Dear Community Representatives,

We are endeavoring to make all Community Groups, Sports Clubs, Charities and Social Enterprises in the county aware of their potential ability to access Community Finance of approximately €70m, ring-fenced exclusively for use by voluntary led groups in the region.

Community Finance Ireland is a Charity which provides loans exclusively to other third sector organisations such as community groups, charities, sports clubs and social enterprises in the Republic of Ireland. Since 2001, as part of the wider UCIT Group, we’ve committed in excess of €90 million to over 500 organisations across the island of Ireland.

If having reviewed the following information, you should see merit in discussing the potential use of Community Finance in your community/project, just drop an email to discuss further. If nothing else, **join our mailing list** to keep up to date with developments by visiting this link [https://www.communityfinance.ie/contact#contact](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=_eXA3AwfsMBSlRue1Bspo4h2rJ_KpBKXFPXBy5rnmA&s=613&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2ecommunityfinance%2eie%2fcontact%23contact) , and feel free to forward this notice to others in your area!

A brief explanatory Video  on Community Finance (Ireland) is available by clicking on the following link (Ctrl+ Click to follow Link) - [Community Finance (Ireland) Animation](https://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=_eXA3AwfsMBSlRue1Bspo4h2rJ_KpBKXFPbDypWxzA&s=613&u=https%3a%2f%2fwww%2eyoutube%2ecom%2fwatch%3fv%3dfv3wc74a9-8)

**The Main Points to Note for Now!**

* Volunteer Led, Provider of Social Finance exclusively to the Community Based Sector across the Republic of Ireland
* Part of the Ulster Community Investment Trust Group which has, since 2001, committed some €90 million into Communities across the entire island, North and South.
* Governed by Volunteer Directors elected from our Membership Base. Whilst loan holders are NOT obliged to become members of the group, membership is open to all individuals and organisations interested in purchasing a Share in UCIT – Shares do not pay a dividend and are fully redeemable at any time.
* A registered Charity (CHY NO. 13926), all profits reinvested for onward lending

**More Important Stuff!**

* Currently availing of access to some €70 million for further lending to the sector
* Amounts vary between €30k and €500k - Current Interest Rates being charged vary between 5% and 6%, and include a 3% shelter against future European Rate increases.
* Not affiliated with any Bank or Government Department - Independent Community owned Organisation

**Bridging Loans are available to facilitate the drawing of retrospective Grants, such as Rural Development Programme, SEAI, and Sports Capital funding.**

**Get This!**

* Term Loans are available up to a maximum 15 years (20 years for Social Housing).
* Whilst Security (by way of legal charges on property) may be applicable to Term Loans in some instances, repayment capacity is of ultimate importance, and unsecured lending is a feature of lending within our sector.
* Where repayment capacity is determined, Community Finance is available for a range of purposes e.g. Debt Refinancing, Property Acquisition, and Capital Upgrades
* Applicants will have an appointed Executive deal with them from the point of Enquiry/Application to ultimate drawdown of funds.

**How is this Support Different?**

* Community Finance (Ireland) **DO NOT CHARGE ARRANGEMENT FEES**
* There are **NO PENALTIES** for Lump Sum Repayments or Early Redemption
* There are **NO PERSONAL GUARANTEES** applicable to the loans.
* Interest Rate Changes **WILL NOT AFFECT** the monthly repayment amount.
* For More information visit [www.communityfinance.ie](http://scanmail.trustwave.com/?c=6600&d=_eXA3AwfsMBSlRue1Bspo4h2rJ_KpBKXFPTFncyzng&s=613&u=http%3a%2f%2fwww%2ecommunityfinance%2eie) / email [donaltraynor@communityfinance.ie](mailto:donaltraynor@communityfinance.ie) or call 041-6858637 for an informal conversation.
* Finally, Community Finance Ireland are willing to present a FREE Investor Readiness Session, open to all Community led Entities in the County, should the PPN Secretariat deem this to be of use to the community sector there.

**Donal Traynor MBS LIB QFA**

**Associate Director**

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Ulster Community Investment Trust (Ireland) Ltd t/a Community Finance (Ireland) (Company No. 544901) is registered as a charity in the Republic of Ireland

(Charity No. 20044619) and it’s registered address is Unit 16, Ardee Business Park, Hale St, Ardee, Co. Louth