



Smart Villages

Our Experience



Agenda



1. Introduction

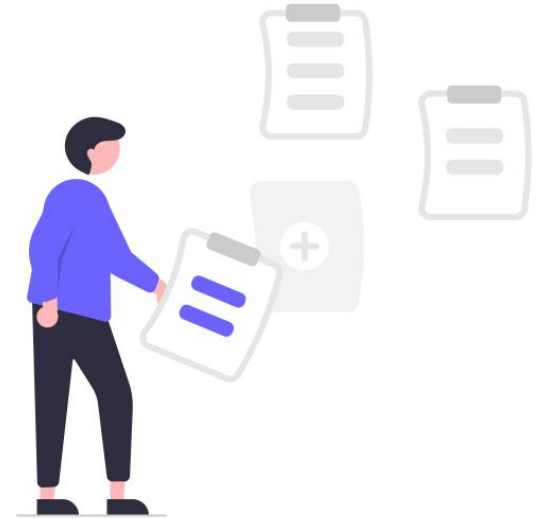
- *About eTownz*
- *Experience*

2. About Smart Village Curriculum

- *Smart Village Planning*
- *Smart Village Management*

3. Experience & Learnings

- *What was achieved*
- *What we learned*



- **Company Profile**

- Irish company ~ 10 yrs in business
- 8 employees + many partners

- **Services**

- Community Planning Dashboard
- Training, Consultancy & Support

- **Research Experience**

- UCG, Trinity, Maynooth, UL, TU Dublin

- **Key Project Experience**

- Smart Village Curriculum (Ireland)
- Smart Rural 21 & 27 (Ireland)
- Smart Village Training



Our Mission

To facilitate communities in the co-creation and implementation of their community development plans

