

From: The Rectory Activity Centre [REDACTED]
Sent: 14 May 2019 15:45
To: DRCD SEConsultation
Subject: Killinkere Development Association - Killinkere's Rectory

Killinkere Development Association
Beagh, Virginia, Co. Cavan

Killinkere Development Association is a community driven, non-profit organisation run by a group of local volunteers with a mission to "develop the economic, social, cultural and heritage interests of the people of the area". We were formed in 1997 and our first task was to access funding to restore and refurbish an old derelict 19th century rectory building which was converted into hostel style accommodation opening in 2003. Currently we offer catered accommodation for groups wishing to hold training/team building/retreat type activities. The project is run by volunteers supported by the local CE scheme and generally operates during the summer months with limited use during the rest of the year.

We read with interest the National Social Enterprise Policy and the following is our response to the consultation document:

We feel some form of identification as a Social Enterprise, it is totally unrecognised as a sector with lots of our own members not having any idea that our project is a social enterprise or what it means. We feel this would greatly help in attracting business and highlighting the uniqueness of social enterprise as a model.

Linking with other similar enterprises would be hugely beneficial also where we could learn from each other and solve problems together, we do not know how or where to find similar enterprises.

One of our biggest issues is people to manage the business, currently we are a panel of already busy volunteers who are stretched to manage the day to day requirements so other aspects of managing the business are neglected, such as governance, health and safety issues, compliance with standards, etc. and while CE scheme is a great help it is not sufficient to meet our needs therefore the business is only ticking along. Dedicated staff support would make a huge difference, allowing us to properly manage and grow the business.

Managing finance is extremely precarious, as we mostly operate in summer time we have a limited income and it has to go back in to dealing with repairs and maintenance so there is nothing left to properly upgrade the building and keep to an acceptable standard. For example our profit last year was approx. 12K but we had to put in a fire escape costing the same amount so nothing left for other work. Our kitchen and heating system is very outdated and we are not in a position to upgrade them. If we had support/staff and finance to help us develop and maintain the business outside of summer months it would alleviate this situation and help us reach our full potential.

Looking forward to the developments from this consultation.

Yours sincerely
Breffni Clarke
Director