



UL ENGAGE

Community Briefing

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Moyross Regeneration Project

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UNIVERSITY of LIMERICK
OLLSCOIL LUIMNIGH

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grow

Promoting University Community Collaboration

Project Aim

The Moyross regeneration project, launched in 2008, aims to try to reduce the level of unemployment in the area. They hope to do this by organising training programs that suit the needs of the residents which will then increase their chances of employment. They want to match the training programs to the job interests and skills required in the area.

Project Objectives

Our job was to collect as much information on Moyross as we could in order to help the project proceed with organising training programs. Our objectives were to design a questionnaire that would collect information from people in the area on skills that they had or wanted gender, age, level of education and jobs that they would like to have in the future. We would then have to collate that data to inform the project on what training programs they should be running.

Project Rationale

Moyross is an area that is affected by high unemployment and poverty levels. This project has been undertaken to try and lower those levels. Moyross is a strong and close community but it is also a very disadvantaged area. Groups and organisations like the Moyross regeneration project can make meaningful change to the lives and prospects of people living in the area. Decreasing the unemployment level in Moyross would be a remarkable success for the area and would give young people living in the area hope and options.

COMMUNITY

Overview of Community Organisation

Moyross is a council estate just outside Limerick city, there are a lot of well known landmarks very near to the estate like Thomond Park and Limerick Institute of Technology however the area suffers from high unemployment and poverty rates. The unemployment level is at 47% which is very high in comparison to the national average. The part of the Moyross regeneration project that we worked with were focused on giving the youth in the area the best possible chance of employment. This includes organising training programs so that young can improve their skills and letting them know what their options are, the latter may seem obvious, but it is a very important factor in the attempt to lower the Unemployment rate. Even though LIT is just outside Moyross very few young people living in the area ever go on to third level education in fact only one out of all the questionnaires that we got back actually did and only one or two were interested in going in the future. Regeneration means to revive, rejuvenate or restore, the projects mission is to improve the lives of those living in Moyross by making sure they have the opportunities they deserve.

Community Partners

Our community co-ordinators were Tracy McElligott and Andrew o' Byrne. They are two very dedicated people who were very helpful and welcoming. Tracy has sent us on a brief biography to include:

Born in Ballynanty into a family of five children I have a twin brother and three sisters. We moved to Kileely before my first birthday and I lived there until I was 19 years of age. At that time I went to live and work in Germany for two years. After my return home I lived in Kileely again until I married my husband Vincent in 1984. I have two daughters and now live in Caherdavin. **My education took place in St. Lelia's Primary School in Kileely, before going to St Munchin's Girls School in Ballynanty.** From there, I went to St. Mary's Secondary School and was one of the first pupils to move to the new school in Corbally. Later, as a mature student, I graduated from University College Cork (UCC) with a Diploma in Youth and Community Development. **Currently, I am the Development Worker with Moyross Residents Forum.** The Forum provides an opportunity for all agencies to come together, with the community, in a true spirit of partnership, maintaining and supporting a vibrant sustainable community. My role can sometimes be very challenging but also very rewarding and with the support of local residents is made much easier. There are wonderful residents, here, in Moyross. They are no different to any other community in the country. It is the media that sometimes portray the community inaccurately!

Moyross Happy Feet. I am part of *Happy Feet Dance Group* which meets every Tuesday night in the Corpus Christi Primary School in Moyross (from 7.00pm to 8.00pm). There are over 40 ladies in our group and everyone is welcome to come along. It is an hour of great fun with lots of positive energy and you are guaranteed to leave each week with a smile on your face. **When my children were young I volunteered for many years with Caherdavin Community Games. I was also a youth leader with Caherdavin Youth Club for 25 years until it closed in Sept 2015.** We catered for young people from first year to fifth year in secondary school. I have been privileged in this role to have worked with some great people in the club. These people have given generously of their time and have shown great commitment to work with the young people of Caherdavin and surrounding areas. **There have been many influential people in my life.** These are everyday ordinary people who face extraordinary challenges with a smile on their face without the world knowing. I try and stay positive and am inspired by those little things that people do on a daily basis to help each other out. These things often go unseen and unrecognised. It is very challenging for all community groups at present but you just have to do what you can with what you have working with the support of the community. Generally, I tend to look at things for what they are and not to complicate them.

