

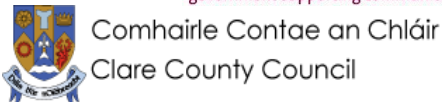
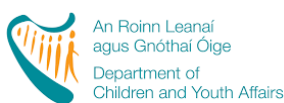


# Annual Report 2023

## Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG



**14th August 2024 - Reporting on the business of 2023**



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# Vision and Objectives

## Our Mission Statement

*"To create a united vibrant community working in harmony  
for the benefit of all"*

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## Objectives

- To assist in establishing viable enterprise in the parish of Newmarket-on-Fergus and surrounding areas which will generate sustainable employment
- To support those who may not have an opportunity to access employment - in particular the long-term unemployed and young people.
- To develop a spirit of enterprise in our community.
- To foster a greater sense of place by encouraging and assisting the protection and enhancement of the environment.
- To promote educational and training activities for the further development of our community.
- To facilitate greater community participation in the development of our area.

# AGENDA

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*Annual General Meeting  
7.30pm 14th August 2024  
Obair Building*

**Reporting the business of 2023**

- 1. Chairpersons Welcome*
- 2. Minutes of the 2022 AGM held in 2023*
- 3. Chairpersons Remarks*
- 4. Obair Annual Accounts and Auditors Reports*
- 5. Election of Directors*
- 6. Ratification of Auditors, Bankers and Solicitors*
- 7. Auditors Fees*
- 8. Open Forum*

**OBAIR NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS CLG**  
**Minutes of Annual General Meeting 2023**  
(Reporting on business of 2022)  
**28th. June 2023**

The Annual General Meeting of Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG was held on Wednesday 28th of June 2023 in the Obair building.

**Welcome**

Chairperson Bernadette Glynn welcomed all present including John Byrnes from Vaughan and Co. and commenced the meeting by reminding us of the Obair Mission Statement which is as follows:-

*“To create a united vibrant community working together in harmony for the benefit of all”*

**Minutes**

The minutes of the previous year's AGM were read by the Secretary. Proposed for adoption by John Quinlivan and seconded by Kevin Ryan and adopted

**Chairperson's Report**

Chairperson noted that there was an easing of Covid regulations during the year 2022 where we saw the company and staff continue in a post Covid environment, to operate under the safest conditions while moving on to provide services for the most vulnerable members of our community. As a board she thanked on their behalf our many funders, community groups, volunteers, businesses and agencies who helped us during 2022. She gave credit to the fantastic staff and management at Obair and she especially thanked Eimear Murphy for her work in preparing the Annual Report which is now available to all members of Obair and to the public.

As chairperson she thanked our voluntary Board of Directors for their contribution and commitment during the past year. Our key objectives continues to be the development of sustainable social enterprise in our community and as a whole we continue to aim to address the problem of social exclusion by putting in place services to combat this issue.

**Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG**

John Byrnes of Vaughan & Co. presented the financial report of 2022 for Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG. The end of year accounts showed a profit of €73,653.00. compared to a profit of €29,801 for the previous year. John said the company had shown a healthy profit in what was a difficult year. He said that good books and records were kept as always and thanked those who helped prepare the accounts for presentation. He said Obair was dependant on grants from various bodies and that we should protect them. Also that the leasing of the Tradaree accommodation was a great plus for the company and we should plan for the future use of the accommodation for when the Ukrainians return home.

Report proposed for adoption by Annmarie Meehan and seconded by Mary O'Donnell O'Brien. and the report was adopted.

### **Election of Directors**

Our Articles of Association state that one third of our directors must retire each year, these directors are eligible for re-election if they make themselves available. In the rotation of directors retiring this year were Kevin Ryan, John Quinlivan, Mary Meehan and Pat Cronin. These directors were all willing to continue serving and were unopposed. All four were proposed for re-election by Edwin Bailey, seconded by Bob Flannery and declared re-elected.

### **Auditors Fees**

The fees for the auditors Vaughan and Co. were approved by members at €6,754.25.

Proposed for approval by Bill Gorman and seconded by John Quinlivan, accepted by all members present.

### **Auditors - Bankers - Solicitors**

In a review of auditors, bankers and solicitors.....

The auditors Vaughan & Co. to continue

Bankers AIB to continue

Solicitors Howard Crimmins to continue

All three above proposed to continue by Pat Cronin and seconded by Bernadette Glynn and agreed by all.

**Chairperson** Bernadette Glynn opened the meeting to attendees and invited comment from the floor. Member director Mary Meehan said that the company had to be congratulated on a very successful year in what was a difficult time. She thanked all involved.

