

Bray Partnership LINKS

VOLUME 3 ISSUE 5

JULY 2003

Welcome to the July edition of *LINKS*. In this edition we have outlined some of the plans that we are putting in place to carry out the mid-term review of the work of Partnership. At the end of this year, we will be half way through our Area Action Plan 2000–2006. The review process will be used as a tool for planning for the forthcoming years. There are quite a number of grants now available to community and voluntary groups which are detailed in the noticeboard. The Partnership's Community Development Team can support local groups who wish to complete an application. The Wicklow Heritage Group is planning a heritage audit of the various heritage sites in Wicklow. More information contained in their article on page 3. The next edition of *LINKS* will be circulated in September 2003.

**Gráinne
Editor**

Lobbying Efforts on Learning Disability Services for Young People

Almost 80 people attended a public meeting with the Co. Wicklow TD's on 1 July 2003 organised by the Bray Partnership Disability Cluster Group. The issue for discussion was the lack of services for people with learning disability who have turned 18 years of age and finished school. The gap in service provision involves a significant number of people with learning disability nationally with 13 young people in Bray being affected. Three deputies attended the meeting: Deputy Billy



Pictured at the public meeting are Deputy Billy Timmins, Deputy Liz McManus and Deputy Mildred Fox accepting the 2,500 petitions from Bray Lakers representative Elaine O'Reilly

Timmins, Deputy Mildred Fox and Deputy Liz McManus. All of the deputies pledged their support, acknowledged that the lack of services was very serious and that it was having a major impact on the individuals and families concerned. Elaine O'Reilly representing Bray Lakers presented the deputies with 2,500 signed petitions. A number of service providers in the area were also present and gave inputs at the meeting. A further meeting was organised the following week between Minister Dick Roche and parents and group representatives. The long term strategy is to have the proposed Disability Bill enacted which would give disabled people the 'right' to services. The short term strategy is to have immediate funding in place to provide an appropriate service for school leavers in Sep-

tember. The good news is that the Minister for Health announced on Tuesday of this week that there will be an investment in disability of €50 million from now to the end of the year. There will be €15m for learning disability services to provide 600 day care places throughout the country. The priority for the campaign now is to ensure that this funding is allocated to Bray to provide the necessary placements.

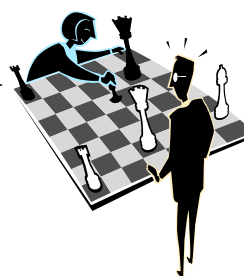
<i>Table of Contents</i>	
Lobbying Campaign	1
Partnership Review	2
Programmes and Activities Wicklow Heritage Forum	3
Noticeboard	4

The Partnership's Mid Term Review

Bray Partnership, at the end of this year, will be mid-way through its 6 year strategic plan 2000-2006. Therefore, we are planning to carry out a mid term review of the programme to date. The main objective of the review is to develop a tool for planning for the future. The key questions to be asked are: where have we come from?; where do we want to be?; how can we get there; and what do we need?. The Partnership's Monitoring and Evaluation Committee will manage and oversee the process. Due to the constraints on finance, the review will be carried out utilising existing Partnership resources. The process will be conducted over September and early October. It is planned that the final report will be available in mid-October. The report, as a key planning tool, will be an internal working document which will be available to all the relevant structures, agencies and individuals. In addition to the overall report, a summary of the document will appear in the October/November edition of the LINKS newsletter.

A number of actions/stages have been identified to progress the review. These include:

- **Information dissemination** (including a summary of the report findings) on the review process, using the existing information mechanisms and the structures of Partnership.
- Carrying out **interviews with key stakeholders** on a one-to-one basis focusing specifically on beneficiaries and employers. This will take place in early to mid-September.
- Conducting a **review** with the **working groups, cluster groups, board and staff**. This will take place at the scheduled meetings in September and October.
- Carrying out a **workshop with the statutory sector**. This meeting to be scheduled in mid to late September.
- Conducting a **general workshop**, with an open invitation to all those involved and those who wish to have an input. This session has been scheduled for the morning of **1 October 2003. (date for your diary!)**
- **Writing up** the findings of the review in a written **report**.



Bray Partnership Programmes and Activities

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

The **Homelessness Research Committee** recently held a seminar to consider the draft Bray homelessness report. Emmett Bergin, independent consultant presented the draft report to a range of groups and agencies. Focus Ireland, the Dublin Simon Community, DePaul Trust and Crosscare all responded very positively in their comments on the presentation. Approximately 25 people discussed the draft recommendations in workshops. These views were recorded and will be considered by Emmet and the committee in producing the final report which we plan to launch in September.

Are you an older person in Bray, looking to meet new people and interested in contributing to a worthwhile project?

The **Older Persons Cluster Group** is currently working on two projects:

- A services information card for older persons
- A safety booklet for older persons

Volunteers are needed to help with both these projects. A maximum of 4 meetings would be involved. Please contact Eileen at the Partnership if you are interested.

CHILDCARE

The **Wicklow County Childcare Committee (WCCC)** launched its strategic plan at a family fun-day held in Laragh on 29 June 2003. Sylda Langford, Assistant Secretary from the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform presided over the launch. Copies of the Strategic Plan 2002—2006 along with a Strategic Summary are available from the WCCC office TEL: 0404 64455.

