



### HINCKS CENTRE

## My Town, My Plan

Shared Learning Events Ebook

29th September, 2020, 7pm (West)
7th October, 2020, 7pm (South)





Ireland's European Structural and Investment Funds Programmes 2014-2020













#### HINCKS CENTRE

#### My Town, My Plan

In September 2019, the Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence at the Cork Institute of Technology, in collaboration with SECAD Partnership (funded by the LEADER Programme) commenced the delivery of the My Town, My Plan Community Training Programme to eight towns in Cork County.

- Clonakilty, Kinsale, Rosscarbery & Skibbereen
- Carrigaline, Cobh, Midleton & Youghal

The objective of the programme was to provide training in future planning and the innovative development of a cohesive vision for towns and their hinterland. A Facilitator was assigned to each town to deliver the Core topics:

- Developing Community / Social Enterprise
- Moving from Ideas to Validation
- Developing My Town, My Plan Ideas/Vision

In addition to the Core topics, each town had the opportunity to select four topics from three themes, to complement their training and vision for their town. Each was delivered by a subject expert:

- Theme A Enterprise and Asset Management
- Theme B Social, Community and Volunteer Supports
- Theme C Environment

At a personal level, the programme was designed to positively impact on knowledge, leadership, management and teamwork skills. At a community level, the programme was designed to positively influence the community's competence and capability to inform themselves, evaluate options and make collaborative decisions. This enabled groups to create viable and sustainable community/social enterprises and develop an appropriate Idea/Vision for their town's future.

#### More information:

https://hincks.cit.ie/index.cfm/page/my-town\_-my-plan-community-tra







The Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence is part of the School of Business at Cork Institute of Technology.

It was established in 2013 to support entrepreneurship in all its forms and is a part of the strong entrepreneurship eco-system across CIT/MTU.

In establishing this centre, CIT is extending its long-standing and strong commitment to supporting entrepreneurship at regional and national levels.

The Hincks Centre is engaged in academic, community and policy focused research, education, and training.

Hincks has a strong track record in leading and collaborating on National and European projects including H2020, Interreg, Erasmus+ and HEA and international research partners in Vietnam, Thailand and New Zealand.

hincks@cit.ie www.hincks.ie

**SECAD Partnership CLG** is a local development company established in 1995.

It supports people, community and enterprise and provides a range of innovative and effective rural development and social inclusion supports to motivate and empower local communities to create a more vibrant, sustainable, and inclusive society.

SECAD manages a wide range of funds and services including, social investment and employment support programmes implemented on behalf of a number of Irish Government Departments and State Bodies.

The **LEADER** initiative funded the My Town, My Plan programme.

info@secad.ie www.secad.ie

#### Acknowledgements

It is an honour to host these online shared learning events which accompany this ebook. The events showcase the achievements of the participating towns and communities and is the final stage of the innovative *MyTownMyPlan* community training programme.

This ebook provides a short summary of the programme, the schedule for each of the live streamed events and information on the guest speakers. It also presents the posters produced by the participating town groups and a summary of the vision/ideas.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank those of you who participated in the training sessions, contributed to producing the ideas documents, posters and recordings. Your interest and enthusiasm were outstanding, even in the face of the changes brought about by the Covid19 restrictions. It was a true demonstration of the adaptability and resilience of our communities.

As with all events and activities, there are amazing people working together to get us to this stage of the programme. Thank you to the huge team of people who supported the programme from the design stage, the delivery of the 96 sessions, and the production of the online Shared Learning Events. Thank you to Leader Programme for funding the project, through SECAD partnership.

Thank you to Veronica Murphy from Discovery Partnership who was instrumental in the design and delivery of the programme from the start and facilitated the core sessions in Clonakilty, Kinsale and Youghal. Thank you, George Bulman, from the Rubicon Centre at CIT/MTU and Billy O'Connor from Discovery Partnership, who facilitated the core sessions in the other five towns. Veronica, George and Billy brought their vast knowledge, experience and enthusiasm to support each group in producing their ideas documents, posters and recordings. (George facilitated the Carrigaline, Cobh and Midleton sessions and Billy, the Skibbereen and Rosscarbery sessions). To the subject experts who delivered the specialist topics, thank you.

