



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Realising our  
Rural Potential  
Action Plan for Rural Development

# Rural Renewal Schemes 2017

Deirdre Kelly  
Assistant Principal Officer

Rural Schemes

Department of Arts, Heritage, Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

# Action Plan for Rural Development

- Changing the narrative around rural Ireland
- To unlock both the **economic and social** potential of rural Ireland  
....
- ...So that people who live in rural areas have:
  - increased **opportunities for employment,**
  - **access to public services** and **social networks**
  - that support a **high quality of life.**
- No “one-size-fits-all” solution – every rural town, every community has its own challenges and strengths
- Aim is to unlock the strengths in each area

# Action Plan for Rural Development

## A joined up approach....

- Over **270 actions** for delivery over **3 years** across **5 Thematic Pillars**
- Delivery across a range of Govt. Departments, State agencies, Local Authorities and other bodies
- Builds on, and goes beyond the CEDRA report
- Focuses on the economic and social development of rural Ireland
- Synergies with Regional Action Plans for Jobs and other Govt. Strategies

# The 5 Pillars





An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

# Town and Village Renewal Scheme

## Context

- Ireland's towns and villages are the focus of the social, commercial and civic life of their wider communities
- Rural towns have felt the impact of the economic challenges of recent years more acutely than cities and larger urban centres (CEDRA).
- Targeted action required to arrest this decline and harness the regeneration potential of our towns and villages to support economic recovery
- Town and Village scheme is part of a concerted effort by Government to support rural development.
- Included as part of Action Plan for Rural Development with €12M allocated each year for the next 3 years.



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreacht,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

# Objectives and Focus

- The central aim of the scheme is to support the revitalisation of towns and villages in order to improve the living and working environment of their communities and increase their potential to support increased economic activity into the future.
- The type of projects to be funded under this initiative is primarily a matter for the Local Authorities (LAs) to identify in partnership with local business and communities.
- However, the overall intention of the funding is to:
  - increase the attractiveness of the town or village as a local commercial and social centre, and as a result increase its sustainability as a place in which to live and work;
  - enhance the towns/village environment and amenities in the interests of residents, businesses, and visitors;
  - promote the town/village's potential for tourism and as a centre for culture and local heritage, thus enhancing the sense of identity - physically and socially.

# Scheme outline

- Eligible towns
  - Up to 5,000 and
  - Between 5,001 and 10,000
- Funding
  - €20k - €100k
  - Up to €200k for special economic case
- Art works
  - Up to €20k per county for art works – to be chosen by the LA in conjunction with community.

# Application Process

- Expression of interest
  - Expressions of interest to be sought from eligible towns/villages
  - LA to select up to 15 of the best to be developed into comprehensive applications and submitted to Dept
  - Final assessment and selection by Dept

# Eligible Activities.....examples

- Sustainable and visible impact on the town/village.
- Demonstrate economic benefit
- Utilise or Leverage other initiatives or schemes operated by Government Departments or agencies.
- Consistent with Local Economic Community Plan (LECP)
- Projects that support entrepreneurship – Enterprise/Creative Hub\*
- Development of Individual Sectors – Artisan Food Hubs, Craft Hubs\*
- Tourism initiatives\*
- Enhancement of heritage or community assets\*.
- Development of quality marks - Purple Flag, Heritage Town etc\*.

\*High Priority



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta  

---

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs

# Eligible Activities contd.

## Lower Priority Projects for towns with over 1,000 population:

- Enhancement of Streetscape and Town Environment
- Shop Front Enhancement
- Branding and promotion of Town to attract new customers and business investments
- Car parking improvements
- Targeted actions to tackle minor infrastructural Deficiencies

# Examples: Town and Village/REDZ projects

- Develop a Food Tourism and Enterprise Zone
- Loop walk
- Heritage and Visitor Activity Centre
- Develop a Design brief for an amenity area in the town. Enhancement works in the village - hanging baskets, seating, signage
- Enhance the aesthetic quality of the village core, lighting, linkage across village core, public play/ civic area. Realigning the layout of the village square.

