



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE
FOUNDED 1996

GOOD NEWS

FOR A CHANGE!

January 2021

A Message of Solidarity from our Acting CEO



As 2021 starts, we are faced, once again, with high levels of Covid-19 infection which are putting our health services under pressure. These are accompanied by the most severe level of restrictions. This is disappointing to us all, but it is temporary. As the vaccines roll out, we will return to community life as we once knew it. We will be able to gather again in our community centres and sports clubs to enjoy all the activities and interaction we miss so acutely.

At Clann Credo, our priority continues to be supporting our customers in the first instance. Our regional Social Finance Executives are on hand to help and have been working closely with those who have experienced significant reductions in income as a result of the restrictions. In addition, we continue to develop a range of online resources and peer support events to facilitate shared learning amongst the Clann Credo community.

Despite the challenges posed by Covid-19 restrictions and a noticeably changed fundraising environment, we continue to see many clubs, community groups, social enterprises and charities planning exciting projects for 2021. We remain committed to financing community ambition and look forward to getting out and about to celebrate these achievements once restrictions are lifted.

With best wishes for 2021,

Jim Boyle

Jim Boyle, Acting CEO

Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance

Covid-19 Operational Update



To ensure maximum safety, Clann Credo continues to suspend all face-to-face meetings with customers.

Our regional Social Finance Executives continue working remotely and can be contacted via email or their mobile phones. Their contact details are [HERE](#).

Our friends at The Wheel have a lot of practical advice for community groups and organisations [HERE](#).

Please stay safe and protect others.

Volunteering from Home



We are all spending more time at home. Some of us are busier than ever, trying to combine childcare, home schooling and working from home. Others find the days hard to fill.

If you are finding it hard to keep yourself busy, there has never been a better time to try

volunteering from home! Volunteer Ireland have added a new filter to their database of volunteering opportunities – Volunteer from Home.

You can read more about different types of volunteering from home on the Volunteer Ireland blog - <https://www.volunteer.ie/volunteers/volunteer-from-home/>.

There are so many opportunities, here are a few examples:

- Write letters or paint pictures to send to people in residential care.
- Be an Advocacy Champion - ensuring the voices of cancer patients, survivors, families and caregivers are heard at all levels of government.
- Be a Super Knitter – knitting for children in Eastern Europe and Africa.
- Help this year's Leaving Cert students by giving online grinds.

You can see all the current opportunities [HERE](#), or contact Volunteer Ireland by email at info@volunteer.ie.

Online resources for Sports Capital & Equipment Programme applications

Clann Credo was delighted to welcome over 100 participants to an online event tailored to amateur clubs and community groups planning to make applications to the Sports Capital & Equipment Programme.

The event focused on supporting applicants who may require evidence of loan finance to support their application. A recording of the full event can be found [HERE](#) (Password ^2fKp*Fv).

This event agenda included:

- Practical advice on how to use loan finance to boost your chances of securing a grant
- Top tips on applying for a Clann Credo Community Sports Loan - presentation [HERE](#)
- An introduction to your local Clann Credo representative - listed [HERE](#)
- An interview with Fergus Kelleher of Maree Oranmore FC, a club that has combined grants and loans to develop their facilities in the past - presentation [HERE](#)

Wexford Local Development & Sports Active Wexford hosted a workshop on the evening of Wednesday, January 20th with advice and tips for clubs and communities on completing the Sports Capital grant application. All the presentations from the event are [HERE](#).



Local Heroes: Daingean GAA

Daingean GAA Club in Offaly received a national Special Recognition Award at last week's Federation of Irish Sport Volunteers in Sport awards.

Clann Credo have worked with the Club to help finance an extension to the local Sports Hall and we know how committed to the future of their community they are. But the club went above and beyond to assist their community last year, coming together to support the most vulnerable through very challenging times - including giving many back-breaking days footing turf on the bog.

Despite the hard labour, it looks as if everyone enjoyed it too! It was wonderful to see them honoured for their thoughtfulness and hard work at last week's virtual awards ceremony.



Local sports clubs contribute so much to their communities. The Volunteers in Sport Awards are hosted annually by our partners in the Federation of Irish Sport. These awards were created to champion the contribution, commitment and dedication of the army of 450,000 volunteers across Ireland who go above and beyond by giving their time to sport and physical activity each year. These volunteers dedicate some 37.2 million hours of volunteering across the country's 13,000+ sports clubs and associations.

It is a privilege for Clann Credo to work with local sports clubs and community groups. Without them our communities would have so much less heart.

Follow Clann Credo – Community Loan Finance on Social Media

For interesting news about the sector and information about grant aid opportunities, follow Clann Credo on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) or [LinkedIn](#).



Clann Credo Company Limited by Guarantee is a self-financing, not-for-profit organisation serving the community, voluntary and charity sectors. All its capital comes from private sources; religious charities and the retail banking sector through the Social Finance Foundation. The interest paid on its socially directed investments covers its operational costs.

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Irish Social Finance Centre, 10 Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8, D08 R240, Ireland.

Directors: Gary Brennan, Jerry Butler, Jim Egan, Mary Lawlor, Colin McCrea (Chair), Emer Ní Bhrádaigh, Sarah Nic Lochlainn, Grace Redmond, Jim Rourke (Vice Chair).

Founding President: Magdalen Fogarty