



Annual Report 2020

Street Feast CLG (t/a Neighbourhood Network)



What we're about

Neighbourhood Network came from the team behind Street Feast, a national neighbourhood street party event to celebrate community. We are a not-for-profit, community building organisation. We're all about building and strengthening neighbourhoods and kick-starting ideas for positive community participation.

At our core, we focus on reducing loneliness and social isolation by creating community connections. We do this by:

- Running projects that promote neighbourliness, social inclusion, volunteering and creativity in the community.
- Coordinating neighbours to form community groups and give them an opportunity to connect at a hyper local level, providing a framework and resources to self organise and enable them to interact together.
- Running all-inclusive, age-friendly gatherings that build community, reduce isolation and kick-start ideas for positive community participation



Street Feast 2018 - Newmarket, Aimee Stones

The 2020 Story



Tea at Three 2020 - Galway, Joan Kennedy

OVERVIEW

When lockdown was introduced in March, it gradually became clear that Street Feast 2020 would have to be cancelled and our work would change drastically. We noticed the rapid emergence of community response teams, whatsapp support groups and the rallying of community action. Our work in building community resilience over the past 10 years was now needed more than ever.

THE CHALLENGE

From the outset, we needed to respond quickly to shifting parameters and think about where we could offer the most value, support and impact. This led to us knocking on the door of ChangeX. Our connection with ChangeX led to funding from WebSummit which opened up further opportunities for growth. Our team grew, we built a website and we began working with neighbourhood leaders, identifying new ways to support our network of communities.

THE SOLUTION

We realised that neighbourhoods needed the chance to maintain and celebrate the connections that form at Street Feasts, all year round. So 'Neighbourhood Network' became the new name for everything we do; to offer resources and help communities support each other, stay connected and form long-lasting neighbourhood relationships. The crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic catalysed ideas we had been nurturing for a while, encouraging us to turn them into action.

NEXT STEPS

Towards the end of 2020 we began to think about the long term and how Neighbourhood Network can continue to support communities build and strengthen neighbourliness.



Tea at Three 2020 - Glasnevin, Cathy Flynn

What we did in 2020

PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

1

Community Activity Challenge

We developed an activity guide, with 30+ activity ideas and invited neighbours to take part in this fun, responsibly constructed challenge which enables social distancing while celebrating our neighbours and building community spirit.

Over the course of the challenge 18 activity packs were sent out to neighbourhoods all over the country.



2

Tea at Three

A simple idea that encourages communities to check-in with their neighbours at a safe social distance.

The point is to connect communities and ensure that those who are cocooning or are particularly isolated are not left behind during this time. Plus, it's a simple way to form lasting neighbourhood connections and build up trust in communities.

What we did in 2020

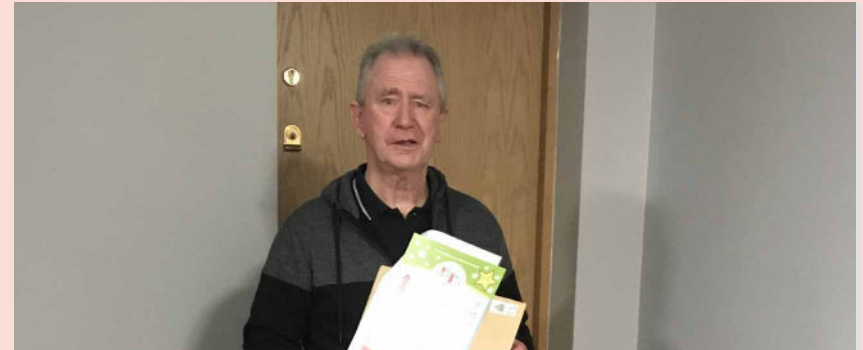
PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

3

Community Boost Webinars

The Community Boost Webinars gave us the opportunity to hear from inspirational community leaders & build connections within the larger neighbourhood network community.

During the Summer we held 8 Webinars and heard from a variety of different voices



4

Nominate a Neighbour

Every community has its stars - the neighbours who go above and beyond to keep the place in shape or who always put a smile on your face.

Every day in our work with Neighbourhood Network, we come across local heroes who bring the community together. More than ever in these times, we depend on those closest to us and Nominate a Neighbour provides the opportunity to give them the recognition they deserve

What we did in 2020

PROGRAMMES, ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

5

An Meithal Áitiúil

The Irish Language version of Neighbourhood Network, in partnership with An tOireachtas.

