



FORUM CONNEMARA CLG

(A company not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Annual Report

Financial year ended 31st December 2021

Prepared by:

Candor Chartered Accountants Limited
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Audit Firm
Harris House
IDA Business Park
Tuam Road
Galway

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

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DIRECTORS AND OTHER INFORMATION

Directors – Non-executive

Mary Gannon
Mary Kirby
Thomas Welby (Jnr)
Terry Keenan
Seamus Walsh
Kevin Heanue
Eileen Mannion
Sean Heanue
Brendan Joyce
Mairead Ní Fhatharta
Catherine Keogh
Laurence O'Connor (resigned 28/7/2021)
Eamonn Nee
Gráinne O'Byrne
Michéal O'Clochartaigh
Carmel Laffey
Jean Mullan
Niall Walsh (appointed 28th July 2021)
Liam Gavin (appointed 28th July 2021)
Leo Hallissey (resigned 28th July 2021)

Company secretary

Mary Gannon

Financial Administrator

Melissa Wallace

Chief Executive

Karen Mannion

Registered office

Ellis Hall
Letterfrack
Co. Galway

Charity number

20024925

Company number

160282

Revenue charity number

CHY 9925

Auditors

Candor Chartered Accountants Limited
Harris House
IDA Business Park
Tuam Road
Galway

Bankers

Bank of Ireland
Main Street
Clifden
Co. Galway

Solicitors

D.M. O'Connor & Co. Solicitors
Cross Street Lower
Galway

HR Advisor

Michael Cusack
Clarecastle
Co. Clare

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

I would like to welcome you all to the 2021 AGM of Forum Connemara CLG which is the first we have had since Covid where all can attend in person and which this year is later than usual in September due to waiting for the completed audited accounts.

The past year's elections saw further changes to the Board, I welcome Niall Walsh from Oughterard and say thank you to Kevin O'Connor for his contribution over the last three years. We also welcome back Mary Kirby who is a valued member of our Finance committee and thank her for again being willing to assist us. We also see the retirement of a long-standing member of the Board, Leo Hallissey, who has been synonymous with community development in the area for many a year. He has given a huge amount of time and energy to the company both as a member of the Board and the management committee. Leo was the driving force behind our recent musical instruments Leader project, which I am confident will have a very positive and beneficial effect on young musicians for years to come. Molaim an obair a ta deanta aige. We welcome Liam Gavin as the new environment representative.

Our Leader manager, Joe Conaty, has moved to other employment nearer home, and we wish him well in his new role. His huge in-depth knowledge of the Leader programme will be missed, he worked long hours and many weekends to get applications sorted and even cancelled a holiday on one occasion that I know of, to get the work done. His work ethic was exemplarily, and he was always available to take a call to clarify the myriad of regulations around Leader. I welcome the fact the current Leader programme has 85% of its budget allocated and commend the work of all involved and I am confident that the budget will be spent within the allotted timeframe.

Tommy Nee has been appointed to the Leader team. We were successful in getting and starting a Family Carers Programme and we welcome Lisa Keane as Family Carers project officer. We were successful in getting Community Services Programme (CSP) funding to get a Community and Meals on Wheels Café and will have that up and running in the new year. The Hymany Way in East Galway was approved and added to the Rural Recreation Programme. The work of Brendan O Malley in managing all these walks across the whole county is commendable. Minister McConalogue launched the EIP programme in October 2021 in Maam. We were successful in applying for the EIP Farmers Health and Safety Programme scheduled to begin January 2022. In November 2021 we held a joint rural Development Conference with Galway Rural Development entitled @Our Galway Rural Future).

We have contracted Kate Burns to not only review our Leader programme but to look at the totality of the organisation and to make recommendations on how best we can achieve our aims and objectives and that the organisation can evolve to meet the future needs of our community. I would expect this report in early 2022.

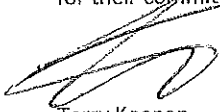
The CEOs report outlines in detail all the work of Forum throughout the year, and I do not propose to duplicate it here, other than to say that under the stewardship of our CEO Karen the organisation is building and going forward with a workforce all pulling together. The management committee and the CEO are continuing to look at other programmes to maximise the security of the company. There is no doubt the company is vulnerable to changes in programmes, and it is clearly evident that this lack of core funding for Local Development Companies needs addressing. While the companies are expected to deliver many and varied Government programmes there is no security of employment for our employees.

During the past year, I have represented Forum on the Galway County LCDC. I represent the west region on the Board of ILDN and represent Ireland on the European Leader Association for Rural Development, ELARD where currently I am a member of the executive council. I have attended conferences, mainly on zoom, over the year on rural issues, community-led local development, and numerous meetings to further the aims and objectives of Forum and the Local Development Companies

For some time now we are actively looking at providing new suitable accommodation for all our staff which is wheelchair accessible and meets the needs of the company going forward and we hope to soon have positive outcome. I would like to thank the members of the Evaluation Committee of Forum for putting in many hours of voluntary work in scrutinizing the Leader applications over the year which helps the Board enormously in deciding on projects.

CHAIRPERSONS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Finally, I would like to thank the members of the Board for their work over the year and particularly those on sub-committees for their commitment to Forum. I believe we can face the challenges before us and deliver to our community in a positive way.



Terry Keenan

Chair

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

The directors present their report and the audited financial statements of FORUM Connemara CLG for the year ended 31st December 2021.

Strategic Vision

'FORUM Connemara CLG will help northwest Connemara to realise its full potential, providing opportunities for all to grow and participate in the economic, social, and civic life of the region and use its unique strengths and attributes to develop the local economy, ensure a 'living landscape' with a strong and inclusive community.'

Fís Straitéiseach

'Aithníodh Conamara na féidreachtáí atá aici, chun deiseanna a sholáthar do chách a bheith páirteach i saol eacnamaíocht, sóisialta agus sibhialta an réigiúin agus leas a bhaint as na láidreachtáí agus a chuid tréithe eisceachtúil chun eacnamaíocht áitiúil a fhorbairt agus 'tírdheach beo' a chinntiú le pobal bríomhar chuimsitheach.'

Objectives

The main object for which the Company is established is to promote, support, assist and engage in

- (a) social development,
- (b) enterprise development to facilitate rural and urban regeneration
- (c) community development and
- (d) equality, designed to benefit and promote the welfare of local communities or to deal with the causes and consequences of social, economic and cultural disadvantage of poverty.

Subsidiary Objects:

FORUM Connemara CLG has the following subsidiary objects:

- To promote social inclusion through community initiatives and through inputting as required in policy formation at the local and national levels
- To promote economic development and to increase employment and enterprise through the provision of training and to input as required into policy formation at the local and national levels
- To promote wider participation in voluntary activity and to promote the networking of community and voluntary organisations
- To provide local community rural development and or local community urban development through community initiatives for social, economic and cultural renewal
- To provide support through initiatives involving the allocation of grant monies
- To have regard to the strategic objectives as set out in the National Rural Development Programme and such other extending or replacing programmes as may from time to time be adopted by the Government of Ireland
- To work as a non-exclusive development agency in conjunction and liaison with State Agencies, structure and local authorities in seeking to achieve its objectives
- To adopt a cohesive approach with other national and local agencies to ensure an integrated approach to service delivery at local level
- To support the development of resource-based activities including enterprise, marine, and natural resources, inland waterways, tourism, agriculture, and forestry
- To promote equality of opportunity in the assessment of applications for aid
- To promote, support and engage in support of the development of infrastructure

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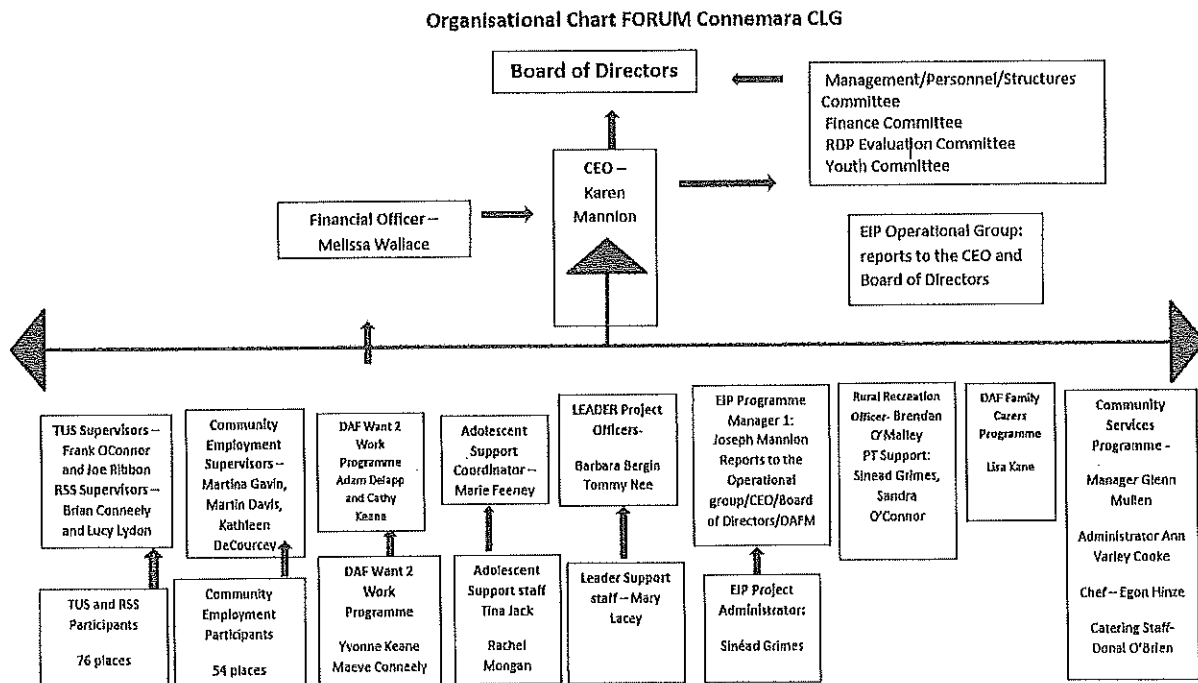
DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Legal status and organisational structure

FORUM Connemara is one of 49 local development companies, often referred to as a partnership company, covering all geographic areas of the country. It is comprised of voluntary, community and statutory bodies and is based in north west Connemara, with the objective of putting in place strategies and programmes to tackle the problem of rural decline and peripherality. FORUM Connemara has been in operation for over 32 years.

The organisational structure of FORUM is balanced and has the necessary public, private and voluntary representation with no sector being greater than 49%. FORUM has an exemplary track record of managing public funding and delivering national and EU programmes, the veracity of which has been, and will continue to be, exuded by the FORUM approach to development and organisational ethos. This organisational experience extends over the last 32 years with embedded practise of what is currently termed community-led local development, being multi sectoral, participative, territorially based, and cooperative in nature.

The following is the organisaional chart at the end of 2021:



FORUM has also demonstrated robust and transparent governance arrangements that have been in place from the inception of the organisation, operating and distributing resources in a fair and equitable manner. FORUM has a dedicated and committed management, administrative and staffing structure in place with the relevant competencies, expertise and experience to ensure the efficient and effective delivery of programmes & projects. FORUM has clear decision making processes in place including robust financial controls and project selection procedures, historically proven to be of the utmost probity through various independent national and EU level audits and inspections.

The organisation is a registered charity, a company limited by guarantee without a share capital and was incorporated in 1990. The charity trades under the name FORUM Connemara CLG. The objectives of the company are charitable in nature with established charitable status. The charity has been granted charitable tax status under Sections 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Act 1997, Charity No CHY 9925 and is registered with the Charities Regulator Authority.

The charity was established under a constitution which established the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its constitution and managed by a board of directors. All income is applied solely towards the promotion of the charitable objectives of the company.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' Issued by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities', which has replaced previous general accounting practice ('GAAP') used in Ireland and the UK. Charities SORP (FRS 102) is not currently obligatory under the Charities Act, 2009. The Charity Commission for England and Wales is recognised by the UK Accounting Standards Board (ASB) as the appropriate body to issue SORPs for the charity sector in the UK, and the Charities SORP (FRS 102) has therefore been recognised as best practice for financial reporting by charities in Ireland.

The company has a robust financial procedures system that ensures:

- Detailed financial statements are presented to the Board of directors on a monthly basis
- Meetings of the finance & audit sub-committee
- Clear and separate systems for the ordering, approval and processing of orders and payments
- Adherence to public procurement policy (in line with Department and EU regulations)
- Adherence to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)
- Audited accounts are produced annually. FORUM is monitored and inspected by a number of different Government Depts.

The day to day management of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2021 was directed by the following key management personnel:

Karen Mannion, Chief Executive Officer & LEADER manager

Melissa Wallace, Financial Officer

Details of the external advisors engaged by the charity are listed on page 3.

The charity has a total of 18 non-executive directors drawn from diverse backgrounds who bring to board deliberations their significant life experience, business and decision-making skills achieved in their respective fields.

The members of the FORUM Board of Directors represent community and voluntary sector, statutory organisations, Local Authority and the four pillars – Trade Unions, Farming, Business and Environmental sectors and bring a wide range of knowledge and expertise to the organisation in the area of community / rural development, project management, delivery of social inclusion initiatives and leveraging of match funding. The current members of the Board of FORUM, as well as the CEO and project staff, have experience in the delivery and management of the previous LEADER Programme and have a clear understanding of the mechanisms involved.