STUDENTS



Lauriane Charbonnel – The University of Pau et les Pays de l’Adour

I am Lauriane CHARBONNEL, I am French, and I am studying in France at the university of Pau et les Pays de l’Adour. I am 20 and I am an Erasmus student for the semester. I am studying foreign languages. I am in my last year of bachelor and I will certainly do a humanitarian and cultural master in France. I am from New Caledonia, a French island between Australia and New Zealand. I am in France for my study for two years and half.



Aoife Healy – The University of limerick

My name is Aoife Healy, I am a fourth year student in the University of Limerick studying politics and International Relations. I am a 22-year-old Irish girl from county Kerry in Ireland. I have an interest in charity work and volunteering and hope to maybe work with disadvantaged groups in the future.

OUTCOMES

It is not likely that the work that we did will have an immediate effect on the community. Andrew and Tracy will have to use the information that we found and provided to inform training programs on what young people in the area are interested in doing and what skills they will need to enter a career that interests them. This information will give Tracy and Andrew an idea as to what the need and who they need to give it to, As Andrew informed us “The information will be used to assess current training and employment provision for the area”.

We found it very difficult to get this information, so we hope It will be of great use going into the future of the project. After much research we finally ended up with enough information, using both our own questionnaire and CSO statistics for the Ballynanty division, to put together and form a rough outline of what the statistics are like in relation to young people and employment and education levels.

Our research will assist in helping the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan to reach its employment targets which will in turn benefit the Moyross community. If unemployment in Moyross reduced then other problems associated with it like crime and anti-social behaviour should also decline.

If this does happen it will turn Moyross, which is already a strong community, into a place where its residents will thrive. A lowered unemployment rate will give hope to the younger generation in Moyross and show them that they have more opportunities than they think they have.

TESTIMONIALS

To whom it may concern, on behalf of Moyross Regeneration Committee, I would like to thank the University of Limerick's Engage Programme for their recent civic engagement in researching local youth population figures and employment statistics. This is very current and significant in light of the recent release of the deprivation indices for the country and Limerick in particular. The information will be used to assess current training and employment provision for the area and correlating this information with the outcomes of the research piece. This will link to the Limerick Regeneration Framework Implementation Plan's employment targets for the area, which will greatly assist in the informing of future provision of training and employment programmes. I would like to thank Aoife and Lauriane for all their work here, in attending meetings, researching and updating the advisory group. It was a pleasure working with you both and we wish you well in your studies.

Many thanks,

Andrew O'Byrne

RECOMMENDATIONS

These are the recommendations we would make:

- We would hope that future student involved in this project will use the information that we collected to proceed and do more than we were able to do.
- The next student should maybe get more involved in meeting focus groups so that they can learn from the resident's point of view and understand what it is they are asking for.
- We hope our community partners can use the information we collect to help the local community and use it to inform training programme, I would especially hope that the high interest in the equine area (40%), would be taken into account.
- We focused on the youth for our project (under 25s), perhaps the group of students working with this project next semester could work on the ages 25 up, as unemployment is high for people in their 20s.
- If the Project is still looking for statistics they should check with Helen Fitzgerald at the Paul Partnership, as she usually breaks down the Census statistic but had not gotten around to it in our time working in Moyross.
- Next semesters students should try to go to Moyross at least once every two weeks, we feel that in the time between meetings we got quite lost and off track but once we went out to meet Tracy and Andrew they would set us right again.
- The next group of students should also definitely meet up with each other at least once a week just to make sure you keep each other on track and the work that you are doing is not overlapping.

GALLERY



The picture above is the entry to the Bayze in Moyross, where we would have all of our meetings.



The picture above is of the inside of the build which as you can see is very modern.



The picture above is of the Moyross Estate itself.

