roscommon; leaving no location untapped.

These meetings will act as a focal point for members of the public to further their knowledge of specific programmes inherent to RLP and the new framework for public engagement and participation, called the Public Participation Network (PPN) the main link through which Roscommon County Council will work with the Community and Voluntary, Social Inclusion, and Environmental sectors. Meetings of this degree also allow the general public to demystify any queries they may have in relation to programmes offered and, also, gain a panoramic view of the density of programmes RLP deliver. A representative from each domain of the company and the PPN will be present on the 7 predetermined dates to engage with the audience and answer any questions relating to their area of expertise.

**Roscommon LEADER Partnership** is a community-led Local Development Company. By valuing the local actors in a community setting, RLP satisfy a greater range of needs. With a bottom-up approach to problem-solving, RLP cater for a wide spectrum of programmes, from social at one end to economic at the other. At the heart of these programmes, the rural aspect of communities has been recognised as a major player in need of social capital revitalisation. RLP support for communities, individuals and businesses entails increasing their economic sustainability and improving their quality of life. The eclectic mix of supports, including soft and hard supports, consist of capital grant aid, technical assistance, guidance and mentoring, information and support, training opportunities and development initiatives.

In total, RLP provide 15 programmes encompassing the social, economic and rural aspects of the company. All 15 cross-sectoral programmes will be showcased at the events and open to inquisition by the general public. The programmes under the spotlight range from SICAP to LEADER, RSS to TUS, while encompassing Suck Valley Way/Miner's Way governed by the Rural Recreation Officer (RRO). Other programmes being divulged on the evening include Traveller Health, HSE, DAF – Ability Focus, Rural Men's Group, Keadue Social Services, Volunteer Information Service, Family Resource Centre and Care and Repair. One exciting new prospect of the 2016 Roadshow includes the new Erasmus+ programme. Erasmus+ has been a welcome addition in empowering disadvantaged communities in County Roscommon over the past 13 months. Its inaugural year has transformed immense potential into viable pragmatism on the ground in County Roscommon.

The two main pillars of RLP include, firstly, the Rural Development Programme/LEADER and, secondly, Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programmes (SICAP).

The new LEADER Programme for 2014 – 2020 is in its infancy stage. Its primary aim is to advocate social inclusion, reduction in poverty and development of rural economies. RLP encourage members of the public to visit these roadshows as incessant interest has already been placed on the new LEADER programme.

Secondly, representatives from SICAP will brief members of the public of the programme's offerings to those who come through the doors on the 7 designated evenings. The current 2015 – 2017 SICAP programme's chief aim is to reduce poverty and promote social inclusion and equality through local, regional and national engagement and collaboration.

The aim of the **Roscommon Public Participation Network** structures and processes is to facilitate and enable the public and the organisations to articulate a diverse range of views and interests within the local government system.

#### The Network:

Facilitates the participation and representation of communities in a fair, equitable and transparent manner through the Environmental, Social Inclusion & Voluntary sectors on decision making bodies

Strengthens the capacity of communities and of the Environmental, Social Inclusion, Community & Voluntary groups to contribute positively to the community in which they reside/participate

Provides information relevant to the Environmental, Social Inclusion & Voluntary sector and acts as a hub around which information is distributed and received.

#### Benefits of the PPN:

- Stay informed about what is going on in your community
- Be consulted on issues relevant to your community
- Get involved in planning, development and decision making process
- Collaborate with similar groups or create partnerships to enhance current activities
- The PPN empowers you and the wider community to make an input and influence the future well-being of Roscommon County.

Community organisations may also join Linkage Groups, they are formed to support people nominated by the PPN to the various Council Committees. They are made up of representatives of the PPN members that have an interest in the work of the particular committee. The PPN representatives on the Council committees report to and take direction from the relevant linkage group.

Community groups will be able to register with the PPN on the night as well as join relevant Linkage Groups.

The PPN & RLP Roadshow, commencing on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> October, will begin its 15-day journey in RLP's headquarters in Roscommon Town. Each Roadshow event will have a one-and-a-half-hour window from 7pm until 8:30pm with refreshments served afterwards. Day 2 of the Roadshow rocks into King House, Boyle, Co. Roscommon on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> October. Monksland Community Centre provides the platform for Day 3 of the tour on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> October. On Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> October, the CDP Office in Ballaghaderreen sets the scene for our north-west Roscommon contingent. A brief interlude creates the foundation for our 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Days of the Roadshow. Day 5 will see representatives travelling to the Percy French Hotel in Strokestown on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Moore Community Centre, nestled in Ballydangan, will host Day 6 of the Roadshow on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November before Day 7, and the Roadshow, is wrapped up in Castlerea Enterprise Hub on Tuesday November 8<sup>th</sup>.

This is a not-to-miss, one-stop-shop for any general queries in relation to Roscommon Public Participation Network and RLP's 15 extensive programmes. Now is your chance to ask that question that has been on the cusp of your tongue or articulate the idea that has been etched in your mind for years. Roscommon PPN & RLP's friendly and helpful staff will be present on the day to quell any reservations you may have in the areas they specialise in. Please remember, spaces are limited so you must arrive early on the evening to ensure you harness the most from these information and knowledge sharing sessions.

**For further information, please contact Brenda Mc Nicholas PPN Resource Worker on (090) 666 5735/086 – 047 8616 or at [brenda@roscommonppn.ie](mailto:brenda@roscommonppn.ie) OR Tomás Beades Roscommon LEADER Partnership on (090) 663 0252/086 – 046 0176 or at [tomas@ridc.ie](mailto:tomas@ridc.ie)**



'Members of Roscommon LEADER Partnership meeting with Minister Mary Mitchell O'Connor after attending an Erasmus+ conference held in Ballaghaderreen in July of this year.'



Johnny Cooper and students from Elphin Community College at this year's education and training fair in Kilbride Community Centre, Roscommon in October of this year.