

'We'll help community groups'

Lions Club's new initiative

Roscommon Lions Club has launched a new initiative which will see the Club fund local voluntary groups for small-scale projects. Announcing details of the initiative in Gleeson's Townhouse, Roscommon last week, Roscommon Lions Club President Mr. Gerry Finn said that the organisation is anxious to support the work of voluntary community clubs in these difficult times.

Mr. Finn invited applications for funding (for small-scale projects) from groups and organisations in the community.

The Lions Club President explained that in recent years the Club's energies have primarily been devoted to two major projects. "We brought the Roscommon town youth centre project to fruition, and that involved investment of about €250,000; meanwhile, over €100,000

has gone into our suicide awareness & prevention campaign. Now we in Roscommon Lions Club want to concentrate on supporting the community in ways which are synonymous with the traditional ethos of Lions Clubs, and one such way is to revert to providing financial support for small-scale projects in the community."

Mr. Finn said that the Lions Club initiative is a response to a need in the wider community which has been identified by club members. "We all know how difficult it is to raise funds at this time, and yet there is so much worthy work being done by voluntary organisations. We are aware, for example, that many clubs who applied for Leader funding were having difficulty in trying to provide matching funds (if and when their application was approved). That

is one way we can help. So I would encourage community groups to contact us and we will see if we can help provide those matching funds."

Ms. Martina Earley of Roscommon Integrated Development Company praised the Roscommon Lions Club initiative and spoke of the RIDC's work with community groups.

Mr. Finn said that Roscommon Lions Club has "initially" set up a €10,000 fund. Roscommon Lions Club is now inviting expressions of interest from local groups who would like to access some of this funding.

Organisations and proposed projects/activities must be located in Roscommon town and/or its environs. Applications must come from community organisations with a charitable/not for profit status and/or have a 'public good' ethos.

To find out more and/or obtain an application form, contact Mr. Gerry Finn (President) or any Roscommon Lions Club member. Email address: roscommonlionsclub@gmail.com



Gerry Finn, President, Roscommon Lions Club with Martina Earley and Noel Connolly of Roscommon Integrated Development Company at the launch of Roscommon Lions Club Community Grant Scheme in Gleeson's on Wednesday evening last. Pic: Mick McCormack.



Roscommon Lions Club present a cheque to Roscommon Active Age Group, which funds the groups transport at the launch of Roscommon Lions Club Community Grant Scheme in Gleeson's on Wednesday evening last. Pic: Mick McCormack.

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