

FERRYBANK COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGIC PLAN 2015 - 2020



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Ferrybank Community Development

Strategic Plan 2015 - 2020

Ferrybank sits on the border of County Kilkenny and Waterford City and as such both areas (local authorities and service providers) have a responsibility towards the residents and areas of Ferrybank. The population of Ferrybank has increased by almost 30% over the past five years and is forecast to expand further. Therefore forward planning of activities, community development and facilities is crucial to meet the growing needs of Ferrybank.

The Ferrybank Community Development Strategy was compiled after extensive consultation, the completion of a review of the previous strategy and updating the demographic profile and needs analysis of the greater Ferrybank area. The priority actions in this strategy are based on local needs as identified by the residents of Ferrybank and those service providers and community groups working in the area. It is intended that this strategy will feed directly into the six year Local Economic and Community Plans of both Waterford and Kilkenny counties.

Actions have been grouped under key thematic headings and in some cases additional documentation is referenced to support the prioritisation of actions. In all cases, partners (listed in Appendix C) and a time frame have been identified alongside each action for implementation.

Community Development Strategic Headings

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1. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT: ACTIVITIES & GOVERNANCE



Introduction

In reviewing the actions below, please refer to the following documents in conjunction with this strategy:

- Hillsfield Community Centre Proposal;
- Ferrybank Development Project: Profile, Review and Needs Analysis Report.

Community Development is thriving in Ferrybank though much of it happens in small localised settings. The challenge for community development in Ferrybank is to develop large-scale responses using ‘bottom-up’ collaborative approaches.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame ¹ (Start – Finish)
1.1	Allocate a Community Development Co-ordinator for the greater Ferrybank area. (See job specification in Appendix A).	FDPSC* SICAP ² in both counties	2015 Q1
1.2	Implement the Hillsfield Community Centre Proposal. (See separate detailed proposal document).	FDPSC*, Foróige, FRCDG, Childcare Initiative	2014 Q4 – Q1 2015
1.3	Support community groups to amalgamate into a strong, independent and representative Ferrybank Residents’ Community Development Group.	FDPSC*, Focus Irl, WAP/CKLP/ SICAP ³	2014 Q4 – Q2 2015
1.4	Accommodate the reformed FRCDG in the Hillsfield Community Centre – see proposal doc.	FDPSC, FRCDG*	2014 Q4

¹ The time-frame indicates the starting time for an action and the period of time that actions can take to implement fully.

² Assuming Ferrybank actions included in the six year Local Economic & Community Plans for both Waterford City & County and Kilkenny County.

³ Social Inclusion Community Activation Programme (SICAP)

1.5	Implement the community development capacity building plan identified in the Review Report. (See appendix B).	FRCDG, WAP/CKLP/ SICAP*	2014 Q4 - Q2 2015
1.6	Ensure the inclusion of Ferrybank in county aging strategies for Waterford and Kilkenny. Continue to support the successful work of the Ferrybank Active Retirement Group.	FDPSC* FBk Active Retirement	2014 - 2020
1.7	Community Safety: develop a community safety strategy for Ferrybank.	JPC/Gardaí, FRCDG*	2015-2016
1.8	Develop the Ferrybank newsletter to its full potential (link with socio-economic strategies)	WCCC, KCoCo, CKLP*, WAP, SICAP	2015
1.9	Explore the possibility of setting up a men's shed project in Ferrybank.	FRCDG*, Men's Dev Network	2015 - 2020
1.10	Explore the possibility of domestic violence services/project locating in Ferrybank.	FRCDG*, Women's Aid	2015 - 2020
1.11	Meet with Traveller families in Ferrybank and explore the need for a Traveller specific group and/or how to ensure input into county/regional/national Traveller work.	FRCDG, HSETHU, KCoCo, CKLP, KTCM*	2015 - 2020
1.12	All local projects to incorporate anti-racist work and the active inclusion of new communities through festivals, promotion of English language classes and literacy.	FDPSC*, Kilkenny and Waterford Integration Forums, All Orgs	2015 - 2020
1.13	Lobby for a large-scale community centre to be located in the shopping centre of Ferrybank.	FDPSC, FRCDG*	2015 - 2020
1.14	Ensure the visual enhancement of Ferrybank is included in all relevant plans, e.g. Local Area Plan in partnership with both County Councils, both county's LDCs, Solas, Tourism Ireland and local groups.	KCoCo*, WCCC, CKLP, WAP, Solas and local residents' groups	2016 - 2020

2. CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE AND FAMILIES



Introduction

There are excellent childcare and youth services being provided in Ferrybank but given the population growth - more services and places for young people are required. In addition, some young people are at risk of dropping out of school, crime and not accessing employment. These 'at risk' young people require attention under several strategic headings.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame (Start – Finish)
2.1	Bring all children's/youth organisations/ service providers in Ferrybank together and set up a new network – work with TUSLA on this action.	TUSLA*, Foroige, CI, WRYS, Schools Others	2014 - 2015
2.2	This network should consider overall needs in relation to the local area pathways ⁴ and research specific needs such as 'at risk' 8-10 year olds.	TUSLA*, CSCs, Foroige, CI, WRYS, Others	2015
2.3	There is a need for more homework/ afterschool programmes/ places – bring to network and schools for implementation.	TUSLA, Foroige*, CI, WRYS, Others	2015 - 2020
2.4	Family support services and counselling are required for young people and parents – bring to the network for consideration.	TUSLA, Foroige*, CI, WRYS, Focus Irl	2016 - 2020
2.5	Foroige's relocation from Ard Daire should be accommodated in the Hillsfiled Community Centre (see proposal doc).	Hillsfield CC Management Committee*	2014 - 2015

⁴ Waterford Children's Services Committee includes Ferrybank as well the Kilkenny/Carlow Children's Services Committee. Responsibility for this action requires further clarification over the coming months.

2.6	The Childcare Initiative requires support to expand its membership and develop.	FDPSC, CI*, WCCCC ⁵	2015
2.7	All children and youth organisations should develop positive policy positions in relation to anti-racist work, inclusion and literacy.	All Organisations, KIF, WIF, FDPSC*	2015

⁵ Waterford City and County Childcare Committee

3. SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSES



Introduction

The Ferrybank Review and Needs Analysis highlight the following actions as priorities. Unemployment is running at 20.7% (higher than the national average) and there are key groupings which require targeted initiatives, e.g. ‘at risk’ youth. In addition, those charged with responding to unemployment from Kilkenny County and Waterford City have good working relationships and this could be developed further through the following actions.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame (Start – Finish)
3.1	Formally establish a new socio-economic network made up of service providers initially (including LEOs) – link to FDPSC.	CKLP*/WAP/SICAP Kilkenny and Waterford LEOs, Focus Irl	2015 Q1
3.2	This network should liaise with local employers; develop employment profiles, training programmes and work placements.	Socio-Economic Network*, CKLP/WAP/SICAP	2015 Q2 - 2020
3.3	Set up a youth innovation centre in Ferrybank.	CKLP*, Foróige	2015 Q3 - 2016
3.4	Encourage and support the development of social enterprises, e.g. tourism, youth café, market-gardening.	CKLP/WAP/SICAP* FRCDG	2015 - 2020
3.5	Improve sign-posting to employment related training and services.	FDPSC*	2015
3.6	Set up incubation units for small business development in Ferrybank.	CKLP*/WAP/SICAP KCoCo, WCCC, LEOs	2016

4. ARTS, CULTURE, TOURISM & HERITAGE



Introduction

Developing the arts, culture and tourism strategies for Ferrybank will enhance community development activities, provide new opportunities for creativity and stimulate employment locally. Some of the actions identified link to socio-economic activity also.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame (Start – Finish)
4.1	Ensure Ferrybank is included in the Waterford and Kilkenny Tourism strategies including heritage and tourist trails.	FDPSC, CKLP*, Kilkenny & Waterford Tourism Offices	2015 Q1 – Q2
4.2	Through workshops explore potential responses to developing Arts and Crafts actions in Ferrybank – and include a specific focus on young people.	KCoCo C&C Dept, Kilkenny and Waterford Arts Office, Crafts Council	2015 Q3 – Q2 2016
4.3	Develop the Ferrybank heritage festival.	Heritage Office Kilkenny and Waterford, CKLP*	2016 - 2020
4.4	Explore the development of a greater area identity project – across themes and in collaboration with all agencies and communities of Ferrybank. Should be creative, include branding and reflect the diversity of the population in Ferrybank.	FDPSC, Arts Office, Tourism Offices, Heritage Office and KCoCo Library*	2016 - 2020