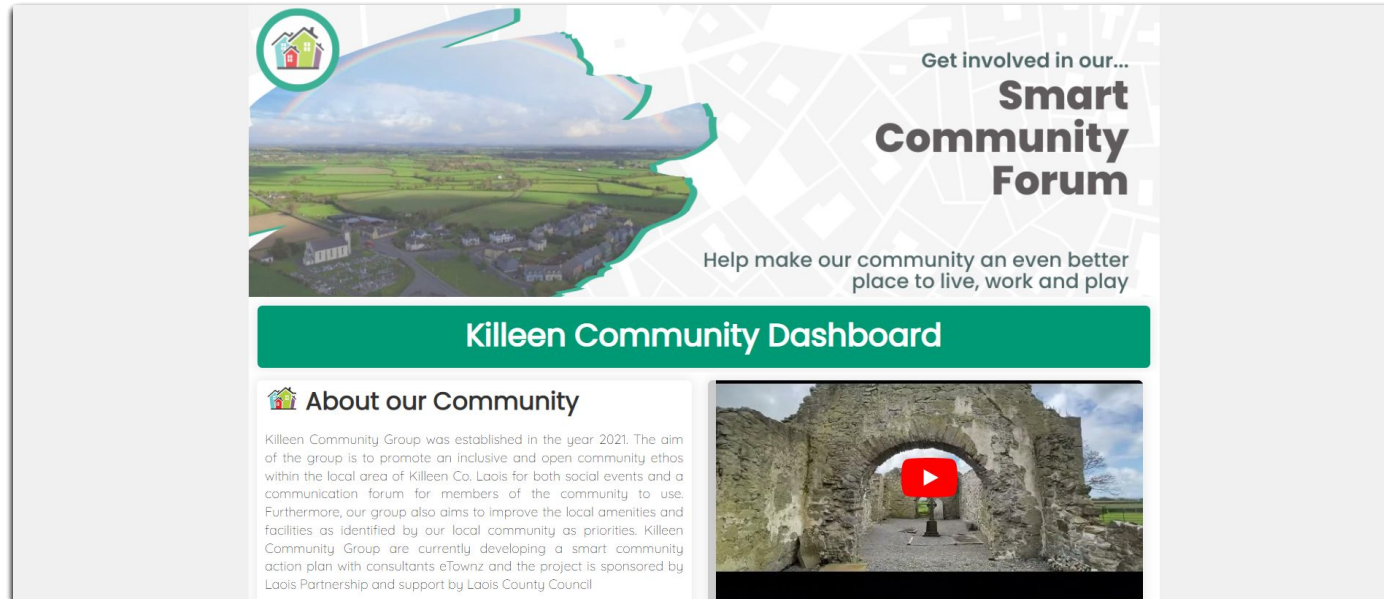
Services: Training & Support



Community Planning Dashboard



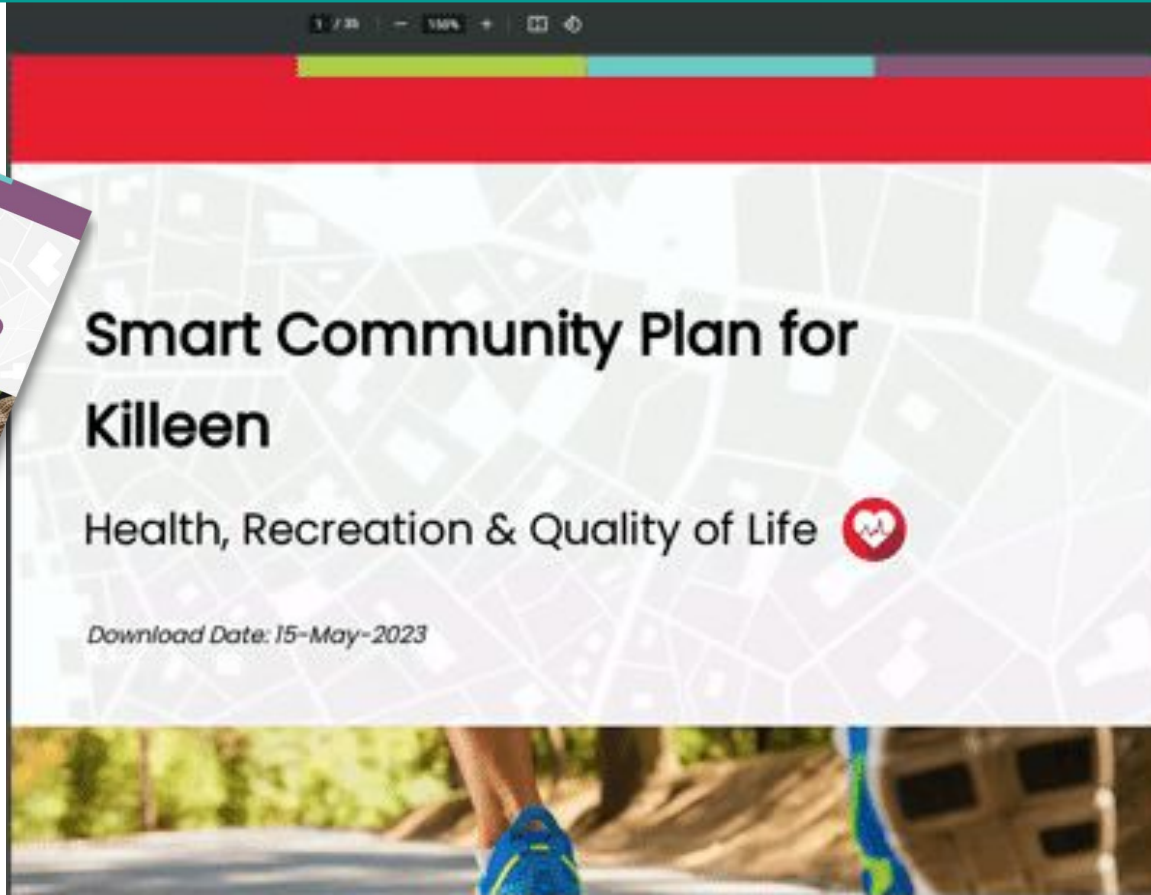
1. Compile / Update Plans
2. Manage "Action Teams"
3. Manage Volunteers
4. Manage Communications
5. Libraries of projects, funding ideas
6. Public webpage



Dynamic Community Plans



Community Plans (x4)



Research Experience



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Carlow County
Development Partnership
Comhlacht Forbartha Thoirneála Chaithealach



Clare Local Development Company
Comhlacht Forbartha Áitiúil an Chláir

Smart Rural 21 & Smart Rural 27

Irish Representative



Smart Rural 21 project is a...