The programme teams at the Hincks Centre and SECAD worked tirelessly together at every stage. From pre-programme in May/June 2019, to the day-to-day operation and finally to hosting these shared learning events. Thank you to Ryan Howard, Suzanne Kearney, Nuala O'Connell and all the team at SECAD. And to the Hincks and CIT/MTU team, thank you for the invaluable support.

The two people who brought it all together, Lish Seoigh, from the Hincks Centre who led the programme operations, from organising the 81 face-to-face sessions, the 15 online sessions and liaised with facilitators, lecturers and participants. And Nuala O'Connell, who led the project from SECAD, attended most of the sessions and communicated with all the participants and stakeholders. THANK YOU.

Helen McGuirk, and the Hincks Team Hincks Centre for Entrepreneurship Excellence Cork Institute of Technology



SECADE

**HINCKS CENTRE** 

## West Cork

My Town, My Plan Shared Learning Event

Clonakilty Kinsale Rosscarbery Skibbereen

29th September 2020

















#### Schedule of Events 29th September 2020

Introduction & Welcome by The Hincks Centre & CIT

19:00

Video Showcase of Participacting Towns

Nuala O'Connell - SECAD

Planning for Success

James Bourke - James Bourke & Associates

Retail Therapy - What's your plan?

Ryan Howard - SECAD

From Vision to Action - Your Community's Future

Event Close 20:30

Please note the content and running order of the event may change

#### Speakers



Nuala O'Connell

Development Officer, SECAD

Nuala O'Connell is a community development worker with considerable experience in Ireland and abroad. Having gained a BSc at UCC, Nuala worked for a number of years in agricultural research with a pharmaceutical company in the UK, linking with oilseed crop growers in UK, Europe, New Zealand and the US.

Following almost ten year's work based at Writtle College in the UK during which she completed an MSc, Nuala worked in West Africa where she combined agricultural research with community development work, linking with farmers, the Ghanaian Ministry of Food and Agriculture and National Research Institute in Kent to develop tools to improve farming and community conditions for rural dwellers over a two year period.

On returning to Ireland in 2001, Nuala worked with Blackwater Resource Development as a Community Development Officer working mainly on the LEADER programme facilitating communities to develop plans and make applications for funding. Following this, Nuala took up the role of Community Development Support Officer with South and Mid West Community Development Support Agency, providing training and support to voluntary management committee members on issues such as governance, employment, procedures and protocols with Community Development Projects and Family Resource Centres throughout Cork City and County.

In 2008, Nuala joined SECAD and has worked as a Development Officer in a number of areas, primarily supporting local community groups in South, East and West Cork in the development of plans, funding of projects, development and delivery of Social Inclusion initiatives and rolling out training programmes.



#### Speakers



#### James Burke

Owner, James Bourke & Associates

James started his food and retail career working parttime in Supervalu Bantry. He subsequently studied Retailed Management in DIT and joined Superquinn in 1984. He spent over 20 years in Superquinn, the last 10 of which were at Board Room Level. His Superquinn executive roles included Business Development Manager, Group Purchasing Manager and Trading Manager.

In addition James served on the advisory board of AMS €1 billion European buying group and was a director of the Irish Purchasing Company Aontas. He holds a degree in retailing and wholesaling from Stirling University in Scotland.

James Burke has worked in the retail sector for over 23 years. In his current role as business consultant, James provides strategic advice and business planning for some of Ireland's best known companies within the food and retail sectors.



#### Speakers



#### **Ryan Howard**

CEO SECAD Partnership

Ryan Howard received an honours Degree in Food Science at University College Cork (UCC) in the late 1980's and thereafter worked with a number of large food companies in Ireland and overseas.