The winners of the **prizes** for those who completed the **Childcare Questionnaire** were R. Carroll and Monica Corejo from Bray. The prizes were lunch for four in Hunters Hotel and brunch for four people in the Marriott Hotel Druids Glen. Many thanks to those who completed and returned the questionnaires which are being analysed by the Partnership. The completed report will be available in November 2003.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ **Congratulations to Bray** ★
 ★ **Special Olympians** ★
 ★ There was great success for ★
 ★ members of Bray Lakers at ★
 ★ the World Games Special ★
 ★ Olympics: Miranda and Phil ★
 ★ lip O'Reilly were awarded ★
 ★ silver in the pitch and putt, ★
 ★ Nigel Phillips got a gold in ★
 ★ the softball throw and Donal ★
 ★ O'Mahoney got a bronze ★
 ★ medal in the basketball com- ★
 ★ petition. ★
 ★ Bray Lakers is recruiting ★
 ★ new members and if you are ★
 ★ interested contact Claire on ★
 ★ 086 807 6592 after 11 Au- ★
 ★ gust 2003. ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Wicklow Heritage Group

The Government have initiated a Heritage Audit Plan and Heritage Forums are now being set up by local authorities around the country. Wicklow Co. Council is in the process of taking stock and is examining specific issues relating to this Plan. Interested parties and individuals have been asked to submit records of heritage 'areas of interest' to them.

An Taisce, the Wicklow Planning Alliance and the Green Party have joined together to record heritage areas of interest during the summer months. A standard audit sheet has been designed for recording Wicklow's heritage. This covers architectural heritage, that is the fine old houses and more humble dwellings that represent an aspect of our heritage, as well as natural heritage (even ancient hedgerows), agricultural heritage, marine heritage etc. in line with government policy espoused in the Heritage Acts.

We are asking interested groups, individuals to use our audit sheet and go out and record anything of interest in their local area. These will then be entered into a computerised database. Although this project is entirely independent, we have been liaising with Wicklow Co. Council, and the Computer Services Dept. of the Co. Council to ensure that the records we create would be compatible with Council systems. We have full support for this work and we intend to give them our findings in the autumn.

Please tell other people who may be interested in local history or heritage about this most valuable and exciting project and encourage them to get involved in this project to record for posterity what we have around us.

If you would like copies of our audit sheets, a list of the Bray heritage areas or any other information, please contact Michelle Rogers at Bray Partnership. Thank you.

NOTICEBOARD

Bray Town Council is inviting submissions for their **2005 Town Development Plan**. The Plan will outline the Council's commitments to the physical, economic and social development of the town for the coming years. Closing date for written submissions on any aspect of the plan is Thursday 21st August 2003. A background issues document and the outgoing plan are available from the Town Council for a fee of €15 and €25 respectively. To arrange to view copies of either contact Davin or Eileen.

The **Bray Drugs Task Force** has funding available for eligible participants on the forthcoming **Certificate in Addition Studies** course to be run in St. Kilian's from September. The course is certified by NUI Maynooth. For further information, contact Catherine in the Drugs Task Force Office TEL: 276 2975.

The **Department of Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs** invites **grant applications** from voluntary and community organisations. Two key areas have been identified for funding: (1) equipment, refurbishment and premises grants; (2) education, training and research grants. Application forms are available on the website www.pobail.ie or TEL: 474 8684. Closing date for applications is 5pm on 7 August 2003.

Combat Poverty Agency is inviting applications for their **grants scheme** 'Working Against Poverty' from community and voluntary groups. There are four key areas: Training and Skills Development for Influencing Policy; Conferences, Seminars and Publications; Research or Evaluation; Policy Analysis and Promotion. The application form is available on the website www.combatpoverty.ie or TEL: 670 6746. Closing date is 18 September 2003.

The **Eastern Regional Health Authority** is allocating funding to community based groups and voluntary organisations under the terms of the following: **Respite Care Grant Scheme** and **National Lottery Grant Scheme**. The provision of health and personal social services to the following categories of people will be considered: persons with disability; older persons; persons with mental illness; children and families. Application forms and further detail from ERHA TEL: 635 2921. Closing date for applications is 5pm 1 August 2003.

Bray Partnership invites applications from local community groups for the **Community Development Grants Scheme**. Funding available for small-scale community development activity which promotes equality and social inclusion. Closing date for applications is 19 September 2003. Forms are available from Eileen in the Partnership TEL: 286 8266.

Co. Wicklow VEC invites applications for **Youth Grants for 2003** for youth work activities at a local level. Further information contact Marian O'Mahony in Co. Wicklow VEC TEL: 0404 20460. Closing date is 15 August 2003.

The **National Disability Authority** is offering **research grants** to disability groups and community and voluntary groups. Maximum funding is €8,000. Information and application forms from Elaine Harris, NDA TEL: 608 0250. Closing date is 25 August 2003.

We Want Your Ideas for Community Development Training Plan 2004!

The Partnership's community development team is currently planning the training schedule for 2004. Please tick the three training areas that are of interest and relevance to your group and which you would like to see being provided:

- Roles and responsibilities of committee members
- Legal structures of groups/committees
- Being a good employer
- Group facilitation skills
- Grant writing
- Evaluation
- Strategic Planning
- Fundraising
- Health and Safety
- Other _____

Which of the following is the best time for members of your group to attend training?

- Evenings
- Mornings
- Afternoons
- Doesn't matter

Any further comments on this issue:

Please detach and return to Eileen at the Partnership (post or fax 286 8700)

Comments, contributions and/or feedback on the newsletter are welcomed. Contact Grainne McGettrick, Bray Partnership, 4 Prince of Wales Tee., Bray, Co. Wicklow. TEL: 286 8266 email: grainne@braypartnership.ie **This document is available in Braille, large font, on audio cassette or disk on request. It is also available to read and download from our website in the 'our publications' section.**