

MCDA PRESS RELEASE - 'The Study of Community Infrastructural Needs in Moycullen' 30th January 2009

On Friday 30th January at 17:00 in The Forge Moycullen, **Eamon O Cuiv** Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs will launch the report 'The Study of Community Infrastructural Needs in Moycullen'. The report, commissioned by Moycullen Community Development Association (MCDA) with the generous support of Udaras na Gaeltachta, Galway County Council, and the assistance of Bus Eireann and Super Valu, presents in a single comprehensive document the views of the people of Moycullen regarding its social, sporting and cultural needs.

The survey report is available for download at www.moycullen.net/survey from 12 noon on Friday 30th January 2009. The 150 page hardcopy report is also available for purchase (10€) from the Community Office, Moycullen, tel 091 555626.

John Power Chairman of MCDA said today that *'The compiled study presents the results of the most in-depth and inclusive polling of public opinion ever undertaken in Moycullen having been circulated by hand to 1130 houses in the parish'*. He said *'The report was compiled by Diarmaid Mulcahy of SDM Consulting and co-ordinated by MCDA's Fearghal Morgan and sincere thanks must go to Diarmaid and Fearghal, along with the extended team of MCDA volunteers who facilitated them, for the many long hours of effort put into the extensive exercise of preparation, distribution, collation and finally presentation of the study results'*

The results (with a close to 55% return rate) indicate that when questioned as to the need for General Facilities in the village, a Community Centre, Youth Facilities, Playground and Playing Fields ranked in each of the top three replies, with Community Centre scoring over 44% of first preferences. When asked further as to the specific utilisation of Killarainy Woods the community responded with the following preferences; Community Centre (45% first preferences), Park (with walkways and cycleway). Sports Facilities, Playground, Playing Fields, and a Secondary School

John Power said *'These results may not come as any great surprise as I think people living in the Parish would recognise that in recent years the unprecedented expansion of Moycullen has been at a level to which the existing voluntary and community infrastructure has struggled to accommodate. The simple fact is that although the community has a long history of very active and successful sporting, social and cultural associations there has been a deficit in lands needed to develop the integrated community amenities suitable for such an expanding population'*.

In an effort to address this deficit MCDA have been working on a joint initiative with Coillte Teo. over the past eight years and in 2007 they signed an agreement which will see the transfer of circa 24 acres of Killarainy Woods land in the heart of the village to MCDA predominately under a 999 year lease (3 acres as freehold). Final documentation on the transfer is due for completion in the coming weeks.

John Power said *'this report has distinctly identifies the needs of the community. We now hope that MCDA acquiring Killarainy lands will present the catalyst needed for us to push ahead with the creation of a balanced and community focused approach to meet these needs'*.

The first development on the lands is anticipated to be a woodland walkway funded under an existing grant from Galway County Council. The development of a multi functional Community Centre will be high on the agenda and MCDA are currently visiting other community facilities and gathering the necessary expert advice to move this forward as a matter of urgency.

John Power said ‘we would like to thank Minister O Cuiv, our local representatives and Councillors for their ongoing support. We have brought this project a long way in securing lands and initiating this important study highlighting the objectives of the community. We now call on our Public Bodies to respond to the efforts of the community by making available the resources necessary to accomplish these objectives.

The data in the report summarises substantial feedback on a wide range of questions. This will be used to inform and seek support for future initiatives which any interested groups may wish to champion. All members of the community are welcome to attend MCDA meetings, generally held on the third Tuesday of each month in Arus Uilinn.

John S Power
Chairman
Forbairt Pobail Mhaigh Cuilinn Teoranta
Moycullen Community Development Association Ltd

For further details please contact:

<i>John Power</i>	<i>087 8092877</i>
<i>Diarmaid Mulcahy</i>	<i>087 2266472 (Gaeilge)</i>
<i>Fearghal Morgan</i>	<i>086 3585544</i>
<i>Peadar Mac Fhlannchada</i>	<i>087 4188050 (Gaeilge)</i>
<i>John Nolan</i>	<i>087 2436802</i>