



Issue No. 1

# Mullingar RAPID Newsletter



## Welcome



I would like to acknowledge the hard work put in to the upkeep by all of the residents participants of Mullingar RAPID areas. On our tour of RAPID areas last summer it was evident the work by residents and committees of the areas,

as was noted by members on route around the areas. It would be great if more residents would volunteer for the upkeep of areas and to keep the areas in the standard they have become accustomed to. It is noted that representatives of the RAPID Community Forum and Area Implementation Team the work that goes into the various issues and solutions brought to meetings by Community Forum reps. Decisions and awareness of the work going into attending the meetings. Without the input and funding by Westmeath County Council a lot of the issues faced by reps would not be solved, we would like to express our appreciation and input to resolving any difficulties we meet with.

The work done in the RAPID areas by its representatives on the RAPID Community Forum is evident by the decisions by WCC to bring the issues to agreed resolution quickly and effectively.

Without the help and expertise of Annette Barr Jordan WCC RAPID Coordinator who advises us and seeks resolutions to our dilemmas in our areas for which we are grateful, for the progress we have made in the RAPID areas to date. We would also like to thank the Gardaí, HSE, LWETB, Drugs Take Force, DSP, WSP, WCD. Chairperson would like to express his thanks to Annette Barr Jordan WCC, Anne Campbell & Hubert Rooney WCD for all their help and support throughout 2016.

**Pat Grimes,**  
Chairperson of the RAPID Area Implementation Team

## Mullingar RAPID

RAPID is a government project which aims to support communities to improve the quality of life of those living in their areas. It helps communities to access the resources and expertise of state agencies and it helps to establish and build local groups e.g. residents associations, women's groups etc. The overall aim of the project is to enable communities to improve and sustain themselves and have a happier, healthier life for all living in their areas.

RAPID is implemented by an Area Implementation Team (AIT) which includes representatives from the local community, relevant state agencies and other partners (see list of AIT members for Mullingar RAPID). There is also a group called the Mullingar RAPID Community Forum. At meetings of the Mullingar RAPID Community Forum, community representatives are given the opportunity to name issues in their areas which the AIT can address.



The RAPID programme 2016 has been a very successful year and this is reflected in support and funding secured from Westmeath County Council for projects in and servicing the Mullingar RAPID areas. As you move through the newsletter you will get a picture of the type of projects completed in 2016 and the events that have taken place. RAPID however, doesn't work without the commitment of the communities involved and I urge you as residents to get involved with the local community groups and support them in their endeavour to make a difference. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the RAPID Implementation Team for their support and active participation throughout the year. We look forward to the future and a success in the coming years.

**Annette Barr Jordan,** RAPID Co-ordinator, Westmeath County Council

## Mullingar RAPID Tour

The Mullingar RAPID tour place in September and commenced at the Riverside Community Centre Dalton Park with representatives from the three RAPID areas. Transport for the tour was provided by the Gardaí Siochana. The reps gave an update on their areas, where they contribute substantial volunteer time together with residents from areas towards its upkeep. It was noted how well the areas were kept, and compliments to the reps for their time and effort they put into organising the upkeep of the areas.

# Dalton Park Community Garden

Dalton Park Community Garden was set up in 2008 in conjunction with Grange Resource Centre. The committee has the same members since it was set up. They meet mainly in summer months to tend to the crops sowed in autumn. Annette Barr Jordan, WCC organised funding for the setting up of gardens i.e. clearing the site of rubble and digging out plots for the various vegetables, potatoes, peas, cabbages, rhubarb, basil, shrubs trees i.e. apples trees, plums, and also pumpkins for Halloween. Nuala O'Brien, LWETB assigned Pdraig Duncan, Horticulture tutor to train the committee in skills needed to continue with sowing and maintaining the gardens. The group, along with Pdraig made benches for the tunnels, for the tea breaks. All of the produce was available and has been given out to residents of Dalton Park areas for their enjoyment. They also had a summer barbecue for residents of Dalton Park. The Community Garden is a lovely place to come to relax.



