

North Kerry Sustainability Day

Community - Climate - Nature

Date: Sunday 23rd February
Venue: Tinteán Theatre
10.30am - 4.30pm

Interactive
exhibitions &
Informative
presentations

10.30-11 : Welcome

11-11.45 : Energy & Sustainability

12-12.45 : Wild & Wonderful

12.45-1.30 : Lunch Break

1.30-2.15 : Adapting To Climate Challenges

2.30-3.15 : Food Health & WellBeing

3.30-4.15 : Drawing Into Life

Drawing Into
Life

Being creative and
imagining the future
we want to be
Creating a vision for
the world we want to
see

Energy &
Sustainability

Building a sustainable
energy community
as well as

Being warm and
saving money

Wild &
Wonderful

What's wild &
wonderful in our own
biosphere?
Exploring our local
biodiversity and the
challenges they face

Adapting to
Climate
Challenges

First Responses
& Community
Co-ordinating

Food, Health &
Wellbeing

Are you what you eat?
Find out through this
discussion panel of
local growers and food
producers

Creative
Climate Action



Clár Éire Idirleach
Creative Ireland
Programme



Panellists

Energy & Sustainability: Catriona Fallon (SEAI SEC Mentor), Joan Quinlan (local homeowner with much experience in energy upgrading on her property), Cormac Cahill (owner of SuperValu which has done a lot of energy upgrades recently)

Wild & Wonderful: Dr Joanne O'Brien (Brilliant Ballybunion Project Team), George Nolan (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator), Seán Culhane (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator), Eleanor Turner (Biodiversity Officer in Kerry County Council),

Bláithnaid O'Loughlin (Community Water Officer with Local Authority Waters Programme/LAWPRO)

Adapting to Climate Challenges: Martha Farrell (Maharees Conservation Association), Lisa Fingleton (Brilliant Ballybunion Project Team), David Walsh & Ian Blake (Kerry Fire & Rescue Services), Noel McCarthy (Garda Síochána), Derek Nagle & Gearóid O'Conner (Ballybunion Sea & Cliff Rescue)

Food, Health & Well-Being: Rena Blake (Brilliant Ballybunion Project Team), Danial Hayes (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator & Scoil Íosagáin), seven children from Scoil Íosagáin, Daniel O'Brien (Chef & Simply Devine Preserves & Honey), Billy Jo O'Connor (Owner of Organic Leagh Farm, Ballyduff)

Drawing Into Life: Lisa Fingleton (Brilliant Ballybunion Project Team), Marta O'Connor (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator), Karen Costello (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator), Daniel Hayes (Brilliant Ballybunion Community Collaborator & Scoil Íosagáin), two children from Scoil Íosagáin.

Stalls on the day

Ballybunion Tidy Towns; Ballyduff Tidy Towns; EcoTrek Walking Tours; Irish Whale & Dolphin Group (IWDG); Irish Wildlife Trust; Kerry County Council Biodiversity Unit; Leagh Farm; Local Authority Waters Programme (LAWPRO); Maharees Conservation Association (and Neart na Machairí); National Park and Wildlife Service (NPWS); Simply Devine Preserves & Honey; and Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI)

FEEDBACK ON THE EVENT

ONLINE FEEDBACK FROM ATTENDEES

A short Google Forms survey was emailed to attendees on our list soon after the event with the following questions: 1. Are you resident in/near Ballybunion? 2. Why did you attend the North Kerry Sustainable Day? 3. Did the day meet your expectations? 4. Have you taken part in any other Brilliant Ballybunion Events? 5. Do you have any feedback or suggestions as to how we could improve projects/activities/events like this in Ballybunion?

Nine people responded (out of an e-mail list of 147 people)

Of the eight people who responded to Q1, five were from the area and three were from further away (Tullamore, Dublin, Tralee).

Their reasons for attending were:

Interest in nature; It looked like it was going to be a very informative and interactive day exploring sustainability and what that means; Representing the Local Authorities Water Programme Communities Team; Social media; To educate myself a little more and to meet people with similar interests; To support the organisers and to help a little.

Of the five people who responded to Q4, two had attended other Brilliant Ballybunion events and three had not. Eight people said the day met their expectations and one said it did somewhat.

Of the five people who responded to Q5, two said they had no suggestions and the other three responses were:

'The day was absolutely excellent, so well organised and run. Every last detail was attended to. The panels were an engaging mix of local and global interest. A really positive, can-do energy permeated which clearly comes from the core group of Brilliant Ballybunion.'

'I think the day was well laid out and kept to times which was terrific.'

