



From Malin Head to Mizen Head – We're Here to Help You Through!

Covid-19 has presented the community and voluntary sector with previously unimaginable challenges.

Clann Credo wants to help.

We want to hear about the challenges your organisation is facing so that we can work with you to find solutions. Please contact your local Social Finance Executive to discuss any difficulties your non-profit organisation is facing – their contact details are on our website [HERE](#). At the moment we can't meet you face-to-face, but we can talk on the phone or schedule a virtual drop-in clinic via Zoom – whichever suits you best.

As CEO, I have been very active with our partners lobbying government for financial supports to the sector. We have had some success to date leading to the [COVID-19 Stability Fund](#) and the [Innovate Together Fund](#), but more is needed, and I will continue to lobby on your behalf.



As we all start to look towards ways of re-establishing our activities, we need to hear each other's ideas. We at Clann Credo are helping the conversation along by hosting online events where we can all share ideas for rebuilding safe community activities. We hope you will join us so that we can make our tentative steps to recovering the sector together.

To hear about new funding opportunities and upcoming online events, sign up for our updates [HERE](#), and follow us on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Paul O'Sullivan'.

Paul O'Sullivan, CEO, Clann Credo

Three Clann Credo Online Events – all booked out! What you've been saying to us...

Like so many organisations, we have made the leap into online meetings and events. And, like others, we think meeting online is a very positive development particularly for more remote rural groups – broadband permitting!

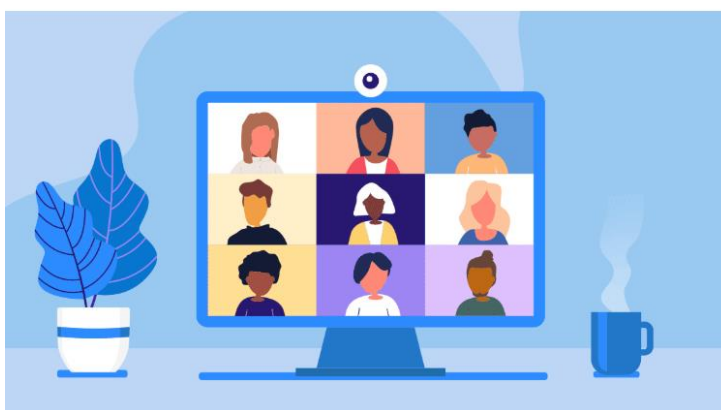
We look forward to bringing our Roadshows back and meeting you all in the same room, but until that is possible, we're going to make the most of our online opportunities – like the virtual drop-in clinics mentioned previously.

We had such huge demand for our first event '*Supporting Communities Through Challenging Times*', we have now run the event three times. The issues that have been most talked about at the events are:

- Generating income – grants and fundraising opportunities
- Managing on reduced cashflow
- Communicating with our communities
- How to reopen services and activities safely
- Dealing with project delays

People who attended our online events said they really valued hearing about the experiences of other community organisations around the country. "It helps to know other groups are going through the same thing."

We at Clann Credo are keen to build on these online meetings so that we can all share ideas on how to cope with the fallout from Covid-19 and how to take the first steps to re-start community activities as restrictions lift.



We need your help!

We need to find out what times suit you best for online meetings and which issues we should prioritise. You will really help us if you complete this very short survey – it should only take 3 minutes.

You will find the survey here: <https://bit.ly/2ABU0cN>

We look forward to meeting you online soon!

Two Recently Opened Grant Funds

We know that most community groups depend hugely on grants to initiate or maintain projects in their communities. Here are two of the latest funding schemes to open for applications. Keep up to speed on grant funds as they are announced by following us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) – we post information there on all the grant schemes we find.



Town and Village Renewal Scheme 2020

The Town and Village Renewal Scheme was introduced in 2016 and is one of a series of national and local support measures designed to rejuvenate rural towns and villages throughout Ireland under the Department of Rural & Community Development's "Rural Development Investment Programme". It is managed on behalf of the Department by the local authorities.

In 2020, the Rural Development Investment Programme, including the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, is being tailored to address the emerging challenges associated with COVID-19. For the Town & Village Renewal Scheme this means:

- A focus under the standard Town and Village Renewal Scheme on interventions that can respond to the new challenges associated with COVID-19 and support the economic and social recovery of our rural towns and villages.
- The introduction of a new strand of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme for 2020 that focuses on immediate interventions that can be delivered in the short-term to assist towns and villages to adapt to COVID-19.