Queries can be directed to [townandvillage@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:townandvillage@ahg.gov.ie)

# Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

## Context

- Figures available from Fáilte Ireland reveal that in 2014, close to 1.2million visitors to Ireland took part in hiking or cross country walking.
- These activity tourists spent in the region of €915 million in the Irish economy during their stay.
- Similar statistics reveal that 286,000 visitors took part in cycling activities with a related spend of some €268 million.
- These two sectors combined generated revenue for the Irish economy in the region of €1.2 billion in 2014.

# Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme

## Objectives and Focus

- The Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme is part of the Government's Action Plan for Rural Development and will provide funding for the development of outdoor recreational infrastructure or the necessary maintenance, enhancement or promotion of existing outdoor recreational infrastructure in Ireland.
- Launched by Minister Ring on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2017
- The scheme is targeted at outdoor recreation infrastructure in rural areas.
- Funds will be provided to projects where works have not yet commenced and will be released to successful applicants on an arrears basis in tranches, based on a percentage of works completed.

# Scheme Outline

- There are three funding measures available in the 2017 scheme
  - **Measure 1:** Small maintenance/promotion of existing infrastructure (maximum grant €10,000, 2M available). Max 15 projects per County
  - **Measure 2:** Medium scale repair/upgrade and development of new small/medium infrastructure (maximum grant €100,000, 3M available). Max 4 projects per County
  - **Measure 3:** Repair/upgrade and development of larger more strategic projects (grant of greater than €100,000 and up to €1 million for exceptional projects, 6M available). 1 project per Agency/LA or Collaborative Partnership

# Application Process

Applications for 2017/2018 will be accepted from the following entities;

- **Measure 1 and 2:** Local Authorities in cooperation with Community Groups and/or other local stakeholders. All applications for these measures must be submitted to [cnat@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:cnat@ahg.gov.ie) by close of business on **Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017**
- **Measure 3:** State Agencies individually or in cooperation with other stakeholders such as Local Authorities. All applications for this measures must be submitted to [cnat@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:cnat@ahg.gov.ie) by close of business on **Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

# 2016 Project example



# CLÁR

## Context

- CLÁR (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) is a targeted investment programme for rural areas that aims to provide funding for small infrastructural projects in areas that have experienced significant depopulation in the past.
- The aim of CLAR is to support the sustainable development of identified CLÁR areas with the aim of attracting people to live and work there.
- The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

# CLÁR

## Application Process

- There is an allocation of €5million in total for 2017 of which up to €4.25 million is for available under 3 measures to be operated via Local Authorities for a range of School and Community projects.
  - **Measure 1:** Support for Schools/Community Safety Measures (€2m)
  - **Measure 2:** Play Areas (€0.75m)
  - **Measure 3:** Targeted Community Infrastructure Needs (€1.5m)

# CLÁR Cont'd

- Up to a total of 20 applications, between Measures 1, 2 and 3, may be submitted by the Local Authority for consideration by the Department. Applications under Measure 1 may include a number of elements at a single location (school or community facility) up to the maximum funding limit outlined in the measure.
- The Department will select a number of projects in whole or in part and will take the proportion of the county that is within CLÁR into account in the decision making process (e.g. Clare has more than 120 District Electoral Divisions (DEDs) in CLÁR, whereas Wicklow only has 7).

# CLÁR Timelines

<b>Scheme launch</b>	<b>31st March</b>
<b>Applications to be received by the Department</b>	<b>By May 5th</b>
<b>Assessment and decisions, contracts</b>	<b>By May 31st</b>
<b>Drawdown of 50% of funding</b>	<b>Sept/Oct (progress dependent)</b>

Queries can be directed to [clar@ahg.gov.ie](mailto:clar@ahg.gov.ie)