- 2.5 yr research project supported by the European Commission (DG AGRI)
- Promoting and inspiring villages to develop and implement smart village strategies.
- Supports future policy interventions on smart villages



Smart Rural 27 is the follow on program to prepare EU states for policy support

- Project is coordinated by **E40 Group** in cooperation with four specialist partners **including eTownz**
- **eTownz** is the National Coordinator for Ireland and are working with 27 other national experts covering all EU countries

Smart Village Curriculum



- 6 x 90 min Modules
- Flexible format
- Deliverables:
 - Smart Village Manual
 - Smart Village Workbook
 - Smart Village Module Presentations
 - Smart Village Module Quizzes



eTownnz Smart Village Training



- ➡ **~40** Communities
- ➡ **9** LDC regions
- ➡ **7** Training partners
- ➡ **~200** Trainees
- ➡ **+150** Training sessions





About Smart Village Curriculum

1. Dynamic Plans
2. Local Management
3. Annual Program

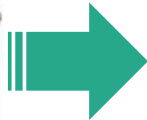


Plan "Record"



Your Community Idea Card

- 1) Type:
(circle as appropriate)
- a) Asset
 - b) Project
(Past / Present / Idea)
 - c) Stakeholder
(Clubs / Groups etc.)
 - d) Goal
- 2) Community Development Theme:
(circle as appropriate)
- a) Health, Recreation & Quality of Life
 - b) Environment & Sustainability
 - c) Business & Employment
 - d) Community Management & Planning
- 3) Title: *Local GAA Club*
- 4) Summary:
- The local club is...*



Model of our Community



Smart Village Plan – Record Types



- Asset – Have
- Asset – Want



- Stakeholder – Club / Group
- Stakeholder – Business
- Stakeholder – Public Service
- Stakeholder – Resident



