

The Community Development Process

1. A meeting of local people.
2. Organise the people into groups.
3. Research the problems that need to be fixed in the area.
4. Carry out a local audit.
5. Pick a project.
6. Make a plan.
7. Seek help from state agencies.
8. Seek finance.

Why Community Development is Important

Community development is important as it creates better infrastructure for the area. It stops social decay and creates local pride. It encourages social activities and bring about education and training facilities for the local people. It also helps to attract businesses, increasing the amount of jobs in the area and an overall wealth for those living in it.

Obstacles to Community Development

- Lack of finance.
- Unable to get planning permission for parks etc.
- Not enough entrepreneurial people locally.
- Disagreement over what to develop.

Bodies That Can Help

Leader Plus

Set up by the EU, they want to promote rural development. They give grants to small businesses.

County Enterprise Boards

They try to encourage small businesses to set up and give them grants. They pay for feasibility studies and provide mentoring to new, small businesses.

Fás

Fás provides education and training to local people and give them advice on how to get employment. They also give grants for feasibility studies and give grants to people who are long-term unemployed so that they can set up their own business.

How Businesses Can Help

- Creating jobs.
- Purchasing from local companies.
- Reinvesting profits into community.
- Sponsorship.