APPENDICES

Any resources/documents that you have produced to support the project - e.g. Training materials, brochures and any other supplementary information can be included in appendices.

This is a screenshot of the Questionnaire that we sent out to the focus groups.

Moyross Questionnaire

Tick the boxes that apply to you.

Age
13-18 years 19-24 years 25 and over

Gender
F M Other

Level of Education
Primary Junior Cert Leaving Cert Leaving Cert Applied
Post Leaving cert course Third Level

What employment or training are you interested in?

Trade
(plumber, electrician, construction etc.)

Hospitality
(Hotel work, restaurant work etc.)

Childcare
(childminder, playschool teacher etc.)

Education
(College, further education)

Helping my community

Equine
(working with horses)

Other

Please explain:

What skills do you have?

Trade

Hospitality

Childcare

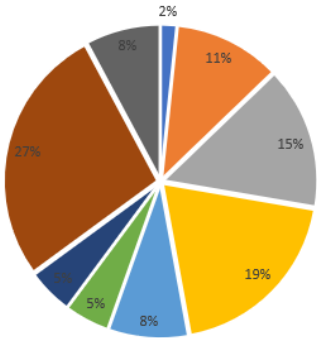
Education (teach...)

Other

Please explain:

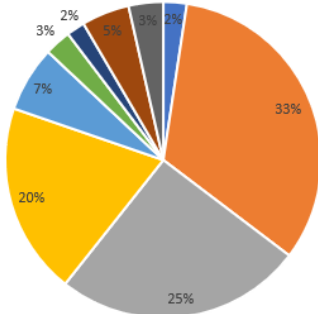
Education Levels in Ballynanty compared with Limerick City

Level of education for over 15 year olds in limerick city in 2016



- No Formal Education
- Primary Education
- Lower Secondary
- Upper Secondary
- Technical or Vocational qualification
- Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship
- Higher Certificate
- Thrid Level
- Not stated

Level of education for over 15 year olds in the ballynanty Division



- No Formal Education
- Primary Education
- Lower Secondary
- Upper Secondary
- Technical or Vocational qualification
- Advanced Certificate/Completed Apprenticeship
- Higher Certificate
- Thrid Level
- Not stated

COMMUNITY VIDEO

The community project that we worked on this semester was the Moyross Regeneration Project. Moyross is an area that is affected by high levels of poverty and unemployment this project is one of the many initiatives aimed at tackling the problem. We met with Tracy McElligott and Andrew O' Byrne a number of times out in the Bayze in Moyross which is the focus point of the project, it is a very modern and well-kept building contrary to the run-down image of Moyross we usually hear about. The project is all about giving people in the area the best opportunities possible for employment. Our first task, that was given to us on our first trip to Moyross, was to try to get information on the Moyross area itself as the Central Statistics Office only had statistics on the wider Ballynanty area and they wanted us to help them narrow this down. We attempted to get this information for weeks, we rang the CSO to no avail, we called into the local employment office in Moyross where they sent us on to the Paul partnership organisation and to Helen Fitzgerald who had broken down the 2011 Census for the Moyross area, unfortunately she had not yet done this for the 2016 result and, so it was of no use to us. Eventually we came to a frustrating dead end and realised that these statistics were impossible for us to get. We ended up using the Census 2016 results for Ballynanty coupled with the results from a questionnaire that we made up and sent out to focus groups which Andrew had set up. This questionnaire had questions like gender, age, level of education, what type of job they are interested in and what skills they already possess. We got back 49 of these questionnaires which we said could be used as a representative of the Moyross area as a whole. The results from these focus groups were very interesting, only 1 out of the 49 had actually gone on to third level education and only two more had said that they would like to go on to third level education after the leaving cert. This is very low in comparison with Limerick city itself and by extension Ireland. Another interesting result from the questionnaire was that 40% of those returned said that they would be interested in an equine related job. On Monday we made our last trip to Moyross where we presented our video to a board meeting of the Moyross regeneration committee.

Here is the link to our video:

<https://media.heanet.ie/page/95c49fce4cf3694abd980a0465f188a1>



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