



**RE: Public Consultation of Social Enterprise Industry:** Ballina Costume Company, Bury Street, Ballina, Co Mayo

To whom it may concern,

On behalf of Ballina Chamber of Commerce and Ballina Tourist Office we would like to express our support for Ballina Costume Company Social Enterprise Business.

Ballina Costume Company is a huge asset to the town of Ballina, not only does it contribute to and is involved in the many events organised and planned in Ballina throughout the year, it provides essential services to the many festivals in North Mayo and Ballina including; March Madness, Mayo Day, Ballina Salmon festival, Ballina Street festival, Food Fleadh Ballina, Samhain Abhainn and the Frosty Salmon Festival.

Services for Ireland's premier festivals including designing and creating the World's largest Mayo flag for Ballina Chamber of Commerce and Mayo.ie, design and production of costumes for Ballina Salmon Festival and make up design for the annual Ballina Halloween Festival - Samhain Abhainn and the Scary Woods walk in October.

Not resting on their laurels, Ballina Costume Company have also diversified into other mediums of ensuring its existence by creating a learning environment for the young people of our community, offering holiday arts and crafts camps and teaching all age groups up to 18 years of age; the creative skills of knitting, sewing and various mediums of art.

As partners in a collaborative effort operating in the Ballina area, and supporting Ballina Chamber of Commerce ethos and message that 'Ballina is a great place to Live, Work and Enjoy,' Ballina Costume Company embodies and promotes this strong message, as the company works alongside and supports many of the sporting clubs and youth organisations in Ballina and North Mayo district.

Ballina Costume Company is involved in Ballina Chamber of Commerce Shop Local initiative 'Shop Local Vouchers' and promotes the retail message of Shop Local. As well as having a strong retail offering, Ballina Costume Company attracts visitors to the town to visit its retail space and workshop, from around the county and region.

Ballina Costume Company is an essential part of the fabric of the community of Ballina, enticing consumers to Ballina town, providing additional services to the business community, supporting our youth by way of providing work placements to talented young people and ensuring the creative arts element of our festivals and events are catered for.

Ballina Chamber of Commerce and Ballina Tourist Office supports the Ballina Costume Company and its huge contribution as a social enterprise industry.

Kind Regards

Hugh Rouse

President of Ballina Chamber of Commerce

Mags Downey Martin

Manager Ballina Tourist Office