During this time, he developed an increasing interest in the rural economy and in 1992 returned to his alma mater to undertake post graduate studies in Rural Development and Cooperative Marketing.

Ryan joined the staff of SECAD in 1995 and has led the company as the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) since then. He has overseen the evolution of the company over the past 25 years taking it from a single funding programme into a platform for global funds and services (rural development, social inclusion and employment supports) for East and South Cork and for the catchments of Kinsale, Clonakilty and Skibbereen in West Cork.

SECAD also manages the Community Food Initiative on behalf of cross-border initiative, *safefood*, an innovative community food project providing support to disadvantaged families delivered throughout the island of Ireland. Since 2015 SECAD began to manage Community Benefit Funds and expanding these in subsequent years to work with over 20 renewable energy companies.

Ryan's leadership skills and his capacity to create collaboration and linkage across a range of sectors has been recognised locally, nationally, and internationally. He is the Chairmanship of the regional tourism business network and has made a significant contribution in terms of the development of the community and voluntary sector in Ireland and the EU. In 2011 Ryan was nominated as the Irish LAG Representative onto the EU Commission Focus Group 'Developing Better Local Development Strategies' and has been involved on a number of EU Commission fora during his tenure as CEO of SECAD.







# Posters & Ideas from West Cork Towns

Clonakilty, Kinsale, Rosscarbery & Skibbereen



### Clonakilty - Including Dunmanway, Ballineen & Enniskeane



- **1. Greenways** to various places within the town of Clonakilty.
- **2. Climate Adaptation Strategy:** Take Clonakilty off grid and develop 'COOL CLON' more to achieve this.
- **3. Historical / environmental heritage:** More development of our various historical figures that have national and International importance and link them on a trail that would tie in with the greenway / pathways.
- **4. Biodiversity:** Collaborate with the local Tidy Towns committee to develop the biodiversity garden planned for the town and promote more biodiversity projects as they are central to the Tidy Town competition.
- **5. Cork Rebel Way:** Tie in the history, landscape, people and culture in a coordinated way to promote Clonakilty and surrounding areas for visitors and locals alike.



Smaoince Corbarcha dár Sráidbhailce Nasccha Áille









 Traffic Management and upgrading the R586 on which the villages are situated to the standard of the N71 coastal road.



- Develop a holistic local Tourism Package to encourage visitors to stop and spend time in the villages.
- Further development of **Biodiversity and Climate Adaptation Strategy**.
- Consultative process in relation to the establishment of a Greenway from Enniskeane to Drimoleague.
- Put strategies in place for our community to Survive and Thrive during the new normal and beyond.

















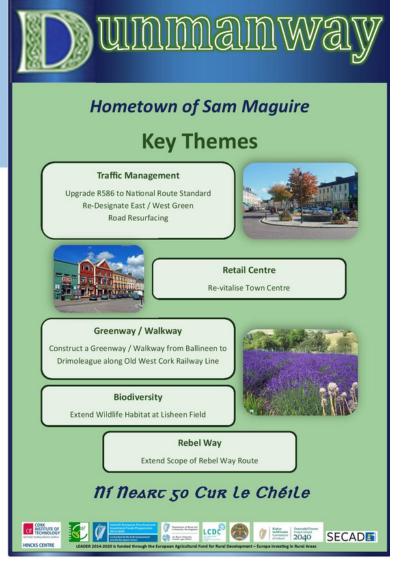


#### **Dunmanway Ideas:**

- 1. Traffic Management
- 2. Greenway / Walkway
- 3. Retail Centre: Re-vitalise town Centre.
- 4. Biodiversity: Extend Wildlife Habitat at Lisheen
- 5. Rebel Way: Extend scope of Rebel Way Route.

#### **Ballineen & Enniskeane Ideas**

- 1. Traffic Management
- 2. Historical Heritage
- 3. Environmental Heritage
- 4. Revitalise Villages' Centres
- 5. Climate Adaptation Strategy
- 6. Rebel Way





A Representative Community Partnership to catalyse action through collective decision making and with this decision-making underpinned by Care.