The community and voluntary representatives have experience working in their own communities, on a voluntary basis and have in depth knowledge and understanding of local need. The Local Authority representatives, as local councillors, are experienced in working with individuals and community organisations and have experience of the local authority structures and mechanisms. The trade union, environmental and farming representatives bring specialist expertise of their respective sectors to the Board and operate at both a local and regional level. The varied and wide ranging experience and knowledge of the constituent members of the Board of FORUM has and will continue to ensure the effective delivery of a wide range of programmes to combat social exclusion, rural decline and poverty in Connemara.

Board of Directors

FORUM Connemara CLG has a Board of Directors as set out in the guidelines of our constitution document.

DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Directors and company secretary

The directors who served throughout the year, except as noted, were as follows:

Terry Keenan (Chair)
Mary Gannon (Company secretary)
Thomas Welby
Seamus Walsh
Kevin Heanue
Sean Heanue
Mairead Ní Fhatharta
Mary Kirby
Gráinne O'Byrne
Carmel Laffey
Jean Mullan
Eileen Mannion
Brendan Joyce
Catherine Keogh
Eamonn Nee
Michael Cloherty
Liam Gavin (appointed 28th July 2021)
Niall Walsh (appointed 28th July 2021)
Leo Hallissey (resigned 28th July 2021)
Laurence O'Connor (resigned 28th July 2021)

The secretary who served during the year was: Mary Gannon

There were no contracts in relation to the business of FORUM Connemara CLG in which the directors had any interest, as defined in the Companies Act, 2014.

The Board has several appropriate committees in place. They include: a management committee, finance and audit committee, EIP operational group, Adolescent Support Programme advisory committee, Ability steering committee, LEADER evaluation committee.

Sub-committee name	The main purpose of each sub-committee	Scheduled meetings occur:
Financial Sub Committee	Oversee financial spending and budgets	Quarterly
Management Committee	Oversee strategy and direction for FORUM inc. HR	Monthly
EIP Operational Group	Oversee strategy and direction for EIP	Quarterly
Youth Committee	Oversee strategy and direction for youth program	Every 6 months
RDP Evaluation Committee	Evaluate funding applications	Monthly

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021.

Objectives and Activities

The operational ethos of FORUM Connemara C.L.G. (FORUM)

Since its inception in 1989, FORUM Connemara C.L.G. has operated as a rural development organisation firmly based on utilising community development principles to tackle social exclusion and disadvantage. FORUM Connemara is a local development company and a registered charity operating in Connemara, Co. Galway.

FORUM is essentially a hub around which community activity is organised or enabled in the project area. The Board of FORUM has a strong community, business and statutory representation and staff with expertise and experience in working with voluntary groups, disadvantaged individuals and business promoters to identify needs, mobilise responses, evaluate progress and assist in further progression. The ethos of the work of FORUM has always been to promote access, openness, equality and participation in the services and programmes provided through the Organisation.

The catchment area covered by the FORUM partnership faces many challenges and opportunities in terms of realising sustainable development objectives over the coming years. Much of the territory is structurally weak, with poor connectivity, low demographic vitality, and a narrow economic base. Structural weaknesses are most profound in the north, west and centre of the territory, where there is a high level of dependence on small-scale farming/fishing and seasonal employment.

Achievements and performance

FORUM Connemara C.L.G. has ensured that our funding was used to benefit our participants and the community.

The FORUM AGM was held on July 28th 2021, and returns were made to the Companies Registration Office.

From January to December 2021, FORUM staff implemented actions under several programmes, i.e. The Rural Development Programme (LEADER1420), the Adolescent Support Programme, the Rural Recreational Programme, the Rural Social Scheme and Labour activation programmes Tús, Job Initiative, and Community Employment, N.W. Connemara Locally Led Scheme (EIP), the Ability Programme, a family carer's programme, a community services programme and a social care programme funded by the H.S.E.

Since March 2020, the Covid-19 health crisis has spread across the globe, and in addition to the enormous impact on human health, it has also caused severe disruption. The geographic area that FORUM operates in has been affected both economically and socially by the restrictions. Despite this disruption, FORUM Connemara has successfully delivered its programmes and projects in line with its contracts.

LEADER

Programme Aims:

The administration of the Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 and the follow on 'Transitional LEADER Programme' - the overall programme aim is to "promote social inclusion, poverty reduction and economic development in rural areas".

During this operational period of activity, the aims were:

- To finalise the delivery of the Rural Development Programme in the FORUM Connemara C.L.G. operational area and deal with legacy issues (i.e., inspections, debt recovery, etc.)
- To animate and communicate the programme to individuals and community groups.
- To communicate with all those who had shown a general interest in the programme.
- Report to Pobal, the Department, Commission and others as required on the evaluation of the programme, its outputs, outcomes and impacts.
- To commit allocated programme funding in line with Departmental and E.U. Regulations.
- The Transitional LEADER Programme has a deadline of December 31st 2023, to complete activities.
- To ensure efficient and effective drawdown and completion of the programme.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Actions taken in 2021

The following list is an example of 10 of the groups that were allocated LEADER Funding in 2021:

Offer Sent Date	Theme	LEADER Grant Amount	Address (Promoter Name)
11/01/2021	Rural Environment	12,126.36	Mullaghglos, Renvyle, Co Galway
12/02/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	12,765.17	Oughterard, Co Galway
17/02/2021	Rural Environment	26,950.00	Inishbofin, Co Galway
08/03/2021	Social Inclusion	37,485.55	Indreabhán, Co. na Gaillimhe
30/03/2021	Social Inclusion	21,877.12	Spiddal, Co Galway
30/03/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	23,523.75	Killagoola, Moycullen, Co Galway
30/03/2021	Social Inclusion	30,517.31	Chorr Na Mona, Co na Gaillimhe
30/03/2021	Rural Environment	70,000.00	Letterfrack, Co Galway
30/03/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	17,490.60	Letterfrack, Co Galway
30/03/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	160,000.00	Baile na hAbhann, Co. na Gaillimhe
30/03/2021	Rural Environment	18,450.00	Inishmore, Co Galway
11/06/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	86,263.64	Rosscahill, Co Galway
09/12/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	413,661.00	Clifden, Co Galway
15/12/2021	Rural Economic Development, Enterprise Development And Job Creation	11,081.00	Inis Oírr, Co na Gaillimhe

Several Internal LEADER applications were approved, including A. Water biodiversity training – total cost up to €70,000 100% funded; B. Biodiversity training - total cost up to €70,000 100% funded; C. Catering hub – total cost up to €91,500 75% funded; D. Musical instrument bank - total cost up to €53,750 with up to 75% funding; E. Feasibility study for the refurbishment of the Boys Old School building, Clifden 90% A&D rate for funding - €22,755.00 total project cost. F. Scoping study on the invasive species Rhododendron – total cost up to €22,960 with 90% A&D rate for funding.

Transnational Project: SEROI+SV - The project is a collaboration between Kilkenny LEADER partnership (lead applicant), FORUM Connemara and a L.A.G. from Italy and a L.A.G. from Finland. In summary, the funding application is to develop a tool and training around Social Economic Return on Investment (SEROI) to try and assist LEADER groups and the broader community in measuring, evaluating and assessing a project's impact or the potential it has for social return. The application involves the development of a training course and material for training 20 people in the concept, the development of a piece of software to carry out the calculation and a coordinator here in Ireland to coordinate the project. The costs are borne equally by each L.A.G. except for SEROI Ireland training coordinator, which is split equally between FORUM & Kilkenny.

1. 11LDR15361 – SEROI trainer - €16,628 100% funded
2. 11LDR5363 – Co-ordinator €19,958.10 75% funded – 25% matching - cost to FORUM €4,989.53
3. 11LDR5364 – Tools A&D €6250 90% funded – 10% matching - cost to FORUM €625

The Dept provided an extension of three months to March 31st 2021, in light of the difficulties promoters may have due to Covid 19 restrictions and Brexit. FORUM successfully allocated all funding by March 31st 2021. On December 16th, the Minister for Rural and Community Development announced a transitional LEADER Programme to bridge the gap between the wind-up of the current 2014-2020 LEADER Programme and the start of the next E.U. programme, which is not likely to commence until 2023 due to delays at E.U. level. It came into effect in April 2021. The budget is €1,341,373 for LEADER transitional funding.

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DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

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The catchment area covered by the FORUM partnership faces many challenges and opportunities in terms of realising sustainable development objectives over the coming years. Much of the territory is structurally weak, with poor connectivity, a low level of demographic vitality and a narrow economic base. Structural weaknesses are most profound in the north, west and centre of the territory, where there is a high level of dependence on small-scale farming/fishing and seasonal employment.

North Connemara Locally Led Agri- Environmental Scheme (EIP)

Programme Aims:

To work with the project participants, and the wider community in Connemara to improve, protect and enhance the biodiversity on and around the two special areas of conservation the Twelve Bens and Maumturk mountain ranges.

The North Connemara Locally led Agri-Environmental Scheme is centred around a bottom-up approach, bringing together local farmers and the community to tackle the decline of the economic and social viability of farming in this environmentally significant area. The specific initiatives of the Scheme are:

- Habitat surveys and improvement plans
- Improving the Blackface sheep flock
- Increasing the social interaction within the local farming community
- Controlling and removing Rhododendron at a farm level
- Innovation through the use of technology
- Interaction with the wider community through Tidy Towns groups and local schools

Actions taken in 2021

Examples of the works carried out by the team, Joseph Mannion and Cathy Connelly, throughout 2021 are as follows:

- Engagement with 96 farmers
- Over €190,000 was paid to farmers who carried out conservation and improvement actions on their farmland
- Dissemination of information to farmers
- Habitat survey app utilised
- Surveying of participant farmland of c. 10,000 HA - habitat and biodiversity studies
- Compilation of statistics based on habitat surveys
- Radio programmes delivered on Connemara Community Radio
- Attendance at Webinars including Joyce Country Geopark & Teagasc
- Organisation of Operational Group Steering Committee meetings
- Delivery of a range of training for participants, including a sheep shearing event & dog trial event
- Review of the farm/habitat improvement plans
- Surveyed lands with Rhododendron - over 10% of the fields surveyed contained invasive species
- Visited farmers and demonstrated control techniques for Rhododendron
- The EIP project team was successful in stage 1 of the application process for the Health and Safety and wellness EIP- €6800 was received from the DAFM for the preparation of a complete application.

DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Beneficiaries

Direct Beneficiaries:	96 Farmers
Contact Beneficiaries: DAFM, Feed companies, Pearl Mussel EIP, Hen Harrier EIP, North Donegal EIP, McGillicuddy Reeks EIP, Technology Companies, Colleges that have carried out GPS tracking, the steering committee	100
Indirect Beneficiaries: Listeners to the Connemara Community Radio Families of the primary school students- Connemara news readers /Connacht Tribune	10,000 listeners to the Connemara Community Radio show 210 families 125,000 readers

Ability

Programme Aims:

The Ability programme aims to support young people with disabilities living in Connemara to develop their potential and bring them closer to the employment market. This was achieved by promoting positive pathways into training, education, voluntary opportunities, and work experience. The programme engages with a wide range of disability types. There were 67 Participants at the end of June 2021 when it finished.

Target Group:

The target group for the programme is young people with disabilities, between 15-29 years of age, living in Connemara. Within this cohort, the programme will seek to engage with a wide range of disability types, such as:

- Physical or sensory disabilities.
- Mental health conditions.
- Hidden disabilities.
- Intellectual disabilities.
- Acquired disabilities and people on the autistic spectrum.

Actions taken in to the end of June 2021.

Ability workers have successfully developed person-centred initiatives with these participants in the areas of training and education, physical health, mental health, social integration, transport, work experience, volunteering, and paid employment.

Actions Taken Individually with Ability participants:

Online Support, Work Experience / Volunteering, Training and Education, Employment, Transport initiatives, Physical Fitness and Assistive Technology Support, Online Painting/Gardening Classes, Dry Stone Walling, Venture Out personal development programme, and Activity boxes have been used to stay in contact with participants, particularly during the Covid-19 lockdowns. Physical fitness, baking and art boxes were distributed between Feb and June with 50 participants per drop.

Actions Taken at Programme Level

The team focused on engaging employers in year 3 of the Ability pilot programme. Three Employers Focus Groups were engaged – one social enterprise group and two private business groups (one in N.W. Connemara & one in South Connemara). A successful S.S.E. Airtricity grant application was achieved. It will provide an outdoor activity programme in the Autumn to develop confidence and provide social opportunities for young people with disabilities post-COVID-19. The Ability team devised an internal survey, which has been circulated to participants and family members, seeking their feedback on their experience of the programme. Ability project workers also participated with Quality Matters (external evaluation) in the data gathering process, which informed the end-point evaluation report.

