

Dún Chaocháin – a special Place



Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo. is a community development co-operative in County Mayo, registered with the Registry of Friendly Societies. Its mission is to work in a proactive way to promote the linguistic, cultural, infrastructural, educational and social development of the parish of Cill Chomáin and to develop the material and human resources of the area. Projects have been undertaken in conjunction with the Irish language body, Coiste Ghlor na nGael, local development groups and State agencies. The Co-operative office is located in the Seanscoil in Ceathrú Thaidhg, providing these services:

- 1) Information and Assistance to community groups about the rôle of development groups and agencies,
- 2) developing and managing projects and sourcing funding,
- 3) producing application forms for various schemes, including training opportunities,
- 4) photocopying, laminating and fax services and
- 5) visitor information including C-Ds. A library of folklore and Irish language material is maintained.

If you would like to become a member of the Co-operative and have a greater input into the development of the area, please contact Treasa Ní Ghearraidh, in the Co-operative, at +353 97 88082 or 00353 87 1251642.

We shall welcome your ideas.

We hope, indeed, that you will join our efforts, as we look forward to the future. To receive a copy of 'Cill Chomáin Development Plan 2022 to 2026', contact the Co-operative or check online. The Plan sets out a strategy for the development of the Parish. "Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireas na daoine" - with each person supporting the other, people survive.

The Strategy lays out a vision and a programme of actions for the Parish. The key objectives, of the Co-operative, are as follows, a) to preserve and promote the Irish language and culture in every aspect of community life, b) to develop in an integrated, sustainable way the resources of the area and c) to promote the development of amenities and services.

As part of the consultation process, a questionnaire was made available in local shops, post offices, schools and churches. An open day was then organized in the Seanscoil Community Centre to give the public a uniquely democratic opportunity to examine the draft plan and make recommendations. The Committee acknowledged the input of all those who took the time to complete the questionnaire. Their suggestions and recommendations were incorporated into the Action Plan.

The promotion and preservation of the Irish language is one of the main objectives of Comhar Dún Chaocháin Teo. Irish language courses and Irish translation services are organized in the Ionad Seirbhísí Teangan na Seanscoile (or Language Centre) in Ceathrú Thaidhg, where a special-purpose room, houses a library of resource materials. Conversational Irish classes are organized during the year, in co-operation with Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Chill Chomáin, the national sporting body, in Cill Chomáin - as well as events during the international festival of Seachtain na Gaeilge. The Co-operative is a member of Gaeilge Iorrais –which, Údarás na Gaeltachta selected as the lead language-planning organization in the North Mayo Gaeltacht. The Naíonra Dhún Chaocháin, Ceathrú Thaidhg and, the Naíonra Ghleann na Muaidhe, in Gleann na Muaidhe are both community-run Irish language pre-schools which provide for the needs of children and their parents in these areas. These services receive funding from the National Childcare Investment Programme which falls under the remit of The Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration & Youth, of Túsla (or the Child and Family Agency), of Mayo County Childcare Committee and of Comhar Naíonraí na Gaeltachta Teo.



Irish Summer Camps, which offer recreational, educational and cultural activities for local pre-school and primary school children, are organised in Gleann na Muaidhe, Ceathrú Thaidhg, and Ros Dumhach in conjunction with Muintearas Teo with funding under Scéim na gCampaí Samhraidh d'Aos Óg na Gaeltachta. The aim of the camps is to encourage children to speak Irish in an enjoyable environment through sports, art, crafts, traditional dancing and singing.

The Ceathrú Thaidhg loop walks, such as Lúb Chlann Lir, the Lúb an Chlaí Dhuibh and the Lúb na Binne Buí continue to attract visitors to the area - with a notable increase in visitor numbers in recent years. Starting and finishing at the Seanscoil Community Centre, each loop is waymarked and colour-coded according to its level of difficulty. An Irish and English information board and brochure provide details on trail directions and points of interest en route. These walks are maintained by participants on the Rural Social Scheme with the support of The Department of Rural and Community Development, Sport Ireland, and of Mayo County Council.

A project of Na Comhludair Bheo, a self-help body, which designed this website, aims to give an international voice to the people of Cill Chomáin and to raise the profile of the area as an ecotourism destination.

Historic Irish links to the French, Germans and others introduce a cultural element into the project. In this regard, another website was designed and which can be viewed, at gaeltacht.info, where a choice of holiday packages was available to cater for visiting groups – until the Pandemic struck.

The Scéim Shóisialta Tuatha Chill Chomáin is managed by the Cumann Lúthchleas Gael, Chill Chomáin, with help from Údarás na Gaeltachta, and includes an environmental workplan, submitted by the Co-operative. When An Taisce (or the National Trust) announced the 2022 National Chósta Ghlais Awards, the Port a' Chlóidh and Rinn Rua beaches were named as recipients. The award was based on the pristine environment of these, the excellent water quality compliant with EU regulations - and natural beauty.