Bernadette Glynn thanked Bob Flannery, Eimear Murphy and our volunteer accountant Tom O'Dea for all the help provided in preparing the accounts for presentation firstly to the auditors and then to members. She also thanked John Byrnes of Vaughan and Co. for his work and presentation of the accounts.

Manager Siobhan O'Driscoll responded to a number of questions from the floor on the report. She especially mentioned and thanked all our volunteers of which we now have 82 on the books.

**Chairperson** thanked all for attending the AGM and business having been completed the meeting came to a close.

**Signed:**

**Chair** \_\_\_\_\_

**Secretary** \_\_\_\_\_

**Dated** \_\_\_\_\_

# Chairpersons Welcome

We are pleased to present to the members of Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG our Annual Report for the year 2023. Obair continues to grow and change in response to needs of the most vulnerable in our community.

As a Board we would like to thank our many funders, community groups, volunteers, businesses and agencies who assisted us in 2023. We are grateful for their continued support and for their recognition and appreciation of the impact of the work of Obair in making a difference. We will continue to nurture and build on these important relationships in the coming year.

We would like to acknowledge and thank our wonderful management and staff without whom nothing of what has been achieved in the past year would be possible. A particular word of thanks to Cathleen Enright who retired in 2023 after fourteen years of service with Obair.

As Chairperson I wish to thank our voluntary Board of Directors for their contribution and commitment during the past year. Our key objectives continue to be the development of viable social enterprise in this community and the alleviation of social exclusion by putting in place services to combat this issue.

Thank you,

Bernadette Glynn

Chairperson

Obair Newmarket on Fergus CLG

# The Charities Governance Code

Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG achieved the Governance Code standard in 2015 having appointed a Governance sub-committee to advise the Board on matters of Corporate Governance in relation to the operation of the Company. The sub-committee is made up of four trustees of the company and the Obair manager. The original Governance Code was suspended in 2019 and is replaced by the Charities Governance Code. The Charities Governance Code is administered by the Charities Regulator. Annual returns are made to the Charities Regulator in November of each year. Along with this there is a compliance report which needs constant updating throughout the year. As things occur they are recorded in the compliance report and this is submitted to the charities regulator on their request.

Our aim as a sub-committee of the Obair board is to assist the company in adhering to the core standards of the Charities Governance Code by.....

- a) . Advancing our Charitable Purpose
- b) . Behaving with Integrity
- c) . Leading People
- d) . Exercising Control
- e) . Working Effectively
- f) . Being Transparent and Accountable

The Governance sub-committee will meet as required to advance the requirements and regulations of the Charities Governance Code.

John Quinlivan

Chairperson

Governance Sub-Committee

Obair Newmarket-on-Fergus CLG





# Cooperation and Collaboration

Obair has continued to work closely with all agencies in our area during 2022 and plan to continue this close cooperation into the future. We appreciate the support given by the many agencies that have worked with us in the past year and we look forward to continuing that cooperation and collaboration which supports the development of the community of Newmarket-on-Fergus.

- Autism Ireland
- Age Action Ireland
- Barnardos
- Child and Family Agency
- Childrens Rights Alliance
- Caring for Carers
- Clare County Childcare Committee
- Clare County Council
- Clare County Council Homeless Action Team
- Clare County Council Ukrainian Emergency Response
- Clare Local Development Company
- Clare Sports Partnership
- Clare Youth Service
- Clare Childrens and Young Persons Services Committee
- Clare Volunteer Centre
- Community Childcare Subvention (CCS) Programme
- Community Service Programme, Pobal
- Community Substance Misuse Team
- Department of Children and Youth Affairs
- Department of Social Protection
- Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme
- Early Years Capital
- Focus Ireland
- Garda Division Programme
- Health Service Executive, West
- Health Services Executive, Older Persons Services
- LEADER
- Limerick and Clare Education and Training Board
- Mid Western Regional Drugs Task Force
- National Childcare Investment Programme, Pobal
- Pobal
- School Meals Scheme
- Training and Employment Childcare (TEC) Programmes
- Túsla, Child and Family Agency
- Youth Work Ireland

We appreciate our large number of volunteers across all of the community groups and services. We would like to express sincere gratitude to you all following a successful year in implementing our programme and look forward to continued support and success into the future.