Networking by the team included using Padlet as part of the Ability 27 group, attendance at the UNCRPD Consultation Meeting Disability Women of Ireland Conference, meeting by ILMI about developing housing policy locally and nationally, Open Doors Initiative which aims to target groups marginalised, including People with a disability, for this new initiative, Ability West, NASC and the Dry Stone Walling Association of Ireland - (Erasmus programme) where Two Ability participants and one worker were invited to Fayless France in July as part of an Erasmus. However, this was postponed till 2022 due to ongoing Covid uncertainty around travel and roll out of vaccines for this age group. The D.S.P. invited ability project representatives to engage in discussions re people with a disability engaging with the existing C.E. and other labour activation schemes.

The C.E.O. is part of the national Ability sub-committee, which liaises with Ministers Humphreys, O'Brien and Rabbitte about a follow-on Ability programme. The Department of Social Protection subsequently issued a competitive call under the Dormant Accounts Funding entitled the Measure for Supporting People with Disabilities for up to €200,000. FORUM was successful, and funding for this programme is available from September 2021 to Dec 2022.

DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

Want to Work

Beneficiaries:	
Participants:	67
Disability Services:	7
Participant Families:	67
Community Groups:	5
Mainstream Education Provider:	5
Key Outcomes for the Reporting Period:	
New Employment Placements (Full-time and Part-Time):	12
New Volunteering/Work Experience Placements:	7
New Training and Education Courses:	9
Participants Obtaining Full Driving License:	2

Programme:

The Ability Programme finished on August 30th, 2021, after a two-month extension by the Department of Employment and Social Protection. FORUM successfully secured funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund- Measure to Support the Employment of People with Disabilities which started on September 1st, 2021.

Programme Aims:

The 'Want to Work' programme aims to work with people with Disability and mental health conditions to improve their chances of gaining employment and increase their employment/ education, training, and volunteering opportunities.

Target Group:

The target group for the Want to Work programme is people with disabilities aged 18+ years that are living in Connemara. Participants need to have reached an education level of N.F.Q. Level 3 or higher, to take full advantage of the support offered by the programme. Within this cohort, the programme will seek to engage with a wide range of disability types, such as:

- Physical or sensory disabilities.
- Mental health conditions.
- Hidden disabilities.
- Intellectual disabilities.
- Acquired disabilities and people on the autistic spectrum.

Actions:

The Want to Work Programme commenced in September 2021, and the team was formed and focused on developing the programme framework, policies, and structures during the first three months. The Want to Work team formed as a group and held several planning meetings to develop a service delivery framework and identify a robust referral process for the new programme that aligns with its aims and objectives. The referral process includes the expression of interest (EOI), meetings with individual participants to complete an application form and a signed consent form

The team also reviewed initiatives from the Ability programme to see which can be incorporated into the Want to Work programme (e.g., bespoke training such as drystone walling, animal welfare etc.). Finally, the in-house employment skills programme (World of Work), which was developed through the Ability programme, was reviewed, and modified so that it can be delivered as a mandatory piece of training to all participants on the Want to Work programme. The course manuals and promotional materials were translated into Irish.

• Promotional materials were developed for the programme. A Want to Work web page was developed for the FORUM Connemara website. A Padlet page was developed for the programme, which will serve as an interactive digital notice board that participants can access as a central resource for all things related to employment/upskilling.

• Several employment-related courses would be mandatory as part of the programme, e.g., manual handling, health and safety in the workplace, Covid induction training and an in-house employment skills programme (World of Work).

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021.

- Materials and a delivery structure were developed in relation to the Employment Guidance/Coaching services to be offered through the programme;
- A work experience/volunteering framework was developed for programme participants, which includes three key components: 1) a training component, 2) a work experience/volunteering component, and 3) a job coaching component which includes the development of further actions/progression objectives.
- Participants participated in a work experience programme and received non-accredited animal welfare and farm skills training at Ower equestrian centre. One participant received training and certification in eyebrow tinting and waxing.

Networking:

The Want to Work team developed a collaboration partnership with Disability Federation Ireland (DFI) to deliver Disability Awareness Training and additional employment supports (e.g., funding supports, workplace audits etc.) to employers. Networking took place with previous Ability Steering Committee organisations, Clifden Town Hall, Connemara Community Radio and Clann Family Resource Centre, with regards to them becoming hosts organisations within the work experience framework outlined above. Team members attended a Galway Volunteer Centre meeting with Galway City Partnership C.E.O. and staff regarding their new D.A.F. programme for people with disabilities and their Local Employment Service (L.E.S.). Galway Rural Development's SICAP team held meetings concerning their annual plan and collaboration opportunities in the future.

Team members attended a Dare to Include online conference hosted by DFI for D.A.F. projects in Westport. Following this, a discussion took place with Westport House management on raising awareness around Disability in a business/employment setting. Team members attended an online information meeting hosted by Pobal, detailing information on D.A.F. projects. Want to Work team and Ability participants participated in a showcase stop-motion event run by Blue Teapot Theatre Company in Galway Town Hall Theatre.

Project workers met with the GRETB to progress the 'Farming themed' Literacy programme 'Working on the Farm', which was discussed in 2020 as part of the Ability programme. This course would be delivered at a Q.Q.I. level 2, allowing for a mixed educational ability to participate and achieve accreditation. It is anticipated that between 4 and 6 Want to Work (W.T.W.) participants would be targeted for this 8-week initiative. Practical inputs on the farm are to be arranged at a local farm once GRETB has developed the 'Working on the Farm' course schedule.

The Want to Work team provided ongoing support to FORUM's Family Carers Programme.

Team members attended several online training workshops hosted by The Wheel in the following areas: Graphic Design (using Canva), Basics Scripting and Filming Videos, Basics of Film Editing (using Kapwing software), and Becoming a Spokesperson for your Organisation.

List the Beneficiaries (direct and indirect):
11 Participants
11 Families
1 Disability Service
3 Local Social Enterprises

FORUM Youth Service & Adolescent Support Project 2021

Programme Aim

The Forum Youth Service & Adolescent Support Project is a FORUM initiative in partnership with TUSLA and the Galway and Roscommon Education Training Board (GRETB), under the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth. Particular attention to the Department's UBU Scheme of targeted youth service delivery. The aim of the project is to put in place a youth provision for young people between the ages of seven and twenty-four years of age year in Northwest Connemara.

Target group

While services of the project are delivered on a universal level for all children and young people, it is also the intention of the FORUM Youth Services & Adolescent Support Project to continue to deliver locally based youth initiatives and programmes. By targeting young people who may be experiencing issues such as social isolation, mild mental health, are in the NEET category, drug and alcohol misuse - these programmes

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021.

aim to enhance the lives of young people in Northwest Connemara. The project envisaged outcomes are that all young people will be supported to realise their maximum potential by listening and respecting their rights. The project will continue to collaborate in partnership with stakeholders of which include Tusla, Planet Youth, WRDAFT, GRETb, Jigsaw, CAHMS, School Completion Programme, Youthreach Letterfrack, Connemara Child and Family Network which comprises all professional such as social workers, psychologist, teachers and many more.

Actions taken in 2021:

- Personal development activity-based programmes for primary school-age children took place online and in-person at Lettergesh, Letterfrack, Claddaghduff, Cleggan, Clifden, Eagle's Nest catchments. Additionally, programmes were delivered to Clifden and Carna post-primary aged young people. Within school buildings in the evenings.
- Various in-person classes took place, including Nature Art Classes, regular art classes, Coding Classes Online, STEAM Programme, crafts Workshop, Lego Training, Sean Nos dancing, biodiversity training, bespoke Training Organised with Jigsaw, Youth Leadership Training.
- Distribution of Art Activity Packs during lockdowns
- Youth Café at Clifden Town Hall, including pop up at the Boys Old School
- A youth programme called 'Youth Trailblazers' where a group of young people engaged in voluntary work in the community
- 7+ summer camps held in Roundstone, Claddaghduff, Tullycross, and Clifden.
- 13+ Summer Camp Adventure Programme
- 13+ Summer Fly Fishing camp
- Ongoing management of the polytunnel at the Old Boy's School (including distribution of vegetables from the Gardening Project to Food Cloud). Distribution of flower bulbs to celebrate Gaisce awards at community venues used by young people
- Collaboration and networking with Tusla, GRETb, the Educational Welfare Board, Youth Work Galway Ireland, FORUM's Ability Programme Steering Committee, Connemara Services Network Meetings, An Garda Síochána Clifden, Planet Youth, Cruinniú na nÓg, Connemara North and West School Completion Programme, Want to Work Programme, Cornhairle na nÓg, and the 'West Be Well' committee.
- National Quality Standards - the FORUM Youth Service & Adolescent Support Project is implementing a National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) which includes qualitative outcomes and core principles of youth work, is young person-centred and enables us to monitor and evaluate all work carried out.
- Support to the Community of Wellness Group (C.O.W. Group) - Winners of the Galway Divisional Garda Awards 2021
- National Winners of The E.S.B. Creative TechSpace January 2021
- Winners of the Tulsa Investing in Children's Awards 2021 for work accomplished with young people
- Consultation with Young People Regarding How Covid-19 has affected Young People. This research was linked into the West Be Well Mental Health Services Regional Communication Strategy.
- Facilitation of work placements for third-level students involved in youth work / social care
- Six Community Health Wellbeing Benches were created with young people, these benches will act as infrastructure as they have a QR code to link people who sit on the benches in the direct of mental health services.
- Parent's Peer support includes a Volunteer Food Programme support to families.
- Referral to Forum Food Cloud Programme
- Support the Music Generation Hubs at Clifden & Leenane
- Capital Funding Application to the GRETb - €4,812.00 for equipment
- Connemara Credit Union 50th anniversary community grant fund of €1,350

Direct Beneficiaries:

Children and Young people: 1823

Parents & families: 56

Rural Recreation Programme

Aim:

To promote and develop rural recreation in County Galway.

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Target Group:

Landowners, farmers, community groups and recreational users.

Actions taken in 2021:

The core projects undertaken by the Rural Recreation Officer (R.R.O.) are the administration, financial administration, and management of the Walks Scheme, including Trail Monitoring. The Walks scheme is open for community group applications for routes to be included in the Scheme; applications for seven walks have been sent to the Department of Rural and Community Development for inclusion in the Walks scheme. An approximate total of 100 farmers/landowners are involved. Due to Covid 19 the work of the R.R.O. was curtailed for several months, resulting in the work becoming much busier since restrictions were lifted.

- The Walks scheme: The Walks scheme ensures the enhancement and maintenance of the designated walks and trails in Co. Galway and the promotion of new walks and rural recreation. The Scheme is targeted to support landowners, farmers, and recreational users. Included in the Scheme are the Western Way, Slí Chonamara, Connemara Greenway, and Conamara Walking Trails.
- Western Way: Worked on new plans for the Western Way for the next 5 years and sent them to the Dept; the farmers will sign these plans to ensure the walk for the next 5 years. The R.R.O. successfully attained a small grant from the Dept of Rural and Community Development to repair a section in Finnisglin, Recess and repair a small bridge on the same section, and work is now complete. A re-route was completed on the section in Derreenagushoor - this has taken out the boardwalk and replaced it with a gravel path. Work on Western Way at Maam-Maam Cross section laying plastic grid along the Western Way path. Replaced a stile at the Glencroft section in Leenane.
- Slí Chonamara: (Luibín Garumna) Upgrading and maintenance on the walk's wet, muddy sections have been completed. Marker posts and directional arrows on the path have been replaced. An application for funding under the Small Grants scheme for repairs to the Western Way and Luibín Garumna has been made.
- Shéanadh Mhacha: Since the end of 2018, work on the trail has seen 7 km of a new walk created. Trail Registration is being sought from the trail's office, and an application has been sent to the Department for inclusion on the Walks Scheme. R.R.O. assisted the Group with an ORIS application to the Department of Rural and Community Development this year.
- Hymany Way: This is a new walk on the Walks Scheme, and a lot of work was undertaken to sign up farmers for the Scheme. The Hymany way stretches from Portumna to Ballygar, and the Galway section is 60km; it forms part of the Beara-Breifne way (West Cork to Cavan). The R.R.O. has been working with the Department, Aghrim Development Group and farmers/landowners to further the project. The vast majority of the farmers involved in the Scheme are signed up to the Walks Scheme, for the next 5 years.
- Mountain Access Project: The Mountain Access Scheme sets out to manage the recreational enjoyment of mountain areas in a way that minimises inconvenience for landowners and local residents and means that use of the area can be promoted with clarity and confidence. This is done by formally agreeing access with the landowners on a mountain, producing a map showing designated access points, indemnifying the landowners, and providing parking and any infrastructure required to sustain recreational use. Blinn Shléibhe in Clonbur has been selected as a pilot mountain access project.

FORUM's Rural Recreation officer has worked throughout 2021 with other Rural recreational facilities, and continuing works include:

- Outdoor Recreation Infrastructure Scheme Funding (ORIS): The R.R.O. worked with several groups around the County to progress many ORIS applications from the application stage to the completed works stage. Coiste Pobail an Mama works (Measure 1) have been completed, Measure 1 for Cornamona is underway, and a second application for Cornamona and one for Inishnee have been applied for through Galway County Council. On Shéanadh Mhacha, a further loop is being looked at with a successful ORIS application - work commenced in September '21. The R.R.O. also worked with the Department regarding a Safety Leaflet in cooperation with Mountaineering Ireland.
- The Cappahoosh Trail (Measure 3) ORIS application was submitted by Galway County Council in partnership with Coillte, FORUM Connemara and Fobairt Conamara Lair. It received €500,000 for upgrading the Cappahoosh – Derryrush trail, Derroura Mountain Bike trail, signage for a Eurovelo project and two Western Way bridges. Minister for Social Protection, Rural Development and the Islands Heather Humphries, T.D., launched the project on July 30th 2021, in Derryrush.
- All current trails have been re-registered as accredited trails in Galway County.
- Working with the trails office on ongoing work and queries relating to rural recreation.
- Greenway: The R.R.O. continues to liaise with Galway County Council to further the Connemara – Galway Greenway project.
- The R.R.O. assisted a group in Aghrim in applying for a Town and Village project.

