



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE  
FOUNDED 1996

# GOOD NEWS

## FOR A CHANGE!

Spring 2019

### WE HAVE NEW SOCIAL FINANCE EXECUTIVES AND THE WHOLE TEAM IS HERE TO HELP!

Clann Credo have added to our expert team of Social Finance Executives across the country. We've welcomed Martina, Tony and Sarah in recent months. Along with Jennifer, Tracey and Susan, they are ready to help your community organisation to provide even greater benefits to your area. So, whether your group is planning to build or renovate a community centre, creche, sports and fitness facility, or any other community facility, including social housing - one of our team is close by to lend a helping hand.

Call a locally based team member near you to find out all about our loan finance options and the other supports we can provide:

Tracey Hannon - West & Midlands - 087 648 8390

Martina O'Moore - West & Midlands - 086 042 7372

Jennifer Hennessy - Dublin & Rest of Leinster - 087 955 6721

Tony Marshall - Dublin & Rest of Leinster - 086 042 9403

Susan Gallagher - South - 087 738 8391

Sarah Leahy - South - 086 042 9323

### In this issue

- **Our New Team Members**
- **Consultation on Social Enterprise Strategy**
- **Sports Finance**
- **Spotlight: Raheny GAA**
- **Sustainable Energy Communities**
- **Maurice O'Connell Remembered**



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE  
FOUNDED 1996

# Public Consultation on National Policy on Social Enterprise

For over a decade now, Clann Credo has worked with other stakeholders to gain recognition for the social enterprise business model that is inspired by an ethos and commitment to social justice.

In 2009, Clann Credo, the Dublin Employment Pact (DEP) and PLANET (the Partnerships Network which later became the Irish Local Development Network, ILDN) commissioned two Reports, focusing on Social Enterprise in Dublin and nine regions respectively. In 2010 DEP and Clann Credo established the Social Enterprise Task Force (SETF) to advocate for a National Policy on Social Enterprise. Nine years later, we are delighted to report that Minister Michael Ring, TD, Minister for Rural and Community Development announced the publication of a draft *National Policy on Social Enterprise*.

The development of this policy, the first of its kind in Ireland, is being led by the Department of Rural and Community Development as is underpinned by research, workshops and consultations with many stakeholders over a period of 18 months.

The draft National Social Enterprise Policy for Ireland is now open for public consultation.

The Policy will complement the Action Plan to Support the Community and Voluntary Sectors in Ireland, and the new National Volunteering Strategy, both of which are also being developed by the Department.

**The closing date for submissions is Tuesday 14th May 2019.**

For information on how to make a submission click [HERE](#)



## Financing Sporting Ambition: Developments in Community Sports Loans

Sports clubs are constantly striving to improve, not just sporting performances but facilities: club houses, equipment, pitches and training facilities.

Access to finance can be an obstacle to turning these plans into reality.

Clann Credo recognises the vital role played by sport in encouraging us to participate in our local communities and work together as a team.

We've were hard at work in 2018 developing a range of products and partnerships to support sporting organisations who are seeking to improve facilities and strengthen the bonds that sports creates. A recent example is Raheny GAA...

## Raheny GAA - Through the Generations



2018 All-Star and holder of 4 All-Ireland medals, Dublin mid-fielder Brian Fenton in action for Raheny.

It is woven so deeply into our social fabric that the well-being of a community is often assessed by reference to the health of the local GAA club.

During the 1980s, as emigration depopulated whole swathes of the country, the fortunes of many a town was determined by its capacity to field a GAA team.

While the centrality of the club to community life is more visible in rural Ireland, there can be no doubt of the equally vital role it plays in major urban areas.

That this tends to occur below the radar is indicative of the fact that urban GAA must frequently compete for sparse physical and sporting space.

But trace the history of any major city club and you will just as surely trace the growth and evolution of the community which it does so much to anchor.

Raheny GAA is a prime example. Established in 1955 it was consciously located at the very heart of what, even now, is referred to as Raheny Village.

The club's growth has mirrored that of the locality and it now fields some 50 teams and caters for

over 1100 members, all of its activity underpinned by the generous spirit of voluntarism that runs like a powerful current through community life in Ireland.

Indeed, it is a measure of the club's sporting progress that it can lay claim to no less a luminary than Brian Fenton, widely regarded as one of the finest GAA players of his generation.

Fenton first toggled out in the club colours and is now a lynchpin of Dublin's four in a row all Ireland squad. Remarkably, he has never lost a championship game in the sky blue jersey.

Blessed with an effortless and graceful style, the 2018 All Star Player of the Year has been described as the 'madra mór' of the Dublin midfield.

Like clubs across the country, Raheny GAA continually seeks to improve and upgrade the range of services and facilities offered to members and local residents. To this end, it recently secured support from Clann Credo for significant improvement works on its premises,

It is just one of many clubs that have benefited from our support over the years. Indeed, another of those beneficiaries was the Spa GAA club in Killarney, a club that also featured a Brian Fenton in its ranks, at one stage. Kerry native Brian Fenton Snr is the father of the young man currently lighting up Dublin GAA.

Hard to deny your heritage.