- Project – Past
- Project – Present
- Project – Future
- Project – Idea



- Metrics



- Goals
- Challenges

New

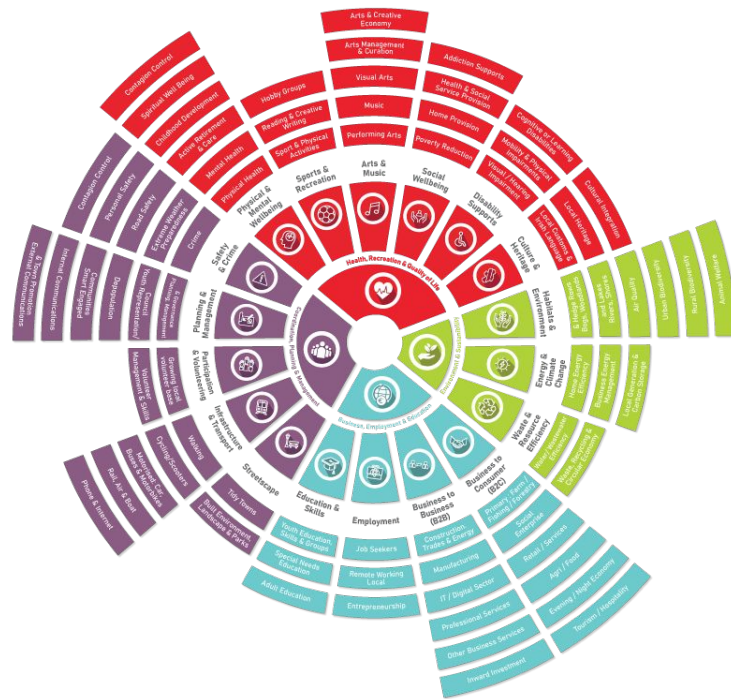


- Funding



- Resources & Tools

Structured



Tier 1 Themes



Health, Recreation & Quality of Life

Environment & Sustainability

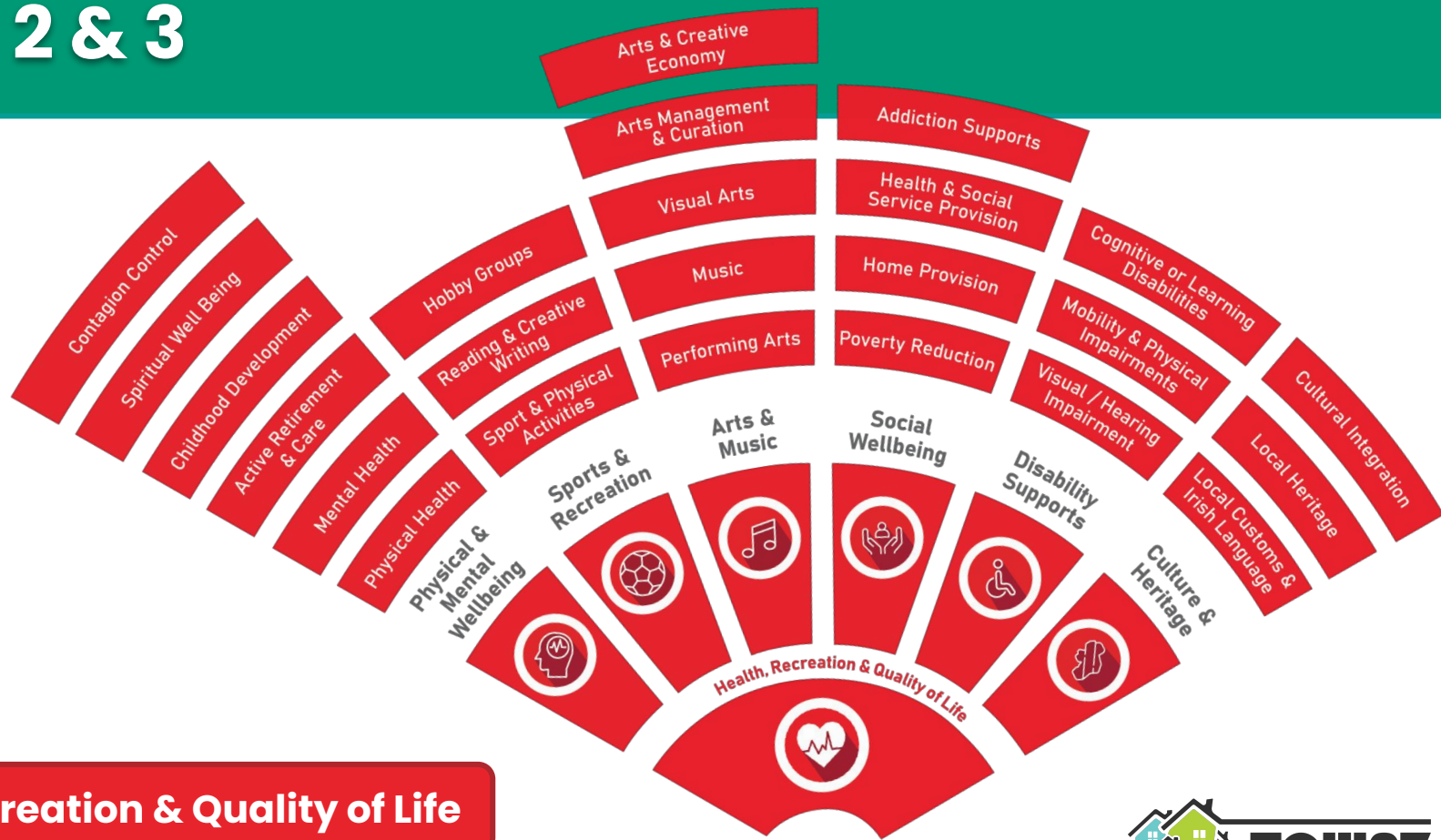
Business, Employment & Education

Coordination, Planning & Management

Tier 1 & 2 Themes



Tier 1, 2 & 3



Health, Recreation & Quality of Life

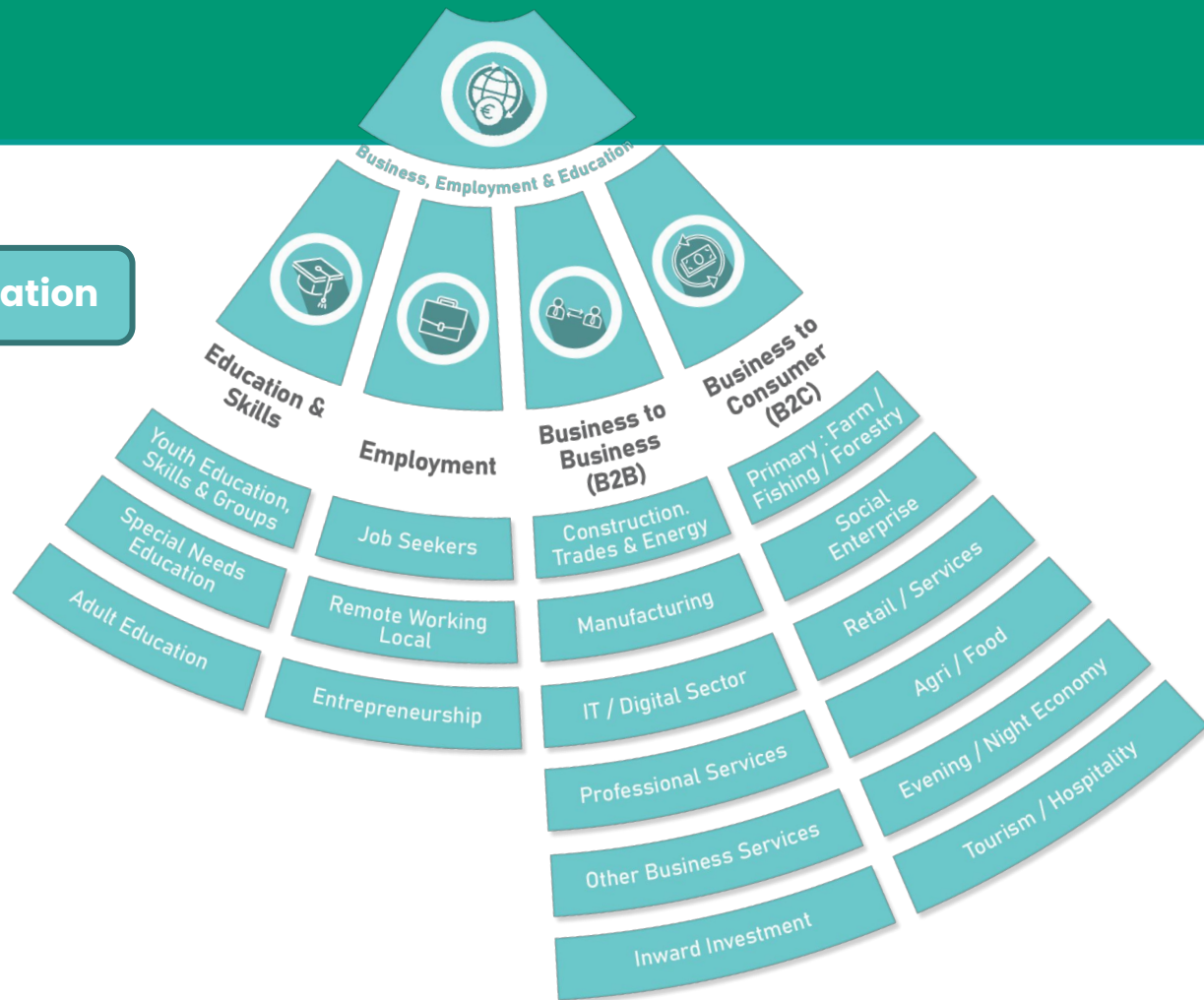
Tier 1, 2 & 3

Environment & Sustainability



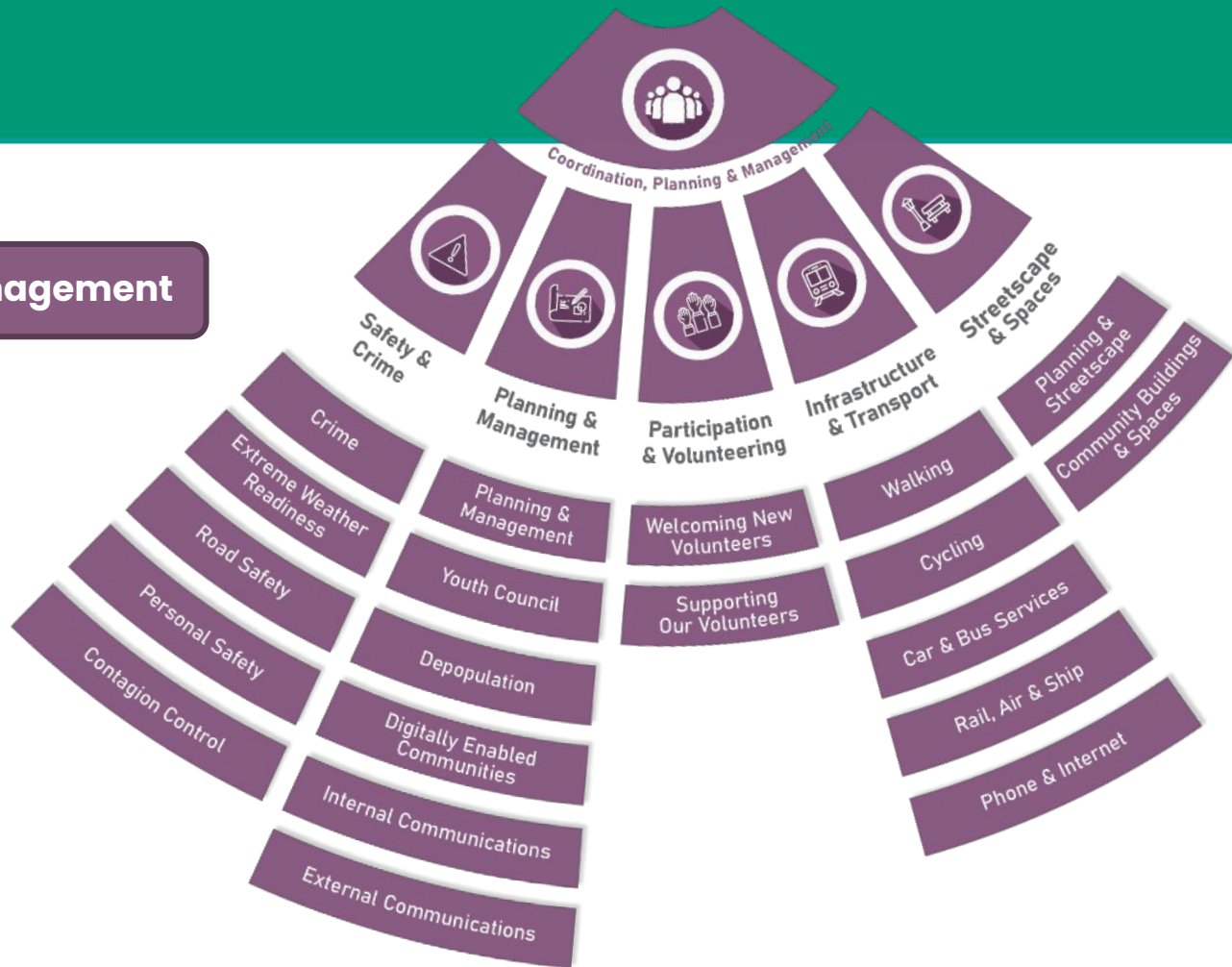
Tier 1, 2 & 3

Business, Employment & Education



Tier 1, 2 & 3

Coordination, Planning & Management



Smart Village – Local Management



T1 TOWN TEAMS



Health, Recreation
& Quality of Life



Business,
Employment &
