

Proposed project: Coircal Chruacháin

What is the primary purpose of the funding?

Tourism

Project Description

To create awareness of Coircal Chruacháin's community initiative; encourage the use of the Irish language within the community; create a sense of connection and belonging between our language and our unique landscape socially, culturally, economically and environmentally.

Details of Proposed Project

Phase 1:

To instil confidence in using Irish within the community. This has commenced already with our Coircal Chruacháin coffee meetups at "pop up" locations - connecting people and places including Corlea Trackway, The Gaff Castlerea, Kilbride Community Centre and finally at RVC where the most meetups are hosted. Through these meetups it was identified that there is a need for Irish classes for people who learned Irish at school but have forgotten most of it. 'The concept of a 'refreshers course' was born. Therese Hanley organised a series of Irish classes which will be held in Rathcroghan Visitor Centre and The Gaff, Castlerea. A list of people interested in taking part has been gathered.

Phase 2: Bring attendees of the courses plus members of Coircal Chruacháin and/or others with an interest in Irish/ Tourism, on a day trip to Tuar Mhic Eadaigh (Tourmakeady). Tourmakeady is part of the Mayo Gaeltacht where the local Irish dialect is spoken and nurtured. The preferred date for the day trip is during Seachtain na Gaeilge 2024. The school in Tourmakeady, Colaiste Chonnacht, was founded in 1905 as the first summer school by Conradh na Gaeilge, under the direction of Douglas Hyde, and was christened Cliabhán Chonnradh na Gaeilge' by Douglas Hyde. Our mutual connection with Douglas

Technological University (SETU) on hand to assist with the delivery of classes.

For our day trip to Tourmakeady, Geraghty travel will pick passengers up in Castlerea. On arrival in Tourmakeady we will be met with a local tour guide who will give us a short history and tour of the area. We will be having lunch in Tourmakeady with native speakers and others and there will follow an exchange of ideas on tourism, the language, and ways to build on what we have established.

Expected timescale of project:

Our RCV at Tulsk course is due to commence on 12th September and will conclude the 31st October (Tuesday nights at 8pm).

Our Castlerea course is due to commence on 6th October, for 8 weeks also, on a Friday night, to conclude on 24th November.

Our day trip to Tourmakeady will take place in March 2024 (during Seachtain na Gaeilge).

Is planning permission required

NO

How will this project benefit your area?

Rathcroghan Visitor Centre is already becoming popular as a venue that celebrates the Irish (example it offers tours via Irish and has a wide range of Irish language books in its shop). Coircal Chruacháin augments RVC by offering Irish classes. Members of Coircal Chruacháin have been instrumental in promoting Tourism by ; presenting through Irish on 'Fresh Approaches to Rural Tourism' at the first Roscommon & Galway Munipal District Meeting in Ballinasloe in May 2023 led by Cllr.Dr. Evelyne Parsons Members of Ciorcal Cruachain : Therese Hanley and Jacinta Greene Beatty contributed to this meeting discussing the opportunity of a Tourism Network connecting operators along the Slí Gleanna na tSúca. At the National Conference ' Inspiring Rural Creativity' in Roscommon Town in April 2023 which was led by Cllr. Anthony Waldron and sponsored by Roscommon County Council and

where the beautiful Stained Glass window of Rathcroghan is depicted on the cover of Roscommon's Tourism brochure-"Exploring Roscommon" ,

Project Co ordinator: Therese Hanley and founder of Ciorcal Cruachan is a director at RCV -is Local to Rathcroghan and assisted with the organisation of the Inaugual Tourism Conference in Roscommon 2022 – and 2023 'Inspiring Rural Creativity'. Therese hosts a show on Ros FM which provides endless opportunities to help develop and promote Roscommon through Irish Language Tourism.

Other members of the group with strong heritage and language connections include Kitty Carberry, a former adjudicator at the national 'Oireachtas' competitions and who was involved in the establishment and development of the Corlea Trackway heritage centre in Keenagh. Kitty's father, the renowned piper, the late Peter Carberry was the musician who provided the soundtrack music to the film on Douglas Hyde's 'Love Songs of Connacht'.

Freda Gavigan, Emeritus NT Principal of Derrane Primary School, Four Mile House, not only has connections through her participation in other 'comhra' groups within the county but also has a great interest in the heritage of Irish song through her participation as a singer in a network of singing circles.



17th August 2023

Quote

Ref: Coircal Chruachàin

Hire of d'Gaff Community Space, Castlerea for Irish Language Classes - 2 hours per week for 8 weeks.

Total €160.00

Kind regards

Susan Gaynor

Chairperson, Castlerea Town Team

To: Ciorral Chruachain
c/o Rathcroghan Visitor Centre
Tulsk
Co Roscommon

8 x Irish classes @ THE GAFF, Castlebar

Cost: €640

Signed: Tomás P. & Máire.