

Straide Community Development Group (SCDG)

AGM – Wednesday 9th August 2023

Secretary's Report

Our 2022 AGM was held on 9th August 2022. These Minutes should now be approved and signed off.

Treasurer/Senior Managing Officer will present
Annual Financial Statement (February 2022 to February 2023)
Annual Tax Return (Jan to December 2022)

We herewith confirm that all relevant documentation was filed with the Companies Registration Office (CRO) and with Revenue Online Service (ROS) as required.

The 2022-2023 Committee Members were:

Eamon McNicholas, Chair / Keith McGreal, Vice Chair
Kate O'Hara, Secretary / Myra Deacy Keenan, Vice Secretary
Mary McHugh, Treasurer / Geraldine Maloney, Vice Treasurer
Carol Redding, Senior Managing Officer
Keith McGreal, Public Relations Officer / Eamonn McNicholas, Vice PRO
Committee Members included Michael Maloney, Michael McNicholas, Jane Mulroy, Helen Bourke, Geraldine Hynes and Marion Roache.

We would also like to acknowledge all Committee Members for their invaluable contribution and support.

A number of figures make for sober reading including total spends Jan-Dec 2022 included:

WDC Loan repayments (€165/month)	1,989.60	(Loan now repaid in full as of July 2023)
Clan Credo Loan repayments (€304/month)	3,100.96	(Loan will finish in December 2023)
Insurance	2,387.20	
Electricity	1,251.08	
Gas	509.22	
Banking	206.94	

It is also worth noting for the period Jan-Dec 2022 in relation to the Community Hall itself, the total Income amounted to €18,918.86 and total Expenditure amounted to €21,864.68 leaving a shortfall of -€2,945.82. It is evident we are not yet "breaking even" or that the Community Hall is not yet self sustainable or self-financing (*Handout available of breakdown on figures*).

As a Committee we are relieved and grateful that we have managed to keep our finances in order during what continues to be a challenging time and we were very fortunate to be able to ensure we met all of our obligations on the loan repayments, utility bills, insurance cover etc. This was achieved through successful fundraising events including the Bardic Quiz (Nov 2022), the Straide Santa Stopover (December 2022) and Straide Mr & Mrs (April 2023) with the generous support of our Local Business Community and the general public. The Clothes Bank also provides a small steady income stream along with the various Hall rentals.

All income is used for the ongoing upkeep of the Community Hall therefore we utilise Grant Applications and Funding Opportunities to further support our endeavours. These Applications take up a significant amount of time for Committee Members with a mix of success and disappointment. We were delighted with a €10,482 Pobal Grant under the Community Centres Investment Fund which allowed us to purchase an additional 60 chairs, a chair trolley, cooker, dishwasher, dehumidifier, projector and screen and carry out some small Hall maintenance works that were required. We also received a small €200 Grant under the Pobal Energy Support Scheme in 2023.

No success under the General Municipal Funding Allocation or an application we made to the Ireland Funds this year unfortunately. Further disappointment in our €5k application to the Community Support Fund for further Hall supports which we had hoped to undertake (eg a Defibrillator, insulate the storage container, driveway maintenance, Kitchen utensils, refuse collection etc) with an award of €860 allocated. So these items will not come to fruition for the time being.

3 of our local County Councillors supported our ongoing work and the Community Hall, including Cllr. Al McDonnell €500, Cllr Ger Deere €500 and Cllr. Donna Sheridan €200.

We saw the launch of the Straide Community Development Group website.

www.straidecommunity.com which has local news, events, updates and Hall booking options and we would encourage you to logon and provide your email address so you can be contacted with the latest updates.

We held our long awaited (due to Covid restrictions) Community Day of Celebration on 5th March 2023 to launch the Straide Community Action Plan 2021-2026 and the Straide Biodiversity Plan 2021-2026. An enjoyable well supported event on the day but unfortunately very little progress has been made on actions from either of these Plans.

From the remaining funds we held from Pride of Place, we have also recently purchased the long awaited National Award Pride of Place 2019 road sign which we hope will soon be installed in the village.

Other Community activities and events included:

Christmas Social Gathering (Dec 2022) hosted by the Straide Womens Group

SCDG Community Social Night (Feb 2023)

Easy Treesie/Native Woodland Trust - Free Trees Event (March 2023)

Easter Boquets (April 2023)

An Taisce Spring Clean Litter Pick Events (April 2023)

Darkness into Light Walk/fundraiser (May 2023)

Use of the Community Hall and Hall rentals included Youth and Adult Badminton, Childrens Friday Night Soccer Club, Ballet, Yoga, Sunday Heartfulness Meditation, Straide Womens Group, Pilates, Birthday Parties, Funerals, Sports Training Events, Dance classes, Pencil and Paint Art Classes, Rinka Kids Summer Camp and some school events.

Forthcoming events in the diary will include an Autumn series of Chair Yoga classes and also Flower Arranging classes, both organised by the Straide Womens Group.

The Sensory Garden is a wonderful addition in the heart of the Village but unfortunately the Community Hall grounds continue to be an issue but no possible source of funding has been identified given the significant cost involved. And a thank you to the local volunteer who made some improvements to the driveway in his own time with his own equipment a few months back.

The SCDG Committee members continue to volunteer their time to the building including regular cleaning and tidy ups, any maintenance jobs required, arranging all rentals etc. but we as a Community need to establish a Hall Management Committee who would oversee the day to day management, running and maintenance of the building to develop and improve the services and offering it can provide in the Community.

There are so many groups not yet established in Straide but we need interested people/volunteers to spearhead those individual needs e.g. Mother & Toddler Group, Mens Shed, Active Age group and various other social, creative or sporting groups and workshops etc. that would encourage participation and reduce social isolation in our rural community. The Community Hall is a resource open and available to everyone and we would be delighted to see it in use on a daily basis.

There is then the many Priorities and objectives identified in the Community Action Plan as voted for by our Community, many of which cannot progress unless we establish working groups or people who are willing to take on and research specific projects of interest to them, (*Handout available*).

The remaining committee members of SCDG will continue no doubt to do what they can individually and collectively and will action those projects they are interested in and able to deliver but there is no question we need many more new members if we are to see significant improvements or advances in what Straide has to offer or can achieve. We would encourage you to consider participating or getting involved either as a Committee Member, Volunteer or project leader in your area of interest

Kate O'Hara
Secretary
9th August 2023