



COMMUNITY LOAN FINANCE
FOUNDED 1996

COVID-19 UPDATE

July 2020



Announcing our new online event series! Changing Landscapes – Adapting to the New Normal

As you know, we held three hugely successful online events in May and June - *Supporting Community Organisations Through Challenging Times*. After each event we asked for feedback and in our last newsletter we invited you to complete a survey to let us know what themes you wanted us to focus on next. You told us and we heard you!

Clann Credo's focus throughout the Covid-19 crisis has been on supporting the network of Clann Credo customers and colleagues to work collaboratively on the challenges faced by community and voluntary organisations. Our previous events helped participants to share experiences and helped us to understand the challenges you face.



This series aims to help with the next steps, reopening facilities and services whilst safeguarding communities. We are offering you the opportunity to engage with people who really understand the challenges your community organisation is facing in three new events:

Community Centres; Information and Manual for Covid-19 Reopening

Tuesday 14th July, 7:30 – 9pm

Tracey Hannon, Social Finance Regional Manager for Clann Credo in the West and North West will host this session. She will talk about what we've heard so far and the supports we provide.

Liam Scollan – Consultant to NGOs, local authorities, and local development companies. Liam has already worked with over 80 groups online, each trying to figure out what how to respond to the realities of a post Covid-19 world. He will share the experiences of these groups and provide a manual that he has compiled to help you open safely.

[Register here on Eventbrite for our Community Centres event.](#)

Community Childcare Centres; Sharing Experiences of the New Normal

Tuesday 28th July, 7:30 – 8:30pm

Susan Gallagher, Social Finance Regional Manager for Clann Credo in the South will host this session. She will introduce you to the Manager of an operating community childcare facility who will bring hands-on experience of the new normal.

Claire Neill, Manager of Niall Mór Childcare Centre in Killybegs, Co. Donegal will talk about her experiences of reopening a community childcare service.

This session will give lots of opportunity for asking questions and learning from other community childcare providers.

[Register here on Eventbrite for our Community Childcare Centres event.](#)



Local Sports Organisations; Adapting to the New Normal and Finding Supports

Thursday 30th July, 7 – 8pm

As local sports organisations restart their activities and adapt to the new normal, we recognise the challenges that have been presented in this ever-changing landscape.

Mary O'Connor – CEO of the Federation of Irish Sport will speak about the impact that Covid-19 has had on the Sports sector, how sports organisations are adapting and the work that is being carried out to provide supports to the sector.

Darren McMahon – Consultant with 2into3 will speak about the impact on fundraising in the Sports sector and how sports organisations can adapt their fundraising and income models successfully.

There will be opportunities to pose questions to our panel on the night, but we also encourage you to submit any questions you might have when you register so that we can provide the most useful information for your organisation.

[Register here on Eventbrite for our Local Sports Organisations event.](#)

All of us at Clann Credo look forward to meeting you again online!

Ever Changing Landscapes - A Message from our Chairperson, Colin McCrea

I wanted to let you know that after 19 years as Chief Executive Officer of Clann Credo, Paul O'Sullivan retired from the organisation on Saturday, 27 June 2020.

Jim Boyle has taken over as Acting Chief Executive Officer on a temporary basis until an internal and external recruitment process is concluded to make a permanent appointment.

Over the past 19 years, Paul together with significant input from the staff of Clann Credo achieved the following:

- Loan book grew from €1.4 million at end 2002 to €34.6 million at end 2019
- Annual disbursements went from c.€700,000 in 2002 to €22 million in 2019
- Over €130 million was disbursed to in excess of 1,200 borrowers
- Came from a loss-making situation into one where it now generates surpluses on a year on year basis
- Advanced the vision of Clann Credo's founders, Sister Magdalen Fogarty and the Presentation Sisters to promote social justice through finance
- A presence was established in Mayo, Cork and the Midlands helping Clann Credo deliver an efficient service throughout Ireland
- The profile of social investment in Ireland was raised and he was instrumental in working with Government and the Banking Sector in the establishment of the Social Finance Foundation
- Social finance and social enterprise was advanced at National & EU level
- Innovative new loan products were launched such as in impact investment, property development as well as products for 'specific sectors' (Sports / Leader /Environment)
- Significant increases in demand were managed following the banking crisis in the period 2008 to 2012
- Corporate governance was improved by the establishment of 3 Board sub-committees (Credit Risk Assessment, Evaluation and Audit), manned by a mix of Board members and other suitably qualified volunteers
- New IT systems were implemented
- An extensive range of events was devised to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Clann Credo in 2016
- Clann Credo was promoted within the community and not-for-profit sector
- An effective response to the Covid-19 pandemic was implemented.



We wish to thank Paul for his significant contribution during his time in Clann Credo and we wish him every success for the future.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Colin McCrea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Colin McCrea
Chair

The Community Enhancement Programme is Open!

The Community Enhancement Programme is now open to applications. Contact your Local Authority to apply for small and medium scale capital funding for your community group.

Community Enhancement Programme

- €2m funding to enhance community facilities
- Focus on supporting groups in disadvantaged areas
- Over 5,000 projects funded to date



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development

The Programme provides capital funding to community groups across Ireland, allowing groups to enhance facilities in disadvantaged areas – detailed information [HERE](#).

Examples of projects that can be funded include:

- IT and CCTV equipment
- minor improvements to buildings
- minor renovation of community centres
- development of community amenities
- purchase of equipment
- improvements to town parks, common areas and energy-saving projects

The Community Enhancement Programme is administered by Local Community Development Committees in each Local Authority area. You can find your Local Community Development Committee (LCDC) [HERE](#).

To find out about all the grant funds we hear about, follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#)!

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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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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