**Environmental-Socio-Economic Plan**: Creating an environmental socio-economic plan for the area which would map resources and highlight potential opportunities and vulnerabilities.

**Prioritisation of Projects** to promote wellbeing of our physical and mental health while cherishing our future environment and with the urgency of climate change foremost in our minds.

**Social Enterprise Centre**: The creation of a social enterprise centre. It was suggested this could be entwined with a business hub which would create a revenue stream.

**Flagship Project**: To create connections within our area, we would like to develop a Greenway/ Blueway which will exemplify this care for our well-being and where we live. We also advocate for more pathways within our towns and villages.



**Pride of Place:** An attractive place for everybody to live, work and enjoy. To identify different types of walks and cycle trails including beaches, cliffs, sand dunes, boreens and hillsides.

Capitalise on the Wild Atlantic Way project and the area's landscape, environment, history and culture to offer a unique immersive experience for the visitor

- Create new walks and upgrade existing trails with trailheads to link villages and places of historical interest to each other for the benefit of both visitors and local residents
- Give clear signage and interpretive information on the historical sites and the stories that have shaped the local culture

**Enhance sense of community**: Identify the health benefits associated with walking and outdoor activities. Create awareness of the extraordinary beauty of both the coastal and inland scenery, its biodiversity and the kindness of the people.

**Increased employment** with all-round visitor season. Maximise the potential for wellness tourism



**Traffic Management:** Revisit the 2011 Skibbereen Traffic and Transportation Study

**Pedestrianisation and Cycle Opportunities**: Pedestrian access over the bridge to Levis' Quay, pedestrianisation of Main Street & cycle corridors at peak school times.

**Age Friendly Town**: Apply for Age Friendly town status from CCC and be accepted into the programme for 2020/2021

#### **Community Facilities for All Ages**

- a. Secure a permanent home for the Community and Family Resource Centre.
- b. Consider options for Emmet Hall (scout hall) space subject to lease agreement by CCC and Skibbereen Tidy Towns.
- c. Host an annual community open day for clubs and groups to share details of their activities.
- d. Develop a directory with contact details for all voluntary groups in the area.
- e. Develop greenway alongside the Ilen River from Chapel Quay to Kennedy Bridge.
- f. Investigate potential to develop a commercial venture for a cinema.





#### **HINCKS CENTRE**

## SOUTH CORK

My Town, My Plan Shared Learning Event

Carrigaline Cobh Midleton Youghal

7th October 2020

















#### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Introduction & Welcome by the Hincks Centre and CIT

19:00

Video Showcase of Participacting Towns

#### **Aaron Jay - Emagine**

VR and Sustainable Tourism, Pre & Post Covid

#### Bernadette Guest - Waterford City & County Council

Heritage of Waterford Greenway - Telling the Story

#### Gráinne O'Keeffe - Ludgate

Ludgate: Our Story So Far & Vision Ahead

Final Remarks - SECAD and Hincks Centre

Event Close 20:45

Please note the content and running order of the event may change

#### SPEAKERS



**Aaron Jay**CEO / Co-Founder Emagine

Aaron is a founding member of Emagine, and prior to 2001 he worked as a photographer for various publications across the US. In Ireland Aaron has worked as IT manager for the Fennel Photographic Agency and Kingram Communications, prior to forming Emagine.

He was the lead auditor/developer for the Excellence Ireland Quality Association's mark programme, evaluating digital and web for accessibility for people with disabilities.

Aaron has been director and script writer for Emagine's VR projects. With his programming and photography experience he guides their team of developers and designers to achieve an excellent product.

