

Business

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Business Spotlight

Smiles all round for Daffodil Day at Profile Developments

'YOU cannot resist yourself from smiling when you have daffodils smiling at you!' And that is exactly what happened at Profile Developments in Glin on Daffodil Day (March 24).

Profile Developments, manufacturers of The Palladio Door Collection and The Avant Garde Collection, organised a coffee morning and bake sales for its staff in order to support Daffodil Day on Friday, March 24, at its Glin site.

The event was a huge success providing the staff an opportunity to socialise together, especially after the pandemic. All proceeds from the sales were matched by Profile Developments and will go towards the Irish Cancer Society's initiatives. An online fundraiser had also been set up.

"The Irish Cancer Society would like to thank all at Profile Developments for embracing our partnership and showing their support

and generosity on Daffodil Day this year" said Mary Murray of the Irish Cancer Society.

"The Irish Cancer Society provides support and care to those with and affected by cancer all over Ireland. Our services are free of charge. And with just 3 per cent government funding, we are almost entirely funded through the generosity of the public and community business partners such as Profile Developments.'



Grant Thornton announce new partnership with Children in Hospital



GRANT Thornton Ireland has announced Children in Hospital Ireland as its new charity partner. Grant Thornton will partner with the charity, which highlights and supports the rights and welfare of children in hospital, for the next two years. The partnership will help to raise vital funds that will directly impact the lives of thousands of sick children in hospitals across the country and their families.

At the heart of Children in Hospital Ireland's (CIH) work is its play service, which is now available to children in hospitals throughout Ireland. It is the

only charity managing such a voluntary service in Irish hospitals.

By providing engaging and supportive play in wards, playrooms, emergency departments, and outpatient departments, Children in Hospital Ireland play volunteers nurture curiosity and creativity and provide distraction from the stress of being in hospital.

One such volunteer is Grant Thornton Ireland employee Haley Gaharan. Speaking about the new partnership she said: "Through my time volunteering with CIH, I have witnessed first-hand the

extremely challenging circumstances that sick children and their families are facing."

"The support that CIH offers to families in these circumstances is invaluable, particularly the play service which allows children to really be children, despite being ill and in hospital. I know that Grant Thornton's support through this partnership over the next two years will only further enhance and improve their young lives during such a difficult time."

Impasse at O'Briensbridge stalls landmark tourism project

INDEPENDENT Clare TD Michael McNamara has urged Taoiseach Leo Varadkar to directly intervene in an ongoing impasse involving a section of the preferred route for the Greenway project linking Limerick City with Scariff in East Clare.

While the ESB will facilitate the use of lands in its ownership in Killaloe, a pinch point remains over a section of the preferred route at O'Briensbridge which Deputy McNamara fears could delay the project. The Greenway will cross the River Shannon over the Black Bridge and follow the old Errina canal to Clonlara and O'Briensbridge and across publicly owned lands to Killaloe and onwards to Scariff.

Deputy McNamara told the Taoiseach, "Waterways Ireland has developed a greenway running from Dublin to Athlone. It will continue from Athlone to Galway, dipping south through Portumna, Woodford, Gort and Kinvara and across the Slieve Aughty mountains. It will go through the parish of Scarriff at Loughatorick, some 11 km from the village of Scariff. There is an obvious potential to link

them up, which would mean that one could walk or cycle along a greenway from Dublin to Kerry via east Clare, or from Galway Bay to Kerry via east Clare. That is hugely exciting," he said, referring to the existing greenway, along the old Limerick to Kerry railway line, the Kingdom of Kerry Greenways and those under development.

"There is a pinch point, however, at O'Briensbridge," added Deputy McNamara. "It is ironic, really, because it is a village that was effectively bypassed by the Shannon scheme. It is a beautiful village but one that needs investment and tourists coming into it as it would have had historically. That pinch point is the ESB and Parteen Weir, which is a fantastic project that I saw as recently as this morning. It is something to which tourists would flock. The ESB has said that it cannot have a greenway with tourists going along its embankment." Deputy McNamara stated, "The ESB wants it to go elsewhere and obtain land through a CPO. That is not the Waterways

Ireland approach. It is the ESB approach. The ESB needs to work more collaboratively," he added.

In response to Deputy McNamara's invitation to visit O'Briensbridge, the Taoiseach said he would be happy to do so. "In the meantime, I will certainly speak to the Minister, Deputy Eamon Ryan, about it and the ESB as well," the Taoiseach commented.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar confirmed that the project is at phase 2 where technical advisers are examining options for a preferred route and undertaking extensive stakeholder engagement. He told the Dáil, "Proposals to allow the use of ESB lands for the greenway are currently being considered by the ESB and further meetings are envisaged. Waterways Ireland, Clare County Council and Limerick City and County Council are currently engaged in the phase 2 option selection process. All reasonable feasible route corridors will be examined and their costs, benefits and effects on the environment will be interrogated to identify a preferred option," the Taoiseach outlined.



Independent Clare TD Michael McNamara