# Rural Schemes Overview

Schemes	Funding	Number of Projects	Number of Participants	Number of applications	Closing date for 2017 applications
REDZ 2015	3.8m	51			
REDZ 2016	6.1m	47			
T&V 2016	9.9m	170			
T&V 2017	20m (press released)	300+			30th June 2017
CLÁR 2016	8.24m	651			
CLÁR 2017	5m				5th May 2017
Rural/Outdoor Rec 2016	7.4m	117			
Rural Rec 2017	7m				
Waks scheme 2016	1.8m		1,911		
LEADER 2014-2020	220m (LEADER)				2019/2020
Tidy Towns 2015				859	
Tidy Towns 2016				862	
Tidy Towns 2017					25th May 2017

**Expenditure Rural Support Schemes 2016**

<b>County</b>	<b>REDZ</b>	<b>Town and Village Renewal Scheme</b>	<b>CLAR</b>	<b>Rural Recreation</b>	<b>Total</b>
Carlow	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€80,000.00	€67,500.00	<b>€727,500.00</b>
Cavan	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€498,184.00	€125,771.90	<b>€1,203,955.90</b>
Clare	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€284,000.00	€383,901.03	<b>€1,247,901.03</b>
Cork	€248,000.00	€380,000.00	€562,222.00	€992,587.05	<b>€2,182,809.05</b>
Donegal	€298,000.00	€380,000.00	€878,632.00	€178,322.90	<b>€1,734,954.90</b>
Dublin	€0.00	€380,000.00	€0.00	€33,666.94	<b>€413,666.94</b>
Galway	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€392,000.00	€336,974.90	<b>€1,208,974.90</b>
Kerry	€150,195.00	€380,000.00	€744,964.00	€405,928.25	<b>€1,681,087.25</b>
Kildare	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€0.00	€10,582.40	<b>€490,582.40</b>
Kilkenny	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€223,000.00	€56,824.90	<b>€859,824.90</b>
Laois	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€148,900.00	€437,988.40	<b>€1,166,888.40</b>
Leitrim	€300,000.00	€380,000.00	€274,800.00	€1,204,729.49	<b>€2,159,529.49</b>
Limerick	€300,000.00	€380,000.00	€235,000.00	€294,674.90	<b>€1,209,674.90</b>
Longford	€350,000.00	€380,000.00	€237,560.00	€256,724.90	<b>€1,224,284.90</b>
Louth	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€173,520.00	€14,032.40	<b>€667,552.40</b>
Mayo	€150,000.00	€380,000.00	€976,869.00	€654,441.80	<b>€2,161,310.80</b>
Meath	€200,000.00	€380,000.00	€127,600.00	€63,424.90	<b>€771,024.90</b>
Monaghan	€290,000.00	€380,000.00	€356,440.00	€281,156.40	<b>€1,307,596.40</b>
Offaly	€414,870.00	€380,000.00	€123,398.00	€193,818.90	<b>€1,112,086.90</b>
Roscommon	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€406,497.00	€196,302.25	<b>€1,082,799.25</b>
Sligo	€800,000.00	€380,000.00	€598,400.00	€143,004.90	<b>€1,921,404.90</b>
Tipperary,	€699,221.00	€380,000.00	€371,000.00	€209,330.01	<b>€1,659,551.01</b>
Waterford	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€261,600.00	€233,319.40	<b>€974,919.40</b>
Westmeath	€192,000.00	€380,000.00	€214,280.00	€311,027.40	<b>€1,097,307.40</b>
Wexford	€100,000.00	€380,000.00	€0.00	€250,537.40	<b>€730,537.40</b>
Wicklow	€150,556.00	€380,000.00	€70,000.00	€104,284.90	<b>€704,840.90</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>€6,142,842.00</b>	<b>€9,880,000.00</b>	<b>€8,238,866.00</b>	<b>€7,440,858.62</b>	<b>€31,702,566.62</b>



An Roinn Ealaíon, Oidhreachta,  
Gnóthaí Réigiúnacha, Tuaithe agus Gaeltachta

Department of Arts, Heritage,  
Regional, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs



Realising our  
Rural Potential

Action Plan for Rural Development

Thank You

Any Questions?