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- The R.R.O. continued to work with community groups and private landowners interested in developing recreational projects or having various queries regarding access and liability. Examples include: Cloosh Valley Windfarm Park, Galway County Heritage Forum, Fáilte Ireland Connemara Visitor Experience Plan, Costa Gaelach Conamara, Letterfrack - The Atlantic Waterfall Trail, Killchreest, Sliabh Aughty's, Kilconly Tuam, Glenamaddy, Fraise Greenway, A looped trail around the Turlough, Meitheal West (these are a group of volunteer walkers who work on paths one day a month for free). Other Projects in the pipeline included a pilot bog project, Aran Islands, Connemara and Islands Walking Brochure, map board in Moycullen, and Killary Trail, Cill Chiarain, Ceantar na Oilean.
- Networking and collaboration with: F.C.L. (Forbairt Chonamara Lar) to discuss the possibility of trail development in Carna, Kilkerrin and Rosmuc; Udaras na Gaeltachta to look at various trail possibilities in the Gaeltacht area; C.D.S. Teo Cornamona to liaise on trail development within the area; Fáilte Ireland around various trail projects around the County; Aghrim Development about the Hymany Way.
- Networking took place with all R.R.O.s & with the Department of Rural and Community Development to discuss all relevant topics within the remit of the R.R.O. programme.

Beneficiaries:	
Luibín Garumna and Western Way	50
Hymany Way (20)	20
Groups and Walks Committees	32

RSS / TÚS

Programme Aims

The programmes aim to place people with not-for-profit organisations doing valuable work within their community and to enhance environmental maintenance work, caretaking of community and sporting facilities and social care and care of the elderly. The participants are matched to jobs they are capable of doing and will benefit from the experience.

Target groups:

Unemployed (over one year) and under-employed people.

Community groups who are providing social benefit within their community.

Actions taken in 2021:

The programmes assist with increasing participants' confidence and self-esteem, contributing to future job readiness. The schemes help in up-skilling participants, therefore increasing their employment prospects. The schemes work in partnership with the local community & voluntary groups, and local agencies/bodies to ensure the programme's effectiveness. Participants provide their employment to community and voluntary groups which benefits community & sporting facilities, heritage groups, social care projects, environmental groups such as Tidy Towns, cultural centres, community housing initiatives, charity shops, festivals, community playgroups, local radio, centres for people with Disability, working with young people, etc.

The schemes add value to the work of FORUM Connemara as the local development company and other community initiatives. RSS and Tús supervisors liaise with the community and voluntary groups (sponsors) to assist with the development of the programme and work placement requirements which builds capacity within the organisations.

- 31 out of 40 active participants on the TÚS Scheme at year-end.
- 32 out of 36 active participants on the RSS scheme at year-end.
- The Dept Social Protection (D.S.P.) monitored the schemes in Nov 2021.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

General Work

- General administration in cooperation with Pobal on RSS/Tús, including Payroll, which is completed every week.
- Complete all paperwork for new Tús starters / Leavers and arrange interviews.
- Engaged with the Dept of Social Protection to ensure all scheme leavers receive the packs for signing on the live register to provide a seamless handover.
- Induction and mandatory training with participants undertaken.
- Liaising with community organisations to identify suitable work placements.
- Beach & coastal pick-up of rubbish at 34 locations in NW Connemara.
- Promotion of the schemes on Connemara Community Radio, local Parish Newsletters, posters, and social media channels.
- Assist with preparation and deliveries of food packages for Food Cloud.
- Arrange for drivers to pick up and deliver food packages for Food Cloud.
- Delivery of musical instruments
- P.P.E. ordered, received and distributed. Beneficiaries

There are 46 groups with RSS / Tús workers.

Community Groups with Tús / RSS workers: Community Groups with Tús / RSS workers:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Elm Tree Day Centre, Clifden | 24. Scoil Mhuire Parents Association, Clifden |
| 2. Cluid Housing, Clifden | 25. Brigit's Garden, Roscahill |
| 3. Connemara Breeders Society | 26. Sycamore House, Clifden |
| 4. Claddaghduff Community Council | 27. Claddaghduff Hall Co Ltd |
| 5. Connemara Therapeutic Riding | 28. Corribdale Grounds |
| 6. Clifden Community Arts Festival | 29. Killannin Community Pitch |
| 7. Connemara West | 30. Oughterard Heritage |
| 8. Church of Ireland, Leenane Select Vestry | 31. Oughterard Community Centre |
| 9. Rainbows End Playschool, Tully | 32. Connemara Radio |
| 10. Friends of Fatima Hospital, Clifden | 33. Ballinakill Active Age Club |
| 11. Roundstone Community Council | 34. Croist Linn ADS Ability West |
| 12. Parish Council, Clifden | 35. Leenane Childcare Centre |
| 13. Ardbear Graveyard, Clifden | 36. Collinamuck N.S. Parents Ass |
| 14. Roundstone Parish | 37. Letterfrack N.S. Parents Ass |
| 15. Connemara Hill Lamb | 38. Church of Ireland, Select Vestry, Clifden |
| 16. Connemara Chamber - Marconi Walk | 39. Cleggan N.S. Parents Association |
| 17. Leenane Development Association | 40. Ballyconneely Parish Hall |
| 18. Friends of St Annes, Clifden | 41. Clifden & District Community Council |
| 19. Claddaghduff NS Parent's Association | 42. Youthreach Centre |
| 20. Renvyle Sports & Social, Marian Hall | 43. Oughterard GAA Club |
| 21. West Coast UTD | 44. BRB Community Council, Recess |
| 22. Parent's Association Scoile Muire Doireglinne | 45. Clann Resource Centre |
| 23. Clifden Tidy Towns | 46. Inishbofin Development Group |

Community Employment and Job Initiative

Programme Aims:

The programme aims to support and coach participants towards gaining the skills, competencies, and qualifications in preparation for employment. FORUM works with community/ voluntary groups that provide work placements for participants who gain knowledge, training and work experience, which assists them in becoming job ready.

Target Group:

- People who are long term unemployed
- Community groups who are providing social benefit within their community

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Actions:

The effective administration of the community employment scheme (max. 54 participants) including identification of participants; induction of eligible participants and work placements; the co-ordination of cost-effective training/development opportunities; planning and implementation of the approved work schedules; vetting, health and safety and P.P.E.; exit plans on leaving.

Youth

Publication of the 2021 Youth in Action calendar.

Essential Housing Repairs for the Elderly - implementation of a small number of repairs due to the ongoing difficulties with Covid 19 restrictions. Answered ongoing queries around the Essential Repairs Scheme and sent out application forms.

Social Care

Social Care continues to deliver a (1) Rural Transport service (2) disability support (3) Meals on Wheels (4) Laundry Service (5) Security Products (6) Vetting for staff & volunteers. Work with resource groups i.e., Lunch Clubs, Coffee Morning, Craft Club, Home Visits, Fitness & Nutrition has had to be withdrawn owing to the Covid 19 issues.

Resource Groups:

Some groups successfully secured funding from the H.S.E. under the Section 39 funding application. All activities were cancelled due to lockdown restrictions.

Participant Training:

All C.E. and J.I. participants received Covid 19 return to work protocol. Various participants received training in Abrasive Wheels Safety, Communication Course, General Data Protection, Role of Company Secretary, Writing Funding Applications, Forum Want to Work, Forklift Safety Training, Internet skills, Computer literacy, Digital Skills, Child Protection, Remote First Aid and counselling and Psycho-therapeutic Studies.

Promotion:

- Promotion of the schemes on Connemara Community Radio, local Parish Newsletters, posters and social media channels. Advertising of job vacancies on Jobs Ireland website.

Admin:

- Preparing paperwork for Scheme and sending it to Department
- Filling places / interviewing prospective participants
- The rollover of the Forum C.E. scheme took place in February.

Beneficiaries

List of Community Groups Forum CE Scheme works with:

1. Clann Centre, Oughterard
2. Elm Tree, Clifden
3. Leenane Development Association
4. Renyve Sports & Social, Marian Hall, Tullycross
5. Oughterard AFC
6. Church of Ireland, Clifden
7. St Joseph Court, Cluid
8. Church of Ireland, Leenane
9. Collinamuck Parish
10. Oughterard Rugby Club
11. Cleggan Lunch Club
12. Killannin GAA
13. Connemara West
14. Naomh Feichin GAA
15. Ballinakil Active Age
16. Friends of Fatima, Clifden Hospital
17. St Joseph Church Clifden

DIRECTORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021

The Community Employment Scheme participants
There are 50 Participants on the CE scheme and 4 JI workers.

Tasks	Location	Numbers
Environmental	2 Clifden/3 Leenane/2 Cleggan/ 1 Letterfrack	8
Administration	1 Forum/1 Oughterard/1 Leenane	3
Drivers	1 North West Connemara	1
Social Care	4 Roundstone/1 Clifden /2 Letterfrack	7
Essential Repairs	Forum	5
Youth	1 Oughterard/1 Clifden	2
Caretaking	1 Cleggan/7 Clifden/1 Ballyconneely/1 Renvyle/6 Oughterard	16
Heritage	Clifden	1
Cleaner	1 Letterfrack/ 1 Clifden	2
Shore	2 Clifden/2 Ballyconneely/1 Cleggan/1 Renvyle	6
Radio	Letterfrack	1

Social Care Programme

Programme Aims:

To support isolated and vulnerable older people to live in their own homes as long as they wish and to provide a support programme to Carers, people with disability and other vulnerable people.

Target groups:

Isolated and vulnerable older people, family carers and people with disability and other vulnerable people in Northwest Connemara.

Actions:

Meal on Wheels:

FORUM has been successful for Community Services Programme (CSP) funding for the operation of a community Café. This funding aims to support the operation of an in-house and meals delivery service and daycare activities for an older and vulnerable client group. In addition to making the facility available for local community hire/use.

FORUM signed a grant agreement from Pobal, and a lease was signed between Connemara West (property owner) and FORUM Connemara was returned. Funding was approved for 1 manager & 3.5 FTEs: A f/t Driver, a f/t Administrator and 1.5 FTEs in chef/kitchen assistant roles. There may be flexibility here subject to consultation with Pobal. The support includes €32k towards the manager's role and €19,033 towards the FTEs.

The Wild Goat Café is a social enterprise that provides a kitchen for preparing and serving Meals on Wheels and provides a supported space for older people, those with a disability/mental health difficulty and /or vulnerable people in the catchment area. It provides healthy, good quality, reasonably priced meals in a friendly and relaxed setting where people can come and enjoy some company and take part in events as well as avail of the other services FORUM Connemara provide, for example, the FORUM Laundry service, security alarms and the FoodCloud initiative.

The premises also facilitates training where the dining hall is rented out to other organisations. The existing Ballinakill Active Age Club kitchen will be used as an incubation/enterprise kitchen which would achieve further income generation. There is demand for this facility as there is no similar one in the NW Connemara area.

Funding sourced:

This programme is mostly funded by the HSE. Funding was sought from the GRETB under the mitigating against educational disadvantage scheme. Funding for IT equipment & furniture to the value of €24,000 was achieved.

FORUM was also successfully allocated €5,000 under the Community Social Enterprise at a rate of 100% funding from the Galway County LCDC for kitchen equipment.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Ballinakill Active age Club donated €10,000 to FORUM to purchase a second-hand vehicle to deliver meals on wheels. The van being used had a mechanical problem and needed to be replaced urgently. A 161 Toyota Auris van was purchased.

FoodCloud. foodbank:

FoodCloud distributes 40 – 70 food parcels each week. In 2021, FoodCloud, in partnership with FORUM, achieved:

- 18,360 kg of food saved
- €55,080 estimated value of food redistributed
- 43,714 meals provided
- 58,750 kgs of CO2 avoided

Support to family Carers:

FORUM supports family carers with a Family Carer Support Worker one day per week through HSE funding. There are two carers' groups, one in Clifden and the other in Oughterard.

FORUM also successfully achieved Dormant Accounts Funding to the value of €50,000 for a programme to support Family Carers, and recruitment for a Family Carer Project Officer was undertaken for this post. A part-time worker was appointed with the contract ending on 30/6/22. This worker will support Family Carers in West Galway through the provision of a variety of interventions supporting their wellbeing, the provision of training in employment skills and other areas, as well as engaging with employers. In-person interventions were difficult during 2021 due to Covid19 restrictions and the fear by carers that they might endanger the vulnerable person they care for.