I mbliana, ní raibh deis againn Féastaí Sráide a reáchtáil ach fós féin bhí muid ábalta pobail agus comharsana a thabhairt le chéile. Táimid ag cabhrú le pobail ar fud an oileáin trí thacaíocht agus seirbhísí a thabhairt do dhaoine atá i mbaol le linn na pandéime COVID-19. Cruthaíodh An Meitheal Áitiúil le cinntiú nár mhothaigh duine ar bith tréigthe in a bpobal féin agus le pobail a láidriú agus a spreagadh.



6

Supports to Community Connectors

During 2020 we developed a network of community connectors and organisers from all over the country. Some of the ways we offer support include:

- Whatsapp group - Allows the NN team to check in with community members and offer them support on their projects. It also offers them the opportunity to engage with each other and share ideas.
- Call outs - Check ins with registered neighbourhood networkers to offer support, advice and resources they can use in their communities.
- Group forums - a chance for organisers to meet and discuss their local community efforts.

Successes we had in 2020

Neighbourhood Network's key mission is to act as a catalyst that encourages neighbours to connect by offering tangible ideas that can be used as an excuse to knock on a neighbour's door. Developing networks within neighbourhoods is one of the biggest successes to come from our projects this year.

Some other successes to come from this year's project's include:



Tea at Three 2020 - Glasnevin, Cathy Flynn



Learning

2020 WAS A YEAR OF FIRSTS, A YEAR OF ADAPTING AND A YEAR FOR LEARNING

So what lessons are we taking with us into 2021?..



With lots of flux, and constant change, it was hard to find the right point of support for neighbourhoods. Plans would change, because of new info on restrictions - but we learned to adapt to this new way of organising and facilitating.



Each neighbourhood and community connector within those neighbourhoods had differing needs and a tendency towards differing solutions. Learning from each other - Creating a space for like-minded, community-orientated individuals was a useful resource for connectors to spread and share community ideas.



There was a huge positive response in communities where the focus was on creating community spaces. Larger scale socially distanced gatherings like Drive-In Bingo, Outdoor film screenings and community Tea-At-Three were very popular.

Our Plans for 2021

OUR 4 OUTPUT GOALS –

At the end of 2020, we set for ourselves some strategic goals to accomplish in the next year 2021.



Street Feast 2019 - Skibereen

1

Build a Neighbourliness Assessment Model

A tool to gauge community health, connection and neighbourliness.

2

Do a Needs Assessment of the Network

Develop and improve upon the support we give to Neighbourhood Networkers and their communities. Engage with communities to see how we can support better.

3

Improve on Programme Deliveries

Work on project development structure and planning. Develop strategies for delivering consistent, quality projects and programmes.

4

Clarity on our core research question

Is what we do worthwhile and does supporting Neighbourhood Networkers increase the social safety of neighbourhoods?

Upcoming Projects

1

Time Machine

The 'Time Machine' is an age-friendly, cross-generational neighbourhood project in partnership with 5 communities across the county. It connects 10 young people to 10 senior citizens who live near them. Facilitated interviews are conducted between the young person and the older person. The recorded responses, the art works and photos create an image of how the community looks now and in the past.

The Community Time Machine has worked very successfully in our pilot project with Wicklow County Council Arts Office in January 2021. We are now bringing the project to communities in other counties.

2

Home Together

Neighbourhood Network is launching a new pilot project supported by Cairn Homes. We are working with and inspiring homeowners to come together within their new neighbourhoods to create strong, well-connected communities.

As residents settle into their new homes, we will be providing each area with the tools to build a culture of connectedness from the beginning. Our ambition is simple - to create happy places for people to live, where neighbours feel supported by each other.

3

Neighbourliness Assessment Model

Our Neighbourliness Assessment Model aims to expand dramatically the scope of Neighbourhood Network towards a truly national impact, creating knowledge products that can be applied to community-building activities across Ireland and in policy through the creation of neighbourliness/resilience assessment model.

The Neighbourliness Assessment Model is akin to a 'community health check' for Irish communities. This tool has large scale applications for community building projects far beyond our Network. Working with researchers, our own decade's worth of data, and a pilot in three new communities, we are designing and testing a tool to gauge the power of neighbourhood connections.



Time Machine, Madeline Mulqueen & Val Byrne, 2021 - Co. Wicklow

Behind the Scenes

OPERATIONS TEAM



Sam Bishop



Aoife O'Connor



Jess Ryan



Áine Lawless



Erin Fornoff

GOVERNANCE

Neighbourhood Network is a young organisation that is building from the work of early social entrepreneurial pioneers. We are committed to achieving a high standard of organisational governance.