## Clann Credo Sustainable Energy Community

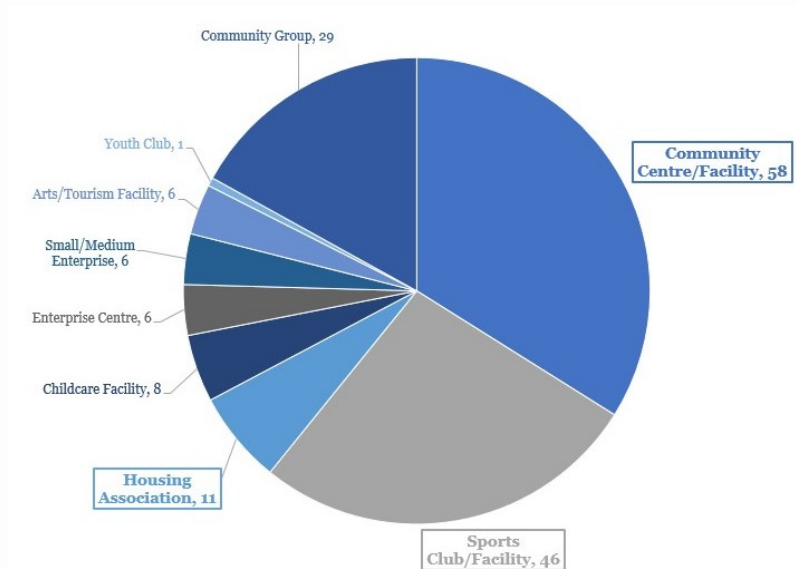
Last month, our CEO Paul O'Sullivan presented at the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) Energy Show, stating "Our aim is to enable local communities deliver sustainable energy projects for the collective benefit of their community. In this way Sustainable Energy Communities can connect energy and climate awareness, economic development and public wellbeing at a local level."



In 2017 Clann Credo joined the SEAI's Sustainable Energy Communities (SEC) programme and established the Clann Credo Sustainable Energy Community, and in 2018 Clann Credo was awarded grant aid from the SEAI allowing us to engage an expert in surveys and data analysis (M.CO, consultants [www.mco.ie](http://www.mco.ie)).

The survey conducted in late 2018 asked questions around energy expenditure and the appetite to develop energy efficiency and local renewable energy generation projects. 595 organisations were sent the survey. A very high number, 253 responded, a 43% response rate. Of these, 211 were interested in becoming a member of our SEC. This chart shows the types of community organisations that responded to the survey. For Paul's full presentation at the Energy Show, including findings from the survey, click [here](#).





It is clear from the response that Clann Credo's Projects have a strong interest in improving energy efficiency.

We are exploring how we can best enable local communities deliver sustainable energy projects for the collective benefit of their community. Ideally, we would like support Community Groups to identify sustainable energy projects and assist them through design, funding and delivery.

Clann Credo and its sister organisation, the Irish Social Finance Centre have a high-level ambition to see the Community and Voluntary sector in Ireland becoming more energy aware and striving for increased energy efficiency and sustainability.

Clann Credo would also like to help communities consider their energy sources and consumption through awareness and behavioural change, changing habits and empowering citizens.

If you'd like more information, contact our CEO, Paul O'Sullivan - [paul@clanncredo.ie](mailto:paul@clanncredo.ie)

## European & Local Elections

Make sure you get involved in the *Community Matters* campaign. It's going to ensure that the voice of the Irish community, voluntary and charitable sector is heard in the upcoming elections!

<https://www.wheel.ie/elections/resources>

## Maurice O'Connell (1936 - 2019)

We were saddened to hear of the death of former Clann Credo board member, Maurice O'Connell. Maurice, a native of Kerry, was governor of the Central Bank up to 2002. He continued his dedication to public service after retirement and we were very fortunate when he joined our board in 2003.



*Clann Credo's Founder Magdalen Fogarty presenting Maurice with a replica Sam Maguire Cup on his retirement from the Clann Credo board in 2014.*

Maurice played a major part in establishing Clann Credo's credibility with stakeholders, especially government. In 2004, he chaired the Steering Committee on Social Finance, and its report [\*In the Common Interest - the Case for Social Finance\*](#) was instrumental in persuading the Minister for Finance to launch the Social Finance Initiative in 2006. The government established the Social Finance Foundation (SFF) in 2007 whose capital was and continues to be provided by Ireland's retail banks. The availability of SFF capital enables Clann Credo to support community development with Community Loan Finance.

The Board and staff of Clann Credo offer our condolences to his wife Marjorie and his children, grandchildren and wide circle of friends.



Remember! Make your submission to the national Social Enterprise Strategy - click [here](#):

The SEAI is supporting Sustainable Energy Communities all over Ireland - check out the ones near you here: <http://bit.ly/2UKrGu9>

## Head Office:

**Irish Social Finance Centre**

**10 Grattan Crescent**

**Inchicore**

**Dublin D08 R240**

**T: 01 400 2100**

**E: [info@clanncredo.ie](mailto:info@clanncredo.ie)**



[www.clanncredo.ie](http://www.clanncredo.ie)

Clann Credo Company Limited by Guarantee is a self-financing not-for-profit organisation service 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 (SFF). The interest paid on its socially directed investments covers its operational costs.

CRO No: 253147 | Registered with the CRA, No: 20041076 | CHY No: 13308

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