#### **Contact Aaron:**

www.emagine.ie hello@emagine.ie (051) 36 40 40



#### • Lismore Castle Experience

Client: Lismore Heritage Centre / Failte Ireland

Roles: Project Manager / Director

• Waterford Greenway VR Experience

Client: Waterford City and County Council Role: Account Manager / DOP

• Visit Donegal VR

Client: Donegal CoCo

Role: Account Manager / DOP

• Diocletian's Dream VR Experience / Croatia

Client: Palace Viewing

Roles: Project Manager/ Director

• Viking House VR Experience / Norway

Client: Guide Companiet

Role: Account Manager / Director

• King of the Vikings VR Experience

Client: Museum of Treasures / Failte Ireland

Roles: Project Manager / DOP

• Shannon Blueway VR Experience

Client: Leitrim County Council

Roles: Project Manager / Camera Tech

#### SPEAKERS



#### **Bernadette Guest**

Waterford City and County Council

Bernadette Guest is Heritage Officer with Waterford City and County Council based in the planning section.

The Heritage Officer role involves advice on heritage projects, policy, funding and legislation both within the local authority and to the general public. A key part of the role is project management of Waterford's heritage and biodiversity plans both of which include actions for the Waterford Greenway.

Bernadette's talk will focus on development of the heritage interest of the Waterford Greenway, survey work to date, potential projects and funding opportunities.



#### SPEAKERS



### **Grainne O Keeffe**CEO Ludgate

Grainne joined Ludgate in Skibbereen as CEO in July 2020. She brings with her a wealth of international management experience spanning 20 years in locations as diverse as London, Tokyo, New York and Skibbereen.

Most recently Grainne spent a number of years with Spearline as Head of Innovation and, while delighted to be back in her home town of Skibbereen, continuing her career trajectory. Her journey before this is reflective of a large number of our graduates in the area.

She graduated from UCC with a BCL in 1993 and then went on to complete an MBS at the Michael Smurfit Graduate School of Business, UCD, in 1995. From there she joined Bank Of Ireland's Graduate Programme and spent 18 months in Jersey, Channel Islands before moving to London to join JP Morgan in 1998 and subsequently Goldman Sachs in 2003. These organisations enabled global mobility and career expansion spanning London, Tokyo and New York providing Grainne with extensive managerial and strategic roles across global teams.







# Posters & Ideas from South Cork Towns

Carrigaline, Cobh, Midleton & Youghal





**Sustainable Travel Focus (The 15-minute town):** This aims to get the citizens of Ireland's quickest growing and most car dependent towns, out of their cars and onto the footpaths and safe cycling paths of the future by recognising that they can reach most places in Carrigaline in less than 15 minutes by foot or on a bike. It is a series of small scale projects that add up to a long term goal of modal change, which will seamlessly marry with the forthcoming Carrigaline Public Realm plan and Carrigaline Area Transport Plan, as well as existing policy documents like the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Strategy (CMATS) and Cork Metro Area Cycle Plan.

Arts and Culture Centre (The Vibrant Town): This vision will breathe new life into the heart of Carrigaline, by repurposing an existing building, ripe for renovation, into a new focal point for the community. With a town hall model, a mixed-use office (Cork County Council) and flexible meeting spaces; as well as a fully equipped theatrical, exhibition and heritage space. Carrigaline is the biggest county town in the biggest county in Ireland. Our town is the capital of the Carrigaline Municipal District and needs a Town Hall. To assist in reinvigorating the town centre and local pride of place, this space will also include a coffee shop/bar and a new local/tourist information centre, which will help showcase local produce, crafts and amenities to locals and tourists alike.



**Community Owned Renewable Energy Project:** Beginning with solar energy production and storage on a prominent community building and the establishment of a community energy co-op for developing other community-owned projects in the longer-term.

**Reusable Container Scheme** particularly in take-away businesses. Single use takeaway litter on the streets, particularly on the weekends, is a big problem. The intended purpose of our reusable take-away container scheme is to reduce the amount of litter and single use items used by the customers of food businesses on the island.

