

# Clonroche Development Association Ltd

Working for the Community

March 2010

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## Community General Meeting:

- Discuss future needs of the area.
- To facilitate and exchange views and ideas.
- Venue: Clonroche Community Centre.
- 8:00, Monday 22nd March 2010.

## Progression of the Village

Clonroche Development Association Ltd, founded in 1999, are instigators of many facilities in the village.

The Millennium Park project was completed in 2000. Having purchased the site from the Dier family, with the help of many people in the community who gave their time and physical effort, the park became a flagship of village development by a community group

One of the biggest events on the Clonroche Calendar, Clonroche Vintage & Steam Rally, was inaugurated in May 2000. Bringing people to the village as far apart as Belfast and Kerry, even from the UK, the Vintage Rally is one of the biggest attractions of the year. Its fame has spread throughout Ireland and is on most Vintage enthusiast calendar

Festive Street Lighting and The Christmas Bazaar are also the responsibility of Clonroche Development Association. This lifts the community at this festive time of year and is one of very few villages in the country to embark on such a venture.

In 2000 Clonroche Development Association Ltd set up the Thrift Bank, which collects on Saturday evenings throughout the year. The Association are also sponsors of 'Meals on Wheels'.

Clonroche Development Association instigated the first community computer in Clonroche Community Centre at the beginning of the computer age. They were also sponsors of facility training, through ANCCR, of many people in the area now very conversant with computers. The Association were the promoter of the modern Kitchen facilities in Clonroche Community Centre.

Managing the FAS Community Scheme in the village, the Development group were responsible for securing its presence in Clonroche. Other areas, much smaller villages, had upward of eighteen people on schemes but Clonroche had no representation.

Lobbying by Clonroche Development Association resulted in the village acquiring two FAS workers under the auspices of the Adamstown Scheme. Within the first year, in the continuance of stronger representation, Clonroche Development Association became a founder member of ANCCR, forging a strong link with our neighbouring villages of Adamstown, Camross, Newbawn & Raheen.

Through this organisation links were forged with Partnership, which opened an office in Clonroche Community Centre, Wexford Organisation for Rural Development and Wexford Community Forum, wherein Clonroche Development Association was represented at the highest level



Clonroche, Co Wexford

## Major Improvements

Clonroche Development Association re-entered the village in the National Tidy Towns Contest in 1999. That year Clonroche was marked twenty-second **worst village** in the **twenty-six counties of Ireland**. This was an indictment of the community, the local authority, and others responsible for the presentation of the village.

In the intervening years, with continued lobbying and organisation by Clonroche Development Association and the support of the community, Clonroche was transformed. The vast amount of trophies, citations and awards displayed in Clonroche Community Centre is evident the enormous progress made over the past decade.

Looking back, the approach road at Glanbia Mill was a mud flat, footpaths were in terrible condition or non-existent in the village. Footpaths extended no further than The Villas. Street lighting was confined to the centre of the village on poles erected in the 1950's

Dedicated members and the wider community built the Millennium Park, secured footpaths and lighting on the Spout Road, instigated the John's Lane project and brought the Old Well project to fruition.

Footpaths & Street lighting were upgraded and extended to the Glanbia Mill. Footpaths & Lighting were further extended on the Spout Road and the Mud Flat at the Mill was surfaced

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# Clonroche Development Association Ltd

## A Playing Field for the Village

The biggest disappointment must be the lack of an open space or Playing Field for the village. Playing Fields are a feature of practically every village in the UK. Clonroche Development Association produced several papers on this aspect of rural and urban shortcomings. A playing field was granted to Clonroche Development Association by Wexford County Council some years ago for a sum of €5,000.

At a meeting of Clonroche Development Association, Cloughbawn Soccer Club requests they should be allowed to develop the

site. This did not proceed with the speed required and a change of Management in the Local Authority and the onslaught of a Building Boom resulted in the offer being rescinded. More must be done on this project



**Working for the Community**  
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## International Recognition

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2001 representatives of Clonroche Development Association Ltd were presented with the Silver Award by the prestigious International Nations in Bloom Organisation in a competition held in Shenzhen, People's Republic of China.

Representing the community the late Dr Ann Behan, Lorcan Dunne and David French made the thirty five-minute presentations to an international judging panel followed by a lengthy series of questions from the judges. Tom McDonald was script writing for the team at home and Mary Howlett & Mairead French were supporting the team in China .

Launched in 1997, Nations in Bloom was the world's leading awards/competition scheme based on management of the environment

The main objective of Nations in Bloom was the enhancement of the quality of life through the improvement of the environment and the creation of viable liveable communities. A further objective is the exchange of knowledge and best practice across cultural and national borders.

A Panel of International Judges, having assessed submissions from communities around the world invited the Clonroche team to take part in the Finals of Nations in Bloom 2001.

## Looking Forward

What now for Clonroche? How will Clonroche progress into the future? Is it to be a dormer village for Enniscorthy, New Ross & Wexford or should it develop its own employment structures? What is required in the village to further the social, cultural & economic discipline? What role will education play and how?

Should we be more involved with Enterprise Ireland, IDA and the County Enterprise Board to explore the possibilities for the future? Are the children of the area destined to move away or, perhaps emigrate? What do we require to mitigate against this event?

How can the social & cultural areas be advanced? What are the needs of a rural community in the early decades of the twenty-first millennium?

To attract consultation & discussion on the future needs of the area, Clonroche Development Association Ltd are facilitating a **General Meeting** of the community in **Clonroche Community Centre** on **Monday 22nd March @ 8:00 p.m**

Please attend if at all possible and put forward your thoughts and views on the present and future needs of our community and move forward together to prepare our area for the challenges that lie ahead