5. EDUCATION, HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Introduction

These actions were identified by residents at the public consultation and are therefore included in this strategy.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame (Start – Finish)
5.1	Community Health: create large-scale outdoor fitness areas in conjunction with sports clubs and community groups. Include in Local Area Plan.	HSE, Sports Orgs, Sports Partnerships, KCoCo, FRCDG*	2015 - 2020
5.2	Promote health awareness days in Ferrybank for various groupings, e.g. older people, new communities, etc. Specifically include mental health awareness and promotion.	HSE/HPU, HSE regional Suicide Resource Office, FRCDG*	2015 - 2020
5.3	Support the development of a central information point and promote access to adult education, training and courses.	HSE, ETB, Solas, FRCDG, WAP/CKLP/SICAP*	2015
5.4	Promote community and adult education – access and delivery of programmes locally.	ETB, FDPSC, WAP/CKLP/SICAP*, WIT	2015 - 2020

6. MANAGEMENT, REVIEW & STEERING

Introduction

It was agreed as part of the review, that the Ferrybank Development Project Steering Committee would re-focus (with the support of a co-ordinator) and increase its membership, in order to take on a stronger steering role in the implementation of this new strategy. In addition, it is recommended that regular reviews of the plan and the process take place, at steering committee level in order to respond quickly to changes and new opportunities.

Ref	Action	Partners (*Lead)	Time-Frame (Start – Finish)
6.1	Hold a review session at the FDPSC every six months and monitor performance against each action.	FDPSC*	2015 -2020
6.2	Hold a formal review and provide a report to the community annually on progress and plans for the coming year.	FDPSC*	2015 -2020
6.3	Lobby for large-scale infra-structural needs of Ferrybank.	FDPSC*	2015 -2020
6.4	Support groups/networks leading on each strategy to implement their work.	FDPSC*	2015 -2020
6.5	All agencies (and local organisations) should commit to the delivery of actions identified in this collective community development strategy for Ferrybank.	FDPSC*	2015 - 2020

There are key infra-structure developments that are required to support the successful implementation of this strategy in Ferrybank. In particular these are;

- **Provision of a large-scale high-visibility community centre in Ferrybank**
- **Provision of public green spaces and play areas**
- **Enhancement of the area in terms of landscaping, cleanliness and visual image.**

APPENDIX A: Community Development in Ferrybank

1. Community Development Principles and Values

The Community Workers Co-Op (2008) understands “community work/community development to be a developmental activity composed of both a task and a process. The task is the achievement of social change linked to equality and social justice; and the process is the application of the principles of participation, empowerment and collective decision making in a structured and coordinated way”. In keeping with this developmental approach an important role for community workers is to support communities to critically evaluate their circumstances and voice their opinions and needs (Ledwith, 2011).

This is an important statement because Ferrybank community groups need to decide and commit to key community development principles and values in its approach to working or not. **Committing to such approaches implies:**

- Ensuring inclusion of a wide-range of people in your core organisation and activities. All residents in Ferrybank should feel welcome to participate and share their interpretations and life experiences towards the overall goals of the project.
- Collective decision making, planning and actioning. Work, consultation and communication with the wider community must take place frequently where decisions and direction should be influenced by many and not fall to a small few people.
- Agreeing definitions and meanings, collectively and locally, of the key principles to be adopted by the project. For example, participation (including agenda-setting), equality - inclusion of marginalised groupings and a diverse range of voices being heard.

APPENDIX : Partners, Plans and Abbreviated Title

ORGANISATION	Abbreviated Title
Ferrybank Development Project Steering Committee	FDPSC
Local Economic and Community Plans	LECP
Public Participation Networks	PPN
Childcare Initiative	CI
Waterford Area Partnership	WAP
County Kilkenny LEADER Partnership	CKLP
Social Inclusion and Community Activation Programme	SICAP
Ferrybank Residents' Community Development Group	FRCDG
Waterford City and County Council	WCCC
Waterford City and County Childcare Committee	WCCCC
Kilkenny County Council	KCoCo
Local Economic Office	LEO
Foróige	Foróige
Focus Ireland	Focus Irl
Active Retirement	Active Retirement
Men's Development Network	MDN
Kilkenny Integration Forum	KIF
Waterford Integration Forum	WIF

Joint Policing Committees	JPC
Health Services Executive/Traveller Health Unit	HSE/THU
Kilkenny Traveller Community Movement	KTCM
Solas – Employment Training Agency	Solas
Tusla – Child and Family Agency	Tusla
Arts Office	Arts Office
Tourism Office	Tourism Office
Heritage Office	Heritage Office
Tourism Ireland	Tourism Ireland
Sports Partnerships	Sports Partnerships
Suicide Resource Office	SRO
Education and Training Board	ETB
Waterford Institute of Technology	WIT



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