In 2020 the organisation focused on building strong foundations towards adopting the Charities Governance Code and we expect that 2021 will see significant progress in this area. The work was begun in building a values-based board and creating the systems, policies and structures essential for a vibrant organisation with high safety and compliance standards. Neighbourhood Network operates under the legal entity of Street Feast CLG.

2020 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Clodagh O'Reilly
- Craig Bishop
- Dave Dunn
- Sam Bishop

Appreciation & Thank You's

Our work this year would not have been possible without the support of some incredible community members, organisations and collaborators

Funders & Partners

- Paul, Niamh, Katie and the team at ChangeX
- Playful City
- An tOireachtas
- Websummit
- Creative Ireland
- Wicklow County Council
- Meath County Council
- National Lottery
- Community Foundation for Ireland
- Wicklow Local Sports Partnership
- HSE
- Just Eat

Supporters & Collaborators

- Derek McDonnell
- Lara Sheridan
- Carmichael Centre
- Emily O'Callaghan
- Irina Dzhambazova
- Cathy Flynn
- Orlaith Hurley
- Kevin Tierney
- Mason Hayes Curran
- John Lambert
- Louise Barker
- Helen O'Hara
- Lynda Stopford
- Liam O'Dwyer
- Clodagh O'Reilly
- Sarah Williams
- Gilles Varette
- Emily Archer

As always we greatly appreciate the support of our patron Michael D. Higgins





Every **49** seconds someone contacts Samaritans in Ireland and **40%** of these calls reference loneliness or isolation.
(Samaritans Ireland Impact report 2019)

THE PROBLEM

Over the last six months, more than **70%** of the older people who have contacted Alone are living on their own, and have expressed increased feelings of isolation and loneliness.
(Alone and Tilda Covid 19 Social Isolation Report 2020)



Over 1,200 Street Feasts held annually

5,563 Street Feasts have taken place since 2010



203 Neighbourhood Network groups started

514 Neighbourhood leaders involved across 31 counties



Our impact

45 Féasta Sráide / Irish Language groups involved

110,000 Street Feast Attendees annually

92 neighbours attend each Street Feast on average

14 Irish language speaking groups involved as part of Meitheal Áitiúil

6 Community Boost Webinars during Covid19

40 newsletters sent to our 9,465 Neighbourhood Networkers on our mailing list



What people say



92% of people who ran a Street Feast said they would do it again (*1)

66% want to be more connected to their neighbours (*1)

72% of people said they have no involvement in their local residents association or group (*2)

Social Reach



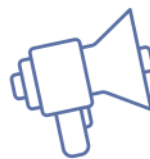
17.5k Facebook followers



1.1 million views for Street Feast 2016 promo video

160 media appearances

In 2019 alone -
including RTE TV news, RTE Morning Ireland, Virgin Media TV, Irish Independent, Irish Times & Sunday Times.
€377k worth of press coverage for Street Feast 2019 (*4)



Some of our Partners



31 County Councils



An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and Community Development

An tOireachtas

changeX



web summit

President Michael D. Higgins Patron of Street Feast



"All of our public events gain from the widest community participation. We must all by now realise the importance of community, inclusion, creativity and togetherness - all values that require support and a conscious effort of care, protection and solidarity. Initiatives such as Street Feast provide exactly that type of opportunity."

"Neighbourhood Network helped the African community in Galway to integrate and feel socially included with the rest of the wider community. It helped direct provision residents to showcase their talents and meet the Irish community and other nationalities"

Wally Nkikita Galway Host, 2019

We have run 5 street feasts now, and truly know that it's an event that everyone looks forward to each year. Kids are growing up together, old friends are reuniting and local initiatives are being shared and supported. It's fab!"

Charlotte Barker, Clonliffe Susanville Street Feast, Drumcondra, Street Feast Host 2019



Neighbourhood Network is an Irish not-for-profit organisation which aims to promote social inclusion, tackle loneliness and build supportive and resilient neighbourhoods around Ireland. Our work creates communities of empowered people, with a strong sense of local identity, and builds empathy and understanding between neighbours.

*1 : from Street Feast research conducted with 560 Street Feast respondents in 2019
*2 : From our research conducted with Brand Army who fielded this online survey on behalf of Centra & Street Feast from 22 - 26 April 2013, in a nationally representative, nationwide survey among 500 respondents, of the employed adult population aged 18+.
*3 : Samaritans Ireland Impact Report 2019
*4: From RuePoint Media Monitoring



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or visit:

www.neighbourhoodnetwork.ie