Education



Governance,
Volunteerism &
Infrastructure



Environment &
Sustainability

T2 TOWN TEAMS



T3 TOWN TEAMS



Smart Village – Annual Program



- AGM
- Action Team Plans
- Community Signatures

10 Principles of Smart Village



1. Leveraging Local Assets
2. Effective Internal Communications
3. Effective External Communications
4. Knowledge Sharing
5. Digital Facilitation
6. Data & Feedback Metrics
7. Valuing Local Human Resources
8. Collaborative Community Planning
9. Transparent Financial Management
10. Smart Regional Collaboration



Summary of Benefits



- **Modular**, easy to understand by all stakeholders
- Plans can be **continually updated** and actively monitored
- **Stimulate interest** in local development
- Help better **understanding** of local issues & opportunities
- Promote **community participation**, collaboration & team building
- Helps make your community a **better place to live, work and play!**



What We Learned



Consistently Popular Themes



- Energy & Climate Change
- Environment & Habitats
- Active Retirement
- Youth Engagement
- Walking & Cycling
- Heritage
- Townscape (Tidy Towns)
- Sports & Recreation

Supports Needed



1. Administration Burdon
2. Communications Support
3. Volunteer Management / Support
4. Detailed Hobby/Recreation analysis
5. Metrics (System implementation)
6. Harnessing youth energy
7. Supporting zero/low cost projects
8. Community champion burnout



Future Opportunities



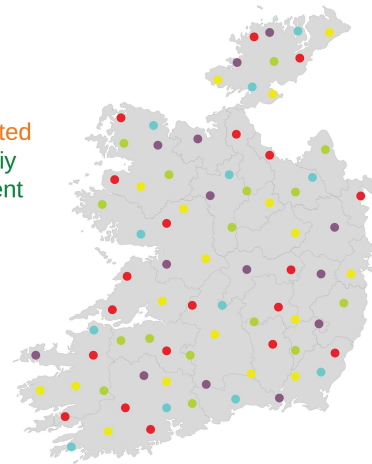
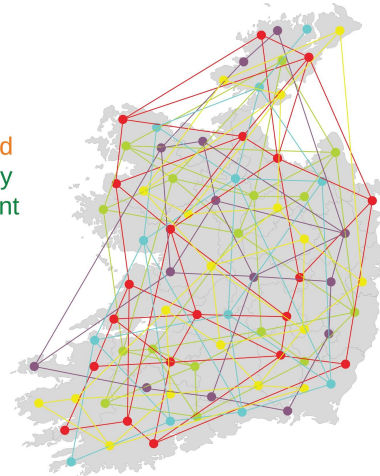
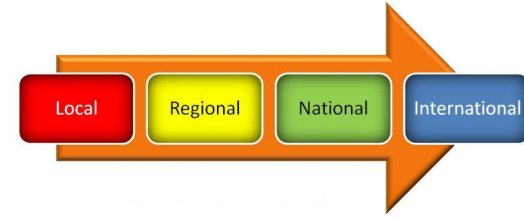
- Smart Villages
- Smart Towns
- Smart Peri-Urban
- Smart Cities