- Phone support was provided by staff.
- Northwest Connemara Carers group and Moycullen/Oughterard Carers group attended a boat Trip on the Corrib; 20 Carers attended in June.
- Clifden Carers attended three respite lunches in Clifden during 2021.
- Moycullen/Oughterard carers attended one respite Lunch in Oughterard.
- Carers from both groups attended training organised through FORUM Connemara.
- Clifden Carers group attended a Memorial Tree planting in Rosleague Hotel; 20 Carers participated in this event.
- Due to the Covid19 Wellbeing Respite Vouchers were distributed to 40 carers.

Beneficiaries:

40 family carers

FORUM supported fourteen community & voluntary groups including Cleggan/Claddaughduff Senior Citizens Group, BRB Senior Citizens Group, Ballinakill Active Age, Clifden Active Age, Lamh Linn, Roundstone Senior Citizens, Tullycross ICA, Cashel Seniors, Connemara Therapeutic Riding, Clifden ICA Guild, Ballyconneely Active Age group, Letterrack Active Age Social Group, Clifden Arts Festival, Maam Women's group representing 600 older people being supported.

Community Fund – SSE

FORUM assessed the SSE scholarship application forms for the 2021 round. The scholarships are 50% of the college fees or €1,500 over three years = €4,500 per student. €18,924 was allocated out to students in 2021.

New employees

- Lisa Kane
- Mary Lacey
- Glenn Mullen
- Egon Hinze
- Ann Cooke

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Financial review

The directors report the following significant financial events during the year:

Overview of Statement of Financial Activities	2021	2020
	€	€
Income	3,531,044	2,896,440
Expenditure	(3,589,242)	(2,914,116)
Operating surplus/(deficit) before Capital Assistance Scheme loan repayments relieved	(58,198)	(17,676)

The financial results for the year ended 31st December 2021 are shown in the Statement of Financial Activities on page 32.

Reserves and investment strategy

FORUM Connemara CLG has total reserves of €612,843 as at 31st December 2021. These reserves are comprised of:

- **Unrestricted reserves**
The directors believe that the company should hold financial reserves as:
 - i) the company has no endowment funding and is entirely dependent on grants and donor funding which are inevitably subject to fluctuations;
 - ii) the company requires protection against, and the ability to continue operating despite, catastrophic or lesser but damaging events.Unrestricted reserves totalling €193,399 are available for working capital and continuity of services as at 31st December 2021.
- **Designated youth reserve**
This reserve is for the future development of programmes in youth development.
- **Designated redundancy reserve**
This reserve is set aside to cover any possible future redundancy payouts should staff be made redundant. €3,696 was utilised in the year 2021.
- **Capital reserve**
€73,985 is in funds designated by the board to enable changes in service delivery models as set out in the Strategic Plan.

In October 2021, the board agreed to set up a designated reserve for its new Café, this reserve will be put in place in 2022.

FORUM Connemara CLG has a responsibility to ensure that it uses the funds and resources it receives for its charitable purpose of the prevention or relief of poverty or economic hardship. There are uncertainties around most sources of funding and FORUM Connemara CLG must plan its use of these funds and resources to ensure the continuity and sustainability of the services it provides. To this end, FORUM Connemara CLG has a reserves policy in place and will work towards the target of holding four months of operating costs in reserve.

FORUM Connemara CLG has put in place an investment strategy that sets out clearly how it plans to make the best use of any available reserve funds in a low risk environment in line with its charitable purposes.

Response to COVID-19 virus

2020 & 2021 were years unlike any other for FORUM Connemara and the country in general with the onset of the Covid 19 pandemic worldwide. The virus brought new challenges to the whole country and FORUM embraced the challenges by creating solutions to meet them. FORUM Connemara was deemed to be providing essential services throughout the pandemic via the provision of meals on wheels, foodcloud service, services to the elderly, vulnerable children and young people at risk. Despite the upheaval, demand for FORUM's services increased.

Infection Control

- New protocols have been developed and are constantly updated, in line with HSE Guidance on the care of vulnerable groups, the management of residential care facilities, infection control and self-isolation to support safe and effective practice across FORUM's services during the pandemic.

With the pattern of Covid 19 virus we foresee that there will be an impact to our normal service offering well into 2022. Community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises continue to play a vital role in supporting communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Future developments

Consistent with the objects of its constitution, FORUM Connemara CLG will continue to put in place strategies and programmes to tackle the problem of rural decline and peripherality in Connemara. The pattern of the Covid 19 virus will continue to impact normal service well into 2022. Community and voluntary organisations, charities and social enterprises continue to play a vital role in supporting communities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The directors plan to build on the solid foundations laid to date by continuing to develop services to meet identified needs, utilising our unique location and expertise.

- During 2020 and 2021 the organisation went through a very thorough Strategic review and programme evaluation.
- The LEADER, EIP and Want to Work Programme will be completed in December 2022. The CEO and the Board of Directors will continue to work to achieve follow-on programmes.
- A funding application was made to Foras na Gaeilge in November to create a language plan for Clifden which has been designated a 'Baile Seirbhíse Gaeltachta' Gaeltacht Service Town'. FORUM awaits the outcome of this application.
- The Health & Safety & Wellness EIP grant application (stage 2) was successful to the value of €185,000. FORUM will start the programme in Q1 2022.
- The company has investigated the sourcing of premises to accommodate the growing staff numbers. A site in Clifden has been identified but requires substantial renovation. Costings for this renovation has been sought to allow for further discussion on premises options.

Volunteers

FORUM Connemara CLG is committed to promoting and supporting volunteering in its operational area. Volunteering is any activity that involves spending time unpaid; doing something that aims to benefit the community and the environment.

Volunteer involvement is essential to FORUM Connemara CLG and is also essential that the company presents a model of good practice in volunteer management. FORUM Connemara regards volunteers as a valuable resource towards the strategic development of FORUM Connemara and wish to encourage volunteers to get involved at all levels of the organisation and within all appropriate activities. All members of the Board of Directors volunteer their experience, expertise and time to the benefit of FORUM Connemara CLG and its continued development.

Relationships with charities and other bodies

FORUM Connemara delivers programmes and projects on behalf of the Irish Government, philanthropic organisations and other agencies. The members of the FORUM Board of Directors represent the community and voluntary sector, statutory organisations including Teagasc, Udaras na Gaeltachta, the Galway Roscommon Education and Training Board (GRET), Galway County Council, SIPTU, IFA, INHFA, the environmental sector. FORUM Connemara is a member of the Irish Local Development Network (ILDN) which is the representative group for local development companies in Ireland. It is also a member of the European Anti-Poverty Network (EAPN) who are working to put the eradication of poverty at the top of the EU and Irish agenda through information, training, advocacy and networking. FORUM Connemara has a share holding in Diamond Hill CLG C.R.A. no. 346049.

Health and safety

The organisation has a policy to ensure the health and welfare of its stakeholders and employees by maintaining a safe place and systems in which to work. This policy is based on the requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005. A revised Health & Safety Policy was adopted in 2020 to include Covid-19 risks.

Communications

The company will continue to communicate with the board, staff, volunteers, participants and stakeholders in line with the company's communication policy and will include the company's website, local community radio station Connemara Community Radio, social media channels, flyers, brochures, newsletters, webinars, advertisement and editorials in media. Galway Rural Development and FORUM had a highly successful joint Rural Development Conference entitled 'Galway's Rural Future' on 22nd Nov '21 with 118 participants.

DIRECTORS' REPORT

For the year ended 31st December 2021

Principal risks and uncertainties

The directors have ultimate responsibility for managing risk and are aware of the risks associated with the operating activities of the organisation. The directors review the risks on an ongoing basis and are satisfied that adequate systems of governance, supervision, procedures and internal controls are in place to mitigate the exposure to the major risks and that these controls provide reasonable assurance against such risks. The major risks include financial risks, operational and safety risks, compliance risks, reputational and external risks.

The charity mitigates these risks as follows:

- The charity continually monitors the level of activity against its budgeted targets and projections. The charity has a policy of maintaining adequate cash reserves and it has also developed a strategic plan which will allow for the diversification of funding and activities;
- The charity closely monitors emerging changes to regulations and legislation on an on-going basis. It is compliant with the following standards:
 - o The Governance Code, a code of practice for good governance of charities in Ireland
 - o Financial Reporting Standard (FRS102) and the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice (Charities SORP FRS102)
 - o The Statement of Guiding Principles for Fundraising
 - o The Charities Institute Triple Lock
 - o The Charities Regulator Governance Code

Financial risk

Reduced or insufficient income will impact directly on services and the people who avail of them. Changes to government policy and economic climate can impact on grants from statutory agencies and on fundraised income. Financial information is subject to detailed review at board level allowing for continuous monitoring of the charity's operations and financial status.

Operational risk

FORUM Connemara CLG uses community development principles to tackle social exclusion and disadvantage in the Connemara region. FORUM Connemara will continually monitor operations to mitigate against operational risk.

Compliance risk

FORUM Connemara CLG complies with a range of legislation and regulation. Non-compliance could incur penalties and result in reputational damage. FORUM Connemara CLG has signed up to the governance codes relating to the voluntary and community sector. The policies, procedures and internal control systems that are in place aim to ensure compliance with laws and policies and to ensure efficient and effective use of the charity's resources.

Reputational and external risks

FORUM Connemara CLG delivers services to the people of Connemara on behalf of government depts, philanthropic organisations and other agencies and relies on the support and trust of those organisations and the wider community. Damage to FORUM Connemara CLG's reputation would impact on that support.

External risks include the impact of the loss of funding streams. FORUM Connemara CLG consults and strategises to mitigate the impact of this risks.

FORUM's complete Risk Register for 2021 is provided as a separate document which will be circulated with the Annual Report 2021.

Commitment to Innovation and Quality

FORUM Connemara CLG is working towards compliance with the National Quality Standards Framework (NQS) in the Adolescent Support programme. The was awarded an "Investing in Volunteers" award for the second year. FORUM was presented with a letter from An Taoiseach Michéal Martin to thank the company for its hard work & support in response to the Covid 19 pandemic. FORUM Connemara continuously invest in training and upskilling of staff.

DIRECTORS' REPORT - continued
For the year ended 31st December 2021

The duties of a charity trustee are dictated by:

- The governing document of the charity;
- Legislation (statute);
- Common Law (the body of Irish law based on established practice and decisions of the courts).

Charity trustees have specific duties under the Charities Act 2009 and are also required to ensure that their charity complies with the requirements of other relevant legislation e.g. data protection legislation, employment legislation, health and safety legislation etc. Where a charity is a company, a charity trustee who is also a director of the company has additional duties under company law and common law in their capacity as company directors.

The Trustees of FORUM have 6 main duties:

1. Ensure that FORUM Connemara CLG charity is carrying out its purposes for the public benefit.
 - a. Trustees must ensure that FORUM's activities advance the charitable purpose(s) only and that those purposes are for the public benefit. Charitable purposes as set out in the Charities Act 2009 are:
 - a) the prevention or relief of poverty or economic hardship;
 - b) the advancement of education;
 - c) the advancement of religion;
 - d) any other purpose that is of benefit to the community.
 - b. These charitable purposes must be beneficial to the public or a section of the public.
 - c. Any personal benefit that ensues must be strictly ancillary to and necessary for the furtherance of the public benefit.
2. Comply with your FORUM Connemara's governing document and the law. ...
 - a. All Trustees must read and comply with the terms of the governing document of FORUM Connemara.
 - b. Trustees must ensure that they understand the charitable purpose of FORUM and the public benefit that it is providing.
3. Act in your charity's best interests.
 - a. Trustees must always do what is best for the charity and must be impartial in carrying out their duties. They must undertake their responsibilities diligently and should work together with other charity trustees to promote the purpose of the charity.
 - b. A conflict of interest may arise if you're a trustee's personal interests clash with the performance of their duties as a charity trustee.
 - c. If a situation arises whereby any trustee has the potential to gain personally from their role as a charity trustee i.e., a conflict, they must always act in the best interests of the charity. If they feel conflicted to the extent that it impacts on their ability to make a decision in their role as charity trustee, they should declare a conflict of interest and not influence the particular decision.
4. Manage FORUM Connemara's resources responsibly.
 - a. Trustees must manage the assets of the charity and ensure that all of the property of the charity is accounted for and properly documented.
 - b. Trustees must ensure that the charity's assets are used only to carry out its purposes. The charity's assets should not be used improperly or for unauthorised purposes.
 - c. Trustees must take care to ensure that the funds of the charity are not misappropriated or wasted.
 - d. Trustees should plan the charity's budget and consider the short-, medium- and long-term financial needs of the charity.
 - e. Trustees should satisfy themselves that all of the charity's property is accounted for and is in order.
5. Act with reasonable care and skill.
 - a. Trustees must act with reasonable care and skill using their personal experience and skills in carrying out their duties.
 - b. Charity trustees often delegate day-to-day activities but they cannot delegate overall responsibility. If specialist help is needed for the charity e.g. financial advice, Trustees should obtain the appropriate advice.

DIRECTORS' REPORT - continued
For the year ended 31st December 2021

6. Ensure FORUM Connemara is accountable.
 - a. Trustees must make sure that FORUM prepares and furnishes a statement of accounts and an annual report for each financial year to the Charities Regulator. Charity trustees must arrange for the accounts to be audited within nine months of the end of the relevant financial year, subject to exceptions as outlined in section 50 of the Charities Act 2009.