Examples of types of projects which can be supported:

- Projects that can respond to COVID-19 challenges and aid the economic and social recovery over the medium term.
- The development of initiatives to encourage town centre living.
- Initiatives which attract increased footfall to the town/village, including those associated with tourism activities.
- Repurposing of existing buildings in town or village centres to facilitate remote working and/or other community use.

Under the 2020 scheme, up to 90% of the total cost for each approved project is provided by the department, with the remaining 10% being provided either through community contribution and/or the local authority.

For all the information, follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2XxMg4E>

CLÁR programme 2020

The CLÁR programme (Ceantair Laga Árd-Riachtanais) provides funding for small-scale infrastructural projects in rural areas.

CLÁR aims to support sustainable development in identified areas by attracting people to live and work there. The funding works in conjunction with local funding and on the basis of locally identified priorities.

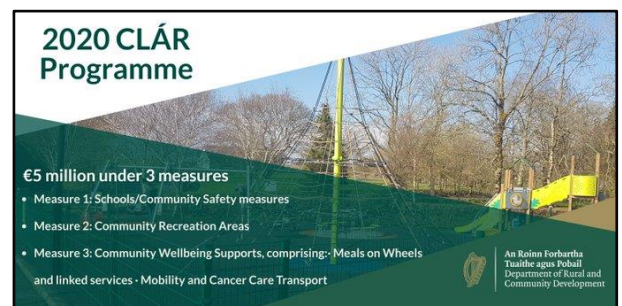
The scheme is funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development. It is delivered by local authorities in consultation with groups in local communities.

2020 CLÁR measures

The measures being funded under the 2020 CLÁR programme are:

- Measure 1: Schools/Community Safety measures (expanded in 2020)
- Measure 2: Community Recreation Areas (new in 2020)
- Measure 3: Community Wellbeing Supports, comprising:
 - (a) Meals on Wheels and linked services (new in 2020)
 - (b) Mobility and Cancer Care Transport

For all the information, follow this link: <https://bit.ly/2XEhQhj>



Local Heroes! Athlone Boat Club – Resuming and Rebuilding!

The speed and severity of Covid-19 restrictions imposed on every aspect of Irish life shocked us all. Now we are beginning to emerge, and we start exploring ways to start again - safely.

One Clann Credo community member was just starting on an ambitious renovation and upgrading project as the lockdown hit. But now, just three months later, the Athlone Boat Club is getting things back on track.

Founded in 1837 Athlone Boat Club is one of the oldest rowing clubs in Ireland. The Club is steeped in tradition and has played a leading role in the sporting history of the town. It caters for oarsmen and oarswomen of all ages and has a proud history of achievement at national and international levels.

Lack of investment over the years resulted in an inadequate boat house and dressing rooms. To offer the quality facilities they needed, the existing building has had to be demolished. As their site is highly visible, the Club focused the design process to create a 'calm riverside presence'. The project is ambitious and will provide storage areas for boats, indoor rowing and gym facilities, dressing rooms, meeting rooms – and flood defences. The Club obtained substantial grant funding but needed additional finance to complete their plans.



We are delighted to have been able to provide finance to enable the Athlone Boat Club to realise their full ambition. And congratulate them on re-starting their project plans while adhering to all the Covid-19 safety requirements. As Paul Gallen, a committee member commented “builders arrived on site this morning, great excitement, we have been on this site since early 1900s...last build was in the 1960s built by direct labour of club members.”

While construction is underway, the club have also found ways to resume rowing while keeping everyone safe. Junior rowers

are split over different evenings with parents helping to disinfect boats and oars each time they're used. “The kids are having a ball, are absolutely thrilled to be back training and the adults (who do not leave the premises until their child has finished their session) are all catching up with each other. The 'new normal' has not stopped our kids from training or our coaches from being available to the kids...for that we are grateful...”

Head Office: Irish Social Finance Centre, 10 Grattan Crescent, Inchicore, Dublin 8 D08 R240
Tel: 01 400 2100 Website: www.clanncredo.ie Email: info@clanncredo.ie

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.

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

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