'I'd like to have seen and to continue to see what each collaborator has been doing and what they are planning to do going forward.'

DE-BRIEF FEEDBACK FROM THE ORGANISING TEAM

A week after the event, the project team and seven of the collaborators responded in writing to the following questions: How do you think the day went overall? How did you feel: before the event? during the event? after the event? What do you think worked? What do you think didn't work? What impact do you think the event had on attendees? What would you do differently if you were running a similar event again? Any other thoughts?

Overall responses

'I think the event was fantastic. Everything looked very professional, very well organised, very interesting and informative.'

'I thought it was a great success. The number of really interested people was amazing. They were really keen to learn and very interactive in the audience and in the lobbies with the stands.'

'I arrived at the interval after the first two sessions due to family reasons. When I arrived, there seemed to be a great buzz about the building with a mixture of attendees. Everyone was positive and complimentary throughout the day. Attendees were involved and engaged and asked questions at the end of presentations.'

'Brilliant, very very proud of all as a team, a community and a town, It all looked so creative, professional and people were so impressed. Great buzz and each panel was excellent and engaging.'

'It was more nerve wracking being on stage with people with much more experience and expertise than me, but I enjoyed delivering my own personal perspective and take on the same issues. There were some intriguing questions which showed a good buy in from attendees. The children lapped it up and all gave interesting and engaging insights – they were superb and really well received.'

'It was a big success, and it was great to walk away from an event like that knowing the community were so interested.'

What Worked

- Being positive and focusing on what we can do.
- The range of speakers and making so many connections - first responders, council workers etc.
- The content was interesting to the attendees, the emergency services responses to extreme weather was a big hit.
- Having local people on stage along with the BB team and professionals. The people from the community could really connect with them.
- The relaxed nature of the 'interview'.
- The decision to allow the children's voice on the school garden presentation was definitely a positive.
- The pacing was excellent, so it didn't feel rushed or information overload.
- The pop in pop out format.
- The stalls were a great addition, people could engage over a coffee and there was a broad spectrum of interests.

- The venue worked well for the most part, parking was plentiful, the building was clean bright, lighting, sound all great.
- The layout of the stage made it more relaxed for attendees.
- The projection screen was very effective.
- Creativity throughout all aspects – children's exhibition in the gallery, beautiful stage set up and lighting; films showing in lobby and before every session; linking in with artist in residence; working with Daniel's class and having the children talking on stage about their 'The Future we Want to be Drawing.'
- The food supplied was as always first class again without being too fussy, simple, nutritious and delicious.
- Teamwork in Brilliant Ballybunion.
- Every one of the group put work into the event, even if they weren't able to make it on the day.

Recommendations for future events

- Make it a bit shorter. At the end of the event there was only a handful of people left.
- Maybe have less on in one day or spread it over a weekend. People were disappointed not to hear everything, because they didn't have the time to stay all day.
- More consideration around catering, washing crockery, making coffee, etc. It was achieved only by heroic efforts of the volunteers and the patience of the public.
- Pay two people to serve food and make tea so the pressure is not on volunteers (though they loved it and were brilliant)
- Provide better signage in the venue.
- Consider accessibility and signage about access.
- Get further buy in from the school community.
- Try to keep the stalls together (not upstairs and downstairs)
- Have a more effective sign in system (that will catch everyone coming in)
- Is there a way of being able to share the footage and the talks afterwards? People asked me many times if there was somewhere they could listen to the talks that they missed.

OUTCOMES

We had a very good attendance

A total of 217 either attended or were involved in the day. The breakdown is as follows: 149 public attendees; 55 stallholders and panellists; 13 from Brilliant Ballybunion (project team and nine community collaborators)

We now have an email list of 147 interested people

We secured volunteers for potential new groups

In the online survey, and also on the day, attendees were told about five possible new groups and asked to sign up if they were interested. The following are the results:

- Ballybunion Nature Group: 9 on the day and 7 online. **Total 16**
- Ballybunion Sustainable Energy Community (SEC): 6 on the day and 1 online. **Total 7**
- Ballybunion Art & Creativity Group: 6 written and 1 online. **Total 7**
- Ballybunion Preparing for Climate Challenges Group: 3 on the day and 2 online. **Total 5**
- Ballybunion Community Growing Group: 0 on the day and 2 online. **Total 2**

The total number of people who responded was 23. A number of people signed up to two or three groups, 1 person signed up for all groups.

The Ballybunion Nature Group launched a month laterThe Ballybunion Sustainable Energy Community is launching in November 2025.