

• Do you have an under utilised site or building?

- Do you have an interest in the development of the food sector in County Roscommon?



Roscommon Integrated Development Company (RIDC), in recognition of the potential of the local food sector, has commissioned Momentum Consulting to conduct a feasibility study/ business plan into the development of **Roscommon Food Showcase** which will combine of a number of key supports for the local food sector including:-

- A time-share production & training kitchen
- The provision of quality food sector training facility for the niche food production sector
- An attractive presentation space for quality artisan niche food and craft producers in Co. Roscommon

RIDC are calling on interested parties to assist us **identify a suitable project promoter(s) with a suitable site or under utilised workspace/infrastructure**. RIDC wish to appoint a private or community operator to **lead the project and assume ownership of the development**. An important consideration of the evaluation process will be the consideration of potential displacement relating to our neighbouring county food centres, therefore geographical location will be a high marking scoring criteria. The chosen operator will apply to RIDC for funding to develop the facility (with the assistance of the feasibility study) on the basis of private promoter funding of 50% of eligible costs or community funding of 75% of eligible costs.

To express your interest please contact Orla Casey 086 2606304 or orla@momentumconsulting.ie for an information pack & application form.

Exciting new project for the food sector

Roscommon Integrated Development Company (RIDC), in recognition of the potential of the local food sector, has commissioned Momentum Consulting to conduct a feasibility study/ business plan into the development of Roscommon Food Showcase which will combine of a number of key supports for the local food sector including: a time-share production and training kitchen; the provision of quality food sector training facility for the niche food production sector and an attractive presentation space for quality artisan niche food (and craft producers) in Co. Roscommon.

The feasibility study involves a number of elements – establishing demand for a food dedicated production facility, the potential funding package and the identification of a project promoter(s) with a suitable site or under utilised workspace/infrastructure.

RIDC wish to appoint a private or community operator to lead the project and assume ownership of the development. It is important to note that this competitive call and the chosen operator will apply to RIDC for funding to develop the facility (with the assistance of the feasibility study) on the basis of private promoter funding of 50 percent of eligible costs or community funding of 75 percent of eligible costs. An important consideration of the evaluation process will be the consideration of potential displacement relating to our neighbouring county food centres, therefore geographical location will be a high marking scoring criteria.

There are many innovative facets to this project. In addition to strengthening and growing the food sector in

Co. Roscommon it brings a number of other benefits. A time-share community production and training kitchen acts as an important first step for emerging food companies. It is a unique way to provide aspiring food entrepreneurs with time-share access to production facilities and core equipment and the opportunity to start and expand specialty food and catering businesses without the prohibitive cost of building their own commercial kitchen.

It will also create a vibrant new gastro tourism product in the region building on the strong theme of food culture and in the cookery demonstration area, local artisan producers could give classes and demonstrations on cooking with their produce etc.

The project will also create greater community awareness and pride in Roscommon food products. In addition to direct sales arising from the product showcase, the project will provide a web-based order fulfilment service for its suppliers through box schemes of meat, vegetables and Roscommon Food hampers.

If additional space is available on the selected site a community allotment /market garden area would be a very attractive feature.

RIDC is keen to identify and work closely with a host organisation in the development of this exciting project. To express your interest to be that host and complete a site audit questionnaire, please do not hesitate to contact Momentum Consulting by calling (071) 96 23500 or emailing orla@momentumconsulting.ie for an information pack.

Union seeks commitments on hospital posts

IMPACT trade union has written to the HSE's interim Regional Director of Operations (RDO), John Hennessy, seeking commitments on a wide range of posts to be filled in Portiuncula and Roscommon Hospitals.

The union has sought the commitments following a verbal commitment by the Minister for Health, Mary Harney, to fill two vacant consultant posts in Portiuncula Hospital. The union has campaigned for several months against what it believes to be attempts by the HSE to downgrade the Ballinasloe Hospital.

The commitment by the Minister was confirmed by local TD Michael Kitt. The letter sent by IMPACT official Padraig Mulligan to Mr. Hennessy seeks a 'clear undertaking' to provide an update on posts in the two Hospitals including the two unfilled consultant posts in Portiuncula.

It also seeks commitments on a range of other posts to be filled, including: Microbiologists sessions. "We are seeking a date when we can expect the new microbiologists to begin working a proportion of their time in Portiuncula."

In relation to Emergency Dept (ED) positions, the letter requests an "update in relation to the five unfilled Junior Doctor posts as well as your position on Senior House Doctor post that would ease the filling of the aforementioned posts as supervision would be available on nights. As you know, failure to secure these posts will jeopardise ED functions provided at Portiuncula."

The letter also seeks a date for the



filling of Risk Manager Post; a date for the freedom of information Manager post; a date for the filling of 2 Physiotherapists posts; a date for the filling of Radiology Manager post.

In relation to Roscommon Hospital, Mr Mulligan sought information on a range of issues including the following. In relation to the Physiotherapy dept, the letter states, "As you are aware, Roscommon has 2.6 whole time equivalents in this area as a result of a retirement and a transfer to Galway. As you know, without the filling of two vacant physiotherapy posts, the viability of the hospital will be in jeopardy."

On the subject of the Theatre area, the letter states, "Without the filling of the two nursing positions and one caretaker – the efficient running of this service cannot take place."

Mr. Mulligan stated that the union is seeking an urgent update in relation to all of these posts, "The community and our members begin to realise that the challenges of licensing these services by HIQA (Health Information Quality Authority) in 2011 will not be possible and in fact will deem them unsafe without these posts being filled."



Sr. Moya Hegarty OSU, Sligo, Kevin McBrien, Roscommon, Bishop Christopher Jones, Elphin and Mary McBrien, Roscommon, during the launch of 'Taking our Hearts to the Lord: Lenten Resource for Scripture Sharing Groups' in Roscommon earlier this year.

Evaluation of scripture sharing groups

Diocesan co-ordinators from six dioceses, including Elphin, that participated in a scripture sharing resource, recently met with representatives of the Irish National Commission for Liturgy to review the booklets and CDs and to share feedback on how they were received and utilised in the participating dioceses.

The sharing indicated that the resource had been well received and appreciated in many parishes and used by more than 1,750 people. In particular many participants welcomed the

introduction of the resource provided to Vespers, i.e. the Evening Prayer of the Church, and to praying with the psalms. Questions were also raised around how best to respond to requests for further education in this form of prayer and whether such prayer, has, as the Church recommends, a place in the liturgical life of parish communities.

The meeting concluded by recommending that a similar resource be produced for the forthcoming Advent season. Some dioceses are also to

initiate discussion on the integration of the Liturgy of the Hours into the liturgical life of parishes that no longer have or are unlikely to have daily Mass in the near future.

After the meeting, Project Co-ordinator and Director of Pastoral Development in the Elphin Diocese, Justin Harkin, spoke of the steady evolution of this venture. "This is a very concrete example of increased co-operation between bishops and other diocesan personnel in the service of prayer and parish. Like initiatives of oth-

er dioceses and ecclesial movements it is responding to a felt need for prayer resources and education in prayer. Tackling today's challenges, it often easier, when prayer has been a nourishing and encouraging experience. Such was the experience of many but not all participants. As co-ordinators we look forward to seeing where the Holy Spirit takes this."

Readers interested in acquiring more information on the proposed Advent resource, are encouraged to contact Justin Harkin (Elphin).