## Dalton Park Residents

Dalton Park Residents' committee organised one major clean up of their area in 2016. The committee would like to acknowledge all the grass cutting in the area by Sean Nolan throughout the year and thank him for this, and WCC for the Ride on Lawnmower which was provided using RAPID funding. The residents' committee also organised some events for the residents in the area. A very successful tour of Tayto Park was attended by 200 people from the area i.e. adults and children. It took four buses to transport all of them to Tayto Park! it proved to be a very enjoyable day as they set out with a packed lunch for all and the weather was kind to them on the day also. The residents contributed towards the cost of the trip. A mass was organised by the committee in November and was celebrated by Fr Joseph. The mass was attended by a large congregation from the area. One of the oldest residents in area lit the candle for the altar and residents provided tea and sandwiches for all that attended. In December a shopping trip was organised for residents of the area.

The area is looking well and it would be good for the area to keep it looking well for the enjoyment of all residents of the area, by keeping it litter free.



## Dalton Park Women's Group

Dalton Park Women's group is a well established group with between 10-12 members attending weekly meetings and courses organised by the group with supports from WCD & LWETB. In 2016 they completed a six week course including Creative Embroidery, Healthy Food made easy followed by a three week course on maintaining a Healthy Heart & Social Evenings. In 2016 the group secured Eirgrid funding for a defibrillator and training for residents in the area and a presentation of certs in December 2016 presented by Ken Glynn, WCC. In attendance were the Gardaí, reps from Dalton Park areas and residents of the area.



## St Michael's Park

A Representative from St Michael's Park attends RAPID Community Forum meetings. St Michael's Park has 12-15 children attending the kids club held in conjunction with Midlands Youth Work Ireland and there is the option for other children to integrate from other areas. At Easter the children make Easter cards and at Christmas they make Christmas cards.

# Grange Women's Group

Grange Women's group meet on Thursdays of each week to organise the various training courses. To date they have completed Healthy Eating made easy, Aromatherapy Classes. Funding was provided for this from the Cathlaoireach Awards. We also had a Skin Care Beauty Course i.e. home remedies, Beautician course funded by RAPID and a 6 week programme for young Traveller men in the art of making miniature Traveller wagons as in bygone days. There was a launch of a book from collection of short stories from older Traveller people from their older days on the roads.



# Mullingar Youth Project

Mullingar Youth Project facilitated numerous activities across our target areas of Mullingar Dalton Park, Grange, Farran, Raithin, Ennell Court and St. Michael's Park during 2016.

Our 25 weekly in-house social and leisure clubs had 402 registered members. Our young Traveller Men's Programme has 36 registered Members and our Youth Health Programme has 96 registered Members.

Our 2016 Easter camp in conjunction with the Grange Community Group had a participation of 46 young people who took part with the community group in planting new flower beds around the estate.

Grange United overcame some obstacles to re-establish its team and committee and reformed in 2016 and is currently leading their division in the CCFL.

The Summer Camp 2016 was a huge success with 130 young people participating and 34 young people participating in the FAI camps.

The annual community soccer match hosted by the FAI development programme, Community policing, MRYS Mullingar and Dalton Park residents took place on Friday the 16th of October in Mullingar Athletics ground, Gainstown. The annual event is aimed at building positive relationships between the young people from both areas.

One of the highlights of this year was the rebranding of Midland Regional Youth Service to become Youth Work Ireland Midlands. This took place in the Yoyo youth café in November with many of our local participants involved in hosting the night.

# Grange Resource Centre

The Grange community group are a small but committed group with 11 active members but the real strength of the group is the respect in which they are held by the wider community. When something needs to be done they can always find the right "man for the job" or the support of neighbours or young people to get the job done.

Residents take issues to the members or the centre which are discussed at meetings and addressed either through the committee or brought to the RAPID Community Forum. This Partnership has seen a lot achieved over the past year with roads resurfaced, lighting improved, our vast green areas manicured, new flower beds, trees trimmed, regular paper pickups, edging, spring clean ups etc. which has the estate looking its best in years. A very committed team of care takers employed on TUS and CE are managed through the centre and committee and most being residents take great pride and commitment, over and above the job in all aspects of the estate and centre.



# Ennell Community House

Ennell Community House was re-opened in 2015 and also saw the re-opening of clubs for young people in the Ennell Court area. Mullingar Youth Project facilitates numerous activities across our target areas of Mullingar, Dalton Park, Grange, Farran, Raithin, Ennell Court and Michaels Park over 2016. MRYS hold Youth Clubs and they also now have a very successful Men's Shed. Photos shown of men at work on flowerbeds in Ennell, flower pots and wheelbarrows, made by the men. Midlands Youth Services also ran a very successful Suit ur Selfie in 2016 in conjunction with the Westmeath Community Development SICAP Programme.