Smart Regions / Clusters



- Sharing experience and knowledge
- Forming thematic clusters & joint projects
e.g. Tourism, Biodiversity, Cycling, Transport
- Joint procurement, shared resources
e.g. PA equipment, Landscaping equipment, insurance

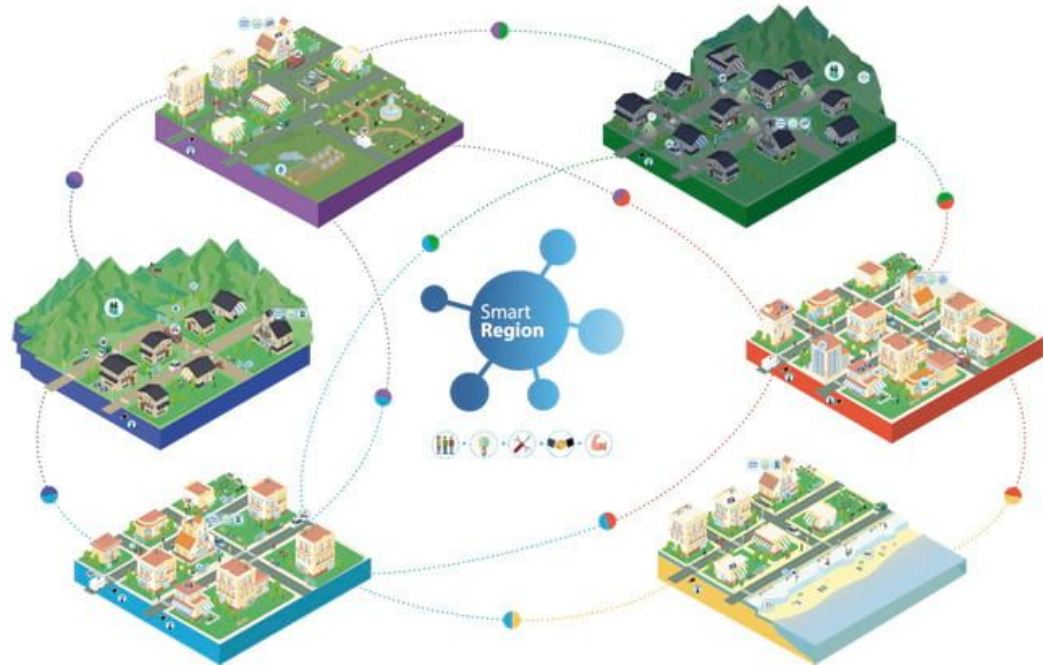


Full Sector Approach

Interoperability of planning framework.

- National plans
- County/Regional Plans
- Thematic Plans

So they fit / align with local strategies



Conclusion



Important Tools of Change



We can better meet the global challenges if **communities work in a unified approach** to setting goals, actions and benchmarks as part of a smart, **interconnected network** local, regional national & international stakeholders.



Inspiring Multi-Stakeholder Action



Personal Action + Community Action + Regional Action

Smart Village Approach...

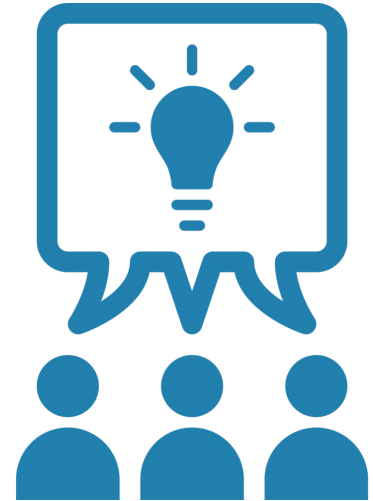
- Helps organise and encourage **individual** participation
- Helps **communities** prepare & implement local actions plan
- Helps build networks of **regional** community clusters

The End Questions?



