

Jonathon Codd

From: Jonathon Codd
Sent: Friday 21 July 2023 14:14
To: Jonathon Codd
Cc: Sinéad Breathnach; Susan Whelan; Dylan White; Ivan Grimes; Emma Smyth; Ovidiu Matiut; Eoin Morrissey; Kevin Moynihan; Eddie Mulligan
Subject: FW: Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme
Attachments: TVRS Minister H Humphreys.jpg

Dear Chair and members of the LCDC/LAG,

Please see press release below,

Media Release

Friday, 21st July 2023



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

Ár dTodhchaí
Tuaithe
Our Rural
Future



Our Rural Future: Minister Humphreys launches 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme

- ***€15 million Fund to revitalise and regenerate rural towns and villages***
- ***Focus on tackling vacancy and dereliction and bringing additional footfall into town centres***
- ***New option for local authorities to acquire land for town regeneration***
- ***Funding for outdoor projects such as plazas, parks, playgrounds and green spaces***
- ***Grants for towns and villages that wish to develop farmer and artisan markets***
- ***New initiative to support projects on our offshore islands***

Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, has today (Friday, 21st July) launched the **2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme** – a €15 million Fund designed to revitalise and regenerate our rural towns and villages.

The Fund will support dozens of projects nationwide with a focus on tackling vacancy and dereliction and bringing additional footfall into the centre of our towns.

Grants will be made available to support the development of outdoor projects such as plazas, parks, playgrounds and green spaces.

Under the initiative, funding will be provided to local authorities to acquire land for regeneration purposes.

Farmer and artisan markets will be supported under the scheme and there will also be funding ring-fenced for projects on our offshore island communities.

Launching the 2023 Scheme, Minister Humphreys said:

“I’m really pleased today to launch the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme which will see €15 million invested to develop dozens of projects right across the country.

“To date, the Town and Village Renewal Scheme has had a hugely positive impact in rural communities in every single county.

“It has supported the regeneration and repopulation of our towns and villages – making them better places to live, work, invest and raise a family.

“This year, there will be a particular focus on tackling issues such as vacancy and dereliction and supporting projects that will bring additional footfall into our town centres.

“I am also keen to support outdoor projects such as new plazas, parks, playgrounds and green spaces.

“And there will funding available for towns and villages that wish to develop their own farmer or artisan markets which are extremely popular amenities for families and visitors alike.

“I am also pleased to announce that funding will be ring-fenced to support projects in our island communities.”

Priority will be afforded to projects that align with the objectives of *Our Rural Future*, *Town Centre First* and *Our Living Islands* with a focus on:

- Investment in infrastructure to support town and village centre markets;
- Bringing vacant and derelict buildings back into use as multi-purpose community spaces, or to address remote working needs.
- Investing in the development of parks, green spaces and recreational amenities in town centres;
- A new option to allow local authorities to acquire plots of land to enable development of town regeneration, such as town parks, plazas etc; and
- Refurbishment of existing community centres.

The Minister continued:

“Our Rural Future’, the Government’s ambitious policy for rural development, is very much focussed on supporting the regeneration of our rural towns and villages.

“Additionally, the Town Centre First Policy is a cross-government policy that aims to tackle vacancy, combat dereliction and breathe new life into our town centres.

“This year’s Town and Village Renewal Scheme has been closely aligned with these two policies – and it will directly support our towns to be more attractive and economically and socially vibrant.

“I am strongly encouraging local authorities to work closely with communities to put forward projects that are ambitious and will make a positive difference.”

Since the launch of the Town and Village Renewal Scheme, over €154 million has been allocated to more than 1,700 projects. The Scheme has made an important contribution to supporting vibrant and sustainable communities in towns and villages throughout Ireland.

The scheme is administered through the local authorities, who are required to work closely with local communities and local businesses to develop and implement proposals.

The Scheme typically funds rural towns and villages with a population of up to 10,000 people. Larger rural towns with a population of up to 15,000 people may be eligible where the application is particularly strong and the project will have a significant impact on the town in question.

The Minister concluded:

“There are still some small towns and villages that have not yet benefited from the Scheme, so I would encourage all of these towns and villages, in particular, to consider applying for funding under the 2023 Scheme.

“This funding represents a real opportunity for communities to access investment in their own towns and villages, and continues to support the delivery of the Government’s ambition for rural Ireland as set out in ‘Our Rural Future’.

“I look forward to receiving high quality proposals from communities across rural Ireland in the coming months.”

Details of the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme can be found [here](#)

ENDS

Photo caption:

Our Rural Future: Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, has launched the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme - a €15 million Fund designed to revitalise and regenerate our rural towns and villages.

Notes to editors:

Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS)

The Town & Village Renewal Scheme (TVRS) provides funding for projects that make our towns and villages more attractive and sustainable.

The scheme is administered through the Local Authorities, who are required to work closely with local communities and local businesses to develop and implement proposals that can make a lasting

impact in revitalising rural towns and villages across the country. Applications for funding are submitted to the Department of Rural and Community Development through the Local Authorities.

Applications

The closing date for the submission of applications under the TVRS is **10th November 2023**.

Each Local Authority is invited to submit applications of varying scale under the 2023 Scheme as follows:

- | | | |
|-----|----------------|-----------------------------|
| i. | 4 applications | funding €20,000 to €250,000 |
| ii. | 1 application | funding €20,000 to €500,000 |

Where a county has an inhabited offshore island, one additional application for up to €250,000 may be submitted.

Types of activities that may be supported under the 2023 Town and Village Renewal Scheme include:

- Regeneration projects that assist in revitalising our rural towns and villages, in line with the *Town Centre First* Policy, through planned and sustainable regeneration and development projects that will drive greater economic activity and footfall, address vacancy and dereliction and ensure the re-use of heritage and other existing buildings
- There is a new option introduced under the 2023 Scheme for the acquisition of land in town centres which supports local authorities for the development of town regeneration / community focused projects
- Renovation or refurbishment to existing community centres
- Projects to support vibrant and sustainable island communities on Ireland's inhabited offshore islands.
- Projects to support the establishment of town or village centre markets
- Projects to develop town / village centre plazas, public outdoor dining spaces, parks, green spaces (including allotments and community gardens) and recreational spaces/amenities in town centres to make them vibrant hubs for community enjoyment, and to increase footfall for local businesses.
- Projects to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades (including murals) in towns and villages.
- Projects that bring vacant and derelict buildings and sites back into use as multi-purpose spaces.

- Projects that bring vacant properties in town centres back into use as Remote Working Hubs, where there is a demonstrable local need.
- Enhancement of heritage assets (e.g. local museums/tourism attractions focused on historical aspects of the area, heritage sites/buildings, etc.) located in towns and villages, including energy efficiency measures.

Full details of the scheme are available [here](#)

Our Rural Future

Our Rural Future is the whole-of-government policy for rural Ireland for the period 2021-2025. It offers a blueprint for a thriving and inclusive rural Ireland and adopts a more strategic, ambitious and holistic approach to investing in and maximising opportunities for rural areas.

Town Centre First

Town Centre First contains 33 unique actions which will give our towns the tools and resources they need to become more viable and attractive places in which to live, work, visit and run a business. Town Regeneration Officers in all relevant Local Authority areas are being funded by DRCD to drive forward Town Centre First on a local level.