The Great Island Off-Road Project: Beginning with re-establishing the 21 ditches walkway for community use and as, in part, the beginning of a circular off-road route around the island. The project is intended to serve three functions - to attract longer stay visitors and benefit the local economy and possibly further afield; to provide a recreational resource for the local community and to enable a safe cycle route to the ferry, Belvelly Bridge or any future river crossing, something which the existing road infrastructure does not permit, and thus enable the Government's cycle to work policy.



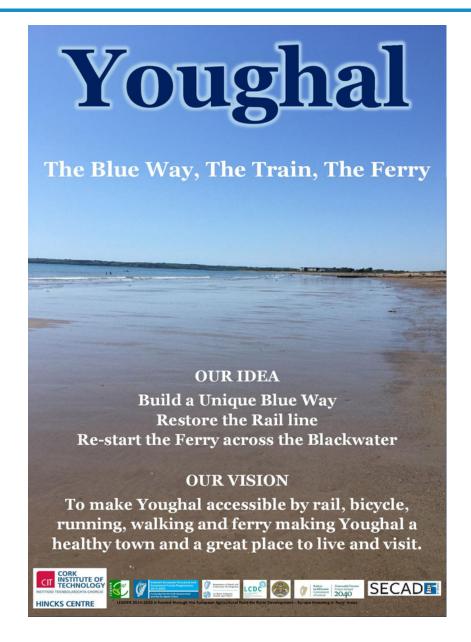
The Midleton vision is to create a large regional park, matching nature with play, culture with heritage, discovery with biodiversity, all over 150 acres set along the natural floodplain of the Roxborough/Dungourney River. The park will be in line with some of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It will have several functions and provide many benefits in the same spatial area.

**Social**: Provide a healthy environment and green space for play, leisure and sports, provide generous space for regular and special events/performance space, promote social cohesion, sports pitches and playgrounds, cycle paths and walking trails, a park run, promote our industrial and agricultural heritage, create new neighbourhood connections, improve the quality of urban and rural life, provide a location for outdoor education/S.T.E.A.M. activities.

**Environmental**: Improve biodiversity, enhance natural capital, natural flood mitigation and water filtration, promote nature exploration and education, link up natural habitats/reduce habitat fragmentation, climate change adaptation.

**Economical**: Provide sustainable/active transport connections, support job creation, tourism/event potential, raise property prices, carbon storage, reduce flood damage costs, combat climate change, provide positive health effects, add value to the Midleton-Youghal Greenway which crosses through the park, increase outdoor recreation economy.

The Midleton Regional Park will connect with and enhance projects currently commenced and forthcoming, and will connect by a short walk/cycle to Midleton Train Station.



The Blue Way, The Train, The Ferry are to be the drivers to improve the lives of all the people of Youghal and its hinterland and provide a great incentive for tourists to visit Youghal. Our aim should be to make Youghal and its hinterland easy to access by rail, bicycle, running, walking and by ferry. The ambition should be to make Youghal a healthy town and a great place to live. This could also greatly reduce the carbon footprint of the town and its hinterland.

The provision of a Blue Way on the beach high water mark would provide cyclists/walkers with a unique experience, a view of Capel Island and Youghal Harbour. There should be clear cycle lanes through the town linking the new railway station, historical sites, the ferry site, schools, South and North Main Streets, through Tallow Street and on to the Breton Road Roundabout. To maximise the benefit of the Cycle network a Park and Ride a Bike could be located at The Youghal Information Centre, The Railway Station, Summerfield and at the Breton Road Roundabout

The above infrastructure would tie Youghal to Cork, provide the City with a vital link to the seaside and also link in with County Waterford. It is vital that Youghal is part of the Cork Metropolitan Area Transport Structure. It would also attract more athletes to train for triathlon events, touring cyclists and in future attract cyclists from the EuroVelo Route to sample our Blue Way on their tours. At present all cyclists just ride by the town, but we need to change that by building cycle lanes at each end of the by-pass to guide cyclists into the town, onto the panoramic views of the harbour from the Blue Way and the cycling circuit. The ferry would also bring people into the heart of the town.



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