

FREE

Roscommon people

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16 PAGE CONNACHT FINAL SPECIAL

NEWS, VIEWS AND INTERVIEWS WITH TOP ANALYSTS

SEE PAGES 21-36

Threat to future funding of WDC

■ Seamus Duke

There is a threat to the future of the Western Development Commission because exchequer funds, which the Commission uses to assist companies, are drying up and there is a fear that there will be no government funding available next year.

Representatives from the Western Development Commission will address the monthly meeting of Roscommon County Council on Monday 26th July to explain the situation and highlight the work that they are doing across the seven counties involved (the five Connacht counties plus Donegal and Clare).

By lobbying councillors, the Commission is hoping to exert political pressure to ensure that funding for the regional development body continues despite economic pressures.

Eight companies in county Roscommon have received a total of €2 million in funding from the WDC since it was established and there are fears that the funding could cease in 2011.

Paul Keyes, Head of Corporate Affairs at the Western Development Commission, speaking to Roscommon People on Wednesday afternoon said, "We made a presentation to Mayo County Council this week and we

are fearful that exchequer funding will dry up in 2011. We are going to do the same to members of Roscommon County Council at the next monthly meeting on the 26th July.

"There are other funds coming back into the WDC from investments that we have already made and that funding will not be affected. But we are worried about funding from central government. That is why we are going to the various county council meetings to explain the work we are doing."

The Western Development Commission was established in 1998 and was set up in the seven

counties to provide support, financial and otherwise, for companies giving employment within the region that required finance. It was set up following public pressure to tackle a major population decline in the western region.

There are 12 members on the Western Development Commission, chosen by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht affairs. The Commission has its headquarters in Ballaghaderreen, in the former Monica Duff's premises, where 15 people are employed full time, making the Commission a valuable addition to the economic life of the town.

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MANAGING THE MENOPAUSE

A talk by: Jack Kinsella, Health Expert and Elaine O'Shaughnessy, Nutritionist at 6pm on Monday July 19th at

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