

Sharing Rural Spaces A Resource Allocation model

Omagh Forum for Rural
Associations

29th June 2011



Omagh Forum for Rural Associations

- Rural Support Network in Omagh DC area
- Membership based organisation – 72 currently
- Managed by Board of Directors
- Services: technical assistance to groups; fundraising support; training; direct programme delivery
- DARD main funder - tendered program



Sharing Rural Spaces

- Strategic Priority 3 – Sharing for Sustainable Places Programme
- Partners: Omagh District Council, Omagh Volunteer Centre & FOCUS
- Award of £71,282
- 1 August 2009 – 31 March 2011 (May)



Aim & Objectives of SRS

Aim: To address directly the problems of hidden sectarianism and racism in rural areas and enable community halls (widest interpretation) and their management to become more inclusive.

Objectives:

- To engage a number of community organisations and venues in an anti sectarianism programme in rural Omagh;
- provision of training to the management committees of venues including good relations;
- develop a programme of work in each venue which tackles hidden sectarianism;
- To pair the organisations so that different traditions and communities are coming together to participate in the training and programmes;
- to organise site visits for participating groups;
- Build relationships, encourage dialogue and promote change within individuals/between communities.



Recruit the groups

- Wide recruitment across the area and with partners
- Word of mouth & recommendation to find partner
- Application process with criteria & assessment process
- Best for groups to talk it over first without a chance application
- Low capacity groups in most cases

Groups Participating

- Two seniors: Hospital Road Senior Citizens Club & Carrickmore Afternoon Club
- Two young musicians: Beeches Irish traditional music group & Newtownsaville Social Club
- Three farmers: Blacksessiagh Farmers; Camowen Farmers combined & Seskinore YFC
- Three generic groups: Eskra Com Assoc; Mountfield Com Assoc & Royal British
- Legion



Groups Programme development PROPOSAL FORM

- Each group availed of £3,500 programme development costs
- Each cluster completed a proposal form for approval on how it would be spent and how the partner groups were involved?
- Specific cluster Peace & Reconciliation outputs
- £3,500 hard to spend on prog; included capital

Group spend

- Farmers Visit to Berlin
- 3 generic groups - programme of activity
- Seniors – series of visits
- Young people – purchase of instruments & associated programme of activities
- Has to be a carrot for the group
- We undertook financial transactions in most cases. Otherwise more difficult – few situations
- We absorbed beaucracy but had to have buy in from groups

Activities & Training

- Sharing of venues
- Cultural Identity session with each cluster

E.g. farmers in Carrickmore GFC: all in Newtownsaville
Orange Hall for launch

- Good Relations Statement & Action Plan
- Faith Trail of the 4 main Omagh churches
- Three site visits – Stormont; Dail; Derry (x3)
- Pre & post programme attitudinal survey



Our learning

- It takes time! Small steps
- There are natural leaders in each community
- Financial incentive was a big attraction
- We all benefit from shared knowledge
- Procurement – complications
- Matching of the groups is important
- SRS - Excellent opportunity for learning

