



Shanagolden & District Community Council Christmas Newsletter 2021



A message from our Chairman

"Who would have thought in March 2020 that 20 months on and we would still be in the midst of a global pandemic. It is both surreal and frightening to think how much Covid has impacted our lives. For all those in our community who have lost loved ones or have suffered illness due to Covid, our thoughts are with you and your families.

As 2021 draws to a close, now is the time to reflect, be grateful for and appreciate what we have. At the heart of it, is our family, friends and our community. Thank you to all who supported us in these uncertain times, thank you to our volunteers, our sponsors and support networks. Everyone can and has made a difference and we can look to the future with renewed optimism and encouragement that perhaps, the worst is behind us and we can continue to proceed with our ambitious plans for future developments with the support of all in the community".

Ger Lewis, Chairman.

Who we are

Shanagolden Community Council is a group of 24+ volunteers who work tirelessly in their free time for the benefit of our community. Each week, the combined efforts of our volunteers is in excess of 50 hours and for that, we are very grateful and appreciative of their efforts. Put simply, without our volunteers, there would be no facilities. Special thanks to both Stephen Keary and Aidan Walshe who have constantly provided hours of their professional time and services Free of Charge in assisting with planning and engineering services. We welcome anyone who would be interested in joining the community council to lend their support as we plan for the future and maintain our existing facilities. Please contact a member of the community council for next meeting date and time.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a socially inclusive and welcoming community both for current and future generations, whilst not forgetting our heritage and past.

Our Values

We will accomplish our vision by staying true to our values of **Accountability**, **Volunteerism**, **Openness** and **Credibility**.

What we do

We meet twice a month in the Complex building in order to plan, discuss and designate various works to be completed throughout the community. Such works include the weekly inspection and maintenance of our Playground, Parish Hall and complex. Liaising with various community / sporting groups, facilitating (pre-Covid times) our local community lotto, Bingo and 45 card drives, support authorities to maintain the upkeep of the playing pitches, walkways, car park, providing the manpower for cleaning and the provision of equipment, fuel and servicing for use by others to maintain our facilities.

The past 12 months

The impact of Covid-19 has had a profound effect on

everybody's lives and also the Community Council, in particular its finances and organising of social events. Annually, it costs approximately €20k to run the community council for various expenses such as insurances, registrations, licences, electricity, rates, fuel, equipment, services and communications. Prior to Covid we had a regular revenue stream from Bingo and lotto and had sufficient funds to maintain day to day expenses and invest in various projects. Unfortunately, we are down to our last 6 months of cashflow and **WE NEED YOUR HELP**, to continue to maintain amenities and to invest in our community's future.

Charitable status

After a lengthy process, we received charitable status in late 2019 which will enable the Community Council take ownership of the Hall and allow future development of the facility that was built by the people of Shanagolden, for the people of Shanagolden. We thank all those involved in the process of gaining charitable status, in particular Noelle Madigan and Joe Ryan.

Resurfacing of Car Park

The car park for many years was in desperate need of repair as it was a Health and Safety Hazard. Following lengthy discussions and proposals, a grant was secured from West Limerick Resources to refurbish the carpark together with Community Council funding with the provision of 90 car parking spaces provided and an entrance barrier. A great development for the community, users of the Park and those visiting the graveyard.

Traffic calming and upgrade to the Square

Whilst the Community Council are not responsible for its design and development, we would like to thank Limerick County Council and their engineers for the upgrade works and traffic calming measures that have brought a very welcome addition to the enhanced look of the village and much needed safety measures that makes the junction safer to use for our community.

Bingo

Our Bingo game has been running since 1962 in the Parish Hall, providing an opportunity for everyone to socialise, play and have a chance of winning the weekly jackpot of €1,810 and when arranged, our Monster Jackpot of €4,000. Covid put a stop to indoor gatherings and for a number of weeks Bingo moved outdoor to the Carpark. Again with the support of 12 volunteers who gave up their Saturday afternoons, we were able to provide Outdoor Bingo for the community with a €2,500 Jackpot.

The Captain Tim Madigan Community Park

This park continues to play a major role in the heart of our community and is used by the four local sports organisations, the local Primary School and community members. We thank our local businesses who sponsor advertising boards on the perimeter wall and because of their contributions we can continue to invest in field

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maintenance.