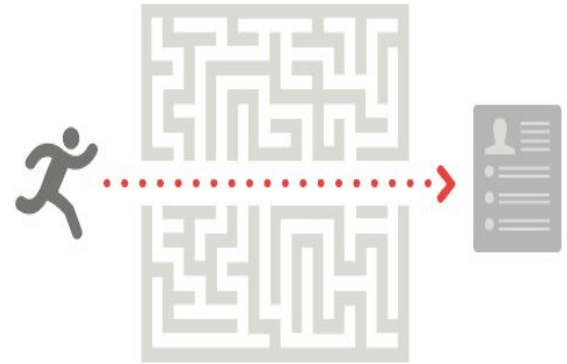
1. Shared Local Vision

Community stakeholders work in unison, with a shared vision with a comprehensive, evidence based understanding of where community is and where it wants to go.



2. Streamlined Local Administration

Recurring monotonous management tasks are streamlined, community activity is more process driven, data collection is integral & continual as an ethos for all aspects of local development.



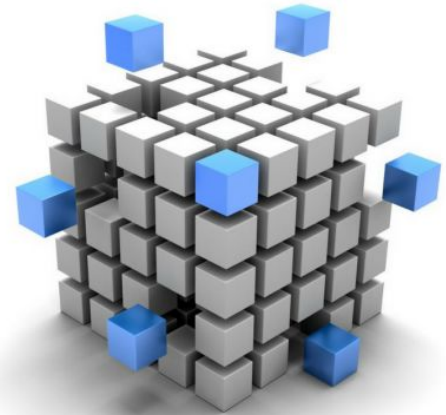
3. Smarter, Cross Community Communication

On & offline collaboration between local people, clubs, business & public service is developed & facilitated in smart ways.



4. Clear & Common Development Framework

A community development framework or methodology is agreed to by all stakeholders and this ecosystem sustains & drives impetus for a smarter approach to all aspect of local development.



5. Understanding the Past, Present & Future

The first step in the development of a smart community is to have a comprehensive understanding of “the present” including its assets, aspirations and stakeholders.



Smart Village – Annual Program



- AGM
- Action Team Plans

Step 1. Stakeholder Review

Actions

- a** Create a list of relevant local stakeholders
- b** Survey local opinions/ideas
- c** Recruit & engage local action team



Outcomes

- a** Top down understanding of local stakeholders
- b** Bottom up understanding stakeholder perspectives
- c** Expand team, increase ambitions, plan succession

Step 2. Asset Review



Step 3. Goals & Metrics Review

a Agree suitable goals & metrics

b Coordinate data collection

c Compare & analyse performance to help plan



a Helps set a clear direction for the team

b Ensure local management is evidence based

c Leverage localised data to better understand & plan

Step 4. Project Register & Plan

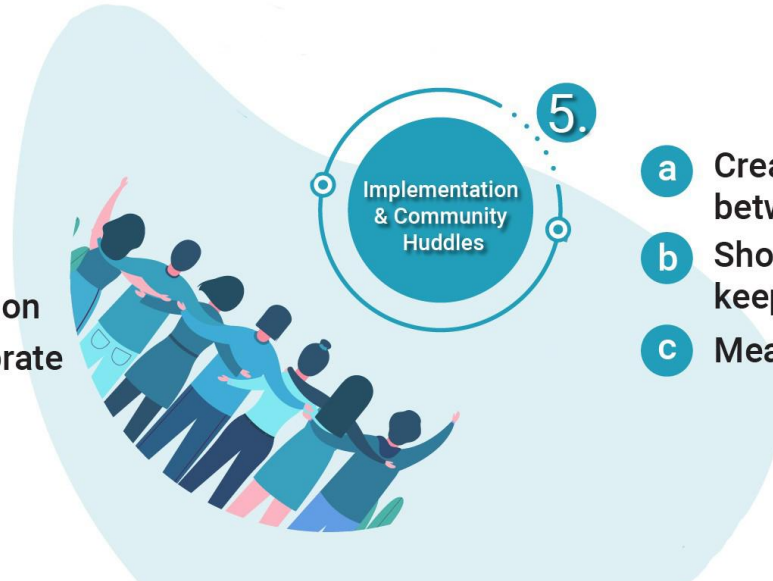
- a Add new & update existing projects in project register
- b Review completed projects, document learnings & celebrate successes
- c Discuss, agree, prioritise and schedule projects for the coming year



- a Continual cycle of new idea generation & team building
- b Teams learn from experience & pass on best practise to others
- c Agree, realistic actions plans to better coordinate

Step 5. Implementation & Community Huddles

- a** Organise an annual public "Community Huddle",
- b** Team agree huddle plans, coordination and implementation
- c** Present individual plan & celebrate



- a** Creates meaningful engagement between local Teams
- b** Short, actionable recurring meeting keep teams on track
- c** Measures success/progress