Charity trustees are responsible for the affairs of the charity and must carry out their duties diligently. If they fail to do so they may be guilty of a breach of trust. Charity trustees may be held personally liable for any loss or damage that their charity sustains as a result of their actions. However, if it can be shown that the charity trustees have acted honestly and reasonably then they may not be personally liable.

The High Court may, on the application of the Charities Regulator, make an order removing a charity trustee from office. The Charities Regulator can also prosecute charity trustees for offences under the Charities Act 2009 in certain circumstances.

Events after the Balance Sheet date

There have been no significant events affecting the company since the year end.

Statement on relevant audit information

In accordance with Section 330 of the Companies Act 2014, so far as each person who was a director at the date of approval of this report is aware, there is no relevant audit information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing its report, of which the auditor is unaware. Having made enquiries of fellow directors and the company's auditors, each director has taken all steps they are able to take as director in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of the information.

Political donations

The Electoral (Amendment) (Political Funding) Act 2012 requires companies to disclose all political donations to any individual party over €200 in value. The directors confirm no such donations have been made.

Auditors

The auditors, Candor Chartered Accountants Limited have indicated their willingness to continue in office in accordance with the provisions of section 383(2) of the Companies Act 2014.

Accounting records

The measures taken by the directors to secure compliance with the requirements of sections 281 to 285 of the Companies Act 2014 with regard to the keeping of accounting records are the implementation of necessary policies and procedures for recording transactions, the employment of competent accounting personnel with the appropriate expertise and the provision of adequate resources to the financial function. The accounting records are maintained at the company's office at Ellis Hall, Letterfrack, Co. Galway.

On behalf of the board


Terry Keenan


Mary Gannon

8th September 2022

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF DIRECTORS' RESPONSIBILITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2021

The directors are responsible for preparing the Directors' Report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable Irish law and regulations.

Irish company law requires the directors to prepare financial statements for each financial year. Under the law the directors have elected to prepare the financial statements in accordance with the Companies Act 2014 and FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'. Under company law, the directors must not approve the financial statements unless they are satisfied that they give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at the financial year end date and of the surplus or deficit of the company for the financial year and otherwise comply with the Companies Act 2014.

In preparing these financial statements, the directors are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies for the company financial statements and then apply them consistently;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether the financial statements have been prepared in accordance with applicable accounting standards, identify those standards, and note the effect and the reasons for any material departure from those standards; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the company will continue in business.

The directors are responsible for ensuring that the company keeps adequate accounting records which correctly explain and record the transactions of the company, enable at any time the assets, liabilities, financial position and surplus or deficit of the company to be determined with reasonable accuracy and enable them to ensure that the financial statements and Directors' Report comply with the Companies Act 2014 and enable the financial statements to be audited. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

On behalf of the board


Terry Keenan


Mary Gannon

8th September 2022

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021.



Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of FORUM Connemara CLG for the year ended 31st December 2021 which comprise the Statement of Financial Activities, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Cashflows and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies set out in Note 2. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable Irish law and Accounting Standards, including Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' issued by the Financial Reporting Council as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'.

This report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditors' report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the assets, liabilities and financial position of the company as at 31st December 2021 and of its deficit for the year then ended; and
- have been properly prepared in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' as modified by the Statement of Recommended Practice 'Accounting and Reporting by Charities'; and
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Companies Act 2014.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (Ireland) (ISAs (Ireland)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the "Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements" section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Ireland, including the Ethical Standard as issued by the Irish Auditing and Accounting Service Authority ("IAASA") Ethical Standard, and the provisions available for small entities, in the circumstances set out in Note 21 to the financial statements, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs require us to report to you where:

- the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the directors have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and our Auditors' Report thereon. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT
For the year ended 31st December 2021



Opinions on other matters prescribed by the Companies Act 2014

Based solely on the work undertaken in the course of the audit, we report that:

- we have obtained all the information and explanations which we consider necessary for the purposes of our audit;
- the accounting records of the charity were sufficient to permit the financial statements to be readily and properly audited;
- the financial statements are in agreement with the accounting records;
- the information given in the Directors' Report for the financial year for which the financial statements are prepared is consistent with the financial statements; and
- In our opinion, the Directors' Report has been prepared in accordance with the Companies Act 2014.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

Based on the knowledge and understanding of the company and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified any material misstatements in the Directors' Report. The Companies Act 2014 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion, the disclosures of directors' remuneration and transactions required by sections 305 to 312 of the Act are not made. We have nothing to report in this regard.

Respective responsibilities

Responsibilities of directors for the financial statements

As explained more fully in the Statement of Directors' Responsibilities, the directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as they determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to the going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the company or to cease operation, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditors' responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an Auditors' Report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (Ireland) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

A further description of our responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is contained in the appendix to this report, located on page 31, which is to be read as an integral part of our report.

The purpose of our audit work and to whom we owe our responsibilities

Our report is made solely to the company's members, as a body, in accordance with section 391 of the Companies Act 2014. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the company's members those matters we are required to state to them in an Auditors' Report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume any responsibility to anyone other than the company and the company's members, as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gillian Carolan".

Gillian Carolan
for and on behalf of
CANDOR CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS LIMITED
Statutory Audit Firm
Harris House
IDA Business Park
Tuam Road
Galway

Date: 8th September 2022

APPENDIX TO THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT



Further information regarding the scope of our responsibilities as auditor

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (Ireland), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our Auditors' Report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our Auditors' Report. However, future events or conditions may cause the company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Designated funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
			€	€	€	€
Income from:						
Donations		-	20,000	-	20,000	41,910
Charitable activities	4 - 5	-	3,487,211	-	3,487,211	2,854,308
Interest		-	-	-	-	(3,769)
Other income		23,833	-	-	23,833	3,991
Total income		23,833	3,507,211	-	3,531,044	2,896,440
Expenditure on:						
Provision of services		(7,568)	(3,245,871)	-	(3,253,439)	(2,570,536)
Support costs		(10,311)	(325,492)	-	(335,803)	(343,580)
Total expenditure	7	(17,879)	(3,571,363)	-	(3,589,242)	(2,914,116)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		5,954	(64,152)	-	(58,198)	(17,676)
Transfers between fund						
Transfer to/(from) restricted fund deficit		(64,152)	64,152	-	-	-
Transfer to/(from) designated funds		3,696	-	(3,676)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(54,502)	-	(3,696)	(58,198)	(17,676)
Reconciliation of funds						
Funds brought forward on 1 st January 2021		247,901	80,937	342,203	671,041	688,717
Funds carried forward at 31 st December 2021	17	193,399	80,937	338,507	612,843	671,041

The Statement of Financial Activities includes all gains and losses recognised in the year. There are no other items to be included in the Statement of Comprehensive Income. Income and net income/(expenditure) arose solely from continuing activities. Movements in funds are set out in Note 17 on page 57.

On behalf of the board

Terry Keenan

Mary Gannon
Mary Gannon

8th September 2022

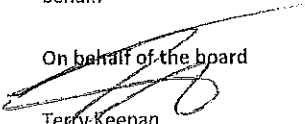
FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

BALANCE SHEET
As at 31st December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
Fixed assets			
Tangible assets	12	68,664	69,900
Current assets			
Debtors			
Amounts falling due within one year	13	211,744	58,100
Amounts falling due after one year	14	150,000	175,000
Cash at bank and in hand		717,795	822,603
Total current assets		1,079,539	1,055,703
Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year	15	(535,360)	(454,562)
Net current assets		544,179	601,141
Total assets less current liabilities		612,843	671,041
Creditors – Amounts falling due after more than one year		(-)	(-)
Net assets		612,843	671,041
Total funds of the charity			
Designated general and revenue reserve		114,713	114,713
Designated youth reserve		38,505	38,505
Designated redundancy reserve		111,304	115,000
Designated capital reserve		73,985	73,985
Unrestricted funds		193,399	247,901
Restricted funds		80,937	80,937
Total charity funds	17	612,843	671,041

The notes on pages 35 to 57 form an integral part of these financial statements.

The financial statements on pages 32 to 57 were authorised for issue by the board of directors on the <Date of approval> and signed on its behalf:

On behalf of the board

 Terry Keenan


 Mary Gannon

8th September 2022

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

STATEMENT OF CASHFLOWS
For the year ended 31st December 2021

	Notes	2021 €	2020 €
Income for the period (as per the Statement of Financial Activities)			
Net income		(58,198)	(17,676)
Adjust for:			
Depreciation		11,536	11,132
Interest receivable		-	3,769
Decrease/(increase) in stocks		-	1,250
Decrease/(increase) in debtors		(153,644)	42,898
Increase/decrease) in creditors		80,790	110,460
Net cash provided by charitable activities		(119,516)	151,833
Cash flows from investing activities			
Payments to acquire tangible fixed assets		(10,300)	(24,860)
Net cash (used in)/provided by investing activities		(10,300)	(24,860)
Cash flows from financing activities			
Repayment of loan by local charity		25,000	25,000
Interest receivable		-	(3,769)
		25,000	21,231
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the year		(104,816)	148,204
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year		822,603	674,399
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	18	717,787	822,603

On behalf of the board

Terry Keenan

Mary Gannon
Mary Gannon

8th September 2022

Notes to the financial statements

1 General information

FORUM Connemara CLG is a charitable organisation established to promote, support, assist and engage in, social development, enterprise development, community development and equality.

FORUM Connemara CLG is a company limited by guarantee in the Republic of Ireland and is a public benefit entity, (as defined by Section 3.40 of Charities SORP). The company is precluded by its constitution from paying a dividend either as part of normal operations or on distribution of the company's assets in the event of it being wound up. All income must be applied solely towards the charitable objectives of the company. The address of its registered office and principal place of business is Ellis Hall, Letterfrack, Co. Galway.

These financial statements are the company's financial statements for the financial year beginning the 1st January 2021 and ending the 31st December 2021.

The company's functional and presentation currency is the euro, denominated by the symbol "€".

2 Summary of significant accounting policies

The significant accounting policies used and consistently applied in the preparation of the entity's financial statements are set out below.

(a) Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared with reference to the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland ((FRS 102) Charities SORP (FRS 102), the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Companies Act, 2014. 2021 is the first year using the Charity SORP.

FORUM Connemara CLG meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102.

Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy note.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with FRS 102 requires the use of certain key assumptions concerning the future, and other key sources of estimation relating to uncertainty at the end of the financial year. It also requires the directors to exercise their judgement in the process of applying the company's accounting policies. The areas involving a higher degree of judgement or areas where assumptions and estimates have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are disclosed in Note 3.

(b) Income

All income sources are included in the Statement of Financial Activities when the charity is entitled to the income, when the amount can be quantified with reasonable accuracy and when it is probable the income will be received. The following specific policies are applied to particular categories of income:

(i) *Donations and other fundraising activities*

In common with many similar charitable organisations, the company derives a proportion of its income from voluntary donations and fund raising activities organised by individuals or parties outside the control of the company. Accordingly, donations are recognised when the company has entitlement to the income and certainty of receipt and when the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability. In the case of voluntary income receivable by way of donations and gifts, income is recognised when the donation is received into the company's bank accounts. Fund-raising income is shown gross before deduction of any overhead costs involved in raising such funds.

Notes to the financial statements - continued

(ii) *Revenue grants*

Revenue grants relating to charitable activities are recognised when receivable and are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities on this basis.

(iii) *Capital grants*

In order to comply with Charities SORP (FRS 102), government capital grants are recognised in full in the Statement of Financial Activities in accordance with the performance model.

(iv) *Income from charitable trading activities*

Income from charitable trading activities is accounted for when earned, which is usually when the risk and rewards of ownership transfers and the sale can be reliably measured.

(c) **Deferred Income**

Grants relating to expenditure which is to be incurred in a future accounting period are deferred and recognised in the period to which they relate.

(d) **Restricted and unrestricted funds**

FORUM Connemara CLG operates the following funds:

(i) *Restricted funds*

Restricted funds are donations and other income sources received for charitable purposes which are to be spent within a reasonable period from their receipt for specific purposes.

(ii) *Unrestricted funds*

Unrestricted income funds are donations and other income sources received or generated for charitable purposes which can be used at the discretion of FORUM Connemara CLG in furtherance of the objects of the charity.

(iii) *Designated funds*

Designated funds are from reserves that the Board has set aside for a particular purpose including redundancies, capital expenditure, and match funding for partly grant aided projects.

(e) **Expenditure**

Expenditure is accounted for when it is incurred and includes amounts due but not paid at the end of the year. Expenditure includes Value Added Tax which cannot be recovered. Expenditures are allocated to the particular activity or service where the cost relates directly to that activity or service. The costs of supporting activities, training, volunteers and overall direction are reallocated to each activity or project based on staff and volunteer numbers and utilisation.

Expenditure on raising funds includes the staff time spent directly on raising funds, the cost of producing and disseminating literature and the delivery of fundraising events. The cost of generating funds also include the costs incurred in fundraising and encouraging third parties to make voluntary contributions. The costs are expensed when they are incurred although the benefit in terms of funds raised may occur in a future period.

(f) **Tangible fixed assets**

Tangible fixed assets are stated at cost less accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Cost includes the original purchase price, costs directly attributable to bringing the asset to the location and condition necessary for its intended use, applicable dismantling, removal and restoration costs.

The company's property, plant and equipment are deemed to be held for its utilisation in services. Where there are indicators that the assets are not delivering on their anticipated service potential, consideration is given as to whether the asset is impaired or not. Accordingly, an impairment of fixed assets will only arise where the asset suffers impairment in a physical sense resulting in physical damage, or the assets are not delivering on their anticipated service utilisation.

Tangible fixed assets purchased for less than €1,000 are expensed in the Statement of Financial Activities in the year of purchase. Small tangible fixed assets are treated in this manner as costs under various grant agreements are reported on a cash basis as the cost is recognised through the bank accounts. The company maintains an asset register that records the cost, item, details, and programme under which they were obtained.

Notes to the financial statements - continued

(i) *Depreciation and residual values*

Depreciation is calculated using the straight-line method, so as to write off their cost less residual amounts over their estimated useful economic lives; some older assets may be depreciated using the reducing balance method over their estimated useful lives, as follows:

Motor vehicles	12.5% straight line
Office equipment	12.5% straight line

The assets' residual values and estimated useful economic lives are reviewed at the end of each financial year and the depreciation charge adjusted, where appropriate, in order to reflect any revisions required.

Fully depreciated property, plant and equipment are retained in the asset register until they are removed from service.

(ii) *Repairs and maintenance*

Repairs, maintenance and minor inspection costs are expensed as incurred.

(iii) *De-recognition*

Tangible assets are de-recognised on disposal or when no future economic benefit is expected. On disposal, the difference between the net disposal proceeds and the carrying amount is recognised in the Statement of Financial Activities.

(g) **Financial instruments**

The company has chosen to apply the provisions of Sections 11 and 12 of FRS 102 to account for all of its financial instruments.

(i) *Financial assets*

Basic financial assets, including sundry debtors, cash and cash equivalents, short-term deposits and investments in corporate bonds, are initially recognised at the transaction price (including transaction costs), unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. There are currently no financial asset arrangements that constitute a financing arrangement.

Other financial assets are initially measured at fair value, which is normally the transaction price.

Realised gains and losses on disposal of investments are the difference between sales proceeds receivable and carrying value. Unrealised gains and losses are the difference between market value at year end and carrying value.

Financial assets are de-recognised when (a) the contractual rights to the cash flows from the asset expire or are settled, or (b) substantially all the risks and rewards of ownership of the financial asset are transferred to another party, or (c) control of the financial asset has been transferred to another party who has the practical liability to unilaterally sell the financial asset to an unrelated third party without imposing additional restrictions.

(ii) *Financial liabilities*

Basic financial liabilities, including trade and other creditors, are initially recognised at transaction price, unless the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction. Where the arrangement constitutes a financing transaction, the resulting financial liability is initially measured at present value of the future payments, discounted at a market rate of interest for a similar debt instrument.

(h) **Cash and cash equivalents**

Cash and cash equivalents include cash on hand, demand deposits and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of three months or less.

(i) **Concessionary loans**

Concessionary loans are carried at the transaction amount and are not discounted to net present value.

Notes to the financial statements - continued

(j) Contingencies

Contingent liabilities arising as a result of past events, are not recognised when;

- i) It is not probable that there will be an outflow of resources or that the amount cannot be reliably measured at the reporting date or
- ii) When the existence will be confirmed by the occurrence or non-occurrence of uncertain future events not wholly within the company's control.

Contingent liabilities are disclosed in the financial statements unless the probability of an outflow of resources is remote.

Contingent assets are not recognised. Contingent assets are disclosed in the financial statements when an inflow of economic benefits is probable.

(k) Provisions

Provisions are recognised when the company has a present legal or constructive obligation arising as a result of a past event; it is probable that an outflow of economic benefits will be required to settle the obligation and a reliable estimate can be made.

Provisions are measured at present value of the expenditures expected to be required to settle the obligation, using a pre-tax rate that reflects current market assessments of the same value of money and the risks specific to the obligation. The increase in the provision due to passage of time is recognised as a finance cost within the expenditure on charitable activities.

(l) Allocation of support costs

Support costs are derived from those functions that assist the work of the company but do not directly relate to charitable activities. Support costs include back office costs, finance, personnel, payroll and governance costs which support the charitable programmes and activities. These costs have been allocated on the basis of staff and volunteer numbers and utilisation as appropriate.

(m) Donated goods, facilities and services, including volunteers

In accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), general volunteer time is not recognised in the financial statements. Please refer to the review of activities section in the Directors' Report, for more information about the volunteers' contribution to the charity.

(n) Employee benefits

(i) Defined contribution plan

The company operates a defined contribution pension scheme. The company's contributions to this scheme are dealt with in the Statement of Financial Activities on an accruals basis. The assets are held separately from those of the company in an independently administered fund.

(ii) Short term benefits

Short term employees' benefits, including paid holiday arrangements and other similar non-monetary benefits, are recognised as an expense in the financial year in which employees render the related service.

Notes to the financial statements - continued

3 Critical accounting judgements and estimation uncertainty

Estimates and judgements made in the process of preparing the company's financial statements are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances.

Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

The directors make estimates and assumptions concerning the future in the process of preparing the company's financial statements. The resulting accounting estimates will, by definition, seldom equal the related actual results. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are addressed below.

(i) Useful economic lives of tangible fixed assets

The annual depreciation on tangible fixed assets is sensitive to changes in the estimated useful economic lives and residual values of the assets. The useful economic lives and residual values are reviewed annually. They are amended when necessary to reflect current estimates, based on technological advancement, future investments, economic utilisation and the physical condition of the assets. See Note 12 for the carrying amounts of the tangible fixed assets and Note 2(f) for the useful economic lives for each class of tangible fixed assets.

(ii) Going concern

A change in government policy regarding the grant funding provided to the company could have a negative impact on the services the company is able to provide and the ability of FORUM Connemara CLG to continue as a going concern. The directors, after making enquiries and having considered the company's financial position and expected future cash flows, conclude there are no material uncertainties about the company's ability to continue operating for the foreseeable future. For this reason, the going concern basis continues to be adopted in preparing the financial statements.

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

	2021	2020
	€	€
4 Income from charitable activities		
Government and other grants	3,487,211	2,226,578
Fundraising	-	22,230
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,487,211	2,248,808

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

5	Income from charitable activities - government grants	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grants received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grants brought forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
		€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
	All grants detailed below are service type grants not of a capital nature, are for restricted use and the term of the grant is for the calendar year 2021 unless otherwise indicated.								
	Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant								
	Rural Development Programme (2014 – 2021) - LEADER (Department of Community and Rural Development) Restricted to administration of the Rural Development Programme in West Galway covering period 1 Nov 2016 to 31 December 2022	1,089,608	-	280,000	247,104	-	50,000	92,896	247,104
	Rural Development Programme (2014 – 2021) - LEADER (Department of Community and Rural Development) Restricted for Leader Grants to successful RDP Projects awarded within period 1 Nov 2016 to 31 December 2021	3,406,692	-	911,290	911,290	-	-	-	911,290
	Rural Recreation Programme (Department of Community and Rural Development) Administration and activities of the Rural Recreation Scheme for calendar year 2021	63,233	-	65,726	60,428	-	17,298	22,596	60,428
	Rural Recreation Programme (Department of Community and Rural Development) Farmers' payments for maintenance of their section of walks for calendar year 2021	63,212	-	63,212	62,277	-	4,043	4,978	62,277

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Faite Ireland – Rural Recreation Scheme (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media) To administering the activities of the Rural Recreation Scheme for the calendar year 2021	5,000	-	5,000	12,793	-	18,789	10,996	12,793
Ability programme - Pobal (Department of Employment and Social Protection) To be used for the administration and actions of the Ability Programme for the period 1 Jul 2018 to 30 Aug 2021	724,853	-	99,935	148,472	-	48,537	-	148,472
TUS Programme (Department of Community and Rural Development) To be used for administration and materials for the TUS programme for calendar year 2021 (5% only allowed to be carried forward)	38,540	-	38,540	35,784	-	976	1,927	35,784
Rural Social Scheme (Department of Community and Rural Development) To be used for the administration and materials regarding the Rural Social Scheme for the calendar year 2021	35,279	-	35,280	34,496	-	2,598	1,764	34,496
Community Employment Scheme (Department of Employment and Social Protection) Restricted for use on the CE scheme for the period 1 Feb 2021 to 31 Jan 2022	n/a	-	812,531	814,619	2,088	-	-	814,619

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grants received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Job Initiative Scheme (Department of Employment and Social Protection) Restricted for use on the JI scheme for the period 13 Jan 2021 to 10 Jan 2022	n/a	-	85,392	99,154	13,762	-	-	99,154
CLAR 2021 – Meals on Wheels and Linked Services (Department of Rural and Community Affairs) The provision of supplies and/or services to enhance Meals on Wheels Linked Programme Services, restricted to refrigeration of delivery van For the period 18 Dec 2020 to 30 Jul 2021	6,676	-	-	-	6,676	-	6,676	6,676
European Initiative Programme NCLAES (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine) Pilot to promote innovative solutions to farming and biodiversity For the period 1 Jan 2019 to 31 Dec 2023	1,342,993	-	337,282	435,479	-	167,720	69,523	435,479
Section 39 – HSE West (Department of Health) To be used for the administration and activities for the social care programme For older and vulnerable people for calendar year 2021	58,000	-	58,000	57,716	-	-	284	57,716
Community and Voluntary Support Respite Grants – HSE West (Department of Health) To fund respite activities for Older People and Carers for calendar year 2021	8,000	-	-	7,100	-	7,000	(100)	7,000

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Community and Voluntary Supports Grants - Community Healthcare West (Department of Health)								
Restricted to services for older and vulnerable especially in relation to social gatherings, yoga classes etc. for the period 10 Nov 2020 to 31 Oct 2021	9,500	-	-	9,500	-	-	-	9,504
Community and Voluntary Supports Grants - Community Healthcare West (Department of Health)								
Support to services for older and vulnerable especially to revive day care Activities in the Clifden Day Care for the period 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Oct 2021	10,000	-	10,000	5,600	-	6,616	11,016	5,600
National Lottery Fund Meals on Wheels - Community Healthcare West (Department of Health)								
To fund equipment and supplies to support Meals on Wheels such as Delivery bags and food containers for the period 10 th Nov 2021 to 31 Oct 2021	1,000	-	-	989	-	1,000	11	989
National Lottery Fund Meals on Wheels - Community Healthcare West (Department of Health)								
To fund equipment and supplies to support Meals on Wheels such as delivery bags and food containers for the period 10 th Nov 2021 to 31 Oct 2021	1,000	-	1,000	-	-	-	1,000	-

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions \ restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Family and Community Support - Tusla (Department of Health)								
The administration of the Adolescent Support Programme For the calendar year 2021	54,128	-	56,834	56,392	-	-	443	56,392
UBU – Your Place Your Space – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
To fund salaries, administration and UBU programme activities For the period 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	43,138	-	43,138	42,856	-	2	284	42,856
Covid 19 Youth Service Minor Grant – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
The purchase of hand sanitisation units for Adolescent Support Programme for the period 15 Oct 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	200	-	-	88	-	88	-	88
Community Education Fund – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
Sean Nos Dancing courses For the period 1 Jul 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	1,000	-	1,000	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
Youth Services ICT Investment Grant – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
Purchase of equipment to improve IT capacity of Youth Programme For the period December 2021	1,750	-	-	46	-	46	-	46

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Capital Funding Scheme – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
Adaption to outdoor area and outdoor furniture via group and individual programmes for period 1 Jun 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	3,000	-	3,000	2,995	-	-	-	2,995
Covid 19 Youth Service Minor Grant Capital and Current Scheme – Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board (Department of Children and Youth Affairs)								
This grant scheme aims to support youth services and youth clubs to meet minor costs of re-opening fully For the period 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	1,812	-	1,812	1,812	-	-	-	1,812
Healthy Ireland Fund – Galway County Council (Department of Environment, Climate, and Communications)								
To purchase kitchen equipment for cooking courses For the period 1 Sep 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	1,816	-	1,816	1,816	-	-	-	1,816
Healthy Ireland Community Mental Health Fund Small Grant Scheme – Galway County Council (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
For equipment and activities for Connected Learning and Inclusion Project For the period 1 Jan 2021 to 30 Jun 2021	5,000	-	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	5,000
ORIS Grant – Galway County Council (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
For upgrades and repairs to the Maumeen section of the Western Way (ORIS) for the period 1 Jun 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	15,859	-	15,849	15,849	-	-	-	15,849

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grants received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Cruinig na nOg – Galway County Council (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media) To support actions geared towards working with children and young people for National Day of Creativity for Young People For the period 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	800	-	800	790	-	-	-	790
ORIS grants (Department of Rural and Community Development) To fund bridge repairs For the period 28 Aug 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	7,350	-	-	7,350	-	7,350	-	7,350
Rural Recreation Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development) ORIS Grants for specific works applied for (bike trail signage, Connemara and islands brochure, Upgrades WW) For the period 1 Nov 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	-	-	-	-	-	9,752	9,752	-
Map board grant - Rural Recreation Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development) To be used for map board (more detail) for calendar year 2021	951	-	-	-	-	951	951	-
Rural Recreation Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development) To repair storm damage at Slí Chonamara	6,050	-	-	-	-	6,050	6,050	-

