



Community Benefit Fund Committee

The Committee is made up of voluntary community representatives who have ultimate responsibility for the fund strategy and delivery. The Fund Committee concept places communities at the heart of the decision-making process. It plays a key role in providing leadership, and in ensuring the funds are used to facilitate sustainable community development and climate action.



Karen Heavey

Karen brings a wealth of experience to the Committee. Currently working as a Health Promotion and Improvement Manager, she is dedicated to promoting health and wellness in the community. Karen's longstanding commitment to local development began with her early career as a Community Development Worker with Offaly and Kildare Partnership. She has been actively involved in Ballybryan Parents Association for 12 years and as secretary for 10 years. She is also a member of Rhode and Wider Environs Planning Group.



Carol Glennon

Carol contributes valuable expertise to the Committee. She believes participating in community initiatives helps promote inclusivity and a variety of activities for everyone. She lives in Ballinabrackey with her husband and four children. Carol has worked at Barnardos Edenderry for 18 years and actively contributes to local groups, including the Parents Association, under-9 LGFA coaching, joint treasurer for Ballinabrackey Underage GAA, and chairing the Community Games Committee.



Eugene Mulligan

Eugene offers a well-informed perspective shaped by years of involvement in community activities. He was founder member of Croghan Rhode Senior Citizen committee and involved in setting up the original FÁS scheme in Rhode. Eugene is currently Chairman of the North Offaly Development Fund. He has been involved with the GAA for many years, as coach, officer and player for Rhode and Offaly.



Maureen Byrne

Maureen brings vast expertise to the Committee with a fisheries science qualification and a career spanning 30 years as a Protection Officer for Inland Fisheries. Much of her work is with river habitat restoration, guiding groups through funding opportunities and project delivery. Maureen has lived in Rhode for 10 years with her husband, 3 dogs and lots of hens! Her passion for wildlife, the natural environment and sustainability drive her active role on the committee, blending expertise with environmental stewardship.



Paul Smith

Paul supports the Committee with community engagement. He is a Manager at ESB's Enterprise Services Department, collaborating closely with EY and Accenture. Known for strategic leadership and cross-functional coordination, Paul drives operational excellence across teams. He contributes to the community through coaching experience of underage GAA teams in both ladies and Rhode Óg and has a keen interest in the development of these underage teams.



Darragh Brennan

Darragh provides expertise on the needs of sports clubs' for committee matters. He is a final-year student studying Economics and Finance in TU Dublin. Darragh plays football locally for Kilclonfert and rugby in Dublin with Terenure College RFC. He is passionate about sport and teamwork and was honored to represent Ireland while playing for the team once at underage level in rugby. Darragh is committed to creating a positive impact in the community.



Breda Fennessy

Breda demonstrates strong expertise in youth and community work through her extensive experience as a youth worker. She is known for her dedicated support of vulnerable young people and families within the community. Her career has focused on creating positive outcomes for those most in need. She actively represents the voices of vulnerable individuals on local committees, helping shape strategic initiatives that ensure funding directly benefits marginalised individuals.



Grace Malone

Grace brings a thoughtful approach and a positive voice for youth to the Committee. She is the youngest member of the Committee and a fifth-year student at St. Mary's Secondary School Edenderry. A recent Gaelic football county double medalist, Grace is passionate about sport and team orientated. When she's not on the pitch, she enjoys spending time with friends, family, staying active and making the most of school life and experiences.



Karen Kellaghan

Karen provides guidance and informed input to the Committee from her community volunteering and fundraising work as well as 25 years' experience working in finance, in areas such as budgeting, planning, team building and financial guidance. Balanced under pressure and creative in problem-solving, Karen supports colleagues to achieve results. Beyond work, she's deeply engaged in her community as giving back drives her to contribute skills, time and energy. She values hard work, kindness and helping others professionally and personally.



John Little

John draws on his career, practical insight and community perspective to support committee decisions. He is currently working as a QS for Cost and Construction and lives in Rochfordbridge with his wife and three children. Strongly rooted in the community, he is an active member of the following committees: St. Mary's GAA Development, Scoil Chroi Naofa Development, Lough Ennell Trout Preservation, Local Golf Society member, and Rochfordbridge Community Centre Development Committee.



Annette Duffy

Annette has 25 years' experience in the non-profit sector in management and front-line service delivery. As Fund Administrator she guides the Committee with best practice ensuring sound governance and operational oversight. She has worked across education, training and employment, enterprise and social enterprise service provision. Her contributions span local, regional and national programmes and initiatives. She holds a BA in Social Studies and a MA in Community Development.