## Westmeath Community Development supported young people from RAPID Areas into employment

Westmeath Community Development (WCD) learned in 2016 that TK Maxx and Esquires Coffee House were planning to open new outlets in Mullingar. They decided to make use of the opportunity to help unemployed people get into new jobs.

So they ran a course in retail skills covering such areas as customer service, health and safety, Barista training, Deli training, HACCP, manual handling, store security procedures, fashion retail styling, employability skills and interview skills, visual merchandising and window dressing.

They were able to promote the course to many people who would ordinarily not consider applying by getting help from the employer engagement section in Department of Social Protection, the RAPID AIT and Community Forum, LCDC, Youth Work Ireland Midlands and local community groups. A total of 20 individuals took part in the course.

They also talked to the employers themselves and also some people already working with the companies. This meant they were able to give people great advice, help and support in preparing for an interview.

Course participants had to apply directly to the employers and compete for the jobs the same as other applicants, but all the training and preparation they got from WCD gave them a great edge.

The results were impressive. In total 13 individuals from Farran, Grange and Raithin secured jobs with TK Maxx and one was employed by Esquires. Three others found work with other employers.

### Client Quotes:

*'The course and staff were absolutely amazing and most helpful people ever, I now have more confidence and know how to sell myself in interviews'*

*'The course really helped me gain a greater insight into TK Maxx and how to perform during an interview, cannot thank you enough'*

*'I applied online but did not get an interview through the TK Maxx application process, but because I took part in the course my name was put forward and I now have a job, thanks for all your help.'*



Group taking part in the fashion retail styling module



## Raithin/Farran

Raithin Residents committee was set up in 2000 with the support from WCC and WCD. The Residents committee actively looks after both Farran and Raithin, with support from Grange committee. Raithin now have joined up with Farran to form one committee Raithin/Farran Residents Committee. The Residents Committee, with help from other residents in both areas set trees in the green area. The planting of the trees was carried out by committee members and some of the residents in the area. The work in Farran/Raithin is carried out by Residents, with support of RAPID funding from WCC. There is also a pitch for youth in the area for soccer and Gaelic. The pitch is maintained by Grange committee with supports from CE and TUS. Work in the area is ongoing.



# Can We Help You?

The agencies involved in RAPID provide a range of supports and services that benefit residents living in the Mullingar RAPID areas: If you are interested in any of the things listed below? Please tick which applies to you.

- Would you like to get involved in your local community group?
- Would your group like to learn new skills?
- Do you want to find out about training or education courses?
- Would you like help updating your CV and applying for jobs?
- Are you interested in a CE scheme or TUS Job?
- Would you like to volunteer in your local community?
- Are your children interested in attending youth services?
- Are your children interested in attending after schools services?
- Are you interested in Care and Repair or befriending for older relatives?
- Is there anything else you are interested in that's not listed?

If so, please explain briefly: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide your contact details below or we will be unable to help you

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete and return this form to: **Anne Campbell or Hubert Rooney, Westmeath Community Development, Zone C, Mullingar Business Park, Clonmore, Co Westmeath. Tel:** 044 9348571 **Email:** acampbell@westcd.ie or hrooney@westcd.ie

Are you happy for your contact details to be passed on to any relevant agencies, which may be able to help you?

**YES / NO** - (please put a circle around your chosen option).

## RAPID Area Implementation Team

Name	Job Role	Agency/Group	Name	Job Role	Agency/Group
Annette Barr Jordan	RAPID Co-ordinator	Westmeath County Council	Ciaran Martin	Senior Executive Housing Officer	Westmeath County Council
Pat Grimes	RAPID Chairperson	Chairperson of AIT	Patricia Jones	Community Rep	Dalton Park, Women's Group
Roger Nicholson	Community Sgt	Garda	Christina Joyce	Grange Women's Group	Westmeath Community Development
Hubert Rooney	Development Officer	Westmeath Community Development	Nuala O'Brien	Community Education Facilitator	(LWETB)
Ken Glynn	Elected Representative	Mullingar Municipal Council	Cathy Moran	Employer Engagement	Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection
Anne Campbell	Development Officer	Westmeath Community Development	Matthew Laverty	Community Farran/Raithin Rep	Farran/Raithin
Sonja Statham	Development Officer	Westmeath Sports Partnership	Mary Baker	Assistant Community Services Manager	Westmeath, MRDAFT
Catherine McEntee	Youth Work Ireland Coordinator Midlands MYP	Grange	Ger Byrne	MRDAFT Project Worker	Midlands
Lilly O'Donoghue	Community Rep	Grange			