Defibrillators

There are 2 defibrillators in the community located at the Complex and outside the Old Library and we have 6 volunteers trained in the event of emergency, a fantastic and necessary piece of equipment and training. Many thanks to Mary and Tony Roche who recently purchased a new Defibrillator for the community.

Burial Grounds

Our burial grounds are owned and governed by Limerick County Council and maintained by the workers of the Social Employment Scheme and we acknowledge and thank them for always keeping our burial grounds in excellent condition.

UNICEF Covid fund

The pandemic has affected everyone worldwide, none more so than those in the developing world who are less fortunate than others. Shanagolden Community Council has donated to the UNICEF Covid fund to assist those in developing countries to receive a vaccine to protect the most vulnerable.

Hayes Christmas lights

Every year the Hayes family in Clontarf put on a fantastic display of Christmas lights and all donations are for two worthy charities: Milford Hospice, the Children Ark Unit in UHL and St. Gabriel's school. It is a spectacular display, well worth a visit and we encourage all in the community to visit and donate to these worthy charities.

Potential projects

In spite of the pandemic, we must look to the future and continue to plan, develop and invest in community facilities. We have ambitious plans, that will complement existing facilities & bring tremendous improvements for all in our community to enjoy.

Online Lotto

Our lotto game is fundamental to the ongoing provision of revenue for maintenance of existing community services and future developments. The majority of our lotto sales historically came from our weekly bingo game, which unfortunately has not taken place in the hall since early 2020. With that in mind and together with the need to reach a wider audience, we are in the process of introducing an online lotto to complement our existing paper based lotto for launch in February-March 2022. Your support will be greatly appreciated and for the price of a cup of coffee, you could win our Jackpot of €8,900 while at the same time supporting your community. If you're not in, you can't win!

MUGA (Multi Use Games Area)

Following the success of recent developments over the past number of years there remains further opportunities to develop Capt. Tim Madigan Park to be even more inclusive for the needs of the community. The next phase of development is to plan and install a MUGA which are designed to suit many disciplines of sport including

basketball, tennis and soccer. Playing for fun whenever you want is popular and because of its size and flexibility, a MUGA is an ideal solution offering many sports at the same time. A MUGA would include those in the community that may not participate in field sports, particularly teenagers and to provide an amenity for them to enjoy. Equally, all local sports clubs would be able to use the facility for training, particularly during the winter months and thus protecting the playing surface of the grass pitches. This development (that may cost up to €195k) is only dependent on a successful planning application, receipt of grant funding and significant fundraising support, which all needs to be meticulously planned to ensure value for money and meeting the needs of the community.

Upgrade of Walkway

Since its development in 2014 our walkway has been a positive development in Captain Tim Madigan Park. It needs refurbishment and with your support, we hope to upgrade the walkway in the coming months.

Community Website

As a community we have so much to offer and a proud heritage that should always be remembered. We plan to build a community website that will promote Shanagolden and be a reference point for both locals and those no longer in the community. It will contain information on our rich history, images past and present and many useful links that will promote and showcase our community. If anyone has any ideas or information for content, please contact a member of the council.

Refurbishment of Graveyard Tower ruin

Within our community graveyard we have the historic tower, originally built in the 19th century. It is currently unsafe and an eye sore. It is hoped that in 2022, the ground floor of the tower will be refurbished and made safe by Limerick County Council and Shanagolden Community Council will assist where possible.

Refurbishment of the Parish Hall

The Parish hall is synonymous with our heritage, community spirit and volunteerism. Many a great night have been had from the days of the dance halls and show bands, to our 45 card drives and Bingo and a fantastic amenity to have for the community. Unfortunately, the hall is showing signs of wear and tear and a substantial renovation is required to keep it open and to utilize it for future generations. This is a medium term project and various surveys, assessments and engagement with architects, engineers and planners will be required in advance to establish what can be achieved. The initial steps and feasibility studies will commence in 2022 and we will keep you updated on progress.

As you can see, there are exciting plans to further develop our community and its facilities. Such projects can only be accomplished with the participation of volunteers, securing available grant funding (that is not guaranteed) and

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significant local fundraising and we ask for the support of everyone in the community for a number of exciting fundraising initiatives that will be planned throughout 2022-2023 to fulfil our ambitious plans that without your support, cannot proceed.

May you all enjoy a Happy Christmas
and Peaceful and Healthy 2022.



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