Press Release
11th March, 2015

Local Events in Tipperary Urged to Apply For Community Tourism Grants

Application Process for 2015 Funding Opens For Community Tourism Initiative for the Diaspora

Tipperary County Council today announced that applications for funding are now being sought under the Community Tourism Initiative for the Diaspora. The initiative, launched last year, builds on the community involvement legacy of The Gathering 2013 and is a joint partnership between Tipperary County Council, IPB Insurance and Fáilte Ireland.

Now in its second year, the scheme provides a national fund of €1m to support local community-based events and festivals each year. Last year, 21 local events were supported in Tipperary, attracting up to 674 visitors from overseas. The festivals funded last year included:

- Kilcommon Home Coming Festival
- Portroe Gathering
- Brian Ború Winterfest
- Festival Cluain Meala 2014
- Suir Valley Cycling Festival 2014
- Meagher Clan Reunion

Administered locally by Tipperary County Council Council, the application process for 2015 is now open and will close on 31st March 2015. Interested parties can obtain further information on the Tipperary County Council Website: www.tipperarycoco.ie/news/community-tourism-diaspora-project or by emailing: tourism@tipperarycoco.ie for an application.

Announcing this year’s funding, Cllr. Michael Fitzgerald, Cathaoirleach of Tipperary County Council emphasised:

"We all witnessed the benefits from The Gathering and this scheme gives us an opportunity to build on its legacy. The Community Tourism Initiative allows us to sustain many of the grass roots networks which sprang to life during The Gathering in Tipperary and sustain an infrastructure of events and relationships which will have long term tourism and social benefits for this region for many years to come.

For that reason, I would urge anyone out there with a good idea or interesting event, which would help us to reach out to the diaspora, to get in touch with us and make an application”

Local authorities throughout the country are now accepting applications in order to determine those local events with the best potential to have the impact and long-term potential to make a difference. The initiative is being administered at local level with the grant applications and awards being decided in accordance with agreed national criteria.

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Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative

The Community Tourism Diaspora Initiative, is administered at county level where local authorities seek applications for support from local community events.

Local authorities throughout the country will now seek applications from interested parties and ultimately select those local events with the best potential to have the impact and long-term potential to make a difference. The initiative is being administered at county/city level with grant applications and awards being decided in accordance with agreed national criteria.

The objectives of the initiative are:

- To provide support in the form of small-scale funding incentives to community-based tourism events that have the capacity to carry through on the legacy of The Gathering;

- To create a national network of local events with the capacity to deepen diaspora links and networks that were developed or re-activated during The Gathering year;

- To foster the growth of strong county diaspora networks on the basis that diaspora relationships are rooted in ‘people and place’.

Crucially, the initiative is a public/private partnership with one third of the funding over its three year cycle being provided by IPB Insurance as part of its Corporate Social Engagement strategy where the Irish diaspora is a nominated priority. One third of the funding is provided by Fáilte Ireland - to build on the legacy of The Gathering. The remaining third is provided by local authorities.