

Report to the Protocol Committee for noting and referral to the City Council

Councillor Name	Aine Clancy
Conference/Seminar Name	AILG Annunal Training Conference
Conference/Seminar Topic	Action Plan for Rural Development
Venue/Location	Tracey's West County Hotel, Clare
Date (s) of Conference	6 th & 7 th April 2017

Brief Summary

- "Have we a Two-Tier Country" The conference opened with this Question. The speaker dicussed supporting sustainable communities through making rural Ireland a better place to work & live, by reviiatalising rural villages & town centers, through the implementation of vital initiatives such as The CLAR & RAPID Programmes, Town & Village Renewal Scheme & and introduce measures that support people to live in Town centers.
- Pat Dowling the CEO, Clare County Council: dicussed new priorities & measures for local Governement through the implementation of new cross cutting structures that can bring about a sustainable future for the Region.
- The Speakers addressed empowering local communities through the development & support of the Public Participation Networks & Local Community Development Committees, thus ensuring that all voices are heard & included in the decision making processes & that communities continue to identify their own solutions & needs.
- The Speakers acknowleged that local authoirities have already undertaken Rural & Regional development i.e LCDC & the adoption of local community & economic plans by the elcted members. The participants dicussed the framework that exist in each local authority Urban & Rural designed to improve areas as places to work, live, invest & visit.
- Pat Mc Donagh (local enterpener- Super-Macs) addressed the participants emphasing the need to support Entreprise & employment, ensuring Rural Communities have the necessary skills to meet the meeds of the Labour market & to continue to encourage innovation & maximize assets.
- The Conference closed emphasizing the need to boost economic prosperity in Rural Ireland, while also supporting social progress through fostering culture & creativity in rural areas thus ensuring the continually vibrancy & well being of our local communities.

Conference Report Sheet

Recommendations

1. Make Ireland a better place to work & live by revitalizing our Town & Village centers through the implementation of various initiatives (see above).
2. Support Enterprise & Employment: Grow & Attract Jobs through the roll out of the Key eight regional Action Plans for Jobs & development i.e investment of up to 50m over the period 2017-2020 to support collaborative approaches to boost enterprise & job creation.
3. Fostering Culture & Creativity in rural communities: Increase access to the arts & enhance cultural facilities in communities. Establish Culture teams and creativity hubs as part of the Creative Ireland Programme.
4. Maximising our Rural Tourism & Recreation Potential: Increase tourist numbers to rural Ireland by 12% by 2019.
5. Improve Rural Infrastructure & connectivity: High Speed Broadband- Roll out the National Broadband Plan. Improve Rural transport links through a review of services etc.

Declaration

I certify that I attended the above-mentioned Conference/Training Seminar.

Signed by

Date

Aine Clancy

9th April 2017