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions\restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1. Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1. Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Small Capital Grants Scheme (Department of Rural and Community Development) To provide grants to social enterprise applicants approved by the Department. To cover the period Oct 2020 to final drawdown of grants or decommitment by DRCD	44,548	-	-	18,012	-	28,410	10,398	18,012
Irish Rural Link - Meals on Wheels Network Funding (Department of Rural and Community Development) To support Meals on Wheel Activities	460	-	-	-	-	460	460	-
Irish Rural Link - Meals on Wheels Network Funding (Department of Rural and Community Development) To support Meals on Wheel Activities	1,563	-	1,563	1,563	-	-	-	1,563
SICAP – Local Community grant – Galway Rural Developments CLG (Department of Rural and Community Development) Funding for provision of 6 benches for a community bench project For the period 28 Apr 2021 to 31 Dec 2021	1,500	-	1,500	1,500	-	-	-	1,500
SICAP – Local Community grant – Galway Rural Developments CLG (Department of Rural and Community Development) Funding for equipment to assist in the repair and adaptation of houses for older people For the period 28 Apr 2021 to 31 Dec 2022	2,013	-	2,013	2,013	-	-	2,013	-

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions \restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rural Development Programme Leader Grant (Department of Rural and Community Development) To fund a LEADER co-operation project the Wild Atlantic Way Visitor Skills Development Programme For the period up to December 31, 2020	4,094	4,094	4,094	-	-	-	-	-
Pobal (Department of Rural and Community Development) Support and improve employment opportunities for Carers and persons with a disability to cover period 1 Jan 2020 to 30 Jun 2022	50,000	-	45,000	21,442	-	-	23,558	21,442
Pobal (Department of Rural and Community Development) To fund measures to support the employment of people with disabilities For the period 1 Sep 2021 to 31 Dec 2022	198,330	-	118,998	41,406	-	-	77,592	41,406
Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board – Mitigating Education Disadvantage Fund 2021 (Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth) Technology loan bank to assist with education for those with additional needs To cover period 20 Oct 2021 to 30 Dec 2021	24,641	-	11,390	22,055	10,665	-	-	22,055
Foras na Gaeilge – Gaeilteacht Service Town (Gaeilteacht Act 2012) (Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeilteacht, Sport and Media) To develop an Irish Language Plan for Clifden, Co. Galway For the period 1 Jan 2022 to 31 Dec 2022	20,000	-	10,000	-	-	-	10,000	-

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grant brought forward in income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
SAP Ireland – Community Foundation for Ireland – STEAM Grant								
To fund coding workshops for Adolescents	400	-	-	400	-	400	-	400
To cover period 1 Jan 2020 to 31 Dec 2020								
Rural Development Programme Leader grant (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
Purchase of musical instruments bank	32,394	-	32,394	32,394	-	-	-	32,394
For the period 30 Mar 2021 to 30 Mar 2022								
Rural Development Programme Leader grant – Catering and training community project (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
To fund the purchase of equipment to outfit the Catering and Training Kitchen	57,819	-	-	43,099	43,099	-	-	43,099
For the period 30 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2022								
Pobal – Community Services Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
To fund café staff only	49,308	-	49,308	18,017	-	-	31,291	18,017
To cover period 28 Jun 2021 to 31 Dec 2021								
FEAD Material Aid (Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection)								
To fund administrative costs for distributing school kits	509	-	509	-	-	509	-	-
For the period 2018, 2019, 2020								

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Name and performance conditions/restrictions of grant	Total grant awarded over term	Grants due at 1 Jan 2021	Grant amount received in the year	Grant taken to income in the year	Grants due at 31 Dec 2021	Grants brought forward in deferred income at 1 Jan 2021	Grant carried forward in deferred income at 31 Dec 2021	Grant expended in period
	€	€	€	€	€	€	€	€
Rural Development Programme Leader Grant – Biodiversity Training Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
To fund biodiversity training programme	70,000	-	-	19,932	49,830	-	-	19,932
For the period 30 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2022								
Rural Development Programme Leader Grant – Biodiversity Training Programme (Department of Rural and Community Development)								
To fund biodiversity training programme	70,000	-	-	19,932	49,830	-	-	19,932
For the period 30 Mar 2021 to 31 Dec 2022								
European Initiative Programme Preparatory Funding EIP H&S (Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine)								
Preparatory Funding from DAFM towards the EIP H&S Programme	6,150	-	6,150	6,150	-	-	-	6,150
For the period 1 Jan 2021 to 31 Dec 2022								

Notes to the financial statements - continued

	2021	2020
	€	€
6 Other income		
Miscellaneous items	23,833	3,991
	23,833	3,991

7 Resources expended

Expenditure on charitable activities has been classified to comply with Charities SORP (FRS 102). Such costs include the direct costs of providing community services together with those support costs (training, volunteering, finance and administration costs) incurred that enable these activities to be undertaken. These have been allocated across the activities based on staff and volunteer numbers and utilisation.

Total support costs for 2021 of €335,803 were 9% of the total expenditure and include headcount costs of €176,529 and administration costs of €159,274. These costs are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities and a breakdown is included in the table below:

	Direct staff costs	Direct activity costs	Direct education and training costs	Support staff costs	Support costs	Total
	€	€	€	€	€	€
For the year ended 31st December 2021						
Youth and disability support services	248,377	102,147	7,382	-	24,852	382,757
Economic and Community Development	121,178	937,046	26	96,654	21,502	1,176,406
Employment Activation, Community Development and Education	883,392	45,523	36,594	15,441	48,406	1,029,356
Social Care Services to Support Older and Vulnerable People and Carers	46,945	164,505	605	29,904	32,436	274,394
Rural Recreation, Health and Environment	110,706	442,710	102,608	34,530	25,900	716,455
Miscellaneous Items	3,696	-	-	-	6,178	9,874
Total Charitable activities	1,414,294	1,691,931	147,215	176,529	159,274	3,589,242

Support costs include internal finance, maintenance, I.T., human resources, administration and general management functions. Training costs relate to the cost of running extensive training for staff essential to their work environment. These costs are allocated across other services on the basis of staff numbers and utilisation as appropriate.

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

Total support costs for 2020 of €343,580 were 11% of the total expenditure and include headcount costs of €168,973 and administration costs of €174,607. These costs are reflected in the Statement of Financial Activities and a breakdown is included in the table below:

	Direct staff costs €	Direct activity costs €	Direct education and training costs €	Support staff costs €	Support costs €	Total €
For the year ended 31st December 2020						
Youth and disability support services	272,657	47,112	25,741	-	24,446	369,956
Economic and Community Development	99,875	838,229	-	101,786	28,035	1,067,925
Employment Activation, Community Development and Education	909,798	78,369	15,893	17,951	50,076	1,072,087
Social Care Services to Support Older and Vulnerable People and Carers	9,442	52,279	858	23,045	18,379	104,002
Rural Recreation, Health and Environment	121,303	94,930	1,850	26,191	35,137	279,410
Miscellaneous items	-	705	1,495	-	18,535	20,735
Total Charitable activities	1,413,075	1,111,624	45,837	168,973	174,607	2,914,116

8 Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting)	2021 €	2020 €
Operating surplus is stated after charging/(crediting):		
Staff costs (Note 9)	1,589,709	1,495,916
Depreciation	11,536	8,024
Auditor's remuneration		
Audit of charity's financial statements	7,995	5,500
Other audit work	1,850	1,850

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

9 Employee information and benefits

(a) The average number of employees (as calculated using the methodology required by Companies Act 2014) during the year is analysed below:	2021 No.	2020 No.
Administration	5	4
Ad-hoc trainers	6	4
Ability/DAF Ability	5	5
Community Employment (including supervisors)	49	48
European Initiative Programme	2	2
Galway and Roscommon Education and Training Board	2	2
Job Initiative	4	6
Leader Rural Development Programme	2	2
Rural RO	1	1
RSS (including supervisors)	35	37
Section 39	1	1
Tús (including supervisors)	34	20
TUSLA	1	1
CSP Café	1	-
	148	132

(b) The company's employment costs for all employees comprise:	2021 €	2020 €
Wages and salaries	1,517,797	1,494,952
Social insurance costs	71,912	80,706
Pension costs	-	6,391
	1,589,709	1,582,049

Wages and salaries includes payroll costs for employees on the Community Employment Scheme and Job Initiative Scheme.

(c) The number of employees receiving remuneration over €60,000 in the year was as follows:	2021 No.	2020 No.
Salary		
€60,001 to €70,000	1	1
€70,001 to €80,000	-	-
€80,001 to €90,000	-	-
	1	1

The company's Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer are considered to be key management personnel and received a combined salary of €113,033 (2020: €111,846).

FORUM Connemara CLG employs staff as participants in government sponsored Community Employment Schemes and Job Initiative Schemes.

There were two staff receiving employer contributions to pensions in the year (2020: 2 staff). Pension costs for these higher paid employees amount to €6,270 in 2021 (2020: €6,391).

Notes to the financial statements - continued

10 Directors' remuneration

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year or during the prior year.

11 Taxation

No provision for taxation has been made because the company, being a registered charitable organisation, is exempt from tax under Section 207 and 208 of the Taxes Consolidation Acts, 1997.

12 Tangible fixed assets

	Cafe IT	Motor vehicles €	Total €
Cost			
At 1 st January 2021	-	89,056	89,056
Additions	800	9,500	10,300
At 31st December 2021	800	98,556	99,356
Accumulated depreciation			
At 1 st January 2021	-	19,156	19,156
Charge for the year	8	11,528	11,536
At 31st December 2021	8	30,684	30,692
Net book value			
At 31 st December 2021	792	67,872	68,664
At 1 st January 2021	-	69,900	69,900

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

	2021	2020
	€	€
13 Debtors – Amounts falling due within one year		
Trade debtors	5,601	200
Accrued income	168,887	26,154
Prepayments	12,256	6,746
Loan to local charity CLG	25,000	25,000
	211,744	58,100

	2021	2020
	€	€
14 Debtors – Amounts falling due after more than one year		
Loan to local charity CLG	150,000	175,000
	150,000	175,000

In 2018, the charity granted a concessionary loan of €250,000. Interest on this loan has been waived. The loan is repayable at €25,000 per annum and no security has been provided. At the reporting date, the outstanding amount was €175,000.

	2021	2020
	€	€
15 Creditors – Amounts falling due within one year		
Bank overdraft	8	-
Trade creditors	64,838	12,067
Accruals	56,266	7,995
PAYE and pay related social insurance	25,804	31,996
Deferred income	388,444	402,504
	535,360	454,562

	2021	2020
	€	€
16 Deferred income		
At 1 st January	402,504	304,769
Amounts released/deferred from Statement of Financial Activities	(14,060)	97,735
At 31 st December	388,444	402,504
Split of deferred income:		
Amounts falling due within one year	388,444	402,504
Amounts falling due after more than one year	-	-
	388,444	402,504

Deferred income represents the funding received in advance relating to grants expected to be recognised as income in the year ended 31st December 2021. It has been deferred as not fully utilised in 2021 and has been done in agreement with the grantors.

FORUM CONNEMARA CLG
(Not having a share capital and limited by guarantee)

Notes to the financial statements - continued

17 Reconciliation of movements in accumulated funds

Funds description	Balance at Start of year	Incoming resources	Resources expended	Transfers	Balance at end of year
	€	€	€	€	€
Restricted reserves	80,937	3,507,211	(3,571,363)	64,152	80,937
Unrestricted reserves	247,901	23,833	(17,879)	(60,456)	193,399
Designated capital reserve	73,985	-	-	-	73,985
Designated general and revenue reserve	114,713	-	-	-	114,713
Designated youth reserve	38,505	-	-	-	38,505
Designated redundancy reserve	115,000	-	-	(3,696)	111,304
Accumulated funds	671,041	3,531,044	(3,589,242)	-	612,843

18 Analysis of cash and cash equivalents

	At 1 st January 2021	Cash flow	At 31 st December 2021
	€	€	€
Current accounts	513,200	(48,739)	464,461
Notice Deposits	309,402	(56,076)	253,326
Net funds/(debt)	822,603	(104,815)	717,787

19 Capital commitments

The company did not have any capital commitments at the year end.

20 Contingent liabilities

In 2018, the company concluded an unsuccessful legal challenge which resulted in legal costs being awarded against it. As the company's legal representatives were unable to provide a quantum, the directors find it impracticable to make an estimate of the financial effect and because of this, the directors are of the opinion there is an indication of uncertainties relating to the amount or timing of any outflow. The directors are not aware of the possibility of any reimbursement of these costs.

21 APB Ethical Standard – Provisions Available for Small Entities

In common with many other businesses of our size and nature, we use our auditors to assist with preparation of the financial statements.

22 Limited liability

The company is limited by guarantee and does not have a share capital. Each member's liability in the event of winding up will not exceed €2.

23 Post Balance Sheet events

There have been no significant events affecting the charity since the year end.

24 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions during the year.

25 Tax clearance

FORUM Connemara CLG has an up-to-date tax clearance certificate as at the date of approval of the financial statements.

26 Approval of financial statements

The accounts were approved by the board of directors on 8th September 2022.