LWETB continues to support adult and community education in the RAPID areas of Mullingar. We welcome enquiries from adults wishing to improve their reading and writing skills, learn something new or gain a qualification that might lead them to work.

Contact us as follows:

**Tricia 086 832 0649** (for help with reading and writing and courses at QQI Levels 1-4)

**Anne Maree 086 829 3816** (Back to Education Initiative part-time /QQI Levels 4-5)

**Martina 086 603 8821** (Vocational Training Opportunities Scheme full-time QQI Level 5)

**Nuala 086 170 0936** (Community Education Classes)

**Caroline 086 386 7954** (Adult Educational Guidance)



# Community Policing Unit

Introducing the Community Policing Unit: You can contact them for residential meetings/Active Age Groups/Anti Social Behaviour :

## Garda Confidential Line

The confidential line is 1800 666 111. The Garda Confidential line allows people to call with information relating to matters of crime or other activities. The Garda services office is available for all victims of any type of crime and traumatic incidents and will consistently prioritise the needs of the victim. It is the central co-ordination point of contact for all victims and will send Victims of Crime letters as well as details of Victim Support to all injured parties.

The hours are **9.00am-5.00pm Monday-Friday. Phone 044 938 4000**

**Email:** [Westmeath.victims@garda.ie](mailto:Westmeath.victims@garda.ie)



*Left to Right Garda Thomas Blake,  
Sgt Roger Nicholson,  
Garda Niall Donollon*

## DEVELOPMENT OF COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN ON DRUGS & ALCOHOL FOR COUNTY WESTMEATH 2017-2019

In late 2015 the Midland Regional Drug & Alcohol Task Force (MRDATF) secured funding from Pobal through the Dormant Accounts Fund to facilitate a community mobilisation process that promoted prevention and awareness initiatives associated with alcohol and drug misuse in County Westmeath.

In 2016 the MRDATF invited expressions of Interest from current MRDATF funded Local Drug and Alcohol Forums/ Networks to coordinate in partnership with the MRDATF, the development of a County Stakeholder Action Group (CSAG) for a selected county in the midland region. This group would then take the lead on, and inform the development of a Local Substance Misuse Action Plan for the County. Athlone Drug Awareness Group was selected by the MRDATF to support the roll out of this initiative on a pilot basis in County Westmeath.

The initiative has seen the development a community-based Drug and Alcohol Action Plan and the establishment of Westmeath County Stakeholder Action Group (WCSAG) in late 2016. Membership of WCSAG is comprised of representation from the Community, Voluntary and Statutory sectors and Public Representatives from County Westmeath. Members of WCSAG were supported through the action planning process by participating in a Substance Misuse Awareness & Community Action Planning Training Programme which was delivered by Quality Matters in late 2016.

## USEFUL NUMBERS

**Mullingar Community Services Council:** 044 933 2000

**Mullingar Garda Station:**  
044 938 4000

**Mullingar Municipal District:**  
044 933 2000

**Citizens Information Centre Mullingar:**  
076 107 6660

**Department of Employment Affairs & Social Protection:**  
076 628 5100

**Befriending for Older People, WCD:**  
086 236 1652

**Helplink South:**  
090 644 5080

**Independent People with Disabilities:**  
090 647 0044

**Longford Westmeath Education Training Board Marlinstown Business Park:**  
044 934 2111

**MIDOC:**  
1850 302 702

**Midland Regional Drugs and Alcohol Taskforce:**  
090 648 3108

**Primary Care Centre:**  
044 935 3700

**Midlands Regional Hospital at Mullingar:**  
044 934 0221

**Samaritans:**  
FREE CALL 116 123

**Westmeath Community Development:**  
044 934 8571

**Westmeath Traveller Project:**  
044 93 48571

**Youth Work Ireland Midlands:**  
044 934 9636

