

ANNUAL Review 2023

CLASP SLIGO

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Gleann Hall, F52 CH79



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAIRPERSON ADDRESS _____	3
Board of directors _____	4
Budget summary _____	5
Staff Team _____	6
Staff Team Continued _____	7
Programme Updates _____	8
Quality of Life Programme _____	9
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT _____	10

CHAIRPERSON'S ADDRESS

The Company Directors in 2023 made an important decision to review and implement new governance policies which reflected the growing operation of CLASP and to comply with the Charities Regulator Authority code of conduct for registered charities.

This process involved a review of our governance structure and the drafting and implementation of several new policies which set out a template as to how we manage our finances, conduct our services on behalf of our funders, employees, members and the community.

The new policies and restructuring of the reporting system was led out by two of our newest Directors Jim O' Reegan and Joe Gethins and I would like to thank them for their time and effort in this regard. While the review process is ongoing I am confident to report we have made steady progress in 2023.

The Board and staff have worked in partnership in restructuring and understanding the day-to-day financial situation of the company and this has contributed to enabling the Board to make very clear decisions for the long term future of the company.

In 2023 CLASP again invested in three new buses ensuring we secured long term contracts on several local link services. The company secured a long-term loan from Clann Credo to enable the purchases, and we acknowledge their support.

As a Board we will continue to review and listen to the information provided by the staff and are grateful for their commitment to providing quality services to those most isolated within the community. After a few trying years, it is fantastic we can look with positivity and opportunity to the future. We look forward to the redevelopment of the car park at Gleann, which will finish off the final phase of Gleann Hall. We look forward to the potential of Geevagh and Keash Hall being upgraded leading to a secure future for all our services.

In Short term, we must reflect on the objective and principles of CLASP as leader of community development in the community and go back out and consultant and talk to communities in our area and ensure we take all views and aspirations on board in future work plans services.

Finally, we would like to thank our main funders, clients, members and our loyal employees for their continued support

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Directors

Chairperson

Vice Chairperson

Secretary

Treasurer

Director

Director

Director

Director

Director

Director

Director

Breda Forkin

Richard Brennan

Mary Frances Dwyer

Hilary Murphy

Gerald Mullaney

Joe Cullen

Jim O' Regan

Michael Bruen

Deirdre Costello

Joe Gethin

Mary Walsh

BUDGET SUMMARY

Overall Income again increased in 2023 in line with service expansions in Rural Transport income grew to €338,071 up over 34% from 2022.

The mainline figures were as follows.

• Rural Transport	€579,611
• Gurteen / Ballymote Day care Centre's	€44,838
• Sligo County Council /Leader	€148,100
• Client Contributions/ for meals	€90,909

During 2023 we upgraded and purchased several new minibuses, sustaining our long-term commitment to our own services and HSE community services in South Sligo. CLASP has secured long term loans with Clann Credo who have assisted us in our recent expansion of services. CLASP received financial mentoring support from Sligo Local Enterprise Office, and this was invaluable in projecting the long-term sustainability of the business model we operate. As always, we are conscious that in order to continue to provide a social service for older people in the catchment area, we must generate a profit on services and be creative in the ways we deliver services.

In Funding and Innovation CLASP secured two significant grants in 2023 Circular Economy Grant of €52,000 and a CLAR community enhancement Grant €50,000 for redevelopment of Gleann Car Park.

STAFF TEAM

Tom Sweeney	CE Scheme	Supervisor	
Ann Mohan	CE Scheme	Administration	
Vivien Atkinson	CE Scheme	Administration	
Caroline Armstrong	CE Scheme	Administration	
Michael McGoldrick	CE Scheme		
Ursula Lyons	CE Scheme		
Ann Corlish	CE Scheme		
Siobhan Keaney	Transport/HSE		
Damien Regan	Transport	Driver	
Mickey Regan	Transport	Driver	
David Wimsey	Transport	Driver	
Mark Kilpartrick	Transport	Driver	
John Lang	Transport	Driver	
Jimmy Cawley	Transport	Driver	
Martin Clerkin	Transport	Driver	
Hillary Lyons	CE Scheme	Driver	Transport
Austin Gaffney	CE Scheme	Driver	Transport
Christina Collis	CE Scheme	Driver	MOW
Helena Mullerova	CE Scheme	Driver	MOW
Andrew Davey	CE Scheme	Driver	MOW
Patrick Cassidy	CE Scheme	Driver	MOW
Oliver McMorrow	CE Scheme	Driver	MOW
James McAndrew	LEADER		
Mary Walsh	LEADER		
Christina Fowley	CE Scheme	Carer	
Michelle Feeney	CE Scheme	Carer	
Aideen Clarke	HSE	Cook	
Martin Guihen	HSE	Cook/Active Age Club	

STAFF TEAM CONTINUED

John Kerins	HSE	Kitchen	
Lorraine Flynn	HSE	Kitchen	
Annette Morrison	CE Scheme	Kitchen	
Geraldine Cunnane	CE Scheme	Kitchen	
Geraldine Quinn	CE Scheme	Kitchen	

We would like to wish our colleagues Ann McAndrew and Joe McTiernan a very long and happy retirement.

PROGRAMME UPDATES

RURAL TRANSPORT

Rural Transport plays the largest role within the company and is interlinked to all our services ensuring people get to appointments, social outings, and Active Age Clubs. To achieve the level of services provided we must continue to invest in our fleet transport. We purchased three new minibuses in 2023 which increased the fleet to ten minibuses.

Reflecting on 2023 it was a credit to drivers and office staff on the delivery of the level of service on a limited bus fleet. CLASP has now become an important employer in the area and is a positive contributor to local service providers.

The company now has a clear understanding of how our transport service model works and functions as a community enterprise and this is an important factor in maintaining service delivery for the future. We see membership of our service grow year on year as people become aware of the many benefits the service has to offer. As Government investment continues to grow in rural transport, we have to explore opportunities to grow services within the catchment area.

CLASP has always been an innovator in community transport we were the first and only community group in 2003 to be awarded a pilot community car scheme, we must be forward looking and continue to research and implement the best models of community transport. Finally we have to highlight the work Siobhan Keaney does on a daily bases managing the rural transport services in pulling the many moveable parts together ensuring people get from A to B.

Quality of Life Programme

Delighted to report that the Quality-of-Life Programme had a very successful year in 2023, a number of factors contributed to this including, the redevelopment of Gleann Hall, making the center more comfortable for older people. Sophia Hummel was brought in under various small funding streams to co-ordinate social and educational activities with Active Age club members. Staff have worked on boosting participation at the clubs, and we are delighted with the high attendance at each of the five Active Age clubs.

Highlight Returns for 2023

- 8,174 Meals cooked for Ballymote and Gurteen Day Care Services
- 2,849 Older People attended our Active Age Clubs
- 11,967 Meals cooked and Delivered from Keash Kitchen
- 14,639 Meals Delivered from Cloonamahon Kitchen

The output from the two kitchens is increasing year on year and huge credit must go to all the staff associated with the kitchens and services. Throughout the last two years we have been refining the way we report, administrate and manage the catering for the Meals on Wheels service, thankfully these adjustments have meant a more efficient service.

In 2023 we have been innovative in our approach to finding a solution to packaging for the Meals on Wheels service. We have been piloting a reusable meal tray. We are delighted to report a number of positive outcomes to the pilot scheme and we are confident in the future that CLASP will become a leading player in promoting and supplying reusable meal trays to National Meals on Wheels service. CLASP has used the National Meals on Wheels network to promote the circular economy concept and through a partnership process with Amenctia consultants we hope to expand the enterprise in the coming years.

Finally the Board would like to thank all staff associated with the quality of life program and the huge impact it makes to older people living independently within our community.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

COMMUNITY SHED

The Community Shed held a number of successful and well subscribed workshops in 2023. It was kicked off with a well-attended Woodworking for Women with local artist Eileen MacDonagh aided by Sophia Hummel. This course was made possible with a grant from Creative Ireland.

Workshops held in 2023

- Autumn and Christmas wreath making with Mary Shivnan
- Car Maintenance for Women - Funded by Sligo LEADER
- Meet and Make Sessions Tuesday / Thursday Morning
- Singing Circle
- Book Barter for Children's Book held before Christmas

The Community Shed had 57 members in 2023 who participated in all the above courses and workshops. The Community Shed decided at the end of December to set up a committee to oversee future developments of the Shed. The main objective of the committee is to create a warm and friendly atmosphere within the shed which will be inviting for new members. The committee is also focused on redeveloping the hall for the long term and have highlighted several capital funding grants for the Shed. The committee commissioned an energy audit for the shed and is using this audit to plan out the future layout of the shed.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

The Community Garden is going strong with member volunteers meeting every Saturday morning to work in the garden. Andrew has plans to hold a number of Workshops in various aspects of gardening and plant care in 2024.

SUMMARY

The Shed had a very successful 2023, new people have brought new energy and ideas to the concept and vision of what a Community Shed should be. The workshops presented have brought people from all over Sligo to Geevagh to try out activities they always wanted to try but didn't have access to. The Shed has become an important welcome hub for people that have moved to the area in recent years and with the support of CLASP we hope to sustain activities for the future.

The establishment of the new Community Shed committee is an important development in the future of CLASP. It shows the principles of Community Development are being implemented in the company and shows the importance of developing and supporting a new committee and then letting them take ownership of the project. CLASP hopes to continue and sustain this important relationship in the future and to support the committee in their vision for the Community Shed.