# Community and Voluntary Groups

All the following community groups and charities have linked in and partnered with us in some form during the past year. All were welcomed to do so and we look forward to continuing to work together again

- ✓ Ballycar National School
- ✓ Brothers of Charity
- ✓ Carrigoran House
- ✓ Dromoland Castle Hotel and Country Club
- ✓ Ennis Community College
- ✓ Family Carers Ireland
- ✓ Going Strong Active Retirement
- ✓ Newmarket Celtic
- ✓ Newmarket-on-Fergus Community Hall
- ✓ Newmarket on Fergus Community Forum
- ✓ Newmarket-on-Fergus Defibrillator Group
- ✓ Newmarket on Fergus GAA
- ✓ Newmarket-on-Fergus Tidy Towns
- ✓ Parent and Toddler Group
- ✓ Public Health Nurse
- ✓ Scoil na Maighdine Mhuire
- ✓ St. Patrick's Comprehensive School
- ✓ St. Caimins Community School
- ✓ Stonehall National School
- ✓ St. Vincent de Paul
- ✓ The Clare Echo

# Obair Activity Report 2023

## Obair Community Crèche

Obair Community Crèche had another fantastic year in terms of achievements. 2023 saw each room within the crèche full to capacity with significant waiting list for each room.

The Baby room-13

The Toddler Room-15

The Preschool Room-25

The After-school Rooms-47

2 Early years Educators furthered their studies in their fields by enrolling in BA Honours Degree courses with the support of the company. Our Baby Room leader achieved a BA Honours Degree in Early Childhood Studies and Practice Level 8 in November 2023 after three years of study. She also received a promotion to Assistant Manager after working within the crèche for 16 years. A number of other staff members from the baby room(2), toddler room(2), pre school(2) and after school(1) took on courses to upskill and further their learning and development in the diverse area of the Early Years sector.

Each educator has enrolled in a different course which relates directly to the Early Years Sector. This approach will benefit each child who passes through our crèche for years to come. Each child who attends our crèche is valued and encouraged to grow into competent and confident learners. This can only be achieved through the dedication of the Early Years Educators with the continuing support of the Obair as an organisation.

Obair's Summer Camp had a brilliant season in 2023 with their themed weeks and regular fun and educational outings as well as their annual barbecue which was a Hawaiian Lu'au!



The upgrades to the building, rooms, building front and garden last year has continued to be invaluable in achieving consistent, quality learning environments and experiences for the children.

In November Pyjama Day took place in Obairs' Crèche. There is always great excitement around pyjama day and in total we raised a significant amount of money for each of the chosen charities. The creche also had their annual Christmas Dinner Day which was very special as well as Christmas Jumper Day!



In December we welcomed Santa Claus back to the crèche for the first time since 2019! All of the children and staff were overjoyed at Santa's return and it was a truly magical day for all involved.



***This project is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme***

***This project is supported by the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth through Pobal Core Funding***

## Meals on Wheels:

Obair's Meals on Wheels service continued in its expansion Countywide in 2023. April saw our annual Easter Egg drop to our service users on the Meals on Wheels service. Our Easter volunteers and Obair Staff were also visited by the Easter Bunny and enjoyed their delivery of Butlers and Lindt Eggs. Eggs were delivered by volunteers to houses in Ennis, Shannon, Quin, Ballyea, Clarecastle, Doora, Barefield, Kilkishen, Kilmurry, Sixmilebridge, Cratloe, Bunratty and Newmarket on Fergus.



In September we saw the beginning of Obair's Meals on Wheels service in North Clare. We were very excited to be delivering to areas such as Lisdoonvarna, Kilshanny, Doolin and surrounding areas. This follows our other recent expansion into the Tulla area in East Clare earlier in the year.



September also saw the arrival of three new E- Vehicles that will be delivering Meals on Wheels in communities across the County. As well as our funders we received huge support from Clare County Council's Rural and Community Development Dept, Lisdoonvarna Fáilte as well as the localities in North and West Clare who have welcomed Obair to their communities. As with all of our routes we could not have fulfilled this project without our fantastic team of dedicated volunteers as well as our new ordering system Food4U.

During Christmas week Obair's Meals on Wheels delivered special gift packs which were prepared by the staff and children of Ennis National School. These gifts were delivered to our service users in Ennis.



In total in 2023 we delivered **35,316** meals to older persons in the County, looking after 295 clients. Furthermore we delivered **19,702** hot dinners as part of Hot School Meals Programme and School Meals Local Projects.

*This project was approved by Government with support from the Dormant Accounts Fund and HSE Older Persons Funding.*

*This project is supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development and Pobal through the Community Services Programme.*

## Volunteering at Obair:

In 2023 we welcomed many new volunteers to Obair who joined our existing group many of whom have been with us for nearly 10 years. Volunteers are integral to Obair as an organisation. They show commitment and dedication to their roles as well as bringing a wealth of knowledge and experience to the service. We are enhanced as an organisation because of them. In the summer of 2023 we had our annual summer barbecue at the local Sports Bar and the team of volunteers also joined us for a Christmas party and lunch. We were also delighted to welcome our North Clare volunteers to the Obair Family in 2023.





