

SOCIAL INCLUSION NETWORK

The Social Inclusion Network was set up in July 2008. The aim of the network is to look at issues which can cause social exclusion and to take action on these. Issues the network has dealt with to date are heating your home on a budget and waste management.

Heating your home on a budget

The high cost of heating homes has been an issue over the last couple of years and as the Social Inclusion Network was being set up, it was decided to try to tackle this issue. The network decided firstly to organize a meeting with the ESB, Bord Gas, Citizens Information Centre, and Longford Warmer Homes. This was to discuss what people should do if and when they run into difficulties paying their bills for one reason or another.

The next action the Social Inclusion Network undertook was in partnership with the Citizens Information Centre and was on 'Keeping Well and Warm in County Longford'. The Citizens Information Centre delivered a presentation and facilitated a question and answer session on the rights and entitlements which may be relevant to people on a Social Welfare Benefit.

In January of this year the issue of the storage heater's arose once again. The network decided to hold Storage Heater's Demonstration Workshops. Two were held in community houses in McEoin Park and in Springlawn. One was held in the Family Centre. Attendees were given individual tuition by a qualified electrician on the workings of storage heaters.

Waste Management

The Community Development Worker consulted with various community groups around County Longford about issues which people are experiencing around the topic of Waste Management. A meeting was held where all participants in the consultation were invited to a presentation of the findings. The actions are currently being worked on by the network. The first is to have a meeting with Gary Brady, who is the Environmental Awareness Officer with Longford County Council. Please see Latest News/Upcoming Events for more information.