## Obair Tradaree Post Primary Youth Programme

Throughout the year the Tradaree Youth Space was used as part of team building days for both Newmarket Celtic FC youths under 17s and Newmarket on Fergus Camogie Club Under 16s. The Tradaree Youth Space is fully kitted out for teens and has a relaxed informal atmosphere with something for everyone.



The Post Primary Service also grew in 2023 with more youths attending for afterschool support, homework supervision and hot meals. In 2023 the group began fundraising for a trip to take place in early 2024. In November the local Men's Shed made a very kind donation to our youth group for their trip.



## Staff Appreciation



Obair celebrated their fantastic staff of women and men on International Women's Day in march. A day of staff appreciation got off to a great start with coffee and pastries, followed by pizza delivery for lunch!

In the summertime as part of World Mental Health Awareness Day each staff member was invited to avail of a head/neck massage, relaxing facial or a hot shave. Each experience took place locally supporting nearby businesses.



## Enterprise Hub:



In April Obair were featured in a video produced to showcase a selection of projects supported by LEADER in their programme. See link here to view:

<https://www.facebook.com/ClareLocalDevelopmentCompany/videos/1278846389335286>



The Food Incubation Hubs at the Tradaree Centre were at full capacity with a Ukrainian-Georgian Bakery as well as a Mexican Food Business in occupancy. We continue to have 11 Ukrainian people living at the Tradaree Rest Centre with their children attending our Afterschool Services.

Obair's Community Pantry continued to operate in 2023 offering food support to those accessing our services and living locally. We use the Foodcloud initiative to support this. The aim of this is to combat food insecurity the pantry will move into a more permanent home in early 2024.

## Community Participation:

Obair were also delighted to contribute and help organise a three day Community & Family Festival that took place during the summer. This included two music events, a family day at O' Regan Park and a Children's Heritage Event at Mooghaun.



Obair organised a Halloween Spookathon Event at O' Regan Park on 29th Oct. This was a great community effort children and staff as well as other groups. The Tradaree Post Primary Youth Project made the decorations, signs and props and put in a lot of hard work. This event was enjoyed by both young and old with fire breathers, fancy dress and other entertainment on the evening.



In December we were delighted to contribute to the festive spirit at the Newmarket on Fergus Christmas Light Switch-On on in Nov. Dromoland Castle provided Mulled Wine and delectable Mince Pies for the occasion with entertainment Clodagh Lawlor, the local Brass Band and National School children.

A promotional poster for a Christmas event. The background is dark blue with white snowflakes. On the right, Santa Claus is shown from the chest up, wearing his traditional red suit with white fur trim and a white beard. He is holding a glowing yellow orb in his right hand. The text is in white and yellow. At the bottom, there are logos for BAIR and RISE Global Foundation.

**Santa's coming  
to Newmarket!**

**Saturday, December 2nd**  
after Evening Mass at 6:45pm

Come join the Newmarket Community in turning  
on the Christmas tree lights at the Fairgreen.

Lots of fun is planned with Santa surprises, mince pies,  
hot chocolate and music and fun for all.

**BAIR** **RISE**  
GLOBAL FOUNDATION

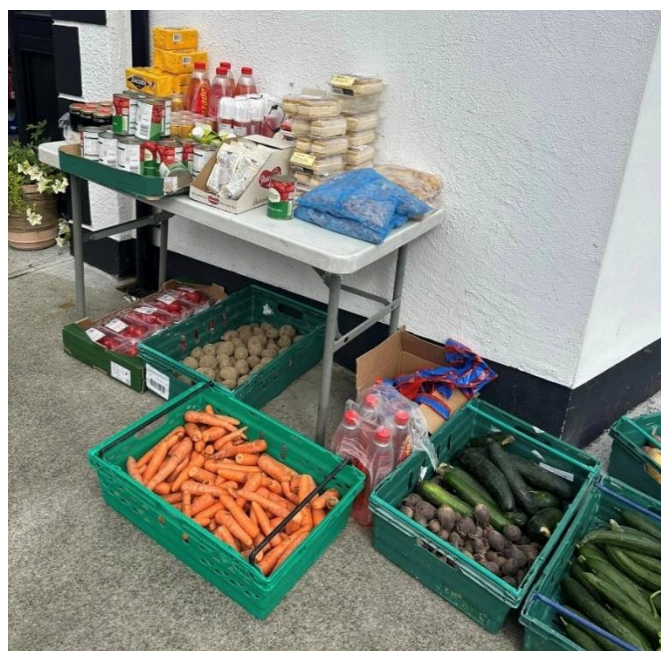
## O' Regan Park:

The park and playground continued to flourish in 2023 and we were lucky to have members of the Tradaree Youth project assisting the maintenance team at Obair.



**Gallery